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Tuesday, 1 March, 2005

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

Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon arrives on official visit

YANGON, 28 Feb— At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, a goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon arrived here by a special flight this morning on an official visit to the Union of Myanmar.

Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army

General Prawit Wongsuwon and party were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-

Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, Military Attache Col Prissapa Suvanatat and officials.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon went to the dais in the reception hall and took the salute of the Guard of Honour.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon inspected the Guard of Honour.

Visiting Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon and party then left the airport.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

INSIDE

The National Convention will see to the accomplishment of the national duties. The national people are to take lessons from the point that nowadays, some developing countries trying to transform themselves into democratic ones have faced collapse and daily deaths of innocent citizens due to the alien interventions and invasions. Besides that, the national people are to foresee the forthcoming steps of certain powers resorting to instigations and intervention and driving a wedge among the national people to get the nation under their domination.

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AUNG MOE SAN



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon take salute of the Guard of Honour. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 1 March, 2005

Strive for development of industrial zones

Only when all regions of the Union of Myanmar are equally developed will the entire Union also develop. Therefore, all the necessary measures are being taken for parallel development of all the regions. While the government is working hard towards peace and stability and economic growth of the State, the entire national people, on their part, are required to walk constantly along the right path to a discipline-flourishing democracy.

Myanmar is an agricultural country. Therefore, efforts are being made for all-round development of other sectors of the economy based on the development of agriculture. Due to the cooperation between the government and the entire national people, the agriculture, meat and fish, trade and industrial sectors of all states and divisions have enjoyed steady growth and per capita income has also become higher. The task of developing the national economy calls for pioneering work.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, in his meeting with Monywa Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee members and industrialists in Monywa, Sagaing Division, on 24 February, called on all those responsible to turn out skilled technicians for the development of industrial zones and systematic use of modern equipment and to make arrangements so that industrialists of one industrial zone can go on a study tour of another for further development of their respective industrial zones.

In working for the development of the State and our respective regions, we must do so with honesty, hard work and national spirit. We must bear in mind that whatever we do is for the better life of the people and that a modern nation will be possible only with industrial development.

Kalay Industrial Zone and Shwebo Industrial Zone of Sagaing Division are producing ambulances, jeeps, CNG-run vehicles, harvesters, combined harvesters, powered tillers and four-wheel tractors.

We would like to urge the national entrepreneurs to work in concert for the development of all the industrial zones and for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation by enlisting the support and assistance of the government.

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

F&R Minister meets departmental officials in Mon, Kayin States



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivers a speech in meeting with departmental officials in Mawlamyine. — MNA

YANGON, 28 Feb — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, accompanied by Managing Director of Myanma Economic Bank Col Hsan Tun and General Manager of Myanma Small Loans Enterprise Lt-Col Aung Myint Tun, met officers at state, district and township levels of departments and enterprises under the ministry in Mon and Kayin States at Yamanya Hall of Mon State Peace and Development Council Office, Mawlamyine Township on 27 February.

During the meeting, the minister heard reports on sector-wise measures taken and tasks to be carried out presented by the officers at state level of Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Insurance, Customs Department, Internal Revenue Department,

Myanma Small Loans Enterprise.

Regarding the reports, Managing Director of MEB Col Hsan Tun and General Manager of MSLE Lt-Col Aung Myint Tun gave supplementary reports.

Next, the minister instructed the officers to make efforts to hit the targets set by the ministry, to collect correct data of revenues and to serve the interests of their own regions as well as of the nation.

Afterwards, the minister checked work performance of state, district and township offices in Mawlamyine Township. After he had inspected offices in Kyaikmaraw and Thaton Townships, he instructed the service personnel to have a try for regional development with goodwill while implementing the tasks of finance. — MNA

Education Minister visits schools in Padaung, Pyay University

YANGON, 28 Feb — Minister for Education U Than Aung, accompanied by directors-general of the departments under the ministry, Bago Division (West) Education Officer and officials concerned arrived at Padaung Township Basic Education High School on 26 February. The minister and party heard reports presented by schoolhead U Aung Myint at Nawaday Library.

Next, the minister presented stationery to the schoolhead. On arrival at Htonbo BEHS, the minister presented stationery to the schoolhead.

Afterwards, the minister together with Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min and officials in-

spected the computer room, the library and lecture hall in Padaung Township Thuyetan BEHS (Branch). After that, the minister presented stationery to the schoolhead. The minister and Brig-Gen Hla Min and party went to Ushitpin BEHS where they checked electric media room and e-education learning centre and the minister presented stationery to the schoolhead.

On arrival at Pyay University, the minister and party met faculty members and principal Daw Khin Khin explained facts about Pyay University to them. The minister met trainees and discussed four skills of language with them and inspected e-education learning centre. — MNA

Service personnel urged to boost production of oil and gas

YANGON, 28 Feb — Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay arrived at Htotpinshar-Kanni oil field in Magway Division on 25 February and met the manager and officials concerned and instructed them to boost the production of oil and to minimize loss and wastage. In the afternoon, the deputy minister went to Dahatpin and Yenanna oil fields in Min Hla and looked into oil wells there.

On the following day, on arrival at Myanaung Oil Field, the deputy minister checked oil well No 168 being repaired to test on produc-

tion and instructed the officials to resume production of oil in time.

The next day, on arrival at Shwepyitha oil field, the deputy minister looked in oil well Nos 55

and 56 in the oil field.

Next, he proceeded to Nyaungdon oil field where he inspected oil well No 26. Afterwards, he met service personnel and instructed them to make ef-

orts to boost the production of oil and gas, to minimize loss and wastage, and to take preventive measures against the danger of fire.

MNA



CEC member Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay speaks at the ceremony to present USDA membership applications in Padaung Township. — MNA

စာအုပ်လှူဒါန်းပွဲ

ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသ အစာအုပ်များနှင့် စာပေဒါန ငွေပဒေသာပင်လှူဒါန်းပွဲ(ပဉ္စမအကြိမ်)ကို အောက်ပါအစီအစဉ်အတိုင်း ကျင်းပပါမည်-

- နေ့ရက်။ ၆-၃-၂၀၀၅ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
- အချိန်။ နံနက်(၉) နာရီ
- နေရာ။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ အစည်းအဝေးခန်းမ၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

စာအုပ်/ငွေပဒေသာပင်လှူဒါန်းလိုကြသော စေတနာရှင် အလှူရှင်များသည် အချိန်မီ တက်ရောက် လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါရန် နှိုးဆော်ပီတိကြားအပ်ပါသည်။

လှူဒါန်းလိုသူများဆက်သွယ်ပါရန်
၃၇၁၃၃၉
၃၇၉၇၆၉
၂၅၂၅၁၀
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့်ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန
၂၂/၂၄၊ ပန်းဆိုးတန်းလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။



Vietnamese animal health workers disinfect the Thuy Luong commune in Vietnam's northern Thai Binh Province, 110 km (70 miles) from Hanoi, on 25 Feb, 2005. —INTERNET

Thaksin pledges more funds for education

BANGKOK, 28 Feb— Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has pledged to provide more funds to boost the country's education system, the Thai News Agency reported.

At a seminar held in the kingdom's northeastern Khon Kaen Province on Friday, Thaksin said the government would set aside some 100 billion baht (2,380 million US dollars) to improve the country's education system within five years.

Some 40 billion baht (952 million US dollars) will be earmarked to construct nearly 15,000 new school buildings and renovate nearly 4,000 existing buildings.

All government schools will have

computers and high-speed Internet connections within two years, the Prime Minister was quoted as saying.

Thai authorities will make sure that all disabled children be accepted by schools as some of them complained to be kept out of doors of normal schools.

More than 150 representatives from schools, colleges teachers' groups together with parents in the country's north-eastern provinces participated in the two-day meeting.

MNA/Xinhua

Badawi urges Proton to be competitive

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Feb— The government would continue to support national car manufacturer Proton to be competitive and produce high quality vehicles for the export market, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Saturday.

Proton should also price its cars competitively in the market as the market was beyond Malaysian shores as well, the Prime Minister told a news conference after opening the 1.8 billion ringgit (473.68 million US dollars) Proton car manufacturing plant at Proton City in Perak State.

He said that lately, Proton had entered into various partnerships with other automotive manufacturers which had been in the market for a long time.

"I hope this cooperation and collaboration will help Proton to acquire more skilled technologies and enable it to perform better and be competitive," he said.

Asked whether Proton could be competitive in the current market scenario, he said: "It's not a question of can, but must. They have to do well. That's what we want." On whether it would be better for the four

national car makers in the country to merge amidst increasing competition, the Prime Minister said: "So far, there is no talk, I don't know about the future."

The other car makers in the country are Perodua, Kia and Inokom.

Speaking at the opening of the plant, Abdullah called on Proton and its wide network of vendors to continuously improve to face up to competition under market liberalization which would give the consumer more choices.

Abdullah advised workers from the top positions right down to the last point of production to look to achieving zero defect.

For the first year, the plant is expected to produce 150,000 units although it is designed to manufacture up to one million vehicles per year.—MNA/Xinhua

India tests medium range missile

NEW DELHI, 28 Feb— India successfully tested Saturday its home grown, medium-range, surface-to-air Akash missile, the Indo-Asian News Service quoted defence officials in Balasore in eastern Indian state of Orissa as saying.

The missile, which has a range of 25 kilometres, was test fired last Thursday and Monday from the integrated test range at Chandipur in Balasore District, 230 kilometres from the state capital Bhubaneswar.

