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Thursday, 3 March, 2005

## Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Bulgaria

YANGON, 3 March — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2005. — MNA



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein hears reports on process of water supply system for Yangon City by Head of Assessment Department Dr Tun Than Tun.— YCDC

### 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

## 140m gallons to be added to city's daily water supply system Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects functions of Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyeik)

YANGON, 2 March — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and member Col Tin Soe, this morning, inspected functions of Yangon City Water Supply Project

(Ngamoeyeik) being implemented by YCDC in Hlegu and Hmawby Townships.

On arrival at the site of building the syphon crossing Ngamoeyeik Creek near Kalihtaw (West) Village in Hlegu Township, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by heads of departments of YCDC

and officials of the project.

In the briefing hall, the Secretary-1 heard reports on construction of the inlet canal linking the main canal of Ngamoeyeik Dam, the pump station, lakes at different areas, construction of the sub-power

(See page 8)



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects construction of syphon crossing Ngamoeyeik Creek near Kalihtaw Village (West) in Hlegu Township.— YCDC

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

# PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 3 March, 2005

## Work together for realization of seven-point policy programme

Development of national economic life plays a pivotal role in our endeavours for raising the living standard of the national people and for building the nation into a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. And development of the agriculture sector is the sine qua non for the growth of national economic life as ours is an agricultural country. This being the case, the government has placed special emphasis on boosting the production of the agriculture sector in accordance with one of the economic objectives — development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well.

In his message sent on the Peasants Day, 2005, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe called on the entire peasantry to work in concert with the national people for the development of the agriculture sector, the main pillar of the national economy, for peace and development of the nation and for the successful realization of the seven-point policy programme for the future of the State.

The agriculture sector is important not only for people's need for food but also for development of their socio-economic life. Therefore, such irrigation facilities as dams, sluice gates and river-water pumping stations are being built wherever necessary across the nation. A total of 89,400 million kyats has been spent on the construction of 171 dams. All these dams are now benefiting more than 2.3 million acres of farmland. Not only that, 300,000 more acres of farmland are being irrigated by 271 river-water pumping stations. The government has been fulfilling all the requirements of the agriculture sector. New plots of farmland are being reclaimed from fallow and virgin land and wetlands to increase cultivated acreage. Quality strains are being provided and scientific cultivation methods disseminated to boost production.

While working for all-round development of the nation, the government is translating into reality the seven-point policy programme for the future of the State so that a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation will emerge. At such a time like this, we would like to call on the entire peasantry to work hand in hand with the national people for the successful realization of the policy programme, also known as the Road Map.

## Members of MFPTMA leave for Malaysia

YANGON, 2 March — A 10-member delegation led by Joint-Secretary of the Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association Dr U Myo Thet, together with three officials of the Ministry of Forestry left here by air this morning for Malaysia to attend Malaysia International Furniture Exhibition 2005 to be held in Kuala Lumpur from 3 to 7 March. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by the officials.— MNA



Private entrepreneurs and officials of Ministry of Forestry seen at the airport before departure for Malaysia.— (H)

## 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

## Commander, Mayor inspect upgrading of Yangon City

YANGON, 2 March—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn yesterday morning inspected the tasks for the upgrading of Yangon City and fulfilled the requirements.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn at 6 am arrived at the site between Lanmadaw Street and 20th Street in Latha Township, Yangon West District, and inspected progress of laying concrete slabs on the platforms of Maha Bandoola Street, the tarmacking of Strand Road between Shwedagon Pagoda Road and Shwebontha Street in Pabedan Township, the laying of concrete slabs on both platforms of 33rd Street, 35th Street

and Anawratha Road in Kyauktada Township, the dredging of the drains in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon East District, and the tarmacking of Banyadala Road in Tamway Township and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Afterwards, the commander and the mayor gave necessary instructions, saying that upgrading tasks are being carried out in Yangon City with the aim of enabling the city to possess the characteristics of city and stressed the need for officials concerned to try their utmost in the tasks for upgrading of Yangon City. They also called for stepping up the implementation of the projects for making contribution towards raising the health standard of Yangonites. Next, giving necessary instructions, the commander and the mayor fulfilled the requirements.— MNA

## Minister attends completion certificate presentation ceremony

YANGON, 2 March— A ceremony to present completion certificates of State School of Fine Arts (Yangon) and the State School of Drama under the Ministry of Culture was held in conjunction with dance presentation and staging of masterpieces at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township here yesterday morning.

