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Sunday, 19 March, 2006

Commander attends opening of self-reliant tar road, bridge

YANGON, 18 March — An opening ceremony of a self-reliant tar road and a new reinforced concrete bridge in honour of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day took place at Asin Model village in Ye Township on 12 March.

Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife Daw Tin Tin Latt, members of Mon State Women's Affairs Organization and townsenders attended the ceremony.

First, Chairman of the village PDC U Maung Myint explained facts about the ceremony. Mawlamyine District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Tin Aung, Director U Aung Kyaw Nyein of Mon State Development Affairs Committee and the chairman of the village formally opened the road and the bridge.

The commander unveiled the signboard of the road and the bridge and viewed them.

The 7080 feet by 14 feet road cost K18.3 million and the 20 feet by 28 feet bridge K 7.2 million.

The commander also attended a free medical treatment and glasses donation ceremony of a specialists team of Yangon, sponsored by donor U Than Shein and Daw San San Win (Myatthura Co Ltd).

Later, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing observed the free medical treatment being provided by a specialist team led by eye specialist Prof U Myo Khaing at Myatthura Co Ltd and providing of free medical treatment by a specialists team at Ye Hospital.

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing viewed the free dispensaries sponsored by donor U Than Shein and Daw San San Win (Myatthura Co Ltd) and cordially comforted the patients there.

Sponsored by donor U Than Shein and Daw San San Win of Myatthura Co Ltd, the specialists team of Yangon provided free medical treatment for a total of 2,084 patients with different complaints at the cold storage of the company in Asin Model village from 11 to 13 March.—MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

INSIDE

The report listed the names of 50 countries that violated the Universal Human Rights Declaration and how they breached it. Those countries were: eight from southern Sahara, Africa, 12 from North and South America, nine from Asia; 13 from Europe, six from Middle East and North Africa, and Australia and Fiji.

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TEKKATHO MYAT THU

Ceremony of growing physic nut plants held in Sittway Station, regional development inspected

YANGON, 17 March — Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with officials attended the ceremony to grow

physic nut plants held at Sittway Station on 14 March and gave instructions on meeting the cultivation acre target.

Afterwards, Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station explained the progress of growing and nurturing of physic nut, rubber, pepper and belleric myrobalan and future plan.

After hearing reports on technique of growing physic nut plants, producing physic nut oil from the seeds and the use of the oil as bio-fuel, the commander (See page 8)

Agricultural, regional development tasks inspected in Yangon North District

YANGON, 18 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win oversaw agriculture and regional development tasks in Mingaladon, Hlegu, Hmawby and Taikkyi Townships this morning.

In Yegyaw Village of Hlegu Township, the commander inspected implementation of Yegyaw self-reliant river water pumping project and supply of water to 600 acres of farmlands.

The commander and party inspected the place for construction of Sitpintaung river water pumping project (1000 acres) near the circular road of Hlegu Township.

At Barlar river water pumping project near the junction of Yangon-Bago Road and No 3 Highway in Mingaladon Township, the commander oversaw construction of the project site.

While in Hlegu Township, the commander inspected reclamation of 9,991 acres of vacant and virgin lands near Minkon Village and nurturing of the physic nut saplings at the respective nurseries.

(See page 8)



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects Yegyaw Water Pumping Project in Hlegu Township.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 19 March, 2006

Strive for greening 30-mile radius of Yangon City

Under the guidance of the Head of State, steps are being taken for greening 30-mile radius of Yangon City the whole year. As the project will contribute much to the development of agriculture and greening tasks in the environs of Yangon, a number of sluice gates, embankments and canals have been constructed.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein on 16 March inspected Ngamoyeik Dam project Yangon City water supply project and Ngamoyeik river water pumping project, in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division, and gave instructions on the agricultural tasks.

In his instructions, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that efforts are to be made for timely completion of Wakadok Dam and Kodukwe Dam that will benefit a lot for the cultivation of summer paddy and greening of 30-mile radius of Yangon. He quoted the guidance of the Head of State as saying that the construction of dams and reservoirs is to be carried out along with the building of canals. This being the case, the tasks are to be undertaken in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, he added.

With the aims of supplying water for summer and monsoon paddy, of preventing floods in Ngamoyeik creek and of supplying 135 million gallons of drinking water to Yangon daily, Ngamoyeik Dam project started in 1992-1993. The dam was completed in 1994-1995 and opened on 26 March 1995.

The dam, 15,500 feet long and 75 feet high, is of earthen type. Its water storage capacity is 180,000 acre-feet. Ngamoyeik river water pumping project that is to benefit 8,000 acres of farmland is being implemented near Mokso-nyaungbin Village in Hlegu Township by the Water Resources Utilization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Meanwhile, Salu Dam, Shwelaung Dam, Kodukwe Dam and Wakadok Dam that are included in the project for greening of 30-mile radius of Yangon are being built for greening and agricultural purpose in the east of Bago River.

To prevent the inflow of salty water and maintain fresh water in Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan, Thongwa and Kawa Townships in the west of Bago River, Tawa, Paingkyon, Shwehlay and Kayan sluice gates were constructed and those irrigated facilities are now benefiting 65,000 acres of farmland.

The emergence of eight river water pumping projects in Yangon Division has resulted in the cultivation of 1.2 million acres of monsoon paddy. Now, work is well under way to cultivate 240,000 acres of summer paddy in Yangon Division. At present, the water supply of Ngamoyeik Dam has increased from 90 million gallons to 135 million gallons daily.

Therefore, the officials are to try their utmost for successful realization of the project for greening of 30-mile radius of Yangon the whole year, while striving for completion of the water supply task.

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

Roads, bridges construction tasks in Shan State (East) inspected

YANGON, 18 March — Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Chairman Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Aung Min Hlaing together with officials inspected Kengtung-Mongping-Takaw Road and bridges along the road on 6 March. After hearing reports at the briefing hall in Koekwetaung, the commander gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the commander inspected the nur-

turing of 60,000 physic nut plants near the construction site. Next, the commander inspected construction of the concrete bridge, choosing the site for reinforced concrete bridge and extension of the road.

On 7 March morning, the commander inspected progress of the tasks at the project of constructing Wamtakhet Bridge with the length of 440 feet on Namhka Creek situated on Mongping-Metmang Road and attended to the needs. — MNA

F&R Minister receives Malaysian Ambassador

YANGON, 18 March — Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Shahrudin bin Md Som called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun at his office yesterday.

U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, and officials concerned were present on the occasion.

MNA



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun receives Malaysian Ambassador Mr Shahrudin bin Md Som. — F&R

Coord meeting of Mandalay Industrial Zone Development Committee held

YANGON, 18 March — The coordination meeting of Mandalay Industrial Zone Development Committee for producing and using machinery and spare parts locally available took place at Kanaung Hall in Mandalay Industrial Zone on 15 March with an address by Mandalay District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung.

Afterwards, Rector of Mandalay Technological University Dr Aung Kyaw Myat explained the purpose of holding the meeting.

Next, Head of Mechanical Engineering Department of MTU U Maung Maung Soe and Head of Workshop of Metallurgy Department Daw Nyunt Nyunt Aye discussed the matters on producing machinery and spare parts necessary for State's factories, workshops and enterprises. Later, those present took part in the discussions, and Chairman of Mandalay Industrial Zone Development Committee U Aung Win Khaing expressed thanks.

MNA

Two Sayadaws honoured

YANGON, 18 March — A ceremony to honour two Sayadaws—Naga Hnatkaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammasiri and Hill Missionary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Revata of Tachilek who had received the religious titles took place at Maha Myat Muni Monastery in Tachilek on 16 March.

It was attended by members of the Sangha, Col Myint Han of Tachilek Station and officials.

Col Myint Han and Chairman of District PDC Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye offered alms donated by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla to the two Sayadaws.—MNA

Computer quiz to mark Armed Forces Day continues

YANGON, 18 March — Organized by the Working Committee for Organizing the Twelve State Objectives Booth to mark the 61st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, the computer quiz continued at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, here, today.

A total of 60 USDA members from Hline, Dawbon and Botahtaung, Mingaladon, Mayangon and North Okkalapa Townships took part in the quiz that continues up to 20 March.

MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Russia, China urge diplomatic solution for Iran

BEIJING, 17 March — Russia and China, veto-wielding permanent members of the UN Security Council, are urging a diplomatic solution to the crisis over Iran's nuclear ambitions, Russia's Ambassador to China said on Thursday.

Iran was reported to the Security Council, which has the power to impose sanctions, after the UN nuclear watchdog found that Teheran was not cooperating with inspectors seeking to assess its nuclear programme.

"We both believe we need to seek political solutions to the issues through diplomatic channels," Ambassador Sergei Razov told reporters in Beijing.

"Russian and Chinese cooperation has played an important role in keeping the Iran nuclear issue on the track of a diplomatic solution," he added.

Razov said the Iran issue, as well as multilateral negotiations over North Korea's nuclear programmes, would feature in talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese

President Hu Jintao when Putin visits China next week.

Western countries are pushing for the UN Security Council to press for a full suspension of Iran's nuclear fuel activities, including research. The United States and European Union countries have said Iran is seeking the ability to make nuclear weapons, but Iran says its intentions are peaceful.

Russia has proposed a compromise plan that would allow Iran to continue civilian nuclear activities as long as it reprocesses fuel in an internationally monitored plant on Russian soil.