It was tested thrice from a mobile launcher on Saturday. Deployed with the indigenously developed radar Rajendra, Akash can simultaneously track 64 targets within a range of 40-60 kilometres.

It uses a ramjet propulsion system and is powered by an air-breathing engine. Akash is one of the five missiles under various stages of development by the Defence Research and Development Organization.

MNA/Xinhua

Tianjin City posted drastic growth in foreign trade in January

TIANJIN, 28 Feb— The northern China port city of Tianjin registered 3.39 billion US dollars of foreign trade in January, up 41.4 per cent over the same period of last year, according to Customs statistics.

In January, its imports rose 22.9 per cent to 1.52 billion US dollars and exports grew 61 per cent to 1.87 billion US dollars.

Foreign-funded businesses contributed to 80.2 per cent of the total exports, with exports volume standing at 1.5 billion US dollars and rising 65.1 per cent over last January. Exports of private businesses nearly tripled, totalling 82.94 million US dollars. Exports of state-owned enterprises stood at 246 million US dollars, representing an increase of 20.7 per cent over last January.— MNA/Xinhua

China continues to face electricity shortage

BELJING, 28 Feb— An industry group has predicted China will continue to face electricity shortage in 2005, estimated at 20 million to 25 million kilo watt per hour, despite rapid growth of electricity generating capacity.

"The tension will be eased a lot compared with the situation in 2004," said Wang Yonggan, secretary-general of the China Electricity Council (CEC), an association of Chinese electricity businesses.

According to Wang, the installed electricity generating capacity is supposed to rise 70 million kilo watt, or 15.88 per cent, to 510.7 million kilo watt in 2005. On the other hand, the demand is expected to rise 13 per cent.

Wang said not all the installed gener-

ating units would operate at full capacity due to tight supply of coal, oil, water and the influence of bad weather and natural calamities. An analysis report of the CEC indicates the electricity shortage will be most severely felt in the economically developed east China this year, with the gap estimated at around 11 million kwh. The extent will be much lesser in north China, central China, south China, north-east China and northwest China.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to study on dengue disease

SINGAPORE, 28 Feb— Researchers from hospitals and institutes in Singapore will launch a study on the dengue disease from March, according to the report by Channel NewsAsia on Saturday.

Experts expect to get more knowledge about the virus, the epidemiology, disease transmission, the current patterns as well as early indicators of the disease through the programme involving about 1,000 patients.

The study, which will take a year and a half, also aims to help in early recognition and a better vaccine so as to improve the treatment and management of the mosquito-borne disease in Singapore.

The report said that some 9,459 infection cases were recorded last year in the city state, which is the largest number in a decade, and the number is still on a rising trend this year.

MNA/Xinhua

1,495 members of US mily killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb—As of Saturday, 26 February, 2005, at least 1,495 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,130 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

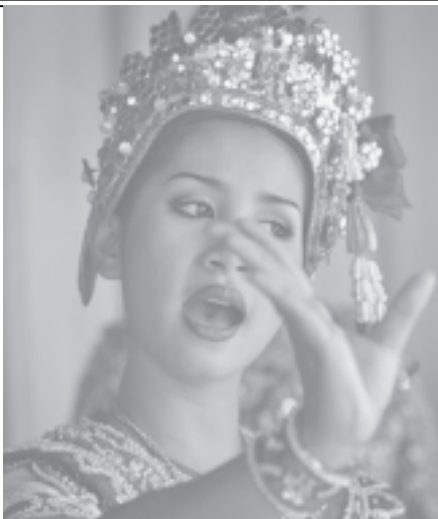
The AP count is 12 higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Internet

A Thai traditional dancer performs at the Erawan Shrine on 26 Feb, 2005, in downtown Bangkok, Thailand.

INTERNET



China to extend "green corridor" network

BEIJING, 27 Feb — China will extend its agricultural transport network to 27,000 miles by the end of this year, said a senior official with the Ministry of Communication here Friday.

The network assists the transportation of fresh agricultural produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, aquatics, livestock, meat, eggs and milk, said Vice-Minister Feng Zhenglin at a Press conference.

In 1995, some ministries launched four "green corridors" to guarantee a stable supply of vegetables for urban areas. These linked major vegetable and fruit production bases, such as Shouguang in east China's Shandong Province and southern Hainan Province. Local governments involved in the network will not to charge or charge less tolls of vehicles carrying agricultural products in a bid to cut transportation costs.

The whole length has so far reached 11,000 kilometres. Some provinces have also built their regional "green corridors". The plan of the network has been made by seven ministries, comprising the Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Agriculture, State Reform and Development Commission, Ministry of Finance and the State Council Office for Correcting Malpractice.

Based on the national highway network, the network will be 16,000 miles longer than the existing one, connecting China's 29 provincial capital cities and another 71 major cities at the prefectural level, Feng acknowledged. *MNA/Xinhua*



Chinese acrobats train at the acrobatic department of the Beijing International Art School on 28 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

US sailor from "Kitty Hawk" to be brought to court in HK

HONG KONG, 28 Feb — A sailor from the *USS Kitty Hawk* will be brought to court in Hong Kong on Monday for punching a police officer and a taxi driver.

A spokesman from Hong Kong Police Force said on Sunday that the court will decide whether the sailor will be sent back to United States Navy to receive punishment.

The 27-year-old sailor was drunk on Saturday morning and hit a taxi driver before striking a police officer on his eye.

The *USS Kitty Hawk* strike group pulled into Hong Kong port on Friday to get replenishment.

During the *USS Kitty Hawk's* last call to Hong Kong in March 2004, a sailor from the aircraft carrier died in Hong Kong after drinking too much alcohol.

MNA/Xinhua

Australian soldiers involved in shooting incident in Iraq

CANBERRA, 28 Feb — The Australian Department of Defence said on Sunday that Australian soldiers were involved in a shooting incident in Baghdad.

The incident happened at about 8:50 p.m. Saturday local Baghdad time (5:50 p.m. Saturday, GMT), with Australian soldiers opening fire at a vehicle that "was behaving in a suspicious manner, by continuing to drive towards them despite repeated requests to stop," according to a statement of the depart-

ment.

"There were no ADF (Australian Defence Forces) casualties as a result of the incident. Reports indicate that some occupants of the car were injured during the incident," said the department.

The incident is now being investigated. No further information is

available, it said.

Australia still maintained about 950 military personnel in the Middle East, with 400 in Iraq. Australian Prime Minister John Howard announced last Tuesday that Australia will send 450 more troops to Iraq within the next 10 weeks.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်မွန်အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

India to overtake China as most populous nation by 2030

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Feb — India will surpass China as the world's most populous nation by 2030, the United Nations has said in a new study which forecasts that the global population will soar by 40 per cent to 9.1 billion by 2050.

In its revised report for 2004, the United Nations Population Division predicted that India and China would exchange places, mainly because of differences in fertility. India, at 1.103 billion people this year would reach 1.593 billion by 2050, which China has 1.316 billion now will reach 1.392 billion.

"We have been saying for a while that India would cross China. But the crossover has been getting earlier and earlier and we now say it will happen before 2030 (not including Hong Kong). This is five years earlier than we said two years ago," UN demographer Cheryl Sawyer said.

The report also said that the world's population will reach 6.5 billion by July

and, despite lower expected fertility rates, is likely to reach 9.1 billion by 2050, with most of the increase taking place in developing countries.

Just eight countries — India, Pakistan, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Bangladesh, Uganda, the United States, Ethiopia and China are likely to contribute half of the world's population increase between 2005 and 2050, while the population would at least triple in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Congo, the DRC, Timor-Leste, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger and Uganda.

Fertility in the 44 developed countries remains generally low, with any increases being small, the report says.

MNA/PTI

China's entertainers stage events to fight piracy

BEIJING, 27 Feb — About 100 Chinese music celebrities gathered at Beijing's Capital Stadium Saturday night standing on a huge CD-shape platform and singing for public support in the country's fight against rampant music piracy.

The stadium was nearly full, and organizers said 150 million more watched on television. Pop stars sang their hit songs and occasionally urged their fans not to buy pirated products.

Organized by the central government and associations in entertainment circles, the concert was just one of a series anti-piracy events going on in Beijing Saturday, aiming to show officials' and entertainers' determination to hit hard on piracy.

Events included a forum, a Beijing anti-piracy declaration and a public destruction of pirated products.

"If Beijing fails to solve piracy soon, we will not deserve to host the Olympics

in 2008," said Feng Xiaogang, a Chinese director who was recently named the country's proponent of copyright protection.

"This is not exaggerating," said Wang Ziqiang, spokesman of National Copyright Administration, or the state copyright watchdog. "Rampant piracy harms people's creativity, and a nation without creativity is a nation without hope."

He said that despite repeated government crackdowns, intellectual property infringement is still rampant in China. "We don't know when the problem can be solved, but we do know China will take the challenge."

MNA/Xinhua

Japan's Crown Princess cancels planned trip to Special Olympics

TOKYO, 27 Feb — Japan's Crown Princess Masako cancelled a planned trip to the Special Olympics on Saturday, in a sign that her recovery from a stress-related disorder could take some time, domestic media said on Saturday.

The visit to central Japan for the winter sports event would have been Masako's first official appearance outside the capital since the 41-year-old Princess retired from public life more than a year ago because of psychological problems.—*MNA/Reuters*



A Volkswagen decorated with fresh flowers cruises along during the annual Flower Festival in the northern Philippine mountain resort of Baguio City on 27 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Three Gorges power project to generate 48.6b kwh this year

WUHAN, 28 Feb— The Three Gorges hydropower plant is expected to generate 48.6 billion kilowatt hours of electricity this year, 19.5 billion more than last year.