It was attended by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Director-General of the Fine Arts Department U Kyaw Win, deputy director-general and officials under the ministry, advisers, principals of the two schools, course instructors, the sec-



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung views works of students of Yangon State School of Fine Arts.— MNA

retary of the Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon and others. First, Director-General U Kyaw Win made a speech and presented completion certificates to the 30 trainees.

Next, officials presented cash awards to the outstanding students of the two schools.

After the ceremony, Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win

Maung and officials viewed the masterpieces of students and enjoyed entertainment programmes presented by the students who had completed the 2004-2005 academic year.— MNA

## Development tasks carried out in Magway, Mandalay, Ayeyawady Divisions

YANGON, 2 March— Township Development Affairs Committees under the Development Affairs Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are undertaking rural and urban development tasks with added momentum.

Pyaon Township DAC of Ayeyawady Division carried out the tarring of the Kyaikkanmon Pagoda road during 2004-2005 fiscal year.

The road is 622 feet long and 16 feet wide, and was constructed at a cost of K 3 million.

Similarly, Magway Township DAC of Magway Division undertook tarring of Yanpe 22nd Street during 2004-2005 fiscal year. The road, 950

feet long and 18 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of K 5.8 million.

Likewise, Thazi Township DAC of Mandalay Division plans to take measures to build Thazi-Kyitaingkon-Ywapalegyi road section which will be 6,800 feet long and 20 feet wide. The

executive officer and engineers carried out field surveys on 3 February of 2005.

In addition, Kehsi Township DAC executive officer U Maung Maung Myint and chairman of Maingnin village PDC U Sai San Kyar formally opened 1200-gallon-capacity brick tank on 10 Feb-

ruary during 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Danubyu Township DAC of Ayeyawady Division, department personnel, members of social organizations and local people carried out sanitation work for proper drainage on 21 February.

MNA

Students of University of East Yangon perform a dance depicting Union Spirit at the talks held on 11-2-2005.



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# Chinese, Mauritian leaders pledge to deepen bilateral ties

PORT LOUIS, 1 March — Mauritian Prime Minister Paul Raymond Berenger met visiting Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan here on Monday with both of them pledging to deepen friendly bilateral relations and expand their mutual beneficial cooperation.

Zeng said China and Mauritius have enjoyed long and traditional friendship, and the bilateral relations have been growing steadily since the two countries established diplomatic relations 33 years ago.

High-level contact and exchanges between China and Mauritius have been frequent, and their cooperation in various fields have been effective, Zeng said, stressing that China highly appreciates the Mauritian Government's adherence to the "one China" policy.

Zeng said the recent visit paid by Berenger to China was successful, since the two countries' leaders have reached important consensus on further developing Sino-Mauritius relationship, with the two sides entering into agreements on economic and technology

cooperation.

The Chinese side would like to join hands with Mauritius to promote the bilateral relations to a new level by carrying out a variety of cooperation in the principle of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and common development, said Zeng.

China forged diplomatic ties with the Indian Ocean island country in 1972.

Trade volume between the two sides reached 138.28 million US dollars in 2004.

Berenger recalled his recent visit to China, saying he has visited the East Asian country for three times and each time he could feel the great changes being taken place in China.

He thanked the Chinese Government for providing Mauritius with aid and pledged that his gov-

ernment will strengthen cooperation with the Chinese side in political, economic and cultural fields to consolidate the traditional relationship between the two countries.

After the talk, Zeng left here for Beijing, concluding his African tour, which has taken him on official visits to Kenya, the Republic of the Congo and Angola.

MNA/Xinhua



A telescope at an other observatory in northern Japan on 1 March, 2005—INTERNET

## Hun Sen sets goals for nation's next five-year development

PHNOM PENH, 1 March — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Monday put forward the strategic goals and broad policies for the country's future development.

"For the present and future in particular 'the third five-year plan', Cambodia has to focus in the following three main

points," the Premier said at the opening of the national workshop on formulation of National Strategic Development Plan for 2006-2010.