But Iran has said it will not stop its nuclear research, even if instructed to do so by the Security Council.

MNA/Reuters



Ferrari team driver Michael Schumacher from Germany in action during the second free practice for Malaysian F1 Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 17 March, 2006. The Malaysian F1 Grand Prix is slated for March 19. —INTERNET

British university students admit copying others' work

LONDON, 17 March — One in six students at British universities say they have copied from friends and one in ten admits to looking for essays online, according to a survey published on Thursday.

The poll of more than 1,000 students across Britain found that male students were more likely to copy work from friends than females, with 21 per

cent of men admitting to cheating in this way compared to 14 per cent of women.

The study covered 119 higher education institu-

tions and was conducted for the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES).

Its publication follows an admission by a senior Oxford University professor that plagiarism was "becoming a serious problem" even among the country's most able students.

Professor Alan Grafen, one of Oxford's disciplinary officers, said ten students had been investigated over the last year and that "most have been found guilty". "Hard though it may be to believe, students type word-for-word, and increasingly copy-and-paste from the internet, and submit essays containing whole pages of this verbatim material," he wrote in the university's *Oxford Magazine*.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam to limit rice export with low prices

HANOI, 17 March — Vietnam will take drastic measures to limit local enterprises exporting rice with low prices as the prices worldwide are rising, local newspaper

Vietnam News reported Thursday.

The government will not allow them to continue their export activities or access bank loans if they sign undervalued export contracts, the paper quoted Vietnamese Deputy Trade Minister Phan The Rue as saying. Now, Vietnamese rice is sold at lower prices mainly because its main rice crop is in peak season and local exporters are short of capital to buy the commodity for stockpile.

MNA/Xinhua



Koza, a four-month-old African lion cub, holds on to a branch at the Wild Animal Park in San Diego Zoo, California on 13 March, 2006. Born on 11 Nov, 2005, the male lion cub's name means "bright" in Swahili. —INTERNET

One missing after remote NZ volcano erupts

WELLINGTON, 17 March — An erupting volcano forced a conservation team to abandon a missing colleague on a South Pacific island Friday as they fled spewing ash, steam and mud.

A helicopter evacuated the five conservation workers from Raoul Island, a nature reserve in New Zealand's remote Kermadec Islands.

A sixth employee of the government's Conservation Department, aged in his early 30s, went missing "after going on a routine mission to check the water temperature of the lake," said department regional manager Rolien Elliot. Workers check the water temperature to try to predict eruptions.

Two staff members tried to search for the missing worker but had to retreat because the eruption made the track "impassable with fallen trees and ash," she said.

Helicopter pilot John Funnell told TV One there was devastation in



In this 1964 photo released by Department of Conservation, the volcano on Raoul Island, a nature reserve in the remote Kermadec islands group of New Zealand is seen erupting. The volcano erupted on the remote island, on 17 March, 2006, tossing mud, rocks and steam high into the air and prompting the evacuation of conservation workers in the area. One person was missing. —INTERNET

the area around Green Lake, one of the island's three main craters. Bush and vegetation were blown away by the force of the eruption. The area was coated in mud and ash up to 16 feet deep.

The eruption lasted about 30 minutes starting at 8:21 am, said GNS Science, the country's main geological science group.

It followed strong earthquakes that began Sunday night, GNS

Science said.

The volcano threw out mud, rocks and a plume of steam, but no lava or molten rock.

The rescued conservationists — three men and two women — were "quite strained" by the ordeal and because they had to leave their colleague behind, the helicopter pilot said.

The last known eruption on Raoul Island, about 625 miles northeast of the New Zealand city of Auckland, was on 21 Nov, 1964, from a vent close to Green Lake. There were no casualties.

The Kermadec Islands are formed by a string of young volcanos that spring up to 26,000 feet from the ocean floor.

Internet

Quakes jolt Indonesian island, hundreds of houses damaged

JAKARTA, 17 March — Two earthquakes respectively measuring 4.5 and 3.5 on the Richter Scale rocked Buru Island in Indonesia's Maluku Province on Wednesday and Thursday morning, a spokesman of the Ambon Geophysics Station, Benny Sipolo said Thursday.

The epicenter of the quakes had been traced at 03.7 Southern Latitude and 127.2 Eastern Longitude, around 138 kilometres southwest of Ambon, or north of Namlea, capital of Buru District.

The tremors were felt by residents of Ambon and Serang Bagian Barat (SBB) at the fourth and fifth level of the Modified Marcelli Intensity (MMI), while in Namlea it was above the fifth level of MMI.

The quakes were most likely followed by a minor tsunami, Benny Sipolo was quoted by *Antara* news agency as saying. At least 117 houses on Buru Island were damaged, according to an official of Buru, Hasrui Soamole. — MNA/Xinhua

Putin calls for joint efforts to assure energy supply

Moscow, 17 March— Russian President Vladimir Putin called for joint efforts to assure energy services to developing countries when he met energy ministers of the Group of Eight (G-8) in the Kremlin on Thursday.



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks at his meeting with G-8 energy ministers in Moscow's Kremlin, on 16 March, 2006.—INTERNET

"Our joint efforts should include serious attention to the reliable and affordable provision of energy services to developing countries," Putin said.

"We can render developing countries real assistance by introducing effective and affordable energy technologies," he added.

Ministers from the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Canada attended the two-day G-8 energy ministerial meeting, hosted by their Russia for the first time.

Officials from China, India and the OPEC were also invited in a bid launch the first ever global energy security dialogue.

Putin said energy resources could not resolve the problem of poverty.

"However, the shortage of energy resources significantly affects economic growth, and their imprudent use may lead to an ecological catastrophe on a global scale," he noted.

Russia's Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko said after the G-8 meeting that a joint strategy to supply the world's poorest countries with nuclear power without risking nuclear proliferation could be developed for the G-8 leaders' summit, to take place in July in St Petersburg.

Putin said in late January that Russia was ready to build an international centre "to offer nuclear fuel cycle services, including (uranium) enrichment under the control of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)."

MNA/Xinhua

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Bolivia rejects free-trade negotiations with US

LA PAZ (Bolivia), 17 March— Bolivian President Evo Morales has ruled out starting negotiations on a free-trade deal with the United States, saying such a pact would hurt the South American country's small producers.

The comments by Morales late on Wednesday were the latest criticism of Washington by the leftist coca farmer who was sworn in as Bolivia's first indigenous president in January.

"It's not possible that... countries where the businessmen receive subsidies invade us with their products and destroy our small producers," Morales told reporters, adding that a free-trade deal with Washington was "totally ruled out".

Morales' comments came a day after Colombian President Alvaro Uribe offered to mediate in eventual free-trade talks between Bolivia and Washington.

Along with fellow

Andean countries, Bolivia currently receives preferential trade tariffs from the United States as long as it cooperates in the fight against the drugs trade. Bolivia is the world's third-biggest cocaine producer after Colombia and Peru.

However, that deal expires at the end of the year and Bolivia has

not taken part in free-trade negotiations with Washington, as Colombia, Peru and Ecuador have done. Bolivian soy producers have accused the government of failing to protect their exports to Colombia, which reached a free-trade deal with the United States late last month.—MNA/Reuters



Russian students perform folk dances in Beijing University during the China-Russia University Students' Art Festival in Beijing, on 17 March, 2006. The festival, part of the series of activities celebrating the Year of Russia in China, kicked off in Beijing University on Friday. More than 50 Russian students and many university students of Beijing gave performances during the opening ceremony. The Year of China in Russia will be held in 2007.—INTERNET

EU urged to press US to close Guantanamo

BRUSSELS, 17 March— European Union countries must press the United States to close the Guantanamo Bay Prison and should consider taking in detainees to put them on trial, the top UN investigator into torture said on Thursday.

UN investigators urged the United States last month to close the Guantanamo camp, saying it violated a host of human rights including a ban on torture and the right to fair trial.

"It is important that the EU (plays) its part in convincing the US" Manfred Nowak, the UN's rapporteur on torture and one of the investigators into Guantanamo, told reporters in Brussels.

Many of the 500

inmates in the prison at the US naval base in Cuba have been held for four years without trial. The prisoners were mainly detained in Afghanistan.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is the only European leader to have publicly called on the United States to close the camp. The European Parliament made the same call last month. Nowak said it was time for the EU to raise the issue with the United States and "quiet

diplomacy" might be the most efficient way forward.

EU countries could take some of the detainees and try them before their own courts, he said.

Nowak also voiced concerns about European countries extraditing terrorist suspects to countries with a record of systematic torture such as Egypt or Syria. He said Britain and Sweden were pushing other countries in the 46-countries Council

of Europe to allow extraditions of suspected terrorists if the country to which they were sent gave assurances that they would not be tortured.

MNA/Reuters

Bodies of kidnapped Macedonian Albanians found in S Afghanistan

TIRANA, 17 March— Bodies of three Macedonian Albanians and one German, kidnapped by Taliban militants in southern Afghanistan, were found

by Afghan police three days after their execution was announced, the Macedonian news agency MIA reported on Thursday.

The bodies were found

in the Maiwand District of Kandahar Province where they were kidnapped on 12 March, along with four Afghans.

