

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 342

11th Waning of Taboung 1367 ME

Friday, 24 March, 2006

Upgrade defence capabilities of nation

Join hands with the people in nation-building endeavours and upgrade the defence capabilities of our nation by building a stronger and more efficient modern Tatmadaw in order to ensure comprehensive security for our country with its continuing achievements in growth and progress, as worthy heirs to the tradition of the capable Tatmadaws established by noble kings Anawrahta, Bayint Naung and Alaung Phaya U Aung Zeya.



Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
 (From address delivered at the parade of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Senior General Than Shwe congratulates President of Portuguese Republic

YANGON, 24 March— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Anibal Cavaco Silva, who was sworn in on 9 March 2006 as the President of the Portuguese Republic. —MNA

Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Industries produces 10,000 power tillers, 5,000 harvesters and plans are underway to manufacture 3,000 combined harvesters every year.

Steel plant in Mandalay Industrial Zone producing auto and farm machinery parts

YANGON, 23 March— Prime Minister General Soe Win, accompanied by Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, the deputy ministers, the Man-

dalay Mayor, senior military officers, heads of departments went on an inspection tour of the Central Command on 21 March and looked into physic nut plantations and grew physic nut plants.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw reported to the Prime Minister and party on sowing of 15,000 physic nut seeds at the Central Command Headquarters.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected supplies for cultivation of physic nut plants, seeds and grafts as well as the plantation in which 600,000 physic nut plants were grown. At the same time, the Prime Minister and party grew physic nut plants.

Upon arrival at Mandalay City Development Committee's plantation in Patheingyi Township, the
 (See page 8)



Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects forging machines at the iron smelting factory of Mandalay Taw Win Industrial Co Ltd in Mandalay Industrial Zone (2). — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 24 March, 2006

For ensuring strong national economy

The government has been implementing development projects harmoniously in respective regions for equitable progress of all parts of the Union and raising the social-economic life of national people.

As agriculture is the most fundamental sector for fulfilment of food, clothing and shelter of the people, food sufficiency and ensuring strong national economy, the government has been building a large number of infrastructures such as dams, river water pumping stations and sluice gates.

At the inauguration of Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division, on 22 March, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein said, "Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam will be able to benefit 118,500 acres of paddy fields and 237,000 acres of various crops and generate 25 megawatts. So, it will contribute effectively towards the improvement of socio-economic life of the people and regional development. Moreover, the storage of water by the dam will prevent Pyundaza plain from being flooded and reduce 60 per cent of floods of the Sittoung River".

Thanks to Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam and other Sittoung Valley development projects, wetlands and the regions annually flooded with sea water in Bago Division including Pyundaza plain will be changed into cultivable lands.

So far, the government has built 184 irrigation facilities including Yenwe Dam and they are irrigating more than 2,587,00 acres of farmland.

With expeditious reclamation of lands, extended supply of irrigation water and use of advanced agricultural methods and quality strains of crops, net sown acreage of the nation has soared to 26.89 million acres in 2005-2006 fiscal year, compared with only 19.51 million acres in 1988-89. And in the same period, the sown acreage has increased to 43 million, up from 23.80 million.

Now, bio-diesel is extracted from physic nut and that will speed up use of fuel substitute for industrialization and rural agricultural machines. So, farmers are to strive for extensive growing of physic nut.

The government has been taking measures in all spheres for attending to the basic needs, and improvement of economic, education, health and social sectors of the people. Therefore, farmers are urged to take full advantage of already-achieved peace and development for further progress of agriculture and livestock breeding and strong national economy.

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

Cultural research works inspected in Bagan, Pyawbwe

YANGON, 23 March — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, accompanied by Director-General U Kyaw Win of Archaeology Department and officials, oversaw ancient regions of Ywadow, Ywamon, and ancient Pin City and proceeded to Bagan on 18 March.

Deputy Director-general (Upper Myanmar) U Aung Kyaing reported on progress in construction of Arimaddanapura Bagan Golden Palace of King Anawrahta. The minister inspected construction tasks and decoration with Myanmar handicraft at the buildings.

On 19 March, the minister observed the ancient cave at which Monk Shin Arahan took residence near Tuyintaung Pagoda. At Kazun-O Phayahla Temple near East Phwasaw



Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung observes artifacts of Pyu Period unearthed near Beinmka ancient city in Beinmaka Village, Pyawbwe Township. — CULTURE

Village, the minister instructed officials to preserve the ancient wall paintings. In the afternoon, Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung together with Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe inspected Bagan Archaeological Museum.

The minister also looked into research works of Archaeology Department (Bagan Branch) at the site of King Pyin Oaraya of Bagan era and the site of ancient Kyauksaga city built by King Thamuddarit and King Pyusawhti. While in Bagan, the minister in-

spected maintenance and renovation tasks at ancient pagodas.

In Pyawbwe, the minister heard reports on research works of ancient Beinmaka city by Director U Moe Kyaw Kyaw of Mandalay Branch of the department.

MNA

Defending champion Yangon Division atop in ISD Golf C'ship



YANGON, 23 March — The 28th Inter-State/Division Golf Championship 2006 continued for the third day at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon, Insein Township, this morning.

After the third round, defending champion Yangon Division stood in the lead position in the team scratch event

by shooting a 226 for a 676 total gross. Though Shan State (East) tied with Mandalay Division at 715 strokes, the former stayed at the second position and the latter at the third.

In the team handicap event, Taninthayi Division leaped up from the third to first position after the third round by firing 207 strokes for 619 nett total. Kachin State shot 621 at the second position and Shan State

(South) 623 at the third.

Derek Htet Doe (Yangon Division) sailed up his position from the second to the first today by scoring a 4-over-par 76 for a 225 total in the individual scratch event. The leader's compatriot Phyo Kyaw Kyaw became his closet runner-up with the scores of a three-over-par 75 for a 226 total. Yan Myo Aye who fired a three-over-par 75 for a 227 total was also a compatriot of

the first and second leaders.

In the individual handicap event, Thein Naing (Taninthayi Division) who had shot a 67 for a 202 nett total stood in the first position after removing the leader on the second round. Aye Min Zaw (Ayeyawady Division) scored a 69 for one stroke adrift of the leader at the second position, and Gun Jar standing in the third position fired a 67 for a 204 nett total.

The championship was co-organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Isuzu Motors Ltd. Han Event Management is performing functions of the championship.

The fourth and final round of the championship continues at the same venue tomorrow.

MNA



Japanese Buddhist Monk Miwa Shoho and Mr Tsuboi Kiyoshi recently donated K 800,000 to Yangon Children's Hospital through U Aung Than Win (Managing Director) of Peace Smile Land, Travels & Tour. — H

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မော်တော်ယာဉ် မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

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Backing Iran, Chavez says US is chasing oil

CARACAS (Venezuela), 22 March — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Tuesday stood by Iran in its nuclear dispute after he accused Washington of threatening Teheran over the OPEC nation's oil reserves.

Chavez spoke as the UN Security Council failed to reach an agreement on how to respond to Iran's nuclear ambitions and the US Government warned that Teheran could blackmail the world if it managed to develop an atomic bomb. The Venezuelan leader, whose close ties to Cuba and Iran have riled Washington, has supported the Iranian Government while

Western powers try to halt its nuclear energy programme because they fear Teheran is secretly working toward making nuclear weapons.

"The US imperialists invaded Iraq looking for oil and now they are threatening Iran for oil, not because the Iranians are developing some kind of nuclear bomb, that is a lie, there is no evidence of that," Chavez said at a ceremony.

"The US empire is defeated in Iraq... God help them if they try to attack Iran. We ask for and want peace, but over there they would taste double the dust of defeat," he said at a later public event, drawing applause from the audience.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysia launches palm oil-based biofuel

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 March — Malaysia on Tuesday launched its B5 palm oil-based biofuel, which is a mixture of 5 per cent of processed palm oil and 95 per cent of petroleum diesel.

"If we are prudent in using the palm oil resource and have a holistic fuel strategy... we will be able to tide over the world crude oil price crisis and guarantee a sustainable and competitive energy source for the country," Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said at the launching ceremony. He hoped the use of biofuel would change people's perception of the potential of the oil palm and agro-based industry sector in this country.

The use of the biofuel, called "Envo Diesel", will be implemented in stages starting with vehicles of selected governmental agencies and then moving on the public use, Badawi said. — MNA/Xinhua

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US troops hit by bombs, mortar attacks in western Iraq

FALLUJAH, 22 March — US troops were hit in separate roadside bombs and mortar attacks in western Iraq on Tuesday, causing casualties, local residents said.

"A roadside bomb went off at about 6:45 am (0335 GMT) on the main road of Barwana Town near Haditha City, some 250 kilometres northwest of Baghdad," local residents told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast occurred as a US military patrol was passing by, destroying a US Humvee and prompting the US troops to cordon off the scene and blocked the main road, they said.

Another roadside bomb detonated Monday night near a US patrol in the al-Zawiyah Village near Haditha City, destroying a US Humvee, they said, adding the US soldiers surrounded the village and searched

houses and detaining two suspects.

It was not clear whether there was any casualties among the US soldiers in the two attacks as the troops sealed off the scenes, witnesses said.

MNA/Xinhua

Actors perform at the opening ceremony for the Year of Russia in China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 21 March, 2006. Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russian President Vladimir Putin attended the ceremony.

INTERNET



The top selling price for premium gasoline at \$3.39 a gallon and diesel fuel priced at \$3.69 a gallon is shown on signs at a gas station in Los Angeles, on 22 March, 2006.—INTERNET



A protester stands along US President George W Bush's motorcade route in Wheeling, West Virginia, on 22 March, 2006. Bush was in town to speak on the war, on terror.—INTERNET

Tearful Bardot begs Canada to scrap seal hunt

OTTAWA, 22 March — French film star turned animal rights campaigner Brigitte Bardot tearfully begged Canada on Wednesday to stop the annual harp seal hunt, during which about 325,000 young seal pups will be shot or beaten to death.