First, Hun Sen said, is to speed up and to ensure a sustainable economic growth in between 6 per cent to 7 per cent per annum. The second is to implement population policy declared by the royal government by focusing on birth-spacing and ensuring the quality and health of human resources. And the third is to rigorously implement governance reform especially corruption eradication in order to equally distribute economic outcome.— MNA/Xinhua

## CPPCC Nat'l Committee received 4,400 proposals in 2004

BEIJING, 1 March— Since last year's Second Session, the 10th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) had received more than 4,400 proposals from its members, participating institutions and special committees.

These proposals involved a wide range of issues concerning the development of the country.

In the past years, the CPPCC National Committee has held meetings with officials from different ministries and sent 30 inspection teams to make on-the-spot studies of hot issues, which include rural and urban development, private economy, food safety, land use and protection migrant workers.

Meanwhile, the CPPCC National Committee has also sent 29 delegations to 44 foreign countries and received 28 delegations from 23 foreign nations and three international organizations. So far, it has sealed ties with 184 organizations, from 107 foreign countries, and eight international bodies.

In 2004, the CPPCC National Committee's subcommittee on the affairs of Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and overseas Chinese received 48 visiting delegations from the three areas and overseas Chinese communities. — MNA/Xinhua

## Uruguayan President-elect meets Chinese special envoy

MONTEVIDEO, 1 March— Uruguayan President-elect Tabare Vazquez on Monday met with Chinese Minister of Communications Zhang Chunxian, who is the special envoy of the Chinese Government.

The Chinese special envoy will attend the handover ceremony of the presidency of Uruguay on 1 March. During the meeting, Zhang presented a letter from Chinese President Hu Jintao and conveyed the warm greetings of Hu and Premier Wen Jiabao.

Hu said in the letter that China is willing to further develop friendly

relations and cooperation with Uruguay. He believed that the long-term stable bilateral relations will grow further with joint efforts.

Vazquez expressed his appreciation for the participation of the Chinese special envoy, noting that the Uruguayan people cherished traditional friendship with China.

He said Uruguay is satisfied with the development of bilateral relations in recent years. The new Uruguayan Government views enhancing relations with China as a fundamental diplomatic policy, and will constantly promote friendly cooperation with China in political, economic and cultural fields.

MNA/Xinhua

## Ukraine to pull out troops from Iraq

KIEV, 1 March — Ukraine's top security body decided Tuesday to withdraw the nation's troops from Iraq, and officials said the pullout would start this month and be completed by October.

The National Security and Defence Council, headed by President Viktor Yushchenko, made the widely expected decision to withdraw Ukraine's 1,650-strong contingent.

Ukraine, which has lost 17 soldiers in Iraq, strongly opposed the US-led war but later agreed to send a large contingent to serve under Polish command. The troop deployment was widely seen as an effort by then-President Leonid Kuchma to repair relations with Washington, frayed by allegations that he approved the sale of radar systems and other military equipment to

Saddam Hussein's regime in violation of UN sanctions.

The deployment in Iraq is deeply unpopular among Ukrainians, and one of Kuchma's last orders as president was to bring the troops home. In January, eight soldiers died in an explosion that Ukrainian defense officials described as a terrorist attack.

The pullout "will be completed by October 15," Yushchenko said. Defence Minister Anatoly Gritsenko told reporters that the phased withdrawal would begin on 15 March, and that 150 soldiers would leave Iraq in the first group.

"The second batch will have about 590 soldiers and the third the remainder," Yushchenko said.

The council, which also included the Foreign, Defence and interior ministers and other top officials, decided to order the pullout "after detailed consideration," Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk said, according to the Interfax news agency.

"The President announced this long ago, and apart from that there are two parliamentary resolutions on it," Tarasyuk said. Last year, parliament issued two nonbinding resolutions urging Kuchma to order the pullout.

Internet



Locals walk through the wreckage left by a car bomb which exploded next to a convoy of American military vehicles in the northern town of Mosul in Iraq on 28 Feb, 2005, though it was unclear if there were any casualties.—INTERNET



An attendant fills up a vehicle at a Sinopec gas station in Beijing on 1 March, 2005. — INTERNET

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## Slovak President visits Lithuania

RIGA, 1 March — Slovak President Ivan Gashparovic paid a state visit to Lithuania on Monday, seeking to boost bilateral ties, reports from Lithuania's capital Vilnius said.