The Afghans were later released.—MNA/Xinhua

75% of deaths among Vietnamese children caused by accidents

HANOI, 17 March— As many as 75 per cent of fatalities among children in Vietnam are caused by accidents, and the remainders by diseases, a conference here was told Thursday.

Many local children have died of traffic accidents, and such other incidents as drowning, being burned or electrocuted due to carelessness of adults and unsafe living environment, Vietnam News Agency reported at the conference co-organized by Viet-

nam's Committee for Population, Family and Children and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as saying.

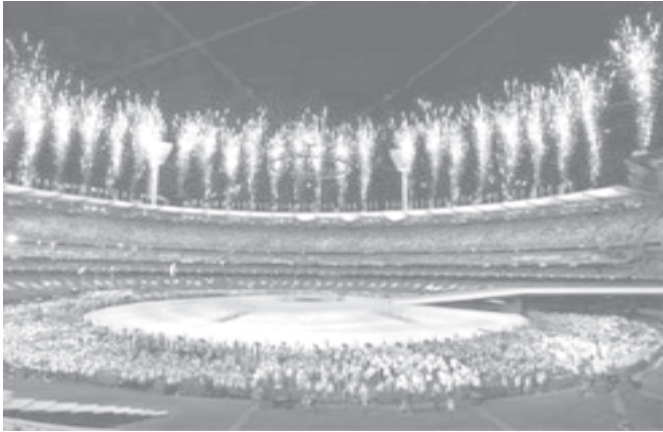
Some Vietnamese children have been physically and mentally affected by different kinds of abuse and domestic violence, the reports said.

Vietnamese and foreign delegates participated in the conference, mainly psychologists and sociologists, also exchanged views on building a better legal framework and improving public awareness on protecting children from accidents.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese man works at an oil drilling rig in PetroChina's Daqing Oil field in China's northeastern Heilongjiang Province, on 17 March, 2006.—INTERNET



Stadium seen as the Commonwealth Games open in Melbourne on 15 March, 2006.

INTERNET

Russian lawmaker restates adherence to one-China policy

Moscow, 17 March — Russia sticks to the one-China policy and opposes “Taiwan independence”, Konstantin Kosachev, head of the international relations committee of the State Duma, Russia’s Lower House of Parliament, said on Tuesday.

Expressing his views on the Taiwan issue, Kosachev said Russia will unwaveringly observe the Russian-Chinese Treaty of Good Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation signed on July 16, 2001, and adhere to the one-China policy. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, he said.

Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian declared on February 27 that the “National Unification Council” would “cease to function” and that the “National Unification Guidelines” would “cease to apply”.

This, Kosachev said, was actually a move to abandon the “National Unification Council” and the “National Unification Guidelines”.

Russia was concerned over the situation, he said, adding that what the Taiwan authorities had done ran against the interests of Taiwan people and would surely cause Taiwan to be isolated by the international community.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Malaysian Govt decides on route sharing between MAS, AirAsia

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 March — The Malaysian Government has decided on the route sharing between the national carrier Malaysia Airlines (MAS) and the budget carrier AirAsia, local media reported Friday.

Both MAS and AirAsia will be allowed to fly major domestic routes but with different focuses, the Prime Minister’s Office said. that AirAsia would operate the domestic non-trunk route and what a non-trunk route. The Transport Ministry will improve the supervision mechanism to ensure healthy competition between the two companies for the domestic routes, said the statement.— *MNA/Xinhua*



An aircraft from Malaysia’s budget carrier, AirAsia and a Malaysia’s national flag carrier, Malaysian Airline System Bhd (MAS) Boeing 737.—INTERNET

“MAS will provide the premium service while the budget airline will provide the low-cost domestic trunk services,” the office said in a statement released on Thursday.

The two companies have the flexibility to decide on the frequency of flights, capacity distribution, types of aircraft used and airfare under the supervision of the Meanwhile, the government has decided

Iran says ready to negotiate with Washington on Iraq

TEHERAN, 17 March — A senior Iranian official said here Thursday that Teheran was ready to hold talks with Washington to solve Iraqi problems.

Ali Larijani, head of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, made the remarks to reporters in response to a call by Iraqi Shiite leader Abdul Aziz al-Hakim for Iran to start talks with Washington on Iraq.

“We accept this proposal and we will appoint a negotiating team for talks soon,” Larijani told the reporters after making a closed door speech to Parliament.

Iran accepts the demand of Hakim and agree to negotiate with the Americans “to resolve the Iraqi problems and issues with the goal of creating an independent (Iraqi) government”, he stressed. Iran, which has been accused by the United States of allowing weapons and guerillas to cross into Iraq, had previously said it was not interested in discussions before U.S. troops pulled out of Iraq. *MNA/Xinhua*

China, Russia to hold 200 activities for Russia Year in China

BEIJING, 17 March — China and Russia will hold about 200 activities, including eight large ones, for the Year of Russia in China this year, according to a senior Chinese diplomat.

Thursday that the opening ceremony of the Year of Russia is to be held at the Great Hall of the People in downtown Beijing during Russian President Vladimir Putin’s upcoming visit to China. Putin and Chinese President Hu Jintao will attend the opening ceremony.— *MNA/Xinhua*

US study shows vaccine reduces pneumonia deaths

WASHINGTON, 17 March — A pneumonia vaccine seems to save the lives of older adults who become so ill that they are hospitalized, even if does not prevent them from getting pneumonia, researchers said on Wednesday.

A study in several US states showed that hospital patients who had been vaccinated were 40 to 70 per cent less likely to die than unvaccinated patients, or those who could not remember whether they had been vaccinated.

The vaccinated patients had a lower risk of

respiratory failure, kidney failure, heart attack or other complications, Dr David Fisman of Princeton University in New Jersey and colleagues found.

Vaccinated patients also spent an average of two fewer days in the hospital, they will report in next week’s issue

of *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

“When people hit the door really sick and most likely to die, even in those people, being vaccinated was associated with a lower risk of death,” Fisman said in a statement.

Giving adults a vaccine against pneumococcal bacteria, notably *Streptococcus*, has been controversial, Fisman said in a statement, although the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention recommends it once every five years for everyone over 65.

“It’s been very hard to show that it prevents pneumonia, especially in older adults,” Fisman said. “Whether or not it prevents pneumonia is almost irrelevant — clearly it has

an effect on reducing death in the individuals who get pneumonia.”

MNA/Reuters



Iraqis look at the damaged house after a US raid in the rural Isahaqi area, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 March, 2006.

INTERNET

ETA bombing warning a false alarm

MADRID, 17 March — A call warning that the Basque separatist group ETA had planted three bombs in northern Spain was a false alarm, the regional government said on Wednesday.

The caller claiming to be ETA said that two bombs had been planted on two motorways in the northern region of Navarre, and the other in a court building in the regional capital Pamplona. Local police quickly evacuated the court building and cleared the motorways, but found nothing. — *MNA/Xinhua*

India, China to register trade of \$20b by 2007

NEW DELHI, 17 March — Bilateral trade between India and China is expected to reach 20 billion US dollars by the year 2007, a year ahead of the target set earlier, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Kamal Nath said in his keynote address at the India-China Joint Business Forum here Thursday.

A number of Chinese delegates, including China's Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai, were present on the occasion.

The two Ministers earlier co-chaired the seventh meeting of the India-China Joint Economic Group (JEG).

Bo and Kamal Nath said trade and economic cooperation held the key to strengthening the overall bilateral relationship.

"I reiterate India's

deep desire and strong commitment to continue developing a mutually beneficial trading and economic relationship with China," Kamal Nath said. In 2000-2001 period, the bilateral trade volume between the two nations was two billion US dollars. It increased to 11.3 billion US dollars in 2004-2005 period.

"This year our bilateral trade will be in excess of

15 billion US dollars," Kamal Nath said.

In April 2005, the two countries agreed to make joint efforts to increase the bilateral trade volume to 20 billion US dollars or higher by 2008.

Since 1997, India-China trade has registered a growth of 260 per cent, average yearly growth of around 33 per cent, Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry said here Thursday. —MNA/Xinhua



Men walk in a flooded street in Bulgarian town of Ihtiman some 50 kilometres (35 miles) east of the capital Sofia, on 14 March, 2006. Flooding has hit almost all the country and being cut off due to flooded bridges or mudslides.

INTERNET



A Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

INTERNET

Coral reefs seen threatened by tsunami rebuilding

GENEVA, 17 March — Coral reefs that survived the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami are coming under threat from rushed rebuilding efforts in the region, two international environmental groups said on Thursday.

In a report issued in Geneva, they said studies along coastlines hit by the tsunami, the tidal wave which left nearly 200,000 dead on 26 December, 2004, found little harm to coral formations.

Only a few reefs were severely damaged, and most would recover naturally within 10 years, said the two bodies — the inter-governmental World Conservation Union and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

They said clean-up efforts had already addressed much of the initial damage which came from debris backwashed from shorelines mainly off the coasts of India, Sri

Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia.

Since then, however, new threats have emerged from a rush to rebuild homes and other buildings wrecked by the tsunami.

The need for urgent supplies of building material has led local people to take sand and rock illegally from the coral reefs, which are protected under international conservation agreements.

Felling of coastal forests for building timber has also increased the risk of landslides that could cover reefs with sediment.

MNA/Reuters

Nepal, China agree to further ties

KATHMANDU, 17 March — Nepali high-ranking officials and visiting Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan on Thursday agreed to promote the two countries' traditional friendship and expand their cooperation in various fields.