Cao Guangjing, deputy general manager of China Yangtze River Three Gorges Project Development Corporation, said the last three of the 14 power generating units to be installed on the northern bank of the Yangtze River would go into operation this year.

By late 2005, the Three Gorges Project, which is being built on the middle section of the Yangtze, will have its total installed generating capacity increase to 9.8 million kilowatt.

Eleven generators have been operating at the Three Gorges hydropower plant since 10 July 2003, when the first generator started to produce electricity. The project generated 39.1 billion kilowatt/hours of

electricity last year, exceeding the state-set target.

Launched in 1993, the Three Gorges Project is designed to harness the Yangtze, China's longest river. The gigantic project is to be constructed in three stages. Preparations and construction in the first phase were carried out between 1993 and 1997. The Yangtze was dammed at the Three Gorges area for the first time on November 8, 1997.

The Three Gorges Project, with an estimated cost of 180 billion yuan (approximately 21.7 billion US dollars), will have 26 generators with a combined generating capacity of 18.2 million kilowatt and be able to generate 84.7 billion kilowatt/hours of hydroelectric power annually when it is completed in 2009.

A revision of the original plan calls for the inclusion of a new underground power plant with six new 700,000-kilowatt generators. The remaining 18 generating units of the Three Gorges Project will all be installed on the southern bank of the river.

MNA/Xinhua



A reflection view of Malaysian landmark Petronas Twin Tower with a foreign worker cleaning up the city centre park in Kuala Lumpur on 26 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Over 100-million-year-old animal fossils found in Chile

SANTIAGO, 26 Feb — A team formed by four scientists of the University of Chile had found in the Antarctica fossils of animals of 100 to 120 million years, local daily *La Tercera* said on Saturday.

The goal of the team was to study the evolution of flora and fauna on the western rim of the ancient Gondwana continent, which in prehistory included present-day Antarctica, South America, Australia and part of Asia.

Following a month of work, the scientists uncovered nearly 350 kilos of fossilized vegetables and animals, including a five-centimeter fish, in Byers Peninsula, in Livingston Island of Antarctica.

“Never before had we found a specimen like this, we even have to proceed with analyses to determine if this is a known species,” said Marcelo Lepepe, a member of the team which also comprises three other geologists. The team also found in the area other remains of fossilized animals like ammonites, bivalves, gastropods, and plant specimens such as conifers, ferns, leaves, logs, pollen and spores.

MNA/Xinhua

British Army Chief apologizes for Iraqi abuse

LONDON, 27 Feb — Britain's Army Chief General Michael Jackson on Friday apologized “to those Iraqis who were abused” and to the “people of Iraq as a whole”, after three British soldiers were jailed for abusing Iraqi civilians.

Jackson made the public apology at a Press conference in London after three British soldiers were sentenced for abusing Iraqi civilians and were dismissed from the Army in disgrace by a military tribunal in Germany.

The British general said he had been “appalled and disappointed” by the photos of the abusing incidents, adding that a “senior, experienced officer” will be appointed to assess “what lessons we need to learn” from this case and other abuse allegations.

But he said there were only four cases of alleged abuse against Iraqis and it was important to put them in context of the actions of thousands of British servicemen, stressing he did not believe

in the concept of an “endemic rotten apple” in the British Army.

MNA/Xinhua



A view of the snow-covered Banihal village area, around 210 kilometres (131 miles) northeast of Jammu, India, on 25 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Putin meets Slovak leaders to boost bilateral relations

BRATISLAVA, 27 Feb— Visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday met with Slovakia's leaders here for talks aimed at boosting bilateral relations, the day after his summit here with US President George W Bush.

Putin, who arrived in the Slovak capital Thursday for a two-day official visit, laid a wreath at a memorial commemorating thousands of Soviet troops who died liberating the country from the Nazis before meeting with Slovak Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda.

Putin also plans to meet with leading lawmakers in the Slovak Parliament later in the day.

The talks between the leaders are expected to focus on Russia's relationship with Slovakia which joined the European Union and NATO last year. Slovakia is a staunch US ally which has deployed non-combat

troops to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The two sides are also expected to sign an agreement aimed at enhancing inter-governmental efforts to develop cooperation on economic, scientific, technical and humanitarian issues.

Putin's visit to Slovakia is the first by a Russian President since Putin's predecessor Boris Yeltsin came here in 1993 when Slovakia was constituted after its formal separation from the Federation of Czech and Slovak republics.

MNA/Xinhua

Wen Jiabao calls for greater efforts to curb corruption

BEIJING, 28 Feb — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao called for stronger reforms and greater efforts to prevent corruption among government officials at a recently convened State Council conference on the issue of clean government. *Xinhua* released the text of speech Sunday.

Wen, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Political Bureau, recalled the achievements the govern-

ment scored in its anti-corruption efforts in 2004 and laid out the arrangements for this year's work in the area.

Wen cited three main areas on which the governments at various levels have focused:

First, efforts were made to resolve protruding problems that had damaged the interests of the people, such as delayed payment of land-requisition compensations for farmers and delayed payment of wages by construction contractors, and dealt with issues of the infringement of legal rights of people displaced in urban development, regrouping and bankruptcy of enterprises, illegal educational charges, and excessive financial burden of farmers.

Second, the government made progress regarding the practice of administrative powers

by law.

Last year, the State Council issued relevant regulations to regularize the work of the government, while launching a series of new policies on tax reform in rural areas, structural reform of investment and structural reform for the management of land and resources.

Third, governments at different levels handled a number of cases involving the violation of discipline and laws and punished a group of corrupt officials and those who had brought losses to the people due to their malfeasance. Greater efforts were made by government auditors to find out this kind of problems.

Wen said corruption still existed in certain areas. “The anti-corruption fight is still an arduous task,” he said.

He instructed governments and leading officials

to accept the strategic policies of the central authorities. “Corruption damages the interests of the people and the close links between the Party and the people, weakens the governance base and capability of the Party, affects social stability and disturbs the general situation of reform, development and stability,” he said.

In 2005 the government should set up an anti-corruption system that stresses education, institution and supervision and integrates punishment and prevention, he said.

He pledged to accelerate the process of transforming the functions of government by allowing enterprises, business associations and intermediate agencies to play due roles in handling matters that “should not be handled by the government.”

MNA/Xinhua

Japan confirms 15th mad cow case

Tokyo, 27 Feb— Japan has confirmed its 15th case of mad cow disease, domestic media said on Saturday.

The infection was confirmed in the carcass of an eight-year-old Holstein dairy cow on the northern island of Hokkaido, *Kyodo* news agency said.

The cow tested positive for the brain-wasting disease officially known as bovine spongiform encephalitis (BSE), which was first discovered in Japan in 2001. The government subsequently in-

duced testing for all cows slaughtered for food.

Japan banned imports of US beef after a case of mad cow disease was found in an animal in Washington State in 2003. Before the ban, Japan was the leading market for American beef exports, taking about 1.4 billion US dollars' worth in 2003.

Japan also recently first confirmed its first

case of the human variant of mad cow disease.

The government said a man died in December from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) after eating infected beef. Officials believe he contracted the disease in Britain.

No one was available for comment at Japan's Health or Agriculture ministries on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese Vice-Premier meets EU Trade Commissioner

BEIJING, 27 Feb— The Chinese Government values the China-EU all-around strategic partnership, said Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi here Friday.

Wu made the remarks in a meeting with visiting newly appointed European Union Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson.

The European Union has become the largest trade partner of China, and China the second largest trade partner of the European Union, Wu said, noting that promoting China-EU relations and economic cooperation accords with common interests of the two sides.

Mandelson said all circles in Europe were focusing on changes taking

place in China in recent years and the achievements made in China's economic construction. The European Union will seriously treat China's concern about such issues as the full market economy status and arms embargo on China.

The two sides also exchanged views on global integration of textile and China-EU agreements on trade and economic cooperation. Mandelson is here on a visit to China starting from Thursday as guest of Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese top legislature opens first official web site

BEIJING, 27 Feb — Chinese top legislature, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), opened its first official web site on Friday after one-year of trials.

More than 100 high Chinese officials, including vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee Wang Zhaoguo and Sheng Huaren, attended the opening ceremony held in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

MNA/Xinhua

Salesman for the Singapore firm OSIM demonstrating how to use a massage chair sold at one of the company's showrooms on 27 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET



More than 100,000 books sold on first day of HK sale campaign

HONG KONG, 28 Feb— Overwhelming response was received at the Book Sale Campaign Saturday in Hong Kong, according to the Hong Kong Government, the co-organizer of the campaign.

More than 100,000 books were sold and about 12,800 people participated at the first day of the Sale of Donated Books. All books are sold at five Hong Kong dollars (64 US cents) each and all proceeds would be donated to the Community Chest of Hong Kong.

This year, more than 220,000 books were collected through the Book Donation Campaign.

The Book Donation and Sale Campaign is jointly organized by the Hong Kong Government's Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Home Affairs Department and 18 District Councils, Hong Kong Housing Authority, Hong Kong Post, the Community Chest of Hong Kong and the Agency of Volunteer Service, with an aim to promoting reading, book sharing and helping the needy. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam detects one more bird flu patient

HO CHI MINH CITY, 28 Feb— A 36-year-old man from Vietnam's northern Thai Binh Province, has just been confirmed to be infected with bird flu virus strain H5N1, raising the number of infections in the country to 19 since December 2004.