After a meeting with his Lithuanian counterpart Valdas Adamkus, Gashparovic hoped bilateral cooperation will develop further.

Bilateral trade reached a record high of 21.3 million euros (about 27.7 million US dollars) in the first half of last year. Adamkus said he was looking forward to strengthening trade, investment and economic relations. — MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesian fuel consumption up by 15%

JAKARTA, 1 March — Indonesia's state oil and gas company Pertamina announced over the weekend that fuel consumption had increased by 15 per cent over the past two months from the same period last year.

The company said fuel consumption through February stood at 189,700 kilolitres per day, up from 165,100 kilolitre per day in the same two-month period in 2004.

The increase is believed to be linked to the government's plan to increase fuel prices by an average of 29 per cent next month.

"The increase is not a usual phenomenon. Usually, fuel consumption

decreases in the early months of the year," Pertamina said in a statement, as quoted on Monday by The Jakarta Post newspaper.

The company said it had a 22-day fuel stock to ensure supply security should the government's plan to raise fuel prices come into effect.

Since the plan to raise fuel prices was announced, there have been allegations of stockpiling by distributors.

Pertamina also said in the statement that last year's unaudited fuel consumption reached 61.7 million kilolitres, with automotive diesel fuel accounting for 26.9 million kilolitres, or 44 per cent of total consumption.

MNA/Xinhua

## China invests 850b yuan in major projects

BEIJING, 1 March — To accelerate the development of China's western regions and ethnic autonomous areas, China has invested 850 billion yuan (102 billion US dollars) in the construction of 60 important projects in its western regions since 2000, says a white paper issued by the Information Office of the State Council on Monday.

According to the white paper titled Regional Autonomy for Ethnic Minorities in China, the Chinese Government launched a grand strategy for the development of western China in 2000, which covers five autonomous regions, 27 autonomous prefectures and 83 of the 120 autonomous counties (banners).

In addition, three other autonomous prefectures are allowed to enjoy the preferential policies the state has adopted for the western regions.

The white paper says that starting in the period of the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957), the Chinese Government has arranged a batch of key construction

projects in ethnic autonomous areas, including the Baotou iron and steel base in Inner Mongolia, major high-ways linking Sichuan and Tibet, Qinghai and Tibet and main railway lines linking Baotou and Lanzhou, and Lanzhou and Xinjing.

In the 1990s, large transport facilities were constructed, including the railway line between Zhongwei in Ningxia and Baoji in Shaanxi, and the Nanjiang Railway and Tacheng Airport in Xinjiang.

Since 2000, the state has assisted ethnic autonomous areas to further convert their resource advantages into economic advantages by

investing in the construction of a number of key projects, such as the West-East Natural Gas Transmission Project, West-East Power Transmission Project and Qinghai-Tibet Railway.

Moreover, the white paper says, since 1999, the Chinese Government has launched large-scale transport infrastructure construction programmes that were intended to benefit all ethnic autonomous regions, such as "Outlet Highways for Impoverished Counties", "Asphalt Roads to Every County in Western China" and "Inter-County and Rural Highways".

MNA/Xinhua

## Colombia, WTO sign tourist promotion agreement

BOGOTA, 1 March — Colombia and the World Tourism Organization (WTO) signed a cooperation agreement Monday to promote Colombia's tourism.

The Culture Ministry said in a statement that measures aimed at promoting tourism in Colombia will be taken.

The main goal of the agreement is to maximize the available resources from each of the participating institutions to develop the country's tourism both in national and international terms, the statement said.

According to the agreement, Colombia and the WTO will also cooperate in market research and tourist information.

WTO Secretary General Francesco Frangialli, Colombian Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Jorge Botero and Colombian Culture Minister Maria Araujo signed the agreement.

MNA/Xinhua

## Shandong Province to invest heavily in energy in 2005

JINAN, 1 March — East China's Shandong Province is planning to invest 15 billion yuan (1.8 billion US dollars) in its energy sector in 2005, according to the provincial development and reform commission.

A senior official of the commission said they province will invest 6.06 billion yuan (about 730.1 million US dollars) in the coal sector, with plans to increase coal production by nine million tons. Most of the funds will be poured into the development of the juye coal field in the southeastern part of the province, which boasts proven reserves of 5.57 billion tons.