Nepali Vice-Chairmen of the Council of Ministers Tulsi Giri and Kirti Nidhi Bista met here with Tang, who arrived here Thursday on a three-day official visit to Nepal.

Giri said Nepal and China enjoy traditional friendship, adding that after the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries have made great progress in strengthening understanding and cooperation.

Nepal firmly supports the one-China policy and will never allow any anti-China activities in Nepal's territory, Bista said.

Tang said the China-Nepal friendship has been a model for countries with different social systems. The two sides agreed to further cooperation in economy, trade, culture and education for the benefit of the two peoples.

MNA/Xinhua

Quake jolts Mozambique, Zimbabwe

HARARE, 17 March — An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter Scale rocked Mozambique and parts of Zimbabwe on Wednesday.

The earthquake comes hardly three weeks after a powerful earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter Scale rocked several parts of Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa.

Amos Makarau, the director of Zimbabwe's meteorological department, confirmed Wednesday night that the geological occurrence took place around 2:00 in the afternoon, saying investigations were continuing to establish the extent of the tremors and the damage caused, according to local Press reports on Thursday. He said the tremor whose

epicenter was 250 kilometres southwest of Mozambique's Beira, had taken an almost similar path to the one that took place on 23 February.

MNA/Xinhua

Drop in exercise efficiency with age can be eased

NEW YORK, 17 March — Older adults may have to work harder than young people to perform the same physical activity, but regular exercise may close that age gap, research findings suggests.

In a study comparing sedentary adults in their 60s and 70s with those in their 20s and 30s, researchers found that older men and women had to use much more oxygen to walk at the same speed as their younger counterparts.

But that was before they went through a six-month exercise programme. After taking up walking or jogging, biking and stretching, the senior study participants reversed their loss of exercise "efficiency".

Exercise efficiency refers to how much energy the body expends to perform a given activity. At the start of this study, older men and women used 20 per cent more oxygen to walk at the same speed as a younger person, said Dr. Wayne C. Levy of the University of Washington in Seattle, the

study's senior author.

But six months of regular exercise — 90 minutes, three days per week — improved older participants' exercise efficiency by 30 per cent, versus only 2 per cent among their younger counterparts. The findings are published in the current issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

It is well known that as people age, there is a decline in exercise capacity — how much work a person can do before becoming exhausted. But the new findings suggest this is not just a product of the aging cardiovascular system being less able to send oxygen to working muscles. — MNA/Reuters



Four white whales, well-trained two, left, and new comers from Russia, rest their chins on the glass wall as they are introduced by their keeper to the audience during a show at the Hakkeijima Sea Paradise aquarium-amusement park complex in Yokohama, southwest of Tokyo, on 18 March, 2006. —INTERNET

“Human rights” or sugar-coated US poison (2)

Tekkatho Myat Thu

The second para of the Preamble to the UN Charter collectively drawn by 50 member nations in 1945 in San Francisco, the US, says “We the peoples of the UN are determined to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person”.

Up to the time before and after the World War II, more than one hundred nations remained under alien subjugation, and inhabited and uninhabited islands in the seas and oceans were still taken possession by the nations that occupied them first and big nations. And the nations fighting for their independence were still under the oppression by the colonialists. The nations that had regained independence joined the UN. The majority of the UN member nations did not accept colonialism. So, the UN launched a decolonization campaign. The major aim of the UN was to enable all human beings and world nations to be free from the yoke of colonialism or to enjoy independence. The Universal Human Rights Declaration was collectively written in 1948 to help the UN to win freedom for the world people. Member countries signed the declaration.

The UN’s Universal Human Rights Declaration guarantees world people access to freedom of livelihood, being free from servitude, and freedom to serve the interests of the motherland and own people in accordance with the traditions, culture, history and the desire of the majority of the people of the nation concerned without being dominated by foreign countries. The essence in brief, the Universal Human Rights Declaration has been to enable all human beings to enjoy independence, freedom of livelihood and rights to shape own destiny.

Such UN agencies as the ECOSOC, ILO and UNESCO carry out UN functions on human rights in respective fields. The ECOSOC formed Human Rights Commission and Commission on the Status of Women in 1946.

At the conferences of the Human Rights Commission, representatives of respective countries and the commission always presented reports that human rights violation was common in the nations that had invaded others, colonialist nations and the nations that practised apartheid and racial discrimination. They also viewed gross violation of human rights in South Africa, Arab land under occupation, Chile, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Every time such reports were submitted to the meetings of the UN Human Rights Commission, the US and its allies voted against the reports. In particular, the Western countries voted against the proposals submitted to put an end to violation of fundamental rights and freedom.

In 1947, the Human Rights Commission formed a sub-commission against racism and apartheid and protection of ethnic groups. The sub-com-

mission reported on any types of discrimination on colour, racism, culture, faith and language. Then, it formed work groups to assess cases of discrimination and slavery and other cases of human rights violation.

The resolution to protect the rights of women adopted by the UN Assembly was the fruit of the efforts of the sub-commission on women’s status. Its efforts have also resulted in many international agreements such as agreement on women’s right to enter into politics, agreement on marriages of women based on their own consent, agreement on naturalization of married women, declaration on non-discrimination of women’s rights, and agreement on preventing any types of discrimination against women. The UNESCO has striven for ensuring non-social, racial and colour discrimination in pursuing education.

America that is making slanders today, opposed and did not support the Human Rights Declaration passed by the UN in 1948. In fact, it was a country being criticised by the Human Rights Commission every year for its violations.

In 1966, the UN General Assembly passed resolutions on reciprocal agreement on economic, social and cultural rights and international agreement on human rights and political rights. The two agreements state that the signatories are to make laws and provide relevant rules as and when necessary. In this way the UN made the signatories to observe the agreements on human rights.

There was a body compiling the list of countries that had violated the Article 19 of UHRD, based on the facts gathered by human rights bodies, individuals and nations. The watchdog is called Article 19. Time magazine of the US published the 1988 report of the Article 19.

The report listed the names of 50 countries that violated the Universal Human Rights Declaration and how they breached it. Those countries were: eight from southern Sahara, Africa, 12 from North and South America, nine from Asia; 13 from Europe, six from Middle East and North Africa, and Australia and Fiji.

The report also mentioned the signing date of the 50 countries and how they violated the Article 19. The US was included in the countries that did not sign the agreement. Myanmar was not included in the 50 nations that violated human rights in 1988.

America that is making slanders today, opposed and did not support the Human Rights Declaration passed by the UN in 1948. In fact, it was a country being criticised by the Human Rights Commission

every year for its violations.

Later, the US signed the Declaration making a pledge to observe it. After two years, the US law makers opposed the Declaration. Thus the US government pledged to sign any international agreement only after consulting with the Congress and not to sign any international agreement that might harm the US interest.

While the California Court was hearing the case of a Japanese descendant, Fujii, vs the California State government, the California State Legislative House ruled that the law promulgated by the California State government was unlawful as it violated the UN Charter Principles and the UHR Declaration. The repercussions produced by the decision of the legislative house even reached the Senate.

Senator Bricker of Ohio made a submission to the Senate, saying that thousands of laws of the US and its states will become automatically annulled if the US courts continue to adhere to the UN Declaration. He interfered in the rights of free administration of justice, and submitted a proposal to amend the US constitution with the support of 50 other senators. His proposal was to bar the US from signing any international agreement without the approval of the Congress. During the session to discuss the proposal, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, on behalf of the President, made a pledge that the US would never sign any international agreement that might change the social situation of America and become a burden on the people. Dulles said that the US would sign only the agreements with other nations that served the interests of American citizens.

The above-mentioned events proved that the US closed its human rights door, and was violating the UN Charter Principles and the UN Declaration and exercising the double-standard policy in slandering other nations. The US-based human rights watchdog, and a large number of foreign-based watchdogs under the financial assistance of the US are issuing many human rights reports to destroy the freedom and self-determination of the global countries.

(To be continued)

(Translation: MS + TMT)

Myanma Alin: 18-3-2006

Ceremony of growing physic nut plants held in Sittway Station, regional development...

(from page 1)
presented 5,000 physic nut saplings and 31,000 seeds to the units and regiments of the station and viewed the collective growing of physic nut plants.

The commander and those present viewed the demonstration of using stoves and operating engines with the use of

physic nut oil.

Next, the commander inspected the nurturing of 90,000 pepper plants and 45,000 rubber plants and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at Sittway Station breeding farm, the commander inspected the breeding tasks and left instructions.

Later, the com-

mander inspected the sanitation task being carried out at Ywagyi North Ward in Sittway, the worksite of Myanma Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise, repaving tasks and upgrading the earth road into tar road and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects 3000 acres physic nut plantation of YCDC.—MNA



Agricultural, regional development tasks inspected in Yangon North District...

(from page 1)

On arrival at Yangon Division Vegetables Cultivation and Poultry Farming Special Zone near Nyaunghnapin Village in Hmawby Township, the commander looked into agricultural and poultry farming of private entrepreneurs, and 1,316 acres of extended area of the

zone.

The commander and party proceeded to Kalihtaw Dam being built by Irrigation Department near Pyinmadaw Village in Hlegu Township. Director U Kyaw Thein of Irrigation Department reported on functions of the dam and water supply tasks.