Testing conducted on Saturday showed that samples from the man named Nguyen Thanh Chung from Vu Thu District were tested positive to the virus, local newspaper the *Saigon Liberation* reported Sunday.

The patient is now receiving treatment at the Tropical Disease Institute in Hanoi capital, which is also treating a 21-year-old man from the province's Thai Thuy District for H5N1 infection. The 21-year-old man named Nguyen Sy Tuan, who needs respiratory assistance, ate goose meat before exhibiting bird flu symptoms, said a local doctor.

In the most recent outbreak starting from December 16, 2004, Vietnam has detected 19 local people to contract H5N1, of whom 12 have died. Bird flu, which has killed and led to the forced culling of more than 1.5 million fowls in 35 cities and provinces in the country since January, is cooling down. — MNA/Xinhua

Indian industry says rail budget "consumer friendly"

NEW DELHI, 28 Feb— Terming as "innovative" the rationalization of freight tariff and opening up of number of areas for private participation, Indian industry on Saturday hailed the Railway Minister Lalu Prasad for presenting a "pro-reform" and "consumer

friendly" budget for 2005-06.

However, apex chambers expressed some reservations over continuing subsidies for the passengers at the cost of goods traffic saying removal of cross subsidies is a must to put the Rail finances back on track.—MNA/PTI

Cyclone Percy tears across south Pacific

SYDNEY, 28 Feb— Cyclone Percy tore across the Pacific island group of Tokelau, causing widespread damage and injuring one person, authorities said on Sunday.

Strong wind and surging sea had begun to batter Swain's Island, about midway between the Hawaiian Islands and New Zealand, said the Australian-Pacific Centre for Emergency and Disaster Information (www.afap.org).

In Tokelau, a New Zealand protectorate of 1,400 people, the storm battered three atolls and

caused widespread damage, said Tino Vitale, general manager for telecommunications on the atoll of Nukunonu.

Winds of 200 kilometres per hour (125 miles per hour) swept across Tokelau and were expected to build to 230 kph (140 mph) in the next 24 hours, said Tropical Storm Risk (www.tropicalstormrisk.com),

a group that tracks storms around the world.

"The storm surge resulted in at least five houses on Nukunonu being washed away and damage to many other houses," Vitale said in a statement. The atoll's only school was largely destroyed as the storm tore down trees, power and telephone lines, he said. — MNA/Reuters

Hong Kong to reap benefits from WTO Conference

HONG KONG, 28 Feb— The Sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in December will bring Hong Kong about 100 million HK dollars (about 12.82 million US dollars) in tourist receipts, Hong Kong Director-General of Trade & Industry Raymond Young said here Saturday.

He added arrangements will be made to cater for non-governmental organizations' (NGO) needs.

An area will be set up for about 2,000 accredited NGO representatives inside the conference venue to facilitate their lobbying activities. Direct dialogues are also being conducted with local and overseas NGOs to better understand their concerns.

Speaking on a radio talk show, Young noted Hong Kong has been facing fierce competition and needs to participate in more international events to boost its image.

MNA/Xinhua



A black hat dance, a dance of ground purification, during the first day of the Tsechu festival at the Punakha Dzong, on 18 Feb, 2005 in the Punakha District, Bhutan.—INTERNET

National Convention delegates serving interests of the nation

Aung Moe San

Development of a human society does not rest on individual affairs of anyone, but on the economic, political and social policies of the nation concerned. A society will not make any progress if it does not practise proper policies, and it will be able to enjoy development if it practises

A human society will be therefore capable of choosing the most proper way (correct policy) in each and every sector only through vast experience and maturity. However, it does not mean that a society can achieve a great success through correct policy alone.

proper policies. How to choose a proper policy, then? Experience is intellectual power, reasonable power as well as work guideline. A human society will be therefore capable of choosing the most proper way (correct policy) in each and every sector only through vast experience and maturity. However, it does not mean that a society can achieve a great success through correct policy alone. And the correct policy is just the wish to achieve success. According to social science, a society can achieve success only if it is capable of implementing the correct policy with correct approaches.

During the 1988 unrest, anarchy reigned the whole nation, and so many groups were in rivalry, and the nation was on the verge of collapse. But, at that time, no group, no political party nor person was capable of controlling the situations. And the Tatmadaw, which had more experience, maturity and discipline than any other groups or organizations in the nation, had to take up the State responsibilities unavoidably.

Taking the most valuable and bitter lessons from the historic events of the nation, the Tatmadaw did its utmost and gave its undivided attention to the State duties in order that the motherland could avert risks of the collapse. The Tatmadaw Government then laid down the 12 State Objectives and implemented them so as to introduce the market-oriented economic system and democracy at home. But, its drive faced strong opposition expressed by the leftist and rightist destructive elements. Whatever it may be, the Tatmadaw Government made efforts unremittingly so as to put the nation on the path leading to development. In consequence, it managed to regain national reconsolidation following the return of 17 national race armed groups to the legal fold. And the entire nation has witnessed unprecedented progress and constructive changes. In addition, it is now holding the National Convention that is the first and foremost step of the

State's seven-point Road Map in its drive to transform the nation into a discipline-flourishing democratic state. The National Convention was launched with discussion-based consensus of the elected parties including the election-winning party. At the beginning, those representing the eight strata including the representatives-elect and delegates of political parties shared the same views at the National Convention and adopted the 104 basic principles with one voice. However, at the instigation and intervention of external elements, certain elected parties changed their minds and held negative views and then opposed the National Convention. Taking full advantage of the prevailing situations, certain big powers in co-operation with broadcasting stations under their influence openly interfered in the internal affairs of the nation. They also resorted to all possible ways and means to turn the progressing National Convention on its head. Yet, their destructive acts did not work. With nationalistic fervour and further-cemented solidarity among the national people, the Tatmadaw Government was capable of keeping the National Convention on its way at speed to fulfil the wish of the entire national people — to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. More than 600 delegates are representing respective national races from all townships in States and Division, at the National Convention. The other invited delegates and the delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia are at the age of around 50 to 70 and are well versed in the spheres of politics, warfare, management and legislation. Many of those have got master degrees or other degrees. All the delegates are fully equipped with nationalist spirit, Union Spirit, the spirit of national unity, and national concept, and they can easily surmount all the alien instigations and interventions. The National Convention delegates representing the entire national people are shouldering the duties harmoniously for the emergence of an enduring State Constitution.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein held a meeting with Vice-Chairman of Kachin State Special Region-2 U Gaw Yi Zaw Hsaing, Secretary Dr Lagya and peace mediators Dr Zabwe John and U Khun Myat at Dagon Yeiktha of the Yangon Command Headquarters on 23 January this year. On the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that the National Convention was laying down basic detailed principles to draw the State Constitution that will guarantee national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty of the State and serve the interests of the national people of the country.

He added that after adopting these basic detailed principles, the National Convention will also draw programmes step by step to write the State Constitution and to hold a referendum and free and

fair elections in accord with the State Constitution.

The National Convention will see to the accomplishment of the national duties. The national people are to take lessons from the point that nowadays, some developing countries trying to transform themselves into democratic ones have faced collapse and daily deaths of innocent citizens due to the alien interventions and invasions. Besides that, the national people are to foresee the forthcoming steps of certain powers resorting to instigations and intervention and driving a wedge among the national people to get the nation under their domination.

Now, a western power has officially approved an expenditure in its budget to interfere in internal affairs of other nations. And it is spurring various kinds of assistance to opposition parties and persons and rebels in many countries. It has been known to the international community.

The western power established the Radio Free Europe and the Radio Liberation in the Europe to indoctrinate and blow down the eastern Europe socialist nations and the Soviet Union. The CIA established three broadcasting stations to attack socialist governments and leftist groups in Latin America. The western bloc members are providing illegal assistance to the RFA, the Net-4 Broadcasting Station and the DVB Broadcasting Station to politically attack Asian socialist nations and national groups that do not want to be under the influence of the western bloc. BBC and VOA are also under the influence of the western bloc and broadcasting propaganda and instigations against the countries they would like to attack.

The delegates attending the National Convention are the ones who have national concept and are shouldering the duties steadfastly in the

Now, a western power has officially approved an expenditure in its budget to interfere in internal affairs of other nations. And it is spurring various kinds of assistance to opposition parties and persons and rebels in many countries. It has been known to the international community.

interests of the nation and who are well knowledgeable about current Myanmar and international affairs and understand well the alien instigations and interventions.

(Myanma Alin: Kyemon 28-2-2005)

(Translation: MS)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon



YANGON, 28 Feb — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greets Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon at the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

Wongsuwon and party at the Ministry of Defence at 11 am today.

Also present together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, State Peace and Development Council members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief

(Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and senior officers of the Ministry of Defence.

Present together with the visiting Royal Thai Army Commander-in-Chief General Prawit Wongsuwon and party were Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and Thai Military Attache Col Prissapa Suvanatat. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon and party. —MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sees off Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon

YANGON, 28 Feb — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye this evening saw off members of goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon at Yangon International Airport after paying an official visit to the Union of Myanmar.

The visiting delegation was also seen off by member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, Military Attache Col Prissapa Suvanatat and officials.

At 3.15 pm, visiting Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon and party arrived at the airport. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met General Prawit Wongsuwon at the airport lounge. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented an album and a video tape on the official visit to General Prawit Wongsuwon. Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon and party left the airport and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party bid farewell to the guests. —MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sees off Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon at the airport. — MNA



Daw Mya Mya San sprinkles scented water on tiers, Seinbudaw and Hnggetmyatnadaw. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sprinkles scented water on tiers, Seinbudaw and Hnggetmyatnadaw. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife attend Shwehtidaw hoisting ...