"Before I die I want to see this massacre ended," she told a news conference, sitting in front of a poster that showed a giant seal clubbing a blood-covered human baby.

The hunt, which takes place on ice floes off the coast of eastern Canada, is due to start on Friday or Saturday. Ottawa denies the hunt is cruel and says it helps the local economy while keeping the seal population healthy and in check.

To try to stop the hunt each year, activists release gory pictures of hunters crushing seal skulls with big clubs. Anti-hunt campaigners are calling on some major US

restaurant chains to boycott Canadian seafood until the hunt stops.



Former French film star turned animal rights activist Brigitte Bardot reacts while watching footage from previous seal hunts during a news conference in Ottawa on 22 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Bardot, who started campaigning against the hunt some 30 years ago, cried quietly as aides played a video showing graphic shots of young seals screaming in agony and drowning in their own blood after being attacked by hunters. "Canada is a rich country. It doesn't need to sell skin, oil, fat and powdered seal penises to make aphrodisiacs for countries in Asia... you cannot continue a genocide of animals like this," said the 71-year-old actress, who peppered her comments with expletives.

Internet

Woman survives fall from 11th floor

MOSCOW, 22 March — A Russian woman fell 35 metres (114 ft) from the eleventh floor of her apartment building and survived, Russia's Channel One television reported on Tuesday.

The 21-year-old woman, who was not named, is in hospital being treated for concussion, bruises and a displaced spine. Doctors say she should make a full recovery.

"I have been working for 36 years and this is the first time we have had a patient who has been brought into the hospital after falling from the eleventh floor," Dr Viktor Razin told the television station.

Doctors said a thick covering of snow broke the woman's fall, and her body was relaxed because she was not fully conscious at the moment of impact. The incident happened in the Ural Mountains region of Bashkortostan. —Internet

Teheran protests against US threat over Iranian N-programme

TEHERAN, 22 March—Teheran has protested against the US stance on the Iranian nuclear issue with a threat of resorting to force on the Islamic Republic, the official IRNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

The protest was voiced in a letter submitted to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Monday

by Iranian ambassador and permanent representative Mohammad-Javad Zarif.

The letter said that "various senior officials of the United States have used false pretexts to make public and thinly-veiled threats of resorting to force against the Islamic Republic of Iran in total contempt of international

law and the fundamental principles of the Charter of the UN".

The United States has accused Iran of developing nuclear weapons covertly and is reluctant to rule out military solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. Repeating the accusation, US President George W Bush on

Monday said the United States would protect Israel with its military capability.

In the letter to the UN chief, Iran also defined the US threats as "resorting to unlawful, unacceptable and dangerous use of force" and a behaviour showing its contempt for the UN Security Council and other multilateral mechanisms. "The UN has a fundamental responsibility to reject those assertions and to arrest this trend," said the letter.

Iran's protests came also as the permanent five of the UN Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — plus Germany held a meeting lasting for four and a half hours on next UN move on the Iranian nuclear programme.

MNA/Xinhua



ဝတ်လှမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်ဗျား



South Korean protesters shout slogans at a rally against the Security Policy Initiative meetings between South Korea and the United States in Seoul, on 21 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Wad of cash found in New Orleans home

NEW ORLEANS, 21 March— Trista Wright was spending her spring break cleaning out hurricane-damaged homes when she discovered some unusual papers among the moldy plaster board and debris.

"I started raking it out of the air conditioner vent. I thought it was garbage and I was going to shovel it up, but I bent down to pick it up, and it was a stack of \$100 bills, and then more and more kept coming," the 19-year-old said Tuesday on CNN.

By an unofficial count, it was more than \$30,000.

Wright and fellow students notified the organizers of their church mission, who told the St Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office.

The woman who owned the house, who has asked that she not be identified, was as shocked as Wright.

"She was speechless," said Wright, an Armstrong Atlantic State University student who was among 175 Georgia college students spending their week off volunteering in the city's Arabi area.

Internet

18 Iraqi policemen killed in deadly attack

BAGHDAD, 22 March— An attack at a police headquarters northeast of Baghdad has killed 18

policemen and wounded nine others on Tuesday, a source from the US-Iraqi liaison office told Xinhua.

"Several groups of armed men equipped with machine guns blocked all the roads leading to the police headquarters and nearby government buildings before they launched their attack," said the source from the Joint Coordination Centre

of Diyala, where the headquarters of Muq-dadiya is located.

"The armed men opened fire from their machine guns, grenades and rocket-propelled grenades, killing 18 policemen, including two police officers and wounding nine others, including two civilians," the source said

MNA/Xinhua

Survivors from the sunken ferry Queen of the North arrive in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, on 22 March, 2006. INTERNET

Study shows happier moms have happier children

WASHINGTON, 21 March—Treating mothers for depression can mean long-term happiness for their children, according to a study.

Depression is known to be passed on genetically, but it can also be affected by the environment in which a child is raised, according to authors of an article published by the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) dated 22 March.

A child can develop anxiety and psychological problems if a mother with depression goes without treatment, the authors said.

"Depressed parents should be treated vigorously," said the study's lead author, Myrna Weissman, of Columbia University and New York Psychiatric Institute.

"The impact is not only on them but it's also on their children."

Treating the mother could avoid the need to treat the child with anti-depressant drugs, the authors said.

The study shows that children of mothers suffering from depression and whose symptoms disappeared during the course of a four-month treatment had much lower chances of suffering from depression or other behavior problems.

"It's a very dramatic and important finding," wrote co-author John Rush, psychiatry professor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre.

The study was conducted between December 2001 and April 2004 among 151 women and their children, aged seven to 17. —Internet

Chile bus crash kills 12 American tourists

SANTIAGO, (Chile), 23 March - A bus carrying cruise ship tourists plunged off a highway in northern Chile and tumbled 300 feet down a mountainside Wednesday, killing 12 Americans, US and Chilean officials said. Two other US tourists and two Chileans — the driver and the tour guide — were hospitalized in serious condition, said Juan Carlos Poli, a city hall spokesman in the Pacific port city of Arica.

The tourists were returning to Celebrity Cruises' ship Millennium from an excursion to Lauca National Park when the driver swerved to avoid an approaching truck on a rugged highway near Arica, 1,250 miles north of Santiago, he said.

The bus went off the narrow highway and tumbled down a steep mountainside. Poli said the bus, which had a capacity of 16 passengers, "was totally destroyed."

"We have confirmed that all the victims were American citizens," Poli told the Associated Press by telephone from the hospital.

US Embassy spokesman John Vance also confirmed the 12 US deaths and said the embassy was sending consular officers to Arica. The victims were all in their 60s and 70s, but authorities would not immediately confirm their identities.

The Millennium was docked in Arica, and the

cruise line said the ship will remain there until further notice. It had been scheduled to leave for Peru early Thursday. The ship was carrying approximately 1,500 guests and 920 crew members. The accident occurred 25 miles northeast of Arica on the road leading deep into the high Andes Mountains, connecting the coast with the Bolivian capital of La Paz. — Internet



Chilean police look at a bus accident in Arica, some 2,062 km (1,281 miles) north of Santiago, on 22 March, 2006. At least 12 foreigners, most of them believed to be Americans, died on Wednesday when a bus fell off a steep cliff in northern Chile, Cooperativa radio station reported. —INTERNET

IAM develops new method of cancer treatment

BANGALORE, 21 March — In a development which may bring a new ray of hope for cancer patients, the Institute of Aerospace Medicine here is working on curing the disease using electromagnetic beams which, unlike chemotherapy, only kills malignant cells without affecting the adjacent healthy ones.

As per the new treatment developed by the institute, a computer controlled device called Cytotron generates precise high intensity Quantum Magnetic Resonance (QMR) beams from 288 specially designed guns which are focused to kill the affected tissues.

“The high specificity of QMR applications ensures that healthy cells in regions adjacent to the

region of interest are not affected in any manner,” said Wing Commander V G Vasishta, Chief of the Radio Diagnosis department, IAM.

“The beams also alters the mechanisms of cell division process of malignant cells and forces them to self-destruct, while leaving the healthy cells to divide naturally,” he said.

MNA/PTI



Lioness "Soonee" and South Korean traditional breed Jindo dog 'Tangchil' play at a zoo in Chinhae, about 410 km (255 miles) southeast of Seoul on 20 March, 2006. The 10-year-old Soonee who was raised by zoo keepers and the 5-year-old male dog Tangchil have lived together in the same cage since 2002, local media reported. —INTERNET

Italy's "green fuel" crops to help cut global warming

ROME, 22 March— Sugar-beet, sunflowers, fruits and cereals could help Italy fight global warming, thanks to a new law aimed at replacing fossil-derived fuels with green alternatives, Italian news agency ANSA said on Monday.

Classic Italian crops are ideally suited for the production of bioethanol and biofuel, which emit 40 percent and 70 percent less carbon dioxide respectively than traditional fuels, according to Italian experts.

Italy has promised that bioethanol and biofuel will make up 5.75 percent of the Italian fuel market by 2010 and nearly 12 percent by 2020.

Biofuel is made from sunflower seeds, soy and rapeseeds, while

bioethanol can be produced with sugar beet, wheat and grapes.

Italian Farmers, who have been pressuring the Italian Government to promote biofuel and bioethanol for some time now, called for further investments and bigger tax breaks.

They have been at the forefront of a campaign to promote public awareness of how the products offer viable alternatives.

MNA/Xinhua

Study shows too much fluoride can be bad

WASHINGTON, 22 March—The high levels of fluoride that occur naturally in some drinking water can cause tooth and bone damage and should be reduced, the National Research Council said on Wednesday.