Officials also

briefed the commander on supply of water to farmlands and the plan to reclaim vacant and virgin lands near Kalihtaw Dam and in Hlegu Township for growing physic nut plants.

After hearing the reports, the commander inspected storage of water at the dam.

MNA

Special sales of Ministry of Industry-1 opened in Monywa

YANGON, 17 March — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the special sales of Ministry of Industry-1 was opened at the sports grounds in Monywa yesterday morning.

Director-General U Thaik Tun of Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department under the Ministry of Industry-1 and Commander of Mandalay Division Police Force Police Col Tin Maung Maung opened the special sales.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye unveiled the signboard of the special sales.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun conducted the commander and party round the sales centre.

A total of 325 kinds of goods produced by departments and industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 are being sold at the sports ground from 8 am to 8 pm daily. — MNA



Contestants tarking part in computer quiz in honour of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

(News on page 2)—MNA

MEB managers hold coord meeting on annual statement of account



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses coordination meeting on annual statement of account for 2005-06 financial year.—MNA

YANGON, 18 March — Managers in Lower Myanmar of Myanma Economic Bank under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue held a coordination meeting on annual statement of account for 2005-06 financial year at the training hall of the bank branch No 1 on Pansodan Street, here, this afternoon.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivered an address. He said that the meeting was held to lay down the future plans after reviewing strong and weak points of the performance in the previous financial year. Financial sector plays a pivotal role in the economic sector of the State. Bank staff must be competent and they are to offer excellent banking services to the customers with goodwill.

Managing Director U Myat Maw of Myanma Economic Bank and general managers reported on their respective sectors.

Also present on the occasion were Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, managing directors and directors-general of enterprises and departments under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and officials.

The coordination meeting commenced on 14 March. On the opening day, the participants held discussions to compile papers for six banking subjects. On 15 and 16 March, State/Division/District and Township managers of Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago and

Taninthayi Divisions, Mon, Kayin and Rakhine States also held the preliminary meeting. On 17 March, they participated in the paper-reading session. — MNA

Methods on drying crops and quality maintenance to be explained

YANGON, 18 March—The Myanmar Rice Millers Association will give talks and present demonstrations of methods on drying paddy and crops and quality maintenance at Thaug Win Industry at No 142/143 in U Shwe Bin Street, Industrial Zone (1), Hlaingthaya Township, here, from 9 am to 4 pm on 1 April.

General Secretary of the Association U Myo Aung Kyaw will present a paper on quality control of crops and post-harvest technology and paddy dryers suitable for Myanmar, CEC Member of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Myint Zaw on equipment to measure quality of crops, Agriculturist U Ba Hein on propagation of quality paddy strains, and Executive of the Association U Thaug Win on crop dryers along with demonstrations.

Those interested may attend the free programme and are to get enlisted in the Association (Ph: 296248, 296284 and 296265) not later than 29 March. — MNA

Chinese journalists tour Bagan-NyaungU, Mandalay

YANGON, 18 March — The Chinese journalist delegation led by Chairman of China Journalists Association Mr Shao Huaze left here by air on 16 March and arrived NyaungU Airport.

At Shwezigon and Ananda Pagodas in NyaungU, the Chinese delegation made cash donations and signed the visitors' book.

They visited the Archaeological Museum and Lacquer College.

The Chinese guests observed works of U Ba

Nyein Lacquerware Industry in Bagan Myothit. Next, they enjoyed sunset beauty of Bagan from Bagan Nanmyint Tower.

On 17 March, they flew to Mandalay. The guests visited Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace and Cultural Museum. They called on Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han at his office. The mayor explained facts about Mandalay and its progress to the guests.

Afterwards, the

Chinese journalists paid homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image and made donations.

At Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Project site, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Htay Myint conducted them round the project site.

The guests also visited Hsutaungpyay Pagoda on Mandalay Hill. In the evening, the mayor hosted a dinner to the Chinese journalists.

This morning, they arrived back here by air.

MNA



Chinese journalists offer gold foils to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay. MNA



Chinese journalists led by Chairman of China Journalists Association Mr Shao Huaze observe cultural museum in Mandalay. —MNA



Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han presents a gift to Chairman of China Journalists Association Mr Shao Huaze. —MNA

Preventive measures undertaken against avian flu inspected



Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo speaking at the meeting on Simulation Exercise on Avian Influenza. —HEALTH

YANGON, 18 March — Chairman of Work Committee for Control of avian influenza Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo inspected preventive measures undertaken at Waibagi Specialist Hospital this morning.

Medical Superintendent Dr Nilar reported on wards, receiving patients and health care services at intensive care units, Deputy Director of Health Education Department Dr Khin Maung Lwin on data necessary for treatment of bird flu

and points to be observed and Professor Dr Tin Aung Saw on use of overcoats, gloves and masks for protection.

The deputy minister gave instructions on special training for guarding against of disease.

MNA

Suits for protection against Avian Influenza donated to Health Department

YANGON, 18 March — The suits donation for protection against Avian Influenza to the Health Department of the Ministry of Health at Waibagi Specialists Hospital this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of

Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Hla Myint, Deputy Director-General of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) Dr Soe Thein, directors, officials of health departments and officials of WHO.

First, the chairman

of MRCS Dr Hla Myint explained the purpose of donating suits and presented 1,000 suits worth 5 millions to the Health Department. Director of Health Department Dr Tin Nyunt accepted the donation and presented certificates of honour. — MNA



MRCS President Dr Hla Myint presents 1,000 suits for bird flu prevention to Director Dr Tin Nyunt of Health Department. —MNA

Vice-Mayor inspects tax free markets, central Sanpya Fish Market

YANGON, 18 March — Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials inspected sales at tax free markets and central Sanpya Fish Market this morning.

The vice-mayor inspected tax free markets in Mayangon, Yankin,

Tamway, Kamayut and Dagon Townships.

He visited central Sanpya Fish Market in Kyimyindine Township and inspected the sales of fresh water and deep sea fish and prawn and met fish entrepreneurs and officials of the market.—MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊
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Matriculation Exam centres inspected



Minister Dr Chan Nyein inspects matriculation examination centre at No 1 BEHS in North Okkalapa Township.—MNA

YANGON, 18 March — Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, accompanied by No 3 Basic Education Department Director-General U Aye Kyu and officials, inspected matriculation examination centre of No1 BEHS in Bahan Township this morning.

Afterwards, the minister and party proceeded to exam centres of No 1 BEHS in North Okkalapa Township, No 2 BEHS in Latha Township and

viewed the students who were taking exam. On arrival at Yangon General Hospital, the minister encouraged the students sitting for exam at the hospital.

The minister met with supervisors and assistant supervisors of exam centres and gave instructions on ensuring the students to sit for the exam in peace and enforcing rules and regulations of exam. — MNA

43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium chalks up success

The 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium (2006) organized by the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee held on the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon is drawing a greater number of gem merchants and achieving success.

A total of 2,213 merchants — 1,371 from 232 companies of 11 foreign countries and 842 from 337 local companies — are attending the emporium.

Myanmar is worldwide popular as a land that is rich in precious stones of various kinds. Gems merchants from international community are taking interest in Myanmar's gems. Myanmar is called the Golden Land as different sorts of precious stones are produced in it.

The Myanmar Gems Emporium has been held since 1966. In the emporium, 66 lots of gems, 190 lots of jade and 34 lots of pearls will be auctioned.

Sixty-two lots of gems, 2,269 lots of jade and 216 lots of pearls will be sold through tender system, and 123 lots of gems at fixed prices.

A total of 2,459 lots of jade are on display for sale in this emporium, and this is a record number of jade lots.

The emporium draws the attention of Austria, Russia, the Republic of Korea, Japan, India, China, Singapore, Thailand, Spain, Sri Lanka and the US. Quality jade lots displayed at the emporium attract the gems merchants.

In particular, the merchants eye lot No 63 of Mogok ruby weighing 33.39 carats with the reserve price of 3.5 million euros, lot No 233 comprising 68 pearls of gold hue weighing 62.50 mommes with reserve price of 17,300 euros, and lot No 2429 comprising five jade blocks weighing 125 kilos with reserve price of one million euros and the lots are highest prices of their kinds.

Moreover, lot No 2278 of imperial jade weighing 1.80 kilogrammes

Article and photos by *Thaung Win Bo*



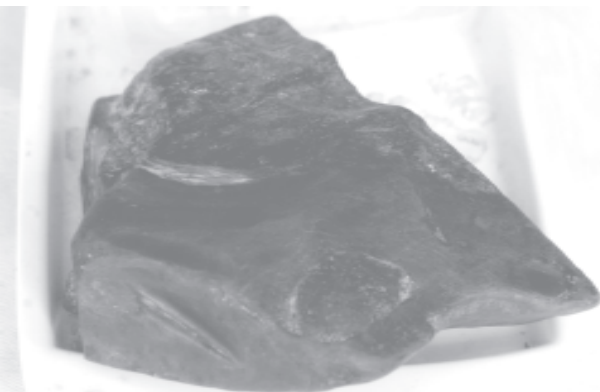
Gem merchants at 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium.

with reserve price of 200,800 euros wins the attention of the merchants.

Lots of pearls shiny with gold colour, quality jade lots and Mogok ruby with the highest reserve price have fas-

inated the merchants. It is simply believed that the gems emporium will effectively help realize the State's aim of earning more foreign exchange.