(from page 16)

Before the Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party paid homage to the Buddha images in the cave of the pagoda.

This was followed by the Shwehtidaw hoisting

Sangha Nakaya Committee KanU Kyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanissara delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merits gained.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife conveyed Seinbudaw and Hnggetmyatnadaw round the pagoda clock-wise.

veyed Hsathwabu, Seinpankhine, bells and tiers of Shwehtidaw round the pagoda.

Next, flanked by regal procession, Seinbudaw, Hnggetmyatnadaw and tiers of Shwehtidaw were conveyed to the pandal to the accompaniment of religious song sang by artistes of the Fine Arts Department.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San hoist tiers of Shwehtidaw, Seinbudaw and Hnggetmyatnadaw atop the Maha Shwemyintin Pagoda by a decorated carriage. — MNA



ceremony.

The ceremony was opened with the recitation of *Namo Tassa* three times.

Later, vocalist Ma Thabye sang the song titled *Htumachana* to the accompaniment of harpist U Soe Tint.

Next, the congregation led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San received the Nine Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw of PyinOoLwin Ponnyacari Khele Kyaungtaik Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Sumana.

Afterwards, members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San presented Seinbudaw and Hnggetmyatnadaw to be hoisted atop the pagoda and offertories to Sayadaw of PyinOoLwin Ponnyacari Khele Kyaungtaik Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Sumana.

Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe presented offertories to Chairman of Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Satubommika Sayadaw Agga Maha Kammathana Cariya Bhaddanta Vijaya.

After that, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Commander, ministers, deputy ministers and well-wishers presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Later, Chairman of PyinOoLwin Township

After that, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe conveyed statue of Brahminy duck while members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the commander, ministers, senior military officers, deputy ministers, heads of department and well-wishers con-

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San sprinkled scented water onto tiers of Shwehtidaw.

At the auspicious time, the Shwehtidaw was hoisted atop the pagoda by a decorated carriage.

(See page 10)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer 'soon' to Sayadaws at the Dhamayon of Maha Shwemyintin Pagoda in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and congregation sharing merits at the Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony of Maha Shwemyintin Pagoda. — MNA



60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementation of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- To exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks
- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the twelve State Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes
- To build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife attend Shwehtidaw hoisting...

(from page 9)

Next, Seinpankhine, Hsathwabu, statue of Brahminy duck, Hngetmyatnadaw, Seinbudaw and religious flags were hoisted atop the pagoda by the decorated carriage.

Prime Minister Lt-

Gen Soe Win and officials put tiers of Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party performed the rituals of golden and silver

showers to mark the success of the ceremony.

After the ceremony, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha at the Dhammayon.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San convey Seinbudaw & Hngetmyatnadaw to hoist atop Maha Shwemyintin Pagoda. MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe convey a religious object at Maha Shwemyintin Pagoda.— MNA

Five-million-year-old fossils found in central Myanmar

YANGON, 28 Feb—The fossil survey team consisting of scholars from Geology Departments of Yangon and Mandalay Universities, Kyoto University of Japan made a field trip to Pauk Township, Pakokku District, Magway Division, from 15 to 22 February.

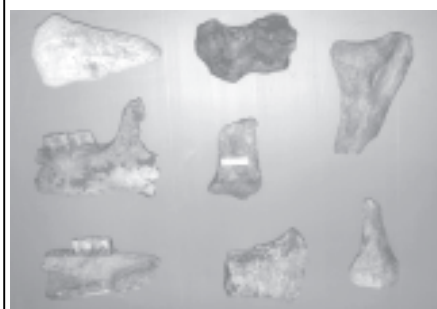
They unearthed and gathered stigidonson, lower jaws and molars of pig, rhinoceros and cow and their horns, teeth of hippopotamus, crocodile, bones of turtles and fossils of snail and oyster and pieces of ivory in Chaisauk, Sulegon, Khaungpaung village and their environs in Pauk Township.

The fossils were found in Ayeyawady rock layer and their plio-pleistocene was five million years old.

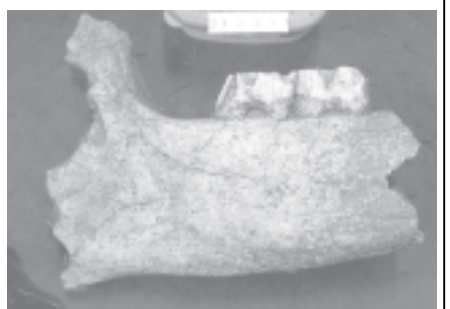
According to the findings, regions in central Myanmar were once continental shelf or inland lakes, marsh and deep forests from one to five million years ago. Many land and marine animals used to inhabit the areas, it was learnt.— MNA

Defence Services Museum to be closed temporarily

YANGON, 28 Feb— Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road will be closed temporarily starting from 1 March for its renovation. The museum will be reopened on 26 March with an exhibition to mark the 60th anniversary Armed Forces Day. —MNA



Fossils found in Chaisauk, Sulegon, Khaungpaung village and their environs in Pauk Township. — MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army tours Yangon

YANGON, 28 Feb—The Thai goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon, accompanied by Maj-Gen Aye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Thai Defence Attaché Col Prissapa Suvanatat and officials, at 1 pm today arrived at the Shwedagon Pagoda, where they were welcomed by members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

First, the guests offered flower, water, light and scented sticks to the Buddha image kept at the Prayer Hall.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army signed in the visitors' book and made cash donations.

After accepting the cash donations, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees presented a picture of Shwedagon Pagoda to the Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army as a gift.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army and party paid homage to Jade Buddha image at the south-west corner of the Pagoda and the Shwedagon Pagoda. They then inspected reli-

gious buildings.

Afterwards, they proceeded to the Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township, where they were welcomed by members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

After offering flowers, water and light to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, the guests made cash donations there.

Later, the guests viewed Yadana white elephants on the hill, where they were conducted round by officials of the Forest Department.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents photo album and video tape to Thai General Prawit Wongsuwon. (News on page 8)—MNA



General Prawit Wongsuwon and party pay homage to Shwedagon Pagoda. —MNA

National Convention Convening Commission Chairman asks after delegates



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents nutritious food to U Mann Tin Aung Than. —MNA

National Convention delegates entertained

YANGON, 28 Feb—The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is conducting entertainment programme for rest and recreation of the delegates at Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township.

Myanmar Athan Modern Music Troupe of Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information, entertained the delegates with songs last night. Among the audience were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secre-

tary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Vice Chairman Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members, NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, chairmen of respective subcommittees and officials.

After the entertainment programme, Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Minister

Maj-Gen Tin Htut presented K 300,000 for the music troupe. Director (Music) Daw Tin Tin Mya accepted the cash awards on behalf of the troupe.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut, NC delegates, Dr Khin Shwe (Zaykabar Co), UMFCCI President U Win Myint, U Win Aung of Dagon International Co and Chairman of Myanmar Rice Marchant Association U Than Oo presented cash awards to the song composers and vocalists. Later, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party cordially greeted the artists. —MNA

YANGON, 28 Feb — Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein this morning visited the National Convention delegates, who are undergo-

ing medical treatment at the Defence Services Hospital (1000-bed) in Mingaladon.

On his arrival at the hospital, the Secretary-1 was welcomed by NCCC Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Chairman NCC Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee Commandant of Defence Services Records Office Yangon Station Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Health Subcommittee Chairman Directorate of Medical Services Brig-Gen Than Aung, Commandant of Defence Services Hospital Bri-Gen Than Sein, NCCC Joint-Secretary Pyithu-hluttaw Office

Director General U Myint Thein, senior military officers and officials.

Brig-Gen Than Sein and officials reported on health conditions of the delegates and treatment being given to them. The Chairman of the NCCC next fulfilled the needs. Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party asked after and comforted the NC delegates, U Sai Lon of the delegate group of national races from Shan State (East), U Than Win from Yangon Division and U Mann Tin Aung Than of Union Kayin National League of the delegate group of political parties. Later, the Secretary-1 presented provisions to the delegate patients and cordially greeted them.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein enjoys entertainment of Modern Music Troupe of MRTV. —MNA

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 2nd March (Wednesday) Peasant Day 2005, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar

UN tobacco-control pact to become Int'l Law on 27 Feb

HOUSTON, 27 Feb — Despite years of intense lobbying by cigarette manufacturers, the World Tobacco Treaty is set to become international Law on 27 February.

The United Nations Global Treaty to curb tobacco use, the second leading cause of death globally, claiming five million lives a year and a loss of 200 billion US dollars in treatment, comes into force on Sunday.

So far, 57 countries have already become party to the landmark treaty, representing 2.3 billion people.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) requires parties to the accord to restrict tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotion, set new labelling and clean indoor air controls, and strengthen laws against tobacco smuggling.

"I encourage all countries to become party to this treaty, and to implement the range of measures which will make tobacco use less and less attractive to people," WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook said ahead of Sunday's deadline for the first 40 countries that became contracting parties before November 30, 2004. The other 17 have become parties since then.—MNA/PTI

Halliburton will receive extra \$1.5b for fiscal 2005

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb — Halliburton Co, under scrutiny for its contracts in Iraq, would receive an extra 1.5 billion US dollars as part of the Bush Administration's additional war spending proposal for fiscal 2005, a senior US Army budget official said on Friday.

Halliburton, once led by Vice-President Dick Cheney, is the largest corporate contractor in Iraq and has drawn fire for its no-bid contracts there, with auditors charging its Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR) unit overcharged for some work.