The study did not analyze the benefits or risks of adding fluoride to drinking water. Instead it looked at the current maximum limit of 4 milligrams per liter. Approximately 200,000 people live in communities where that level occurs naturally in water.

The Council suggested further studies to establish a new maximum level, but noted that the problems associated with exposure to fluoride are very small at 2 milligrams per liter and less. Approximately 1.4 million people have drinking water

with natural fluoride levels of 2.0 to 3.9 milligrams per liter, said the Council, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

More than 160 million Americans live in communities with artificially fluoridated water, which contains between 0.7 and 1.2 milligrams of fluoride per liter.

Internet

The UN Secretary-General Message on World TB Day 24 March, 2006

YANGON, 24 March—The following is the message sent by The UN Secretary-General on the occasion of World TB Day which falls on 24 March, 2006.

This year has already seen a milestone in our struggle against tuberculosis, with the launch of "Actions for Life" — the Global Plan to Stop TB, 2006-2015. If the actions outlined in the plan are fully implemented, 14 million lives can be saved in the next 10 years. Fifty million more TB patients can be treated. New TB drugs—the first in more than 40 years— and diagnostics can be developed. And a new vaccine could revolutionize TB control.

These forecasts are ambitious, but they are achievable— if everybody plays their part in supporting the Global Plan. The plan offers a way to reach the Millennium Development Goal of reducing the burden of TB, and help prevent this disease from targeting the poorest of the poor, and the most vulnerable people on earth.

Around the world, the TB picture is mixed. More than half of those falling ill live in Asia. Fortunately, China, India, the Philippines and Indonesia are investing more in TB control.

In Latin America and the Middle East, we are seeing fewer new cases every year. In Eastern Europe, after years of rising figures, the number of cases is stabilizing, and there is hope of containing multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

Yet in all these settings, far more needs to be done to reach the poor and others who are highly vulnerable to disease. Above all, it is in Africa where extraordinary action is needed. This is the only continent where the number of cases continues to increase, together with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Last year, African ministers declared TB an emergency.

With "Actions for Life", we have a detailed plan. We have a commitment at the highest level— from the Group of Eight and the 2005 World Summit— to concerted action against the disease. That means mobilizing all necessary internal and external resources to expand TB control programmes within strengthened health system, to implement joint measures against TB/HIV, and to invest in research. On this World TB Day, let us resolve to advance towards a world free of TB. Let us take action for life.—UNIC

China, Vietnam to build bridge over Red River

HANOI, 21 March — The Vietnamese Government has just approved an agreement between Vietnam and China on building a bridge over the Red River to facilitate transport of passengers and goods,

local newspaper *Youth* reported on Monday.

Construction of the bridge, linking Vietnamese northern Lao Cai Province with Hekou County in China's Yunnan Province, is expected to start late this month, and

open to traffic in mid-2007. The building of the bridge will help facilitate the development of two economic corridors and the Beibu Gulf economic belt involving many Chinese and Vietnamese localities.—MNA/Xinhua

Investors flock to Indian stocks

MUMBAI, 22 March— India may lag behind China economically, but the reverse holds true for their stock markets. India's has soared to a record high this week, driven by foreign investors pouring billions into the market.

Figures show the stock market here is up 200 percent over the past five years, compared with 65 percent in China and 11 percent in the US.

India's edge, experts say, lies in the contrast between its large contingent of private, profitable firms that operate free of substantial government involvement, and the many listed Chinese companies over which Chinese authorities exert considerable control.

"When Chinese com-

panies — which were previously state-owned - were listed on the stock market, the government believed it was best to retain majority control," says Peter Alexander, a former Wall Street banker who now runs the Shanghai-based financial consultancy Z-Ben Advisors. "So around two-thirds of a firm's shares were held back by the Chinese state and couldn't be traded. Theoretically, these shares could swamp the market one day and

push prices down, which worried investors."

The large role played by the Chinese state in these firms also leads to concerns that they are run inefficiently and many are thought to be of poor quality, Mr Alexander adds.

In contrast, several of India's privately run, stock market listed companies, though forced to battle bureaucracy and red tape, are viewed as well managed.

Internet



An Iraqi policeman stands guard in front of the bombed out al-Rashid Communication Building in central Baghdad. The building was hit by a US cruise missile at the start of the US-led war against Iraq that started on 20 March, 2003. —INTERNET

Time to decisively part company with US policy using human rights as tool

A Reader

The UN Charter states "It is based on the sovereign equality of all its Members" and "Nothing in the Charter is to authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State."

The UN General Assembly held on 9 December, 1981 approved the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States. Concerning the human rights issue, the Declaration states in it "The duty of a State to refrain from the exploitation and the distortion of human rights issues as means of interferences in the internal affairs of States, or exerting pressure on other States or creating distrust and disorder within and among States or groups of States".

The above paras stand witness to the fact that the annually issued human rights reports of the US State Department have been obviously breaching the UN Charter, the UN Declaration and the UN Resolution.

Hence, News and Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China issued a report on 9 March, 2006, saying that human rights really meant the self-reliant efforts of a State or States to improve the domestic situation; that the task of improving human lives and civilization and human rights was the rightful duty of all the nations; that they would have to observe and protect human rights; that social lives should be improved through international cooperation; that instead of using political weapon for ideological indoctrination, international cooperation should be made; and that the US government should stop its instigation to make human rights an international problem.

Recently, I have read a news report in which member of the Canadian Upper House strongly criticized the US foreign policy and accused the US military of committing the crime of mass killings in Iraq daily. The Canadian MP said that the daily mass killings in Iraq, the killing of inmates, especially the Black at prisons, the gun trade, the perpetration to cause global disorder were the crimes the US had been committing to realize its hegemony.

I have also read a news report about the anti-Iraq war rallies held in America, Europe and some other countries at the third anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by the US and allies. But President Bush is still arguing that the invasion of Iraq is a correct act. Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld in the opinion of Washington Post warned that speedy withdrawal of troops from Iraq would make way for terrorists to gain control of the country.

His remark in reality is no more than a confession, that the possibility of a civil war together with a bloodbath looms large in Iraq that has become a battlefield because of the US efforts to forcefully introduce democracy to it. Former Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi revealed that civil war had already broken out in Iraq that was facing disintegration.

During his BBC interview, Allawi said that what it would be if it would not be called a civil war when normally there were fifty or sixty deaths every day. He also said that the US had the responsibility for the current situation in Iraq; and that because of the faults made by the US, a genocide was coming to Iraq.

I will now present guidance to take lessons from the tragic incidents of Iraq. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe in his guidance given to trainees of University for Development of National Races at Mingala Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Yangon on 20 January, 2006 said as follows:

"So thin is the layer parting democracy, mobocracy and anarchism that without the control of law and discipline, democracy can become mobocracy and also anarchism. We have witnessed in other countries as well as in our nation the eruption of anarchy resulting from mob rule. In this regard, the task of building democratic State should go alongside the enforcement of law and discipline to clearly separate democracy from mobocracy and anarchism. For the nation to develop firmly with peace and stability in the future, we will have to draw the line between democracy and mobocracy and anarchism, and with this task in mind, we are building a modern and developed discipline-flourishing nation."

If we study the democracy transitions of the global nations, we can see that they are doing their utmost in taking steps for the democracy to be in conformity with their historical tradition and objective conditions, and to serve their interest best and to have full essence.

US President Bush met with Russian President Putin in Bratislava, Slovak, on 21 February, 2005. At the press conference held after the meeting, the Russian president said that Russia would continue to apply its own way in a bid to build a democratic nation; that other nations should not criticize Russian democracy for the achievement of their foreign affairs policies; that adoption of basic principles for democracy should be in conformity with the way of life of Russian people; that Russia would have to

there was no need to worry about the US strategy for Iraq war, adding that a nation could not be transformed into a democratic one overnight and it is required to wait for a certain period.

The subject was missing in the sentence of the US president who said — a nation could not be transformed into a democratic one overnight and it is required to wait for a certain period. In truth, the drive for democratic transition is the concern of the people of the nation concerned. So, interference, intervention and pressure of the US government do not contribute towards the handling of such an important and delicate case.

The conference of the World Christian Council held in Brazil denounced the US-led invasion of Iraq. The council also pointed out that the Iraq war was just a brazen violation of human rights and justice the whole world has been practising; that the US government's environmental conservation and anti-poverty policy posed danger to the world; that Bush administration kept Iraqi people in fear; that despite richness the US did not share its riches with the poor countries; and that the US was ignoring the racism that was rearing its ugly head again in it.

A research group of Oxford University issued a paper which said that the launch of the aggressive war on Iraq sent terrorists to Iraq as present; that due to the growing strength of Al Qaeda, the Iraq war would not be over in next one or two years; with reference to alien intrusion, the guerrillas would

I have also read a news report about the anti-Iraq war rallies held in America, Europe and some other countries at the third anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by the US and allies. But President Bush is still arguing that the invasion of Iraq is a correct act. Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld in the opinion of Washington Post warned that speedy withdrawal of troops from Iraq would make way for terrorists to gain control of the country.

exercise democracy system in accordance with its traditions and background history; and that Russia would not copy democracy of other nations.

Even US citizens are not in support of their government's acts such as shouting loudly democracy and human rights, waging battles around the world as if the US were the universal saviour, driving a wedge among people of targeted nations, and attempting to expand its domination by installing puppet governments. The US suffered loss of about fifty-five thousand lives of its servicemen with hundreds of thousands of troops wounded in the Vietnam war. In the end, the US was defeated and it withdrew its troops from Vietnam. From that time on, US citizens have been making comments that the US had to avoid intervention in the internal affairs of other nations. According to the poll, 18 per cent of US population made such comments in 1964 and it increased to 42 per cent in 2005.