Translation: MS



Imperial jade of 1.80 kg worth euro 200,800.



Five lots of jade weighing 125 kg valued at euro 1,000,000.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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Sealed Tenders are invited for the supply of Road Bitumen 80/100 Grade to Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Ministry of Energy. Tenders are to be submitted under the following terms and conditions:-

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Tender Documents are available at Finance Department, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min-Ye-Kyawswa Road, Yangon starting from (20.3.2006) on payment of one hundred (100) FEC.

Only tender bid purchased officially will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Turkish military helicopter crashes in east, 4 dead

ISTANBUL, 17 March—A Turkish military helicopter crashed in the east of the country on Thursday after colliding with a power line, killing four people and injuring two, the provincial governor said.

State-run *Anatolian* news agency quoted the governor of eastern Erzincan Province as saying the helicopter had crashed on to the main road between Erzincan and Erzurum.

The governor's office confirmed that the helicopter had crashed but provided no further details.

MNA/Reuters

China to produce 91 mln colour TVs in 2006

BEIJING, 17 March — China is expected to produce 91 million units of colour TVs in 2006, the Ministry of Information Industry forecast on Thursday.

Some 48 million units will be for export, a source with the ministry's Economic Performance Department said.

The output of thin film transistor-liquid crystal display panel TVs has grown very fast over the past years, said the source, adding that China's flat

screen TV technology has gradually matured, leading to reduced production cost.

The sales ratio of flat screen colour TV has outpaced that of traditional colour TV, according to a colour TV sales database which covers 200 cities.

China is the world's biggest colour TV producer and exporter, with its colour TV output making up half of the world's total.

In 2005, the country turned out 82.83 million

sets of colour TVs, an increase of 13 per cent year-on-year. It sold 80.45 million sets, a rise of 10.69 per cent from a year earlier.

Meanwhile, it exported 39.75 million units of colour TVs last year, a year-on-year rise of 43.36 per cent, with export volume hitting 5.05 billion US dollars, up 57.55 per cent. Although the growth of the industry began to slow down in 2003, it has maintained double-digit growth.—MNA/Xinhua

German named to head UN environment agency

UNITED NATIONS, 17 March — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan chose a German conservationist to head the UN Environment Programme for a four-year term, a UN spokesman announced on Wednesday.

Achim Steiner, now director-general of the World Conservation Union, will replace another German, Klaus Toepfer, as head of UNEP, based in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

Steiner, 44, is expected to assume his post on June 15 after ratification by the UN General Assembly, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

UNEP was established in 1972 to guide environmental activities at the United Nations,

especially among developing nations, through its scientific advisory groups.

Its widely recognized activity is Earthwatch, an international monitoring system designed to facilitate the exchange of information on significant environmental risks among governments.

The World Conservation Union that Steiner heads is the world's largest environmental network with over 1,000 members in 140 countries, including

governments and advocacy groups.

MNA/Reuters

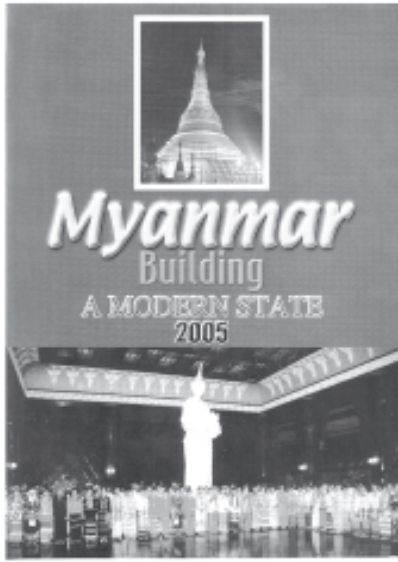
US, Japan, Australia to tackle rise of China

SYDNEY, 17 March — The United States has made the economic and military rise of China the focus of top-level security talks with Australia and Japan on Saturday, but Canberra has assured Beijing it is not a bid to contain the Asian giant.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who will meet Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso in Sydney, wants to be sure China's military build-up does not "outsize" its regional ambitions and interests.

But Downer has been a little more restrained, describing the meeting as an opportunity to discuss harnessing the

growing power of China to the advantage of the region and managing its rise so that Beijing can play a positive international role. "(The security talks) shouldn't be construed by China as a policy of containment of China or in any sense hostile towards China. There are plenty of issues for us to talk about other than China," Downer told Australia's Sky News.—MNA/Reuters



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Sleaze accusations against Blair's Labour Party

LONDON, 17 March— Prime Minister Tony Blair came to office in 1997 promising to clean up politics after a series of sleaze scandals had rocked the outgoing Conservative government.

But Labour has not managed to avoid accusations of sleaze during its nine years in office and now faces another cash-for-favours test over donations to party coffers.

Here are some of the past problems:

* In November 1997 it was revealed Formula One motor racing boss Bernie Ecclestone gave the Labour Party one million pounds. The government later decided to exempt Formula One from a proposed ban on tobacco sponsorship. Labour gave the money back.

* Trade Secretary Peter Mandelson resigned in December 1998, after he failed to declare a 373,000-pound (687,300-US-dollar) loan from former ex-minister and millionaire Geoffrey

Robinson to buy a house. Mandelson's department was investigating Robinson's business dealings at the time.

* In 2001, Mandelson was again forced out, this time as Northern Ireland Secretary over allegations he had intervened to support the passport applications of Indian billionaires the Hinduja brothers shortly after they agreed to fund London's ill-fated Millennium Dome.

* Opposition politicians demanded to know why Blair wrote to Romania's Prime Minister

Adrian Nastase to support a deal for the sale of the Romanian steel group Sidex, but at the same time left the firm Corus, formerly British Steel, struggling. Corus had cut 6,000 jobs in 2001.

In the letter of July 2001, Blair expressed his "delight" that a preliminary deal had been agreed between Sidex and the LNM Group — an international steel conglomerate run by a London-based Indian tycoon Lakshmi Mittal.

Mittal gave Labour 125,000 pounds in June 2001. —MNA/Reuters

Indonesian lawmakers take to street against US firm

JAKARTA, 17 March— Several members of the Indonesian House of Representatives took to the street Wednesday joining dozens of students in a rally to protest recent appointment of US oil giant Exxon Mobil as operator in Cepu oil block.

The protesters filled the street here near a building where visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was delivering a speech on democracy.

Exxon Mobil on Monday won operatorship

in Cepu oil block which has estimated reserves of 600 million barrels of oil.

The victory came several days after the government replaced nearly all directors in state-run oil firm Pertamina, which previously insisted

on becoming the sole operator in Cepu, and one day before Rice's arrival here.

Local news website Detikcom said at least three lawmakers were seen among the protesters.

Legislator Amy Taher from the Social Justice Party said from the scene the House would summon related ministers to quiz them over the Cepu case.

Taher called for the government to review or consider cancelling contract with Exxon Mobil while the joint operation agreement (JOA) between Exxon Mobil and Pertamina had not been signed yet.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်သစ်ပညာရေးတိုးတက်ရေး နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖွဲ့

Astronomers find DNA-like nebula near centre of Milky Way

LOS ANGELES, 17 March— With NASA's *Spitzer Space Telescope*, US astronomers spotted an unprecedented DNA-like nebula near the centre of our Milky Way.

The observed part of elongated double helix nebula, stretching 80 light years in length, sits approximately 300 light years from the enormous black hole at the centre of the Milky Way. The Earth is more than 25,000 light years from the black hole.

The researchers published their findings in the March 16 edition of the journal *Nature*.

"We see two intertwining strands wrapped around each other as in a DNA molecule," said Mark Morris, lead author of the study at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"Nobody has ever seen anything like that before in the cosmic realm. Most nebula are either spiral galaxies full

of stars or formless amorphous conglomerations of dust and gas — space weather. What we see indicates a high degree of order."

The fancy feature of the nebula could be driven by magnetic waves at the centre of galaxy, Morris explained. Galactic centre has a

strong, highly-ordered magnetic field, and the magnetic field lines are oriented perpendicular to the plane of the galaxy.

MNA/Xinhua



A customer shopping for a Chinese made Haier computer in Shanghai, on 15 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Russia-China military cooperation not foremost in relations

BEIJING, 17 March — Russian Ambassador to China **Sergey Razov** said here on Thursday that military cooperation is not the most important part of Russia-China relations.

Razov made the remarks at a Press conference on the Year of Russia, to be inaugurated amid Russian President Vladimir Putin's state visit to China on 21 and 22 March. Razov told the media not to pay too much attention to the military programmes during the Year of Russia, which after all account for only a portion of all the programmes. The Year of Russia in 2006 in China and the Year of China in 2007 in Russia were declared in a joint statement last year.

The two goodwill programmes will involve a wide spectrum of areas designed to enhance mutual understanding between the two countries and peoples.

MNA/Xinhua

China's population reaches 1.30 bln last year

BEIJING, 17 March— China's population had risen to 1.306 billion by 1 November, 2005, up 3.2 per cent from the figure on 1 November, 2000 when the Fifth National Population

Census was conducted, the National Bureau of Statistics reported on Thursday.

The figures are the outcome of China's third one-per-cent sample census conducted on 1 November, 2005. The Chinese Government started in the 1980s to punctuate thorough National Censuses with sample censuses, which sample 1 per cent of the population.