The Army's portion of a 81.9-billion-US-dollar supplemental spending package earmarked the extra

funding for KBR under its LOGCAP (Logistics Civil Augmentation Programme) contract to provide a wide range of services to US troops in Iraq, the official said. The contract covers food and laundry services, trash collection, mail delivery and other support services.

If approved by Congress, that would bring the total spending under KBR's LOGCAP contract to about six billion US dollars in fiscal year 2005, about the same amount spent a year earlier, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He declined to estimate how much the Army would spend on the LOGCAP contract in

fiscal 2006, but said the top US commander in Baghdad was putting a big emphasis on controlling costs by setting clear standards for the services provided.

General George Casey told a newspaper earlier this month that KBR had submitted budget estimates that exceeded the Army's proposed spending by four billion US dollars, adding, "someone has made assumptions that have driven the costs through the roof".

Overall, KBR has

earned 7.2 billion US dollars under a massive 2001 logistics contract with the US military and could earn more than 10 billion US dollars under that deal. It has separate deals with the government for reconstruction work in Iraq.

The senior Army official said the proposed supplemental budget request included about four billion US dollars in spending to repair or upgrade weapons damaged or worn out by the war in Iraq.

In addition, the budget

request included 570 million US dollars in funding for replacement of weapons lost in battle, including 13 AH-64 Apache helicopters built by Boeing Co. and five UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters built by the Sikorsky Aircraft unit of United Technologies Corp.

The budget request also included 3.3 billion US dollars for new Bradley fighting vehicles made by United Defence Industries Inc., Abrams tanks made by General Dynamics and armoured Humvees.

MNA/Reuters

Argentina concludes its biggest debt restructuring

BUENOS AIRES, 27 Feb — Argentina completed the biggest debt restructuring in history on Friday, indicating an end to its three-year-long debt crisis, which laid the groundwork for its eventual return to international capital market.

According to the debt restructuring plan, the government issued three kinds of new bonds to replace a total of 81.8-billion-US-dollar public bonds that have remained defaulted since 2001.

Argentine Economy Minister Roberto Lavagna said the debt restructuring went off without a hitch and the swap was carried out with "absolute normality".

Lavagna said he had no immediate report on how many bondholders accepted the offer, but analysts predicted the rate

could approach 70 per cent.

The Economy Ministry plans to announce the final report of the debt restructuring next Thursday. President Nestor Kirchner expressed his optimism over it on Friday morning and said, "We are going to have a good result with the debt exchange."

Argentina, which is the second-largest economy in South America, suspended payment on its public debt after the financial crisis erupted in late December 2001.

Following the crisis, the government froze bank accounts and devalued the currency in a move which plunged nearly half the country into poverty.

In 2004, Argentina's economy expanded by 8.8 per cent for the second straight year of growth.

MNA/Xinhua



A model made up as a Chinese opera performer is on show at the First China Wedding Expo in Beijing on 27 Feb, 2005. — INTERNET

New study shows immigration bad for America

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb — Challenging the assumption that immigration is like free trade, a new study has claimed the trend, whether legal or illegal, is "bad" for the United States.

The US has a strong technological advantage over other nations and immigrants who come to America to work have access to superior technology, making them more competitive with

native workers than they otherwise would be, Columbia University Economics Professors, Donald R Davis and David E Weinstein, said.

"American workers," they said, "are better off competing with foreigners if the foreign workers stay in their own countries and don't have access to American technology. By allowing the foreign workers into the United

States, Americans face competition with foreign workers equipped with American technology".

The fact that immigrants are not living overseas and consuming American workers' products also hurt US exports, they added. Together, those factors created a 68 billion US dollars net loss to native workers in America in 2003, they said.—MNA/PTI

Canada to start talks with US on liberalization of air travel rules

OTTAWA, 27 Feb — The Canadian Government will soon open talks with the United States that could lead to a dramatic liberalization of current air travel rules between the two countries, it is reported here Friday.

According to official sources, the talks are aimed at securing a major modernization of the 1995 Open Skies Agreement.

One possible change could see a US airline

being allowed to pick up passengers in one Canadian city and fly them to another Canadian city. Under that scenario, known as cabotage, Canadian carriers could also serve domestic routes in the United States.

Under current rules, airlines are allowed to fly into or out of the neighbouring country, but must either start or end the flight in their home country.

MNA/Xinhua

German FM admits making mistakes in tackling visa abuse

BERLIN, 27 Feb — German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, facing down opposition claims his policies allowed illegal workers into Germany, admitted on Saturday he made mistakes in tackling visa abuse in Eastern Europe.

Fischer accepted he had made errors and said in a fiery speech in North Rhine-Westphalia he would not run away from tackling the issue in a parliamentary committee

of inquiry.

The outcry over the lax visa policies has put pressure on Fischer's Greens party, partners at the national level to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats (SPD), and has been blamed partly for losses in a state election last week.

The speech coincided with a report Christian Democrat (CDU) opposition leader Angela Merkel hoped to capitalize

on the government's woes by winning backing to challenge Schroeder in the 2006 general election at a party conclave on 19 June.

It also came a day after an opinion poll showing an end to Fischer's three-year run as Germany's most popular politician.

The visa policy — ended in 2003 — proved open to abuse, Fischer told the rally of his Greens party, adding he had made two mistakes.

"First, in my time as

minister in autumn of 1999 there were two decrees that made these instruments ... even more liable for abuse. Secondly, between 2000 and 2002 ... I did not act quickly, decisively and thoroughly enough as the minister responsible."

Fischer previously took responsibility for "possible mistakes" made by his ministry, but had not acknowledged any failings, drawing criticism from all sides.—MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒ်များတိုးတက်လာ ခိုင်ခံ့တော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

World's first tube camel born in UAE

ABU DHABI, 28 Feb— A medical team in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has successfully delivered the world's first test tube camel using invitro fertilization technology, the official WAM news agency said Saturday.

The delivery came after four years of research in a bid to improve camelidae through she camels only.

"The UAE is the first country in the world to successfully apply the embryo transfer technology," Professor Abdul

Haq Anwassy, head of the theriogenology section of Camel Research Centre in Abu Dhabi, told WAM.

According to the centre's experts, the application of such technology will help save a certain specimen of camels.

MNA/Xinhua

Framework convention on tobacco control becomes law

GENEVA, 28 Feb — A global treaty aimed at dissuading children from smoking and helping adults kick the habit came into force on Sunday with the United Nations saying it could save millions of lives.

The World Health Organization (WHO) applauded the strong warnings on cigarette packages and the eventual ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship laid down in the world's first international public health treaty.

"It's entry into force is a demonstration of governments' commitment to reduce death and illness

from tobacco use," said WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook in a statement to mark the event.

Tobacco, the second leading cause of preventable deaths globally after hypertension, kills 4.9 million people a year, the UN agency says.

And the annual death toll from tobacco-related diseases — lung cancer, heart attacks and cardiovascular diseases — could soar to 10 million by 2020, with 70 per cent of the deaths in developing countries, it adds.

The treaty, known as the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, gives members three years to slap strong health warnings on tobacco packages and five years to ban advertising, promotion and sponsorship.

It also recommends tax increases on tobacco products, a crackdown on smuggling, and reducing exposure to second-hand smoke.

Approved by the WHO's 192 member states in May 2003, the pact became law on Sunday, 90 days after the 40th state

had ratified it.

It will only carry legal weight in those countries which have ratified it, now numbering 57. In total, 167 countries have signed the pact — but have not necessarily sent it to Parliament for ratification.

WHO officials and activists say the powerful tobacco industry is lobbying intensively to restrict the number of countries applying the treaty, including the United States which has signed up but not yet sent it to the Senate.

MNA/Xinhua

Arnold does not regret having used steroids

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Feb — California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger says he has no regrets having used steroids to pump up his bodybuilding career.

"I have no regrets about it," the seven-time Mr Olympia told ABC News in an interview to be broadcast on Sunday. "Because at the time, it was something new that came on the market, and we went to the doctor and did it under doctors' supervision."

Schwarzenegger, who once boasted biceps as big as many men's thighs, has long admitted to using performance-enhancing drugs. In 1996 he said steroids were something he "had to do to compete."

But the latest comments from the Austrian-born action film star and politician come as a steroid scandal grips professional sports, leading to calls for con-

gressional hearings on the matter.

Schwarzenegger, who won his seventh Mr Olympia bodybuilding competition in 1980, told ABC he still discouraged drug use.

"Because it is the wrong message, like you say, to the children," he said. "But people should take food supplements. People should be able to take the vitamins and all of the nutritious stuff that is available. But stay away from drugs."

"We were experimenting with it. It was a new thing," said Schwarzenegger, 57. "So you can't roll the clock back and say, 'Now I would change my mind on this.'"

MNA/Reuters



A day-old baby hippopotamus plays with his mother Ranu at the Guwahati Zoo in India's northeast state of Assam, on 27 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Diarrhoea kills 62 people in Central America

Mexico City, 28 Feb — At least 62 people, mostly children under five, have died of diarrhoea caused by rotavirus in Central America, reports here said Saturday.

The reports quoted health ministries of these countries as saying that 108,403 cases of diarrhoea had been reported this year in Central America, with Nicaragua reporting the highest toll of 32.

Nicaragua had 27,997 confirmed cases of diarrhoea until last weekend, most of which were found in the northern departments of Madriz and Esteli.

El Salvador, in which the highest number of 73,274 cases were reported, keeps a state of emergency declared on 8 February in the most affected departments of San Salvador, La Libertad and La Paz, the reports said.

At least 20 people have been killed by the disease in El Salvador.