Thirty years after the Vietnam war, the then US Presidents Johnson, Nixon and Defence Secretary McNamara publicly admitted that it was a wrong action that the US launched a war over Vietnam. So far, nearly forty thousand Iraqi civilians have been killed and millions of Iraqis have come to a dead end in their lives. Deployed in Iraq now are close to 160,000 US troops, many of them have lost their lives or been wounded. However, President Bush said that

extend the war for decades; the US might experience a situation that the withdrawal of its troops from Iraq would be more shameful than its troops' withdrawal from Vietnam; and the British government should review basically its foreign policy and decisively part company with the US government's policy. These facts are the lessons to be taken by internal and external destructive elements who are always in support of all the policies of the US.

Here, I would like to present an excerpt from the article "Generation Gap" by Paragu carried in the "Phatsaya" journal (7-2-2006 issue). It says that there is a tradition of every nation and people — relating experiences of human beings to the posterity. Currently fashionable culture and way of life can create only bubble heroes. The activities may be politics or social affairs. However, present generations have to cultivate the concepts of their forefathers to be able to distinguish constructive acts and destructive acts. In this regard, no example will be better than Kalama Sutta discoursed by Lord Buddha. **It says a concept should not be accepted if it is not beneficial nor logical, not favoured by learned persons, and harmful to others. A concept should be accepted only if it is flawless and brings benefits and happiness to others.**

Translation: TMT + MS

Kyemon: 22-3-2006

Hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day:**Border areas development projects implemented in time of Tatmadaw Government***Myint Soe (Na Ta La)*

After hanging the 8' x 6' picture featuring Tarkaw-et-Weinkaung-Panhsan Road on the front wall of the exhibition, I felt as if I were again in Tangyan region where I stayed for several years. Tarkaw-et Bridge spanning the Thanlwin River is on Tarkaw-et-Weinkaung-Pangsang Road snaking itself on its way through lush forests.

Such an image reminded ex-soldiers like me about the events I experienced in the past. The Thanlwin Bridge (Tarkaw-et) was put into commission on 12 February 1997.

The 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day is drawing near, so the pavilions of commands and light infantry divisions, directorates, and ministries are now being renovated in line with the latest developments. They included the booth of border areas and national races development of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, reflecting the Tatmadaw Government's goodwill towards national races in border areas.

On 25 May 1989, the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races was formed with Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe as Chairman. Then, the Work committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, various subcommittees and regional work committees were formed. The committees are carrying out duties in accordance with the following five objectives.

- To ensure development of border areas and national races in the economic, social and transport sectors in accordance with Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty,
- To cherish and safeguard culture, literature and traditions of national races,
- To enhance friendly relations among national races,
- To eliminate poppy cultivation by establishing enterprises,
- To restore regional security, prevalence of law and order and community peace in border areas.

These objectives are described in Myanmar and in English next to the entrance of the exhibition alongside documentary photos of members of the Central

Committee and Work Committee leaders of the State and work guidelines on the development of border areas.

In the education sector, the little basic education primary school opened in Mongla in 1989 is compared with today's two-storey high school of Mongla. Now, border areas have been facilitated with 852 primary schools, 90 middle schools and 92 high schools.

In the health sector, the photo of Namtit dispensary taken in 1989 is compared with the photo of new Namtit hospital. Staff of the Ministry of Information put on record the border areas development projects being implemented in respective regions through documentary photos, video tapes and articles. I also noticed photos of Chinshwehaw hospital and Hsi-aw dispensary in Kokang region.

Thanks to those who had documented the process of developments, progress made at present could be compared with the situation in the past in the newspapers, magazines and exhibitions. For instance, the status of developing Mongla town today could be compared with the poor condition of Mongla village in the past. Similarly, we can compare past and present of border towns such as Pangsang, Mongmao and Hsilu. Moreover, the middle school of Hsilu could be compared with the primary school in the past and the Weinkaung Hospital with the dispensary in the past. A significant point is that a sizeable number of staff worked at those dispensaries and small hospitals which were in poor state. Today, 79 hospitals, 105 dispensaries, 58 rural health centres and 140 rural secondary health centres have been opened in the border areas so far.

At the booth of the road/bridge projects in the border areas, the ferry at Nanting Creek, where rafts were used to cross it in the past, is compared with the Nanting Creek Bridge. Similarly, the past jetty at Takaw-et is compared with the Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw-et) of today. In the border areas, the government has built 3,316 miles of dirt road, 2,053/7 miles of gravel road and 372/4 miles of tarred road whereas it has maintained 3,321/5 miles of road. At the same time, the government has built 58 major bridges, 737 small bridges and 35 suspension bridges.

The photographs I have collected include those of the entire village folk watching the TV programmes of Myanma Radio and Television after the opening of the

People's Battle

- * As the cold season recedes, and summer begins
From the edge of mount, move to battle front
Celebrate victory.
- * People and army, close up back to back
Army and people helping with hands held
To uproot the fascist enemies totally
In this month of March, resistance started
Myanmar's chromole was writ as witness
- * Not for oneself, but to be free
With that in mind, feel amorous
Like bosom son, liked by all
Being placed, as member of household
Taking this stance, while vanquishing the foe
Winning the strength of the people
- * Whichever enemy may bully and attack
If you join hands with people and go to battle
You will certainly, win victory
Summer song, the Resistance
With blood as witness, in our bosoms
Zest stirs up waves, we shall defend
Together with our parents, the people.

Ko (Tekkatho) (Trs)**Hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day**

retransmission station. In 1989-90 when the border area development project began, TV sets, video decks and generators were carried by men to the villages climbing up and down the hills to reach the villages of the national brethren.

Only after such efforts, the documentaries were shown to the local residents. Today, a total of 108 retransmission stations have been opened in different border areas. So, national brethren from numerous towns and villages can now enjoy the TV programmes.

Other projects implemented in the time of the Tatmadaw Government include 31 agriculture offices, 117 agriculture camps, 11 tractor stations, 19 livestock breeding farms, 41 animal husbandry offices, 196 town/village power supply projects, 11 hydel power projects and building and opening of 52 post offices, 44 telegraph offices and 85 telephone works.

The border area development projects have been implemented in accordance with the master development plan. The areas covered by the plan are: (a) Kachin special region; (b) Kokang region, Wa region, Shan region, Kachin North-east region, Palaung region, Kengtung East region, Monhtaw-Monhta region, Mawpha region, Homein region, PaO region, Kayah region, Kayin region, Mon region, Taniinthyai region, Rakhine region, Chin region, Sagaing region, Naga region and Kabaw valley region. The total project area covers 83,415.34 square miles in seven states and two divisions. More than 5.3 million people are living in the benefited 68 townships. The government has already spent K 78,794.93 million on the development project.

In fact, the border areas and national races development project came into being in the time of the Tatmadaw government and it has been an opportune moment for the national brethren and the government as well. It has been made possible because of the national reconsolidation and restoration of peace and stability in the border areas. Border area development projects have been implemented with momentum after the realization of the national reconsolidation and restoration of peace and stability in the border areas. The national brethren have greater trust in the State or the Tatmadaw government for its endeavours exerted with sincere goodwill. Inter-dependence may be seen in the fruitful results.

The Tatmadaw government has laid down and has been implementing the border areas and national races development project, the 24 special region development project and the five rural development tasks to see that no area in the country is left unattended.

Coupled with these favourable foundations already laid, the Tatmadaw Government along with the people of the Union will march on to reach the desired goal in accordance with one of the four 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.

Translation: MS/AK

Nation will be strong only when Tatmadaw is strong.



Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects construction of approach bridges and main structure of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon). — MNA

Steel plant in Mandalay Industrial Zone producing auto and farm...

(from page 1)

Prime Minister and party attended the collective cultivation of physic nut plants to hail the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

War Veterans Organization and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and departmental officials, staff of MCDC and local people who were collectively growing over 60,000

they went to Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project. They inspected progress in building of twin tunnels each 40 feet wide and 18.5 feet high near the

ter on construction tasks of the approach road.

Next, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe and Project Superintending Engineers briefed the Prime Minis-

ter.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party went to Sagaing bank by watercraft and inspected progress in building of approach bridge and road

as well as land preparation for railway lines and arrangements for building of bridge at the junction of railway line and the motorway.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Soe Win oversees production process of Dairy Factory of Mandalay Division Cooperative Syndicate. — MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects products of Foundry Shop in Mandalay Industrial Zone-2. — MNA

Secretary of Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association U Tin Maung Oo reported to the Prime Minister and party on the purpose of the growing of physic nut plants.

Next, Secretary U Tin Maung Oo and Joint-Secretary U Sein Myint formally opened the ceremony.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party grew physic nut plants and gave encouragement to members of USDA, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society,

physic nut plants.

Members of Mandalay USDA have made arrangements for growing of 26 million physic nut plants in Mandalay Division.

After the Prime Minister and party oversaw preparations for greening tasks of Mandalay Kandawgyi Lake,

approach structure of Mandalay side. Then, they inspected progress in building of Mandalay side's approach road.

At the briefing hall, the Prime Minister and party observed the scale model of approach road and bridge.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint briefed the Prime Minis-

ter and party on data of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon), approach roads on Mandalay and Sagaing sides, construction tasks of approach roads and main bridge and completion of tasks sector-wise.

In response to the reports, the Prime Minister gave necessary in-

Approach bridges have already been built on both sides of Mandalay and Sagaing banks. The total installation of steel frame at the bridge is 1,126 metre long. The installation of steel frame covered 1,054 metre long. The installation of steel frame at RP-5 and RP-6 have been completed.



Prime Minister General Soe Win grows a physic nut plant at the camp commandant's office of Central Command Headquarters. — MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win views growing of physic nut plants in the farm of MCDC in Yedaguntaung of Patheingyi Township. — MNA

Steel plant in Mandalay Industrial Zone producing auto and farm...



Prime Minister General Soe Win hears reports on construction of approach bridge by Lt-Gen Ye Myint. — MNA

(from page 8)

The approach bridges have already been built on the both sides of Mandalay and Sagaing. The total installation of steel frame at the bridge is 1,126 metre long.