Based on the sample census, researchers put China's population at 1.307 billion by the end of 2005.

The country's population has grown at an annual rate of 0.63 per cent or 8.09 million people in the past five years, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Booming auto sales in emerging markets lure world carmakers

HONG KONG, 17 March — Booming auto sales in the emerging markets of China and India are offering huge growth potential to the largely saturated global car market, said a report published by Standard and Poor's Rating Services on Wednesday.

"We expect an average growth in car sales in China of at least 10 per cent to 15 per cent per year over the medium term,"

said Standard & Poor's credit analyst Maria Bissinger, author of the report entitled "Dream Machines: Emerging Markets Beckon the World's Carmakers."

She said "in India, market forecast a growth rate of about 10 per cent to 12 per cent in 2006, matching long-term economic growth expectations in the country," she added.

On a lower level, the emerging Russian car market is also attractive to global automakers after seeing growth of 7 per cent to 8 per cent since 2000.

Every major international manufacturer is now present in the Chinese market, in which more than 100 auto manufacturers currently compete, the report said.



Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito, at Xochimilco, a zone popular with tourists in Mexico City, Mexico, the site of the Fourth World Water Forum on Thursday, on 16 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Young Chinese physicists invited to Switzerland, Germany

BEIJING, 17 March— The Swiss and German embassies in Beijing announced Thursday that 18 Chinese doctoral candidates for physics have been invited to Switzerland and Germany for a three-week academic exchange.

Hu Jian at elite Qinghua University in Beijing and the other 17 recipients of the Einstein Award are scheduled to visit prestigious research institutes in both Switzerland and Germany. During their stay in Switzerland, they will visit the Einstein Museum located in Bern.

At the awards

ceremony, the Swiss Ambassador to China said Chinese scientific research is developing rapidly. Both Switzerland and Germany are conducting closer research cooperation with Chinese scientists, the ambassador said.

The Einstein Award is aimed at strengthening cooperation between China,

Switzerland and Germany. Germany and Switzerland lead the world in winning Nobel prizes. The year of 2005 is the centennial anniversary of the remarkable discoveries by Albert Einstein, who articulated the celebrated theories of relativity and quantum optics in Bern, Switzerland, in 1905

MNA/Xinhua



Photo taken on 17 March, 2006 shows the noseless Great Sphinx of Giza in Cairo, Egypt. The half-man half-lion statue is to get a facelift according to the Egyptian Ministry of Culture. Restoration work carried by the High Council for Antiquities is to focus on the beast's neck and chest, eroded by desert winds. The last restoration work was undertaken in 1996.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Queiroz says van Nistelrooy staying at United

MANCHESTER (England), 18 March— Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy will not be leaving Old Trafford, assistant manager Carlos Queiroz said on Friday.

Van Nistelrooy's omission from the starting lineup for the past three games has led to speculation the Dutch international could leave in the close season after five years leading the United line.

Queiroz insisted the 29-year-old still has a key role to play at United.

"Ruud is a crucial player for our goals and our ambitions. Nobody can have any doubts about that," Queiroz told reporters. "He is part of our team and part of our needs and his contribution, starting the game or during the game, is always crucial to us. He is part of our plan — the short, medium and long-term.

"You can't be surprised that 50 teams in the world want Ruud. There is only one team that does not need to want Ruud and that is Manchester United because we have him.

"We are the special team that has Ruud so we

just need to show our commitment and our appreciation to the player because he is a crucial player to us." Queiroz believes van Nistelrooy, joint top scorer in the Premier League, is happy at Old Trafford where he has been offered reassurances about his importance to the club. —MNA/Reuters

Benitez joins in criticism of FA Cup schedule

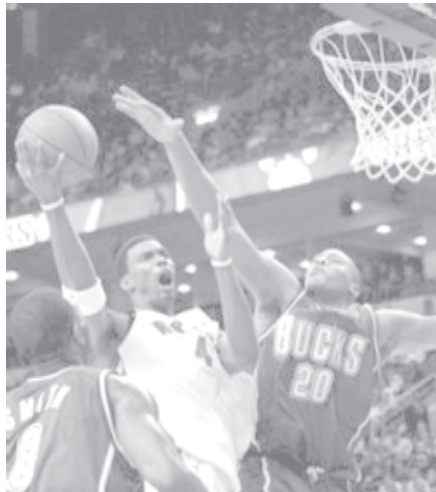
LIVERPOOL (England), 18 March— Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez is angry that his team must play an FA Cup quarterfinal match against Birmingham City, just two days after Sunday's Premier League clash with Newcastle United.

The FA Cup is now Liverpool's last hope for silverware this season after they were knocked out of the Champions League by Benfica and falling too far behind Chelsea in the league.

"In this case you have to think about both games. It is only two days and you do not have time to recuperate the players," Benitez told reporters.

"At Christmas time we had similar problems. We played four games in eight days. I don't understand these things because if you want to see the best of your players and the best football you must give the players a rest. "You cannot give the players just one day to recover. If you know football, you know the second day after a game is the worst day for players."

MNA/Reuters



Danny Granger scored a career-high 23 points to spoil the return of Ron Artest as the Indiana Pacers beat the Sacramento Kings 98-93 in National Basketball Association play on Friday in Indianapolis. —INTERNET



Laurie Stephens of the United States speeds down the course on her way to take the silver medal during an Women's Giant Slalom Sitting Skiing at the Turin 2006 Winter Paralympic games in Sestriere, Italy, on Friday, 17 March, 2006.

INTERNET

Betis coach asks for forgiveness after UEFA Cup exit

MADRID, 18 March— Real Betis coach Llorenç Serra Ferrer asked for forgiveness from the fans after his side's humiliating UEFA Cup exit by Steaua Bucharest on Thursday.

The players and coaching staff were barracked from the stands after falling 3-0 at home to the Romanians, having drawn 0-0 in the first leg of the last 16 tie in Romania.

"The fans have good reason to protest because things have not gone well for us of late," Serra Ferrer said.

"I want to apologize to them for our poor run of

form. Now we have to try and finish the season with as much dignity as possible." Two goals from Banel Nicolita, and one from Victoras Iacob,

steered Steaua to an impressive victory, while Betis' challenge foundered following the 60th-minute red card for winger Joaquin. —MNA/Reuters

Howell glides into halfway lead at TCL Classic

BEIJING, 18 March— European Tour order of merit leader David Howell of Britain fired a nine-under 63 to storm two shots clear at the halfway stage of the TCL Classic on Friday.

On a second straight day of low scoring, the world number 14 picked up 11 birdies on the par-72 Yalong Bay Golf Club on Hainan Island to surge up the leaderboard with a 17-under-par 127 total at the 1-million-US-dollar co-sanctioned European and Asian Tour event.

Starting his round on the back nine in a sixth place, Howell picked up six shots before the turn for an outward 30 to stamp his authority on the tournament.

"I have just had my joint best round and my best score after two days, so I have got to be happy," Howell told reporters. "I had a lot of fun out there, played nicely and it is a lot of fun out there playing that well."

Australia's Andrew Buckley shot a six-under 66 to move into second spot on 15-under-par, two clear of Argentine Daniel Vancisk, South Africa's Warren Abery and co-overnight leader Edward Loar of the US.

Defending champion Paul Casey of Britain lies six shots off the lead in a tie for 13th place with six other players, including last week's Singapore Masters runner-up Nick Dougherty.

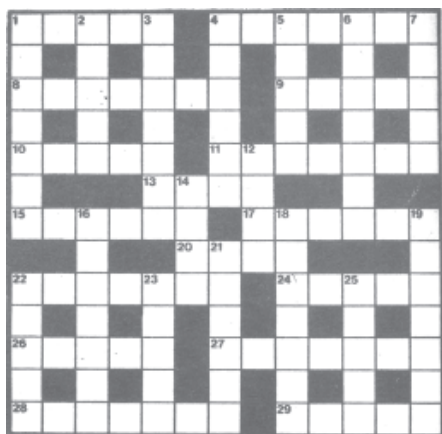
Britain's Dougherty was particularly impressed with Howell's play. — MNA/Reuters



Elena Dementieva of Russia lunges for a backhand during her victory over Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium at the Pacific Life Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California, on 17 March, 2006.

INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Australian Englishman
- 4 Hard rock
- 8 Pre-eminence in show business
- 9 Savoury meat jelly
- 10 Excuse
- 11 Moral
- 13 Adam's third son
- 15 Grossly material
- 17 New
- 20 Swirl
- 22 Supplementary items
- 24 Of the same value
- 26 Concede
- 27 Largely
- 28 Venomous US snake
- 29 African antelope

DOWN

- 1 Corridor
- 2 Resort in Florida
- 3 Corrupt Hebrew
- 4 Boring-tool
- 5 Put out of countenance
- 6 Collisions
- 7 Surpass
- 12 Dull sound
- 14 Observed
- 16 Shining
- 18 Tanzanian statesman
- 19 Help up
- 21 Peril
- 22 Ire
- 23 Province of South Africa
- 25 Extreme

Federer moves into semifinals at Indian Wells Masters

WASHINGTON, 18 March— World number one Roger Federer beat Croatian Ivan Ljubicic 6-2, 6-3 Thursday to enter the Indian Wells Masters semifinals in California. The two-time defending champion from Switzerland won over the sixth-seeded Croatian only in 66 minutes and booked his place in the final four.