Rotavirus had also killed eight children in Guatemala, where the health authorities had re-

ported 700 possible cases of the disease, of which 386 had been confirmed.

Honduras has not reported any diarrhoea cases

this year, although in 2004 it reported 236,966 cases, mostly among children below five years of age, the reports said.—MNA/Xinhua



Customers use the Internet at the easyInternetCafe in Camden High Street Post Office in London on 26 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

40% of Pearl River Delta Cos consider pay rises in 2005

GUANGZHOU, 27 Feb — Nearly 40 per cent of the companies based in the Guangzhou-centred Pearl River Delta are considering pay raises for their employees this year, according to a recent survey conducted by the local statistical bureau.

The Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Statistics surveyed 35,000 companies in nine cities in the region toward the end of 2004 on their recruitment situation and compensation package. All the respondent firms employed more than 50 people.

About 75 per cent of the employers said they may offer pay raises, which would be within 5 per cent, according to the survey.

For all the temporary workers in Guangdong Province, the average pay raise was 3.5 per cent in 2004. Skilled workers reported 4.7-per-cent increase in their average wage, the

fastest among all migrant labourers last year. Pay rise for blue-collar workers averaged 4.4 per cent, while that for project management personnel was only 1.6 per cent. The booming province currently suffers a severe shortage of migrant labourers, particularly young blue-collar workers who fuel its prosperous manufacturing industry.

The companies surveyed would need to recruit 16,392 workers in total this year, 66.2 per cent of whom would be blue-collar workers to fill openings at electronic components assembly lines, packaging workshops, civil con-

struction sites and shoe factories.

A separate survey by the same bureau found the province would be short of at least one million migrant workers this year.

A number of labour-intensive firms were having difficulties in recruiting enough of their ideal employees: young, strong rural labourers with low wage expectations.

On the other hand, the bureau found the booming regional economy and growing export have given birth to more businesses and encouraged existing companies to expand production.—MNA/Xinhua

Middlesbrough grab late 2-2 draw with Charlton

LONDON, 28 Feb— Middlesbrough grabbed a late 2-2 draw with Charlton Athletic in the Premier League on Sunday but missed the chance to move above Liverpool into fifth place.

Youngster Danny Graham headed Middlesbrough level four minutes from time after South African striker Shaun Bartlett had appeared to snatch victory for the visitors on 80 minutes.

Matt Holland had given Charlton a 14th minute lead before centre back Chris Riggott made it 1-1 with 16 minutes left.

Middlesbrough stay in sixth spot, one point below Liverpool who were playing leaders Chelsea in the League Cup final on Sunday. Charlton remain ninth.

Earlier, Bolton Wanderers' seven-match unbeaten league run came to an end at Newcastle United when they lost 2-1.

Lee Bowyer headed United in front after 35 minutes from Stephen Carr's inviting cross, only for Bolton to reply almost immediately with a sweetly-struck Stelios Giannakopoulos volley.—MNA/Reuters

Kaka gives AC Milan 1-0 victory over Inter

MILAN, 28 Feb— AC Milan beat Inter 1-0 in the Milan derby on Sunday to stay level with Juventus at the top of Serie A and inflict their city rivals' first defeat of the season.

A late strike from Brazilian Kaka ended Inter's 38-match unbeaten run in all competitions to leave Roberto Mancini's side 14 points adrift of the leaders in fourth place, behind Sampdoria who won 1-0 at Brescia on Saturday.

Juventus were inspired by Alessandro Del Piero who scored twice in their 3-0 win over Siena at the Delle Alpi stadium to ensure they remained neck and neck with the champions.

AS Roma, without the suspended Francesco Totti, slipped to a 2-0 loss at Palermo, and Lazio enjoyed a 2-0 home victory over Parma.

A 78,000 crowd at the San Siro saw little in the way of chances before Kaka struck in the 74th minute, and Inter will feel they deserved a point.

Milan, without injured European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko, started the brighter as Portuguese playmaker Rui Costa forced keeper Francesco Toldo into action with a near-post save from a low shot in the fifth minute.

Inter came close to a breakthrough on the stroke of halftime when Juan

Sebastian Veron unleashed a fierce drive which Milan's Brazilian keeper Dida did well to keep out.

The game looked set for a goalless draw with Milan content to keep possession in midfield and Inter incapable of providing Christian Vieri or his strike partner Obafemi Martins with quality service.

But the decisive moment came when Inter could only clear a corner as far as Gennaro Gattuso and the Milan midfielder's well-struck low drive was turned in by Kaka.

Although Mancini threw on Adriano and Dutch winger Andy van der Meijde in a bid to force what would have been their 17th draw of the season, Milan never looked in danger and threatened a second when Hernan Crespo headed over Serginho's cross.

Juve were without Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved, who was still suffering from the head injury he picked up in Tuesday's Champions League defeat by Real Madrid, but coach Fabio Capello's decision to play with three strikers paid off.

MNA/Reuters

Juventus beat Siena 3-0 to move top

MILAN, 28 Feb— Alessandro Del Piero scored twice as Juventus beat Siena 3-0 to move three points clear at the top of Serie A on Sunday.

Juventus have 57 points from 26 games with AC Milan, who face Inter in the Milan derby later on Sunday, on 54.

AS Roma, without the suspended Francesco Totti, slipped to a 2-0 loss at Palermo, and Lazio enjoyed a 2-0 home victory over Parma.

Juve were without Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved, who is still suffering from the head injury he picked up in Tuesday's Champions League defeat by Real Madrid, but coach Fabio Capello's decision to play with three strikers paid off.

Capello asked Swede Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Uruguayan Marcelo Zalayeta to lead the line and gave the much-criticized Del Piero a free role.

Del Piero responded by putting Juve ahead in the 35th minute with a delightful back-heel after a low cross from Zalayeta.—MNA/Reuters

Tokyo Verdy win J-League Super Cup

YOKOHAMA (Japan), 28 Feb— Tokyo Verdy overcame Japanese champions Yokohama F-Marinos 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out to win the J-League Super Cup for a third time on Saturday.

Yokohama had been seconds away from breaking their jinx in the annual season curtain raiser but Brazilian striker Washington snatched a stoppage-time equalizer for Verdy to level the score at 2-2.

New signing Washington's second goal sent the match directly to penalties under competition rules and Emperor's Cup holders Verdy converted all five of their spot kicks.

Yoshiharu Ueno's missed attempt proved costly for Yokohama and Korean Lee Gang-jin fired home the decisive kick for Osvaldo Ardiles's side.

Verdy's Argentine manager signed former Brazil striker Washington in the pre-season and the muscle-bound striker broke the deadlock in a tepid match in Yokohama after 69 minutes.

MNA/Reuters

Schalke 04 defeat Hanover 96 1-0

BERLIN, 28 Feb— Schalke 04 stayed hard on the heels of Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich with a 1-0 victory over Hanover 96 on Sunday.

Mike Hanke headed the 65th-minute winner for Schalke, who drew level with Bayern on 47 points and trail the leaders only on goal difference. Bayern beat lowly SC Freiburg 1-0 on Saturday.

Hanke, 21, was unmarked in front of the Hanover goal when he received a pass from Mladen Krstajic to score his fifth Bundesliga goal and lift Schalke following their UEFA exit at the hands of Ukrainian side Shakhtar Donetsk.

"We didn't play well but what was important was that we picked up the three points," Schalke coach Ralf Rangnick said.

"It was hard after the Thursday match. It was a weak effort and not a very attractive match, but we won. That's okay with me."

In Sunday's other game between two teams licking their wounds from European disappointments, Cacau scored a penalty with time running out to give VfB Stuttgart a 1-1 draw at Bayer Leverkusen.

Stuttgart were knocked out of the UEFA Cup by Parma and Leverkusen lost 3-1 in the first leg of their Champions League tie against Liverpool.

MNA/Reuters

Sevilla move up to third spot in Primera Liga

MADRID, 28 Feb— Sevilla moved up to third spot in the Primera Liga on Sunday despite being held to a 2-2 draw at home to Racing Santander.

Strikers Julio Baptista and Dario Silva twice put the Andalucians ahead, but a determined Racing never gave up the chase and grabbed a deserved equalizer six minutes from time when Uruguayan forward Mario Regueiro headed in from a corner.

The win left Sevilla with 42 points from 25 matches, one point ahead of city rivals Real Betis, who can overhaul them if they win Sunday's late match at Valencia.

Sevilla are eight points behind second-placed Real Madrid who slipped to their second defeat in a row when they lost 2-0 to a dominant Deportivo Coruna on Saturday.

Real's defeat allowed arch-rivals Barcelona to extend their lead at the top of the table to eight points despite the fact that they were held to a 1-1 draw by basement side Numancia in an almost unplayable pitch in Soria.

Villarreal missed their chance gain the edge in the race for the Champions League places when they lost 1-0 at Real Zaragoza as they slipped to only their second defeat in 12 games.

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea claim first silverware by beating Liverpool 3-2

CARDIFF, 28 Feb— Chelsea claimed their first silverware under Jose Mourinho on Sunday, beating Liverpool 3-2 after extra time to win a rollercoaster League Cup final.

The Portuguese coach was forced to watch alone inside the stadium after being sent from the dug-out for inciting Liverpool's fans, but he had the last laugh as goals from Didier Drogba and Mateja Kezman clinched a victory that had looked unlikely for much of the afternoon.

The Premier League leaders were stunned after just 43 seconds when Norwegian John Arne Riise thumped Liverpool ahead from a cross by Fernando Morientes.