The installation of steel frame covered 1,054 metre long. The installation of steel frame at RP-5 and RP-6 have been completed.

Next, the Prime Minister and party looked into construction tasks of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon). They returned to Mandalay and inspected Taungthaman lake ring road. They went to Condensed Milk Factory of Mandalay Division's Cooperatives Syndicate. At the briefing hall, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min reported on location

of the factory, its area, run of the factory and co-operative measures of Mandalay Division's Cooperatives Syndicate and Myanmar Dairy Industries Ltd. Next, Director of the factory U Soe Lin reported on installation of machines at the factory to produce international standard quality condensed milk, performances for getting raw materials and production

of nutritious milk powder. Afterwards, the commander gave supplementary reports.

The Prime Minister and party inspected condensed milk factories and production process of condensed milk. They visited foundry workshop and forging shop of Mandalay Tawwin Industrial Co, Ltd and inspected moulding tasks at the forging shop. Moreover, they oversaw production of farm equipment and auto spare parts at the foundry shop. Next, officials explained production process of farm equipment, auto spare parts and air compressors to the Prime Minister and party. At the same time, they looked into machine parts at machine shop.

At the briefing hall, Chairman of Mandalay Tawwin Industrial Co, Ltd U Aung Win Khine reported to the Prime Minister and party on location of the factory, future tasks to be extended, investment and assistance provided to

the State.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw reported on assistance rendered to the foundry shop and forging shop in Mandalay Industrial Zone and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye on performances in the foundry shop and forging shop in Monywa Industrial Zone.

Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw gave supplementary reports.

The Prime Minister later expressed appreciation to see the development of the factory and called for all-out efforts to meet success. Mandalay Industrial Zone is now manufacturing 63 kinds of machine parts. 70 per cent of the whole air compressor can be produced.

Arrangements are being made for producing of the whole air compressor.

The Prime Minister and party arrived at Myanma Agricultural Machinery Industries in Kyaukse.

Director-General U Win Maw reported on data of the factory, production of power tiller and arrangements to be made for manufacturing of combined harvesters. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party went to No 1 Workshop where they inspected engine and gear box of the power tiller, production of parts and test run of the engine.

At No-2 Workshop, they looked into arrangements to be made for sending of farming-16 power tillers to different parts of the country.

Next, they inspected Heat Treatment Shop at No-3 Workshop. The director-general and officials reported to the Prime Minister on sample of combined harvesters.

The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions.

Myanma Agricultural Machinery Industries produces 100,000 power tillers, 5,000 harvesters and 3,000 combined harvesters every year. — MNA

Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik)...

(from page 16)

villages are gaining progress in various sectors. All in all, the division is entering a new age.

All the developments of the division are the results of the correct leadership and goodwill of the Head of State and the government, the efforts of officials at all levels and the public participation.

The entire nation should strive for development of their socio-economy

while effectively using the sound foundations built by the government with goodwill, and in addition to their interest, the people should join hands with the government for the nation to stand tall in the world as modern and developed state.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung delivered an ad-

dress. He said that the people in Ayeyawady Division enjoy fruitful results of social and economic sectors due to construction of roads and bridges in line with the guidance of Senior General Than Shwe. Though Ayeyawady Division was called the granary of the country in the past, it becomes the curry bowl now.

At present, Ayeyawady Division is making arrangements for growing 2.1 million sap-



Map showing 32 miles long Patheingyi-Kangon-Myinkaseik-Myaungmya road. — MNA



The newly-opened Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) in Ayeyawady Division. —MNA

lings of rubber on 100,000 acres of land. Furthermore, regiments and units, companies and departments concerned including local people are participating in cultivation of physic nut plants on 500,000 acres of land within five years for producing bio-diesel. In conclusion, the commander urged all to maintain the bridge for its durability.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik). He said that Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) is the 42nd bridge in Ayeyawady Division. At present, Pyapon, Maungbiwa and (See page 10)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe opens Gamonpwint Store



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin cut the ribbon to open Gamonpwint Store. — MNA

YANGON, 23 March — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence opened Gamonpwint Store in Sangyoung Township yesterday.

First, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council

Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened the store and viewed round there.

Gamonpwint Store Building was established in 1995. It was extended into modern architecture. Arrangements have been made for the customers to buy goods at reasonable price.

MNA

Indian Army delegation arrives



Brig-Gen HH Mahajan, YSM of Army Higher Command Course of Indian Army and party being welcomed at the airport. — MNA

YANGON, 23 March — A 13-member delegation led by Brig-Gen HH Mahajan, YSM of Army Higher Command Course of Indian Army of India arrived here by air yesterday morning.

The delegation of the Indian Army was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Commandant of National Defence College Brig-Gen Than Maung, Captain Maung Maung

Thit (Navy) of the Office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training, senior military officers, Indian Military Attaché Col JS Chopra and staff of the Indian Embassy.

MNA

Prizes awarded to winners in cricket competitions

YANGON, 23 March — The Competition and Disciplinary Committee of Myanmar Cricket Federation organized the ceremony to present prizes to the winners in the Cricket League Tournament for 2005-06 and the Ariston Cup

Cricket Knockout Tournament, at Aung San Stadium, here, yesterday morning.

Officials of the MCF gave prizes to the winners in the two competitions.

Vice-President of MCF U Nyunt Win

presented championship trophy and individual medals to Overseas Yangon Cricket Club that secured first prizes in the Cricket League Tournament and Knockout Tournament.

MNA

Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik)...

(from page 9)

Ngawun (Myokwin) bridges are under construction. Arrangements are being made for construction of Kyungon Bridge to link Einme and Wakema Townships.

In Ayeyawady Division, a total of 1,332 miles and two furlongs long roads have been constructed till today. Thanks to construction of Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik), Pathein-Myaungmya Road is 33 miles shorter than the old road Pathein-Dhaka-

Einme Road. The minister also urged all to safeguard the bridge for its long-term use.

A local expressed gratitude for construction of the bridge.

The commander and the minister formally opened the bridge.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveiled the stone plaque of the bridge. Next, they sprinkled scented water on it.

Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) is 1,260 feet long. The bridge has 15 feet and eight inches motor way

and three feet wide pedestrian way on either side. Its clearance is 400 feet wide and 20 feet high. The bridge can withstand 36-ton loads. The suspension bridge is of reinforced concrete type. Construction of the bridge was started on 5 May 2004.

Myanmar women engineers and workers led by Senior Engineer Daw Si Than of Bridge Construction Special Group-5 of Public Works built Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) for their second one. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun speaking at opening of Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik).

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung speaking at opening of Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik).

MNA

Delegation of Malaysian NDC arrives

YANGON, 23 March — A 55-member delegation led by Deputy Commandant of National Defence College of Malaysian Armed Forces Captain Abdul Aziz Mohd Dom arrived here by special aircraft yesterday evening.

The Malaysian delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Captain Maung Maung Thit (Navy) of the Office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training and senior military officers,

Malaysian Defence Attaché Col Hj Abbas Bin Hj Mat and staff of the Malaysian Embassy.

MNA

Cash donated to TB patients

YANGON, 23 March — A cash donation ceremony to mark World TB Day, organized by Social and Cultural Working Group of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation took place at Aung San TB hospital in Insein Township, Yangon Division this afternoon.

Dr Daw Khin Mar Aye, Secretary of Health Working Sub-Group donated K 45,000 for the TB patients to the hospital through Dr Maung Maw, Medical Superintendent of the hospital.

Members of Health Working Sub-Group and officials of the hospital were present.

MNA



A local expresses gratitude.

MNA



Myanma Cricket Federation Vice-President U Nyunt Win presents championship trophy to Overseas Yangon Cricket Club. — MCF



**The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
The notification on Avian Influenza (bird flu) to the public
(13-3-2006)**



1. Incidences of Avian Influenza

Avian Influenza (bird flu) is of zoonotic nature, (transmissible to human beings) that has occurred since December 2003 and spreads to 14 countries in Asia and 30 countries in other parts of the world totaling 44 countries. As of the end of February it caused 96 numbers of human death.

2. Situation in Myanmar

Starting from the 1st week of February to the early part of March, the outbreaks of chicken disease, suspected Avian Influenza occurred in Shwebo Township, Kantbalu and KhinOo Townships in Sagaing Division and Pyigyidagun Township in Mandalay Division. The cause of disease may be due to migratory birds that fly across the country or illegal importation of hatching eggs and day-old-chicks. If the dead bird had been vaccinated with Avian Influenza vaccine, it causes complication in disease diagnosis and identification.

3. The measures currently taken

The above said townships in the southern part of Sagaing Division and Mandalay Division are confined as restricted zones and the movement control, temporary close down of markets and disease investigation in the poultry farms are undertaken under the guidance of local authorities. Field investigation and disease surveillance are carried out continuously.

4. Signs and Symptoms

- (a) Sudden death and high mortality, drop in egg production
- (b) Dull, decreased feed intake and excessive drinking
- (c) Difficult in breathing, eye and nasal discharges.

- (d) Oedema in head and face
- (e) Oedema in comb and wattles
- (f) Haemorrhages and red spots in legs and knee joints
- (g) 100% mortality if it is severe

5. Disease control measures to be taken

- (a) To notify promptly the local authorities or Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) if the disease suspected of Avian Influenza is noticed.
- (b) If chickens are affected with any kind of disease, not to sell out to the market or any other region.
- (c) To protect the domestic birds from contact with wild and migratory birds.
- (d) Not to convey the birds from other farms to the own farm and not to practice mixed farming of different species.
- (e) Not to allow the entry of people including young children from outside into own poultry farm
- (f) Whenever enter the farm, use boots, overcoat, head wear, glove and mask for protection.
- (g) To keep the farm hygienic and apply disinfectants and lime regularly on the farm.
- (h) Not to allow farm workers to poultry markets and to change clothes and shoes before entering the farm if happens to do.
- (i) To cook well poultry meat and eggs to prevent transmission to humans.