MNA/Xinhua

## French journalist captured in Iraq makes video plea for help

BAGHDAD, 1 March — French journalist Florence Aubenas, missing for nearly two months in Iraq, made a desperate plea for help on a video broadcast, saying her health was "very bad."

"I am French. I am a journalist with Liberation. Please help me. My health is very bad. I'm very bad psychologically also," the gaunt and exhausted-looking journalist pleaded in English in the undated video, of which AFP obtained a copy.

The 50-second film showed the veteran reporter for the left-wing daily wearing a pale long-sleeved top, seated on the floor with her knees bent against her chest.

It was the first public

confirmation that Aubenas was alive since she and her Iraqi translator Hussein Hanun al-Saadi — who is still missing but was not shown on the tape — were seen leaving their Baghdad hotel on 5 January.

Liberation's editor-in-chief, Serge July, said he was "shaken" to see the video, while the French-based media rights group Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said it was "disturbing" and "extremely worrying".

Prime Minister Jean-

Pierre Raffarin said France was "very concerned" about Aubenas and "very mobilized" to obtain her release.

Another foreign reporter in Iraq, Giuliana Sgrena of Italy's Il Manifesto, was kidnapped early February in Baghdad and later appeared in a video begging for her life.

About 170 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq over the past year. More than 30 have been killed and the rest were released or escaped. — Internet



US soldiers take up defensive positions after several shots were fired by guerrillas at their convoy in Mosul on 2 March, 2005. — INTERNET



# HR lawyers to file lawsuit against Rumsfeld

WASHINGTON, 2 March — Human rights lawyers will file a lawsuit in federal court on Tuesday against Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on behalf of eight men who say they were tortured by US forces in custody in Iraq and Afghanistan, sources familiar with the case said.

The lawsuit charges that officials at the highest levels of the US Government shoulder ultimate responsibility for the physical and psychological injuries sustained by the men while in American custody.

It was the latest development in a scandal over ill-treatment of US war prisoners that has drawn criticism from around the world.

The case will be filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights First in US District Court. The two groups scheduled a news conference later on Tuesday to announce details.

The groups did not state who would be named in the lawsuit, but sources familiar with the case said it was Rumsfeld.

"The men represented in the lawsuit were incarcerated in US detention facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan, where they were subjected to torture and other cruel and degrading treatment, including severe and repeated beatings, cutting with knives, sexual humiliation and assault, mock executions, death threats, and restraint in contorted and excruciating positions," the two groups said in a statement.

None of the eight men was charged with a crime,

the groups said.

Bill Lann Lee, an Assistant US Attorney General for civil rights during the Clinton Administration, and retired Rear Admiral John Hutson, former judge advocate general of the US Navy, were due to participate in the news conference.

This is not the first legal case over detainee abuse involving Rumsfeld.

US human rights lawyers in November filed a criminal complaint with Germany's federal prosecutor charging that Rumsfeld, former CIA director George Tenet and other senior officials bore responsibility for detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq.

The case was filed in Germany because its laws permit prosecution of war crimes and human rights violations across national borders. German officials on February 10 said they would take no action against Rumsfeld in the case.

An August 2004 report by a four-member panel appointed by Rumsfeld stated that he and other top Pentagon leaders contributed to an environment in which prisoners suffered sadistic abuse at Abu Ghraib.

MNA/Reuters



A model for Sanyo Electric Co Ltd displays the Xacti DMX-C5, which the company claims is the world's smallest, thinnest, and lightest digital movie camera, at a launch in Tokyo on 1 March, 2005.—INTERNET

## Japan's January jobless rate remains at 4.5 %

TOKYO, 2 March — Japan's unemployment rate in January stood at 4.5 per cent, unchanged from December, the government said on Tuesday.

The number of jobless people totalled 2.96 million in the reporting month, down 270,000 from a year earlier, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said in a preliminary report.

The December jobless rate was at a six-year low of 4.4 per cent when it was published in January, but has been revised.

In a separate report, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said the ratio of job offers to job seekers came to a seasonally adjusted 0.91 in January, up 0.01 point from December. The figure means there were 91 jobs available for every 100 job seekers.

Heizo Takenaka, State Minister in charge of Economic and Fiscal, said that the latest figure endorsed the government's view that the economy is picking up despite a short-term fluctuation