Despite overwhelming possession, Chelsea could find no way through a resolute Liverpool defence for the next 78 minutes, but were handed a lifeline from an unlikely source.

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard, who had minutes earlier wasted a glorious chance to put Liverpool 2-0 ahead, rose to defend a harmless-looking Paulo Ferreira free kick only to deflect it past goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek.

Mourinho immediately became involved in unsavoury scenes behind his dug-out with Liverpool fans as he gestured by putting a mocking finger to his lips before being sent down the tunnel.

Both sides had chances to win it late on, Chelsea's Frank Lampard lashing one shot over the crossbar and Liverpool substitute Milan Baros slicing horribly wide in stoppage time.

Chelsea looked the more likely winners in extra time with Drogba heading a Damien Duff cross against the post shortly after the resumption of play.

Liverpool defender Igor Biscan

should have done better with a header at the other end, but it was no surprise when 24-million-pound (45.84-million-US-dollar) record signing Drogba scuffed a close-range effort past Dudek after 107 minutes.

Substitute Kezman bundled in a third goal against a tiring Liverpool side five minutes later, although Antonio Nunez' immediate headed reply set up an anxious finale. Gerrard, rumoured to be joining Chelsea next season, was left a forlorn figure at the end.—MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Paulo Ferreira (L) and Didier Drogba carry the Carling Cup trophy after defeating Liverpool in the Carling Cup final football match at the Millennium Dome in Cardiff, Wales.

Chelsea won 3-2 in extra time.

INTERNET

Delegate group of peasants meets

YANGON, 28 Feb — The delegate group of peasants held a meeting to compile the proposal to be submitted to the NCC Work Committee concerning the NCC Work Committee chairman's clarification on 22 February on detailed basic principles for distribution of the legislative power to be included in the framing of the State Constitution at the meeting hall No 4 of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township at 10 am today.



The meeting of the delegate group of peasants in progress at Nyaungnapin Camp. — MNA

During the meeting, Delegate of Magway Division U Tin Maung Kyaw presided over the meeting together with Delegate of Ayeyawady Division U Kyi Tint and

Delegate of Yangon Division U Mya Aye. Deputy Director U Myint Kyaing acted as MC and Assistant Director Daw Myint Sein, co-MC.

The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the meeting as 92 delegates out of 93 attended the meeting, accounting for 98.92 per

cent. Alternate Chairman U Tin Maung Kyaw made a speech on the occasion. NC delegate of Sagaing Division U Chit Than read out the proposal of delegate group of peasants concerning the NCC Work Committee chairman's clarification on detailed basic principles for distribution of the legislative power to be included in the framing of the State Constitution. Alternate Chairman U Tin Maung Kyaw declared to approve the proposals of the delegate group of peasants to be submitted to the NCC Work Committee. Later, the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the alternate chairman.—MNA

Diplomats tour Kachin State and Mandalay Division

YANGON, 28 Feb — The Yangon-based Diplomatic Corps led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu arrived Myitkyina on 25 February on an annual diplomatic tour.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and of-

ficials. At Malikha Yeiktha, the commander gave a presentation on Kachin State.

After the briefing, the guests visited Maykha and Malikha Confluence, Nyeinchanye Guest House and Naungngang Kachin Theological College.

On 26 February, the diplomats left Myitkyina for Natmaw and proceeded

to Phakant. Next, they visited Indawgyi Lake.

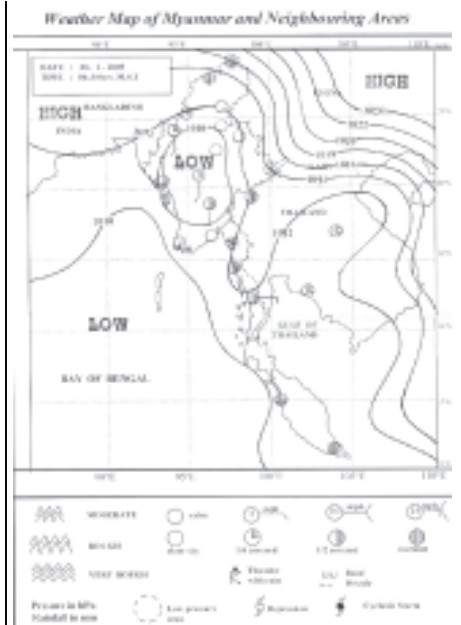
On 27 February, the Diplomatic Corps led by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs left Myitkyina for Mandalay.

They visited Yadanabon Bridge and Yeywa Hydroelectric Power Project.

The party arrived back here on the same day. —MNA



Diplomatic corps pose for photo at Maykha and Malikha Confluence. —MNA



WEATHER

Monday, 28 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Mon States, (5°C) above normal in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin and Eastern Shan States, Yangon, Bago and Upper Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (4°C), Lashio (6°C) and Namsam (7°C).

Maximum temperature on 27-2-2005 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 28-2-2005 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 28-2-2005 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 27-2-2005 was (7.5) hours (approx). Rainfalls on 28-2-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (15:40) hours MST on 27-2-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1-3-2005: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-3-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-3-2005: Fair weather.

TV Myanmar

Tuesday, 1 March

View on today:

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayardaw U Oaktamathara

7:15 am
2. တိပိဋကဇာ၊ ဓမ္မာတ္တာဂါရိတ၊ အာဟာရသတ္တိတ၊ သန္တုသိန္နိဗ္ဗာတိသံဃ (ဓယာဆရာတော်)တောကြားတော် ဗုဒ္ဓအပ်သော ဥပုသ်တသန္တုပါဠိတော်

7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
4. Morning news

7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
6. တရုတ်ပန်းပွဲယူရာ

8:10 am
7. Song of yesteryears

<p>8:20 am 8. မင်းလှရေလှောင်တံခံ</p> <p>8:30 am 9. International news</p> <p>8:45 am 10. Let's Go</p> <p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use</p> <p>4:45 pm 4. တစ်ပတ်တစ်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်း ပြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၂-ခုနှစ်)</p> <p>5:00 pm 5. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်သွားရေး ဂုဏ်ပြုသံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (တက္ကစာအထူးပြု) (တက္ကစာ)</p> <p>5:15 pm 6. Dance of national races</p> <p>5:30 pm 7. ခံစားနားဆင်တေးစာတိုဝင်</p> <p>5:45 pm 8. Sing and Enjoy</p>	<p>6:15 pm 9. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မာတိပင်ရူပနီ" (အပိုင်း-၇၂)</p> <p>6:30 pm 10. Evening news</p> <p>7:00 pm 11. Weather report</p> <p>7:05 pm 12. နှစ် (၆၀) ပြည့် တစ်ပတ်တစ်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p>7:15 pm 13. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတေး</p> <p>7:30 pm 14. The mirror images of the musical oldies</p> <p>7:40 pm 15. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုးပြည့်အကျိုး</p> <p>7:45 pm 16. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံဂုဏ်ပြုတေး</p> <p>8:00 pm 17. News</p> <p>18. International news</p> <p>19. Weather report</p> <p>20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "သမိုင်းမီရီသီ" (အပိုင်း-၄၃)</p> <p>23. The next day's programme</p>
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Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 1 March

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news

8.35 am Music :
-The day we find love

8.40 am Perspectives

8.45 am Music:
-This time around

8.50 am National news/Slogan

9.00 am Music:
-Mind machine

9.05 am International news

9.10 am Music:
-Together again

1.30 pm News/Slogan

1.40 pm Lunch time music
-One love
-My one thing that's real
-The hardest thing
-Owner of my heart

9.00 pm English Speaking Course Level-1

9.15 pm Article/music

9.25 pm Weekly sports reel

9.35 pm Music for your listening pleasure

9.45pm News/Slogan

10.00pm PEL

U Ohn Khyne (a)
Mr Kendley Smith
Old Johnian
English Programme (MRTV) (Retd)

Mr Kendley Smith (a) U Ohn Khyne, age 58, son of Mr Kenneth Stanley Smith and Mrs Pearl Maureen Smith, husband of Daw Win Win, father of Mr Kendrick Smith and Dr Ei Ei Saing and Gree and Pearl Law, brother of Robin Carter, passed away peacefully on Monday, 28th February 2005. The funeral cortege will depart the Holy Trinity Cathedral, 446 Bogyoke Aung San Road on Wednesday, 2nd March, 2005 at 1:00 pm after a service, for burial at Yayway Cemetery.

The bereaved family.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife attend Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony of Historic Maha Shwemyintin Pagoda in PyinOoLwin

YANGON, 28 Feb— A ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Historic Maha Shwemyintin Pagoda in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, was held at the Pagoda on 26 February morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Secretary of the State Central Working Committee for the Sangha Presiding Sayadaw of PyinOoLwin Ponnyacari Khele Kyaungtaik Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Sumana, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer the Seinbudaw (diamond bud) to Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Sumana at the ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Maha Shwemyintin Pagoda. — MNA

Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Divi-

sion Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, senior military

officers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, departmental

officials of PyinOoLwin District and townships in Mandalay Division, well-wishers, members of Union Solidarity and Devel-

opment Association, social organizations and religious associations and local people.

(See page 9)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosts luncheon to Thai goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon

YANGON, 28 Feb— Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General

Maung Aye hosted a luncheon to the visiting Thai goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-

Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon at the New Yeiktha of the Ministry of

Defence here at noon today.

Also present on the occasion were member of

the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, senior military officials of the Ministry of Defence, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, Defence Attaché Col Prissapa Suvanatat and officials.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosting a luncheon in honour of Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Prawit Wongsuwon and party at the Ministry of Defence. — MNA