6. The Animal Health and Development Law has been promulgated for the control of animal infectious diseases. The stakeholders involved in poultry farming and trading are notified to coordinate and cooperate in contributing effectively to the control of Avian Influenza.

ပြတိုက်တိုက်တွေအောင်းပြန့်ပွားစေမည့် ဆောင်းရာသီအချိန်အတွက်
INSTRUCTION FOR THE PREVENTION & CONTROL OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA




ကျင့်သင့်သည့် အချက်များ Do as follows :-

- ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့် အန္တရာယ်ကင်းရှင်းစေရန်အတွက် ဝတ်စုံအား အမြဲအဆန်းပြန်ပါ။ (Biosafety measures)
- မြေပြင်ကို ဝတ်စုံအား အမြဲအဆန်းပြန်ပါ။
- ဝတ်စုံအား အမြဲအဆန်းပြန်ပါ။
- ဝတ်စုံအား အမြဲအဆန်းပြန်ပါ။

ကျင့်သင့်သည့် အချက်များ Don't do as follows :-

- မြေပြင်ကို ဝတ်စုံအား အမြဲအဆန်းပြန်ပါ။
- မြေပြင်ကို ဝတ်စုံအား အမြဲအဆန်းပြန်ပါ။
- မြေပြင်ကို ဝတ်စုံအား အမြဲအဆန်းပြန်ပါ။
- မြေပြင်ကို ဝတ်စုံအား အမြဲအဆန်းပြန်ပါ။

Prevention of Avian Influenza to Humans in suspected case

- မြေပြင်ကို ဝတ်စုံအား အမြဲအဆန်းပြန်ပါ။
- မြေပြင်ကို ဝတ်စုံအား အမြဲအဆန်းပြန်ပါ။
- မြေပြင်ကို ဝတ်စုံအား အမြဲအဆန်းပြန်ပါ။
- မြေပြင်ကို ဝတ်စုံအား အမြဲအဆန်းပြန်ပါ။

Public awareness poster for the village level

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV PRECIOUS RIVER VOY NO (604)N are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.3.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 EAGLE SHIPPING CO, LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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Reg. No. 4002/2000
in respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases".

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in respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations and substances for the treatment and prevention of diabetes. (Int'l Class 5)".

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for AstraZeneca AB
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 24 March 2006

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 27th March (Monday), Armed Forces Day 2006, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar

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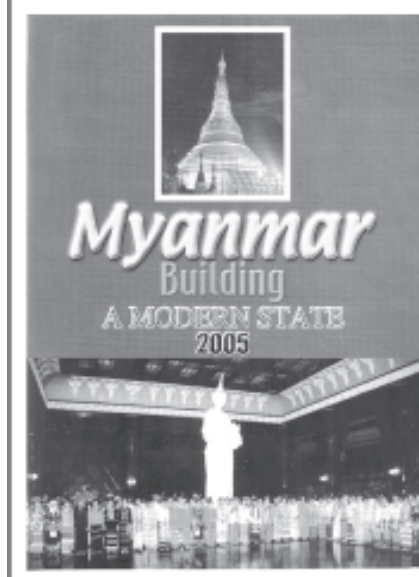
(Reg. No. IV/9/2006)
Int'l Class 3: Cosmetics.
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wAkie

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Then Aung B.Sc./R.L.D.B.L. Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtplp@mtplmail.net.mm
Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box 656
Yangon, 24 March 2006



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ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါ ခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ အမှတ်(၁)စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့စက္ကန့်နှင့်တရားဝင်လုပ်ငန်း စက္ကန့်စက်ရုံများအတွက် အောက်ပါ ဝတ္တုအား မြန်မာ့စက္ကန့်နှင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုကြောင်း ကြော်ငြာအပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်သည့်နေ့ရက်/အချိန်
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၂။	သိရှိလိုသည့်အချက်များရှိပါက ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်-၅၄၃၃၆၅ သို့အက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။		မြန်မာ့စက္ကန့်နှင့်တရားဝင်လုပ်ငန်း

Malaysia Coast Guard to help patrol Malacca Strait

PORTKLANG (Malaysia), 22 March—Malaysia formally launched its Coast Guard on Tuesday with a review of ships and troops by Defence Minister Najib Razak, who said the force symbolised the country's determination to protect its waters. The biggest maritime threat to the Southeast Asian nation is piracy on its side of the Malacca Strait, which links Asia with the Middle East and Europe and carries some 40 per cent of the world's trade, including 80 per cent of the energy supplies of Japan and China.

But Najib said piracy attacks in the Strait had been falling, and none had been reported in Malaysian waters so far this year.

"Our statistics indicate that the number of incidents on our side of the strait have dropped very dramatically," he said, noting that only one case had been reported in the second half of 2005, against 18 cases in the same 2004 period.

In all, there were 12 attacks in the 500-mile long Strait last year, compared to 38 in 2004.

The Malaysian Coast Guard, which began operations last November, will have a strength of 4,500, drawn from the Navy, police, Customs and other agencies, and a fleet of 72 vessels, mainly fast patrol boats, Najib told a gathering of Coast Guard officials from Australia, the United States and 16 Asian nations.

"The formation of the

Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency demonstrates our seriousness to address the maritime security issues," he said. He also said the steady fall in piracy attacks indicated that a re-assessment of the Malacca Strait's insurance classification was required.

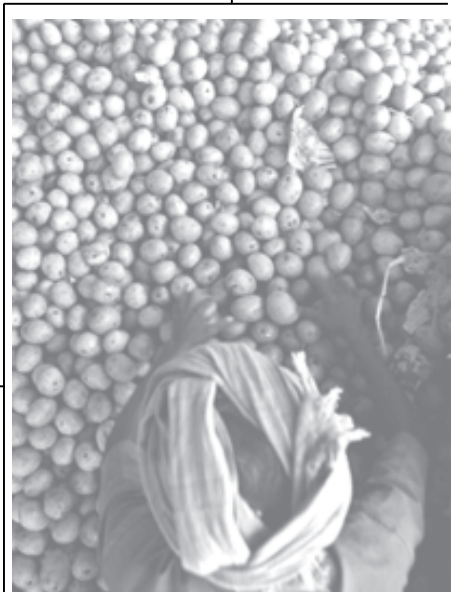
MNA/Reuters

Two Indian pilots feared killed in "MiG-21" crash

NEW DELHI, 22 March — Two pilots of the Indian Air Force (IAF) were feared killed when their MiG-21 jet crashed in Rajasthan in west India on Tuesday, senior Indian officials said.

IAF spokesman Wing Commander Mahesh Upasani confirmed that the jet, which was on a routine training sortie from the Uttarlai airbase, crashed at 3.35 pm local time. He said there was no information on the status of the pilots. Other Indian officials said information received from the site indicated that both pilots did not survive.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indian labourer selects mangos at a wholesale market in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad March 20, 2006. India is the largest producer of mangos in the world and accounts for nearly 40 percents of the total world production of the fruit, government official said.—Internet

One killed, 35 injured in Nile tourist boat accident

CAIRO, 22 March— One Egyptian was killed and 35 other people, including 28 German tourists, were injured on Tuesday when a tourist vessel hit a bridge in southern Egypt, the official MENA news agency reported.

The upper part of the ship smashed into the bridge at Dendera, 480 kilometres south of Cairo, in the Upper Egyptian governorate Qena, when it was sailing under the bridge, according to the report. One crewman, who was

an Egyptian, was killed in the accident, while 35 other people including 28 German tourists, who were on the sundeck at the time of the accident, sustained minor injuries, said the report, adding that the rest of the wounded were all Egyptians.—MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒ်းတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

CAS focuses on 40 research areas to usher in “innovative nation”

BEIJING, 22 March — The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) will concentrate its efforts on 40 key research areas in the coming 15 years to help China’s ambitious plan of becoming an “innovative nation”, reported Tuesday’s *China Daily*.

The measures were revealed in the Medium- and Long-term Development Plan of CAS (2006-20), which was unveiled Monday during the group’s annual meeting in Beijing.

According to the plan, its future research will focus on a range of key areas, including the development of the Internet, innovative drugs, biofuel development, nanotechnology, clean

energies, carbon dioxide capture technologies, and sustainable agriculture.

“With the successful implementation of the plans, CAS will become among the world’s top five research bodies in terms of innovative research output by 2010 and in the world’s top three by 2020,” Lu Yongxiang, CAS president and the vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s

Congress, was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

In order to reach the goals, CAS will keep investment growing by 70 per cent in the coming five years over those in the previous five-year term. Between 2011 and 2020, the annual investment in the research projects in CAS will grow by about 12 per cent, said the newspaper.

Shi Erwei, vice-president of CAS, said that with its innovative research meeting the social and economic demands of China, it

hoped to receive investment from both the government and companies.

Besides the research programmes, CAS also plans to develop 500 internationally leading scientists in the coming five years.

CAS will reform its management and rules to ensure the realization of its goals. It will also step up research on science ethics and reform the election system of academicians, the paper said.

MNA/Xinhua



Three crocodiles bask in the sun, in the sewage and pollution filled Tarcoles River, on 22 March, 2006. The Tarcoles River, which empties into Costa Rica’s Central Pacific Coast, carries untreated sewage waste from Costa Rica’s main population centres.

INTERNET

ASEAN education ministers meet in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 22 March— Education ministers from member countries of the

Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) were in Singapore Tuesday for their inaugural regular meeting.