In the semifinals Federer will face either Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan or Finland's Jarkko Nieminen, who were due to face off in the night session.

Women's fourth seed Elena Dementieva of Russia rallied for a 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory over eighth seed Ana Ivanovic to book a semifinal spot.

Dementieva, 24 and ranked eighth in the world, reached two Grand Slam finals in 2004 but made it past the fourth round in only one major last year and has struggled to find consistency this year. —MNA/Xinhua

Australia, England swimmers split gold medals

MELBOURNE, 18 March— Australia completed a pair of medal sweep while England pocketed two in the men's session of the swimming competition at the Commonwealth Games here on Friday.

On the second day of the competition, swimming was still the centrepiece of the 11-day Games as people swarmed into the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. World champion Danni Miatke led the Australian haul of medals when she finished 26.43 seconds in the women's 50m butterfly.

Jessicah Schipper, winner of the 100m butterfly in last year's World Championships, took the second with 0.22 seconds back, while Alice Mills came in third.

MNA/Xinhua



LP Holding Co Ltd of No 65 at the corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street donated K 500,000 to the fund of Sule Pagoda for all-round renovation tasks through U Myo Khin, member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees on 11 March.—H

Gene changes found in Vietnam's Agent Orange victims

HANOI, 18 March — Vietnamese scientists have found that genes of some local people affected by Agent Orange, defoliants sprayed by US Army in the Vietnam War, have been altered, said a symposium delegate.

At the two-day international symposium entitled "What Vietnamese Agent Orange/Dioxin Victims Hope For," Le Ke Son, office manager of Vietnam's National Steering Committee for Overcoming Aftermaths of Wartime Toxic Substances, said the gene alteration has caused serious diseases and congenital malformations among children or grandchildren of people exposed to the defoliants, local newspaper Pioneer reported Friday.

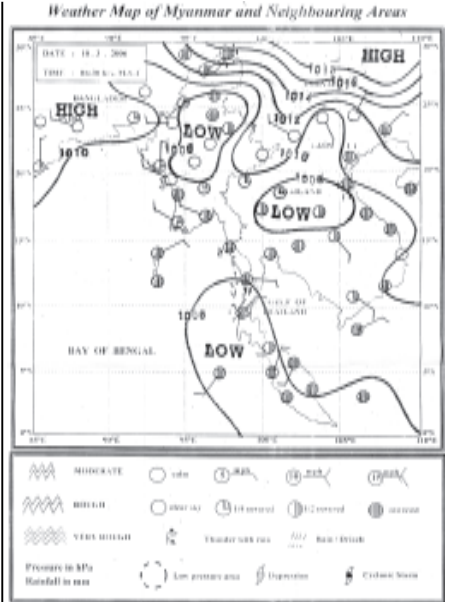
Son said among 174,198 Agent Orange

victims recently researched by the scientists, 169,193 are the first generation (children), and 5,005 the second generation (grandchildren). The scientists have also found that some people and their children have not shown signs of illness, but diseases appear among the next generation.

During the symposium starting here Thursday, 155 representatives from 11 countries, mainly scientists, social activists, officers of governmental and non-governmental organizations, and local victims, are to hear 28 reports on effects of the defoliant on human lives, and view photos and documentaries about the victims' sufferings.

The symposium's minutes will be sent to the US Court of Appeals, which will hear Vietnamese victims' case against American chemical producers next month.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Saturday, 18 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been scattered in Taninthayi Division, isolated in Kachin State and Sagaing Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperature was Aunglan (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (0.67) inch and Dawei (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 17-3-2006 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 18-3-2006 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 18-3-2006 was (77%). Total sunshine hours on 17-3-2006 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 18-3-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northeast at (14:30) hours MST on 17-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19-3-2006: Isolated light rain are likely in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon, Kayin States and Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of slight increase of day temperatures in Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Pyinmana and neighbouring area for 19-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-3-2006: Generally fair.

တန်ဖိုးရှိလှ လူငယ်ဘဝ မှူးယစ်ကင်းစင် ကျန်းမာမှု



Sunday, 19 March View on today

- 7:00 am**
 - 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်တို့ ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာဝရဒဂုဏ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓမ္မာတိထာ၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:15 am**
 - 2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ(ဆရာဆရာတော်) မဟာကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသတ္တိပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am**
 - 3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
 - 4. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
 - 5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
 - 6. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ပြာဓာတ်
- 8:00 am**
 - 7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:05 am**
 - 8. ဆင်ဖြူရှင်တံတား
- 8:15 am**
 - 9. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am**
 - 10. International news
- 8:45 am**
 - 1. Martial song
- 9:05 am**
 - 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 9:20 am**
 - 3. English for Everyday Use
- 9:35 am**
 - 4. တစ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရထားများ
- 9:50 am**
 - 5. အဆေးသင်တန်းအဖွဲ့အစည်းမှ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (ဆရာတော်အထူးပြု) (ဆရာတော်)
- 10:05 am**
 - 6. Dance of national races
- 10:20 am**
 - 7. Musical programme
- 10:35 am**
 - 8. Sing and Enjoy
- 10:50 am**
 - 9. Evening news
- 11:05 am**
 - 10. Weather report
- 11:20 am**
 - 11. Discovery
- 11:35 am**
 - 12. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 11:50 am**
 - 13. (၆၁)နှစ်ပြည့်တော်တော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 12:05 pm**
 - 14. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 12:20 pm**
 - 15. Musical programme
- 12:35 pm**
 - 16. Agricultural source of Myanmar development
- 12:50 pm**
 - 17. ကြားမြင်သုတ ဂြိုဟ်ဝေရာစာပေဒေသာ
- 1:05 pm**
 - 18. News
- 1:20 pm**
 - 19. International news
- 1:35 pm**
 - 20. Weather report
- 1:50 pm**
 - 21. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မိပြီဆိုရင်" (အပိုင်း-၃၂)
- 2:05 pm**
 - 22. The next day's programme



- Sunday, 19 March Tune in today**
- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: -Too much of a good thing
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: -Words to me
- 8:50 am** National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music: -You do
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Cultural images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am** Music: -Story for children -Songs for children
- 9:30 pm** Weekly news review
- 9:40 pm** Article
- 9:50 pm** Welcome to native of Mon Nationalities
- 9:55 pm** News & Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

Commander inspects development of Bhamo District

YANGON, 18 March — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint met with departmental personnel at Bhamo District and Township levels and local people at the city hall in Bhamo on 6 March morning.

Chairman of Bhamo District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hla Thuang and departmental officials reported on regional development tasks, agriculture, education, health and transport facilities, and tasks of departments concerned.

The commander presented K 500,000 each for health care services of Bhamo Township Hospital and for education tasks to officials.

Afterwards, the commander oversaw Thiri

Yadana Market in Bhamo and instructed officials to keep the market clean.

At noon, the commander inspected construction of Momaik-Kyanphone gravel road and bridges along it. He gave instructions on construction of the retaining walls at the road and dredging of drains on either side of the road.

In Lwejel, the commander oversaw the office of Border Trade Department, police station, physic nut nursery, vegetable patches and departmental offices. He met with departmental personnel and attended to the needs.

The commander inspected the Myanmar-China border post, roads and buildings in Lwejel.

MNA

Objectives of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day

- * To work in concert with the people for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic new nation
- * To strive for successful realization of the seven-point policy programme of the State
- * To crush every danger posed to the State hand in hand with people
- * To build a strong, capable and modern Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes

Above-23 defeat Selected-B 4-1

YANGON, 18 March — Above-23 Selected Team trounced Tentatively Selected Team-B 4-1 in the fourth match of the Second Quadrupartite Trials, at Aung San Stadium, here, at 4 pm today.

The Above-23 Selected Team showed off their brilliant football skills, and grasped chances of scoring. The Above-23 Selected Team beat its opponent by a wide margin through scoring of one goal each from Lakye O Lwe, San Maung, Thet Naing Soe and veteran Myo Hlaing Win.

Despite making concerted efforts in their moves, the Tentatively Selected Team-B did not have the opportunity to drill the opponent's side. Maneuver of the team was thrown into disarray by the Above-23 Selected Team.

The Tentatively Selected Team-B was consoled with an equalizer scored by its player Han Soe Aung.

The match was handled by referee U Win Htut. — NLM



San Maung of Above-23 Selected Team controls the ball before defender Win Zaw Aung of Tentatively Selected Team.

NLM

142 lots of pearl sold



Deputy Minister U Myint Thein has a cordial chat with foreign gems merchants at the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium (2006).

MNA

YANGON, 18 March — Chairman of the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein viewed sales of pearl lots through tender and competitive bidding system of the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

The deputy minister cordially greeted local and foreign pearl merchants.

Pearl merchants inspected pearl lots from 15 to 17 March and put the tender proposals into the tender box.

This afternoon, 142 lots of pearl were sold.

A total of 1,371 gem merchants from abroad and 842 local merchants, totalling 2,213 observed

gem and jade lots from 9 am to 5 pm.

On 19 and 20 March, 128 gem lots will be sold through tender system and competitive bidding. — MNA

1,371 gem merchants from abroad and 842 local merchants, totalling 2,213 observed gem and jade lots.



Lot No 63 of Mogok ruby weighing 33.39 carats with reserve price of 3.5 million euros. — MNA