According to a statement issued by Singapore’s Education Ministry, the ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting was instituted as a regular meeting at the 11th ASEAN Summit held in Malaysia’s Kuala Lumpur in December last year. The ministers discussed ways to promote the ASEAN identity, build on the strengths of the region’s multi-ethnic societies and meet the challenges of achieving social cohesion through education. This was the second time for the ministers to meet after they convened at the Meeting of Ministers for Education in ASEAN Countries, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in August 2005.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The ministers will also attend the 41st Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council Conference to be held in the city state on Wednesday and Thursday.

Timor Leste will be proclaimed the 11th member of the SEAMEO and Singapore’s Minister for Education Tharman Shanmugaratnam will assume the presidency of the SEAMEO for one year during the conference, the statement said.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Russian Presidents hold talks

BEIJING, 22 March — Chinese President Hu Jintao and visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin held talks at the Great Hall of the People here on Tuesday afternoon, agreeing to seek stronger bilateral ties.

In the opening address, Hu said this year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination. Over the past 10 years, Hu said, China-Russia relations have undergone all-round and rapid progress, producing a series of important achievements.

The two countries signed more than 200 legal documents, including the Sino-Russian good neighbourly treaty of friendship and cooperation, which laid a solid foundation for the development of bilateral ties, Hu said. Hu added that the two countries thoroughly settled boundary issues left over by history, removing obstacles in bilateral ties.

The establishment of regular high-level consultation mechanism helps the two countries keep close consultations and coordination on major issues concerning their fundamental interests, Hu noted.

The fact that President Putin is heading such a big delegation to China and will attend the opening ceremony of the Year of Russia in China demonstrates that Putin highly values the Sino-Russian relations,” Hu said.—MNA/Xinhua



Expedition 12 Flight Engineer Valery Tokarev (top) and International Space Station’s Commander Bill McArthur install a camera and stand assembly during a 7 November, 2005 spacewalk in this file photo. Lost chemical canisters and some suspect handrails will prevent astronauts on the space station from doing any spacewalking in the near future, a NASA manager said on 22 March, 2006. — INTERNET

Vietnam likely to produce Tamiflu from anise next year

HANOI, 22 March — Vietnam, which has recently synthesized an

active agent of bird flu medicine Tamiflu from anise, is expected to produce such kind of drugs in the first or second quarter of 2007, local media reported on Tuesday.

Vietnam’s Chemistry Institute has turned out 2.5 grammes of Oseltamivir phosphate out of star anise, an aromatic Asian evergreen tree that has purple-red flowers and star-like clusters of anise-scented fruit, *Pioneer* newspaper said.

The institute’s scientists have found out a process of extracting shikimic acid, a key material to synthesize Oseltamivir phosphate, from anise fruit. — MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake jolts eastern Turkey, no casualties reported

ANKARA, 22 March — An earthquake measuring 4.0 on the Richter Scale shook Koprukoy town in Turkey’s eastern province of Erzurum on Tuesday, causing no casualties, semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

According to Bogazici University Kandilli Seismology Centre, the quake occurred at 1:29 pm (1129 GMT) and the epicentre of the quake was in Soylemez village of Erzurum, said the report.

Most of Turkey lies on the active North Anatolian fault.

MNA/Xinhua



A Cambodian farmer works in a rice field at the outskirts of Phnom Penh, on 23 March, 2006. Cambodia’s rice output for the 2005/06 harvest hit a record 5.98 million tonnes compared to 4.1 million tonnes the previous year thanks to plentiful rains, officials said on Wednesday. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Ronaldo ends goal drought with Real equalizer

MADRID, 23 March — Ronaldo ended his goalscoring drought by grabbing a last-gasp equalizer that earned Real Madrid a dramatic 1-1 draw at Real Zaragoza on Wednesday.

The Brazilian drilled home from 10 metres after pouncing on a loose ball in the area a minute into stoppage time to score his first Primera Liga goal in seven games and cancel out a second-half strike from Argentine forward Diego Milito.

It was Real's first goal in four league games but did not stop them dropping to third in the table, a point behind Osasuna who had earlier notched up their third win in a row with a 2-0 victory at home to struggling Real Sociedad.

Valencia slipped to fourth spot after being held to a 1-1 draw by regional rivals Villarreal.

With nine games left Barcelona, who came from a goal down to beat Getafe 3-1 at home on Tuesday, lead the standings on 67 points, 12 ahead of Osasuna and 13 clear of arch-rivals Real.

Valencia occupy the final Champions League berth a further point back and enjoy a seven-point cushion over Deportivo Coruna who moved up to fifth after a 2-1 win over basement side Malaga — their first home victory in over three months. — MNA/Reuters

Anceletti extends AC Milan deal

MILAN, 22 March — AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti has agreed to extend his contract for a further year, tying himself to the Serie A side until at least June, 2008, the club said on Tuesday.

Ancelotti, who is in his fifth season with Milan, had been linked with a possible move to Real Madrid at the end of this season. His original contract was due to expire in June 2007.

The former Milan and Roma player took over in 2001 and led the club to the 2003 Champions League title and the Italian title a season later.

Milan are currently second in Serie A and are in the quarterfinals of the Champions League, where they face French side Olympique Lyon.

MNA/Reuters



Amy Frazier of the USA eyes the ball during a match against Shuai Peng of China at the Nasdaq 100 Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla, on 22 March, 2006. Peng won 6-4, 6-2. —INTERNET

Germany lift gloom with 4-1 win over US

DORTMUND (Germany), 23 March — Germany produced a sparkling second-half performance to beat the United States 4-1 in a friendly international on Wednesday and lift the gloom surrounding the World Cup hosts.

Bastian Schweinsteiger floated over a free kick that evaded everyone and crept past Kasey Keller for the opener just seconds after coming on as a substitute in the 46th minute, with Miroslav Klose just failing to get a touch.

Three goals in six minutes then settled the match. Oliver Neuville blasted in a half-volley for 2-0 in the 73rd minute and Klose tucked in the third goal as a US team missing most of their European-based players wilted.

Michael Ballack then headed the fourth from Klose's cross and although Steve Cherundolo pulled one back



Germany's Miroslav Klose scores a goal past Jimmy Conrad (L) and Kasey Keller (R) of the US during their friendly match in Dortmund, Germany on 22 March, 2006. —INTERNET

with a fortunate goal five minutes from time the display will ease the pressure on Juergen Klinsmann considerably. The coach, who had been under fire from all sides after a 4-1 defeat by Italy in their previous World Cup warm-up match, boldly opted for a three-man attack of Klose, Gerald Asamoah and Lukas Podolski and the early signs were certainly positive.

Ballack was just wide with a near-post header from a corner in the third minute and Philipp Lahm forced the first save from Keller three minutes later when he burst in from the left.

Ballack set up the best move of a poor first half when he found Klose in space on the right in the 12th minute. Podolski reached the cross but was disappointingly wide with his shot.

A minute later Ballack was wide again with a header from Arne Friedrich's excellent cross.

Germany's attacking game soon fizzled out, however, and the US gave them a series of headaches for the rest of the half.

Germany were whistled off at the break but the introduction of Schweinsteiger at halftime helped turn the match.

It was a personal triumph for the Bayern Munich winger who had been erroneously named in a newspaper report in connection with a betting scandal, which has since been fully retracted. —MNA/Reuters

Advantage for Palermo, Inter in Cup

MILAN, 23 March — Palermo came from a goal down to beat AS Roma 2-1 while Inter Milan beat Udinese 1-0 in their Italian Cup semifinal, first-leg matches on Wednesday.

Roma, fielding a first-choice line-up, took the lead after just 48 seconds when midfielder Simone Perrotta slotted home a low cross from Honduran Edgar Alvarez.

Palermo were level within three minutes through Franco Brienza after Roma keeper Gianluca Curci failed to hold a shot and Brienza drove in the loose ball.

The Sicilian club took the lead in the 69th minute when Massimo Mutarelli slid in at the back post to beat Curci with a low shot after Denis Godeas headed down.

"I was really pleased that we showed the right attitude to come back from that early setback and then go on and win the game," said Palermo coach Giuseppe Papadopulo.

"This is a fine result because we have beaten a very strong side here," he added.

Inter also have a single goal advantage to defend in the second leg of their tie after Argentine Santiago Solari gave them a 1-0 win over Udinese.

Solari, one of a number of players given a rare start by coach Roberto Mancini, produced a delicate back-heel at the near post to smartly convert a low cross from Nigerian Obafemi Martins.

Udinese keeper Morgan De Sanctis produced a number of good saves in the second half, one diving effort keeping out a strong shot from Dejan Stankovic.

MNA/Reuters

Konstantinou double gives Olympiakos Greek Cup advantage

ATHENS, 23 March — Two goals by Cyprus striker Michalis Konstantinou helped Olympiakos Piraeus to a 3-1 win over Larissa in the first leg of their Greek Cup semifinal at the

Karaiskakis Stadium on Wednesday.

Runaway league leaders Olympiakos, aiming for a second successive double, suffered an early setback when Gabriel Schurrer was sent off in the 25th minute.

Larissa's Guga, a January signing from Boavista, was fouled by Schurrer just outside the penalty area when he only had goalkeeper Antonis Nikopolis to beat.

Five minutes later, however, Konstantinou settled the home crowd's nerves when was on target with the opening goal and Ieroklis Stolidis added a second goal before halftime.

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea reach FA Cup semifinals

LONDON, 23 March — Champions Chelsea, looking for a league and Cup double, reached the semifinals of the FA Cup on Wednesday with a bad-tempered 1-0 win over a depleted Newcastle United, who had Robbie Elliott sent off.

Chelsea, 12 points clear in the league, needed only four minutes to find the net, Damien Duff's corner from the left meeting John Terry low in the area and the captain glancing the ball into the net off the legs of a defender. Newcastle, looking for their first silverware for more than 50 years, frequently rattled Chelsea going forward in a physically bruising encounter, although they struggled to create any clear opportunities.

Elliott was sent off in the 86th minute for a second bookable offence.

Liverpool thumped Birmingham City 7-0 on Tuesday and West Ham United beat Manchester City 2-1 on Monday to reach the semifinals. Charlton Athletic play Middlesbrough on Thursday and the semifinal draw will be made on Friday.

MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's John Terry, behind, is beaten to the ball by Newcastle United's Alan Shearer during their English FA Cup quarterfinal soccer match at the Stamford Bridge Stadium, London, on 22 March, 2006. —INTERNET



Rakhine State Dhammayon Committee U Kyaw Min offers certificate of honour to Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title winner Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ganasethi at Rakhine State Dhammayon on 14 March. —H

Gems Emporium sees upward spiral sale

YANGON, 23 March — Over 2,000 gems merchants gathered at Myanmar Gems Emporium here and purchased 757 jade lots yesterday through tender system. They also bought 37 jade lots in the morning session of today's sales at the emporium.

The emporium being held at Myanmar Gems Mart here attracted 2,380 gems merchants including

1,484 merchants from 16 foreign countries and managed to get a good price for high quality jade lots.

The sales of jade lots will continue tomorrow for the fourth day.

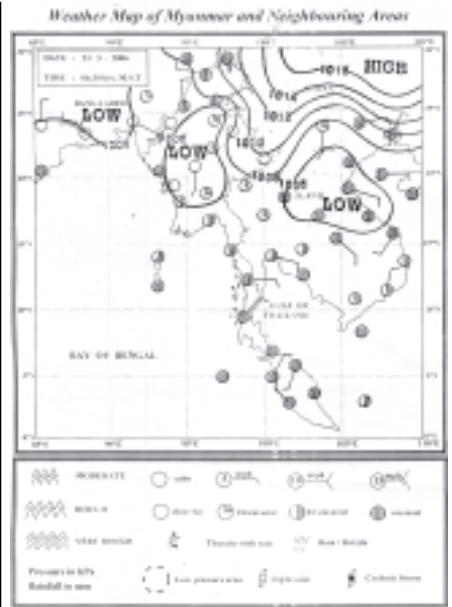
MNA

45th World Meteorological Day observed

YANGON, 23 March — The 45th World Meteorological Day was observed at Meteorology and Hydrology Department under the Ministry of Transport on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. It was attended by Deputy Minister U Pe Than, directors-general and directors of the departments under the ministry, officials and prizes winners of article and essay contests.

The deputy minister made a speech and the message of the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization was read out by Director-General (attached) U Tun Lwin of Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The officials presented prizes to the winners and a research papers reading session followed. The resource persons read out 12 papers. —MNA



WEATHER

Thursday, 23 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Mon States and Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin State, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Monywa, Minbu, Magway, Aungmye and Shwegyin (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao and Machanbaw (0.12) inch each and Ye (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 22-3-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 23-3-2006 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 23-3-2006 was (89%). Total sunshine hours on 22-3-2006 was (9.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 23-3-2006 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 (7) mph from West at (16:20) hours MST on 22-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-3-2006: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin State, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and 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: Increases of thundery conditions are likely in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Naypyidaw and neighbouring area for 24-3-2006: Generally fair.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-3-2006: Generally fair.

Seminar on ASEAN Economic Community and Proposed East Asia Free Trade Area concludes

YANGON, 23 March — The Seminar on ASEAN Economic Community and the Proposed East Asia Free Trade Area: Prospects and Implications on Trade and Development of Myanmar, organized by Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was opened at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel, here, yesterday morning.

Secretary of Myanmar ISIS Ambassador U Nyunt Tin gave an opening speech.

Head of Singapore-

based Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Mr Axel Schmidt extended greetings.

Five resource persons read out their papers to the seminar.


This morning, Deputy Director Daw Yin Yin Mya of Central Bank

of Myanmar submitted a paper titled Overview of Myanmar Economy to the seminar.

Later, Ambassador U Nyunt Tin and Mr Axel Schmidt reviewed discussions of the two-day seminar. —MNA

Fifth special sales to be held

YANGON, 23 March — The Ministry of Industry-1 will hold its fifth successive special sales in Bago as of 26 March 2006. The special sales will sell a full range of home-made garments, medicines, foodstuffs and stationery, sewing-machines and bicycles at reasonable prices. —MNA



Friday, 24 March
View on today

7:00 am

1. နွားစူးရှင်မင်းထွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ ရုက္ခ အဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓမ္မာတိတ၊ တီပီဂုဏ်ဓမ္မာ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်

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. ရိုးရာအမျိုးလက်တေးနည်း

7:55 am

6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

7. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:15 am

8. အတူပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am

9. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက် တစ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

10. International news

8:45 am

11. English for Everyday Use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. တစ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေး သီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်)

4:45 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဓာတ်အထူးပြု (ဓာတုဓာတ်))

5:00 pm

5. Song of national races

5:10 pm

6. "ဆွေမျိုးတော်ဓမ္မဓယံ" (ဒုရိယုး တင်လင်း၊ ဆောင်း အိမ်ခြံကွန်း၊ ဓမ္မာဘိ)

5:15 pm

7. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက် တစ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:25 pm

8. ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် ကမ္ဘာ့တီဘီအိုတီထိတ်ဖျက်ရေးနေ့ ဆိုင်ရာ သိကောင်းစရာ

5:35 pm

9. သုတေသနလုပ်ငန်းဆိုင်ရာ

6:00 pm

10. Evening news

6:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရောင်စုံပစ္စည်း" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)

7:40 pm

13. ပြည်သူ့ အတွက် တစ်မတော် (ကျန်းမာရေး၊ သိပ္ပံနည်းပညာ၊ ဖူးယား၊ ပညာရေး)

8:00 pm

14. News

8:05 pm

15. International news

8:10 pm

16. Weather report

8:15 pm

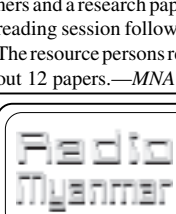
17. Teleplay "သာကောင်းမိမိ" (အပိုင်း-၂) (လှိုင်စိုး၊ စင်စိုင်း၊ နေတိုး၊ မိုင်းစိုင်း၊ ဝင်းလှိုင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်း၊ (ExampleZ))၊ မိုးမြတ်သူဇာ၊ ဓမ္မသဒ္ဓါ၊ ဝန်းဖြူ၊ သက်မွန်မြင့်၊ ပုလဲဝင်း၊ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝန်းမျိုးစိုး)

8:20 pm

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နှင်းဆီအိပ်မက်" (အပိုင်း-၁၈)

8:25 pm

19. The next day's programme



Friday, 24 March
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

1:40pm Lunch time music

9.00 pm WOM

9.15 pm Article

9.25 pm Music at your request

9.45 pm News & Slogan

10.00 pm PEL

*R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) /297028 (Press).

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

Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) cuts 33 miles in travelling from Pathein to Myaungmya



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than speaking at the opening of Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik).— MNA

YANGON, 23 March — Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) in Ayeyawady Division was commissioned into service this morning, hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day with an address by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than.

Opening of the 1,260-foot suspension bridge cut 33 miles in travelling from Pathein to Myaungmya as, because of the facility, traffic can now use the 32-mile Pathein-Kangon-Myinkaseik-Myaungmya road instead of the 65-mile Pathein-Dakha-Einme-Myaungmya road, said Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than at the opening ceremony held near the facility.

He said, in 1988 Ayeyawady Division had only 400 miles of motor roads, but now it has over 1,300 miles. The government has built 213 180-foot and above bridges in the whole nation, and of them 42 are in the division.

The bridge will also help promote directly or indirectly the economy, education, health and social status of over 700,000 people residing in over 800 villages along the road. Construction of the Pyapon bridge on Yangon-Dedaye-Pyapon road, and Ngawun (Myokwin) bridge on Hinthada-Myokwin-Kwinkauk road will be completed soon. Ayeyawady Division is achieving astounding progress in building transport infrastructures.

As the rice bowl of the nation, the division has been putting 3.6 million acres of land under monsoon paddy and 1.2 million acres under summer paddy.

Plans are under way to extend monsoon paddy sown acreage that will reach 3.7 million acres in the coming year. Edible oil crops and beans and pulses are being cultivated on more and more acres of land. The division is also running fish and prawn farms with the use of advanced technology, while extending coastal and deep-sea fishing.

In the industrial sector, the division now has State-owned factories including Pathein Glass Factory, Myaungmya Jute Mill, Kyangin Cement Plant,

Maubin Paper Mill, Thabaung Pulp Factory in addition to a large number of private factories located in the industrial estates set up in Pathein, Myaungmya and Hinthada.

Oil fields in Myanaung, Shwepyitha and Nyaungdon are producing oil and gas. Universities and colleges in Pathein, Maubin and Hinthada and 200-bed hospitals stand witness to the development of the division. Thanks to the rural development projects
(See page 9)

All the developments of Ayeyawady Division are the results of the correct leadership and goodwill of the Head of State and the government, efforts of officials at all levels and public participation.

Foreign Affairs Minister meets Malaysian counterpart

YANGON, 23 March — Foreign Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar called on U Nyan Win, Foreign Affairs Minister, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here at 5 pm today. Also present at the call were officials of MOFA, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Shahrudin bin Md Som and officials.

At the invitation of the Government of Myanmar, a Malaysian delegation led by Malaysian Minister for Foreign Affairs Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar arrived here this afternoon by air to pay a goodwill visit.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, the Malaysian Ambassa-

dor to Myanmar and high-ranking officials of MOFA.

Minister U Nyan Win hosted a dinner in

honour of Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar at Traders Hotel this evening. — MNA



Minister U Nyan Win welcomes Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar at the airport. — MNA

Weather Forecast for 24-3-2006

Naypyidaw & neighbouring areas
Generally fair.

Yangon & neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy.

Mandalay & neighbouring areas
Generally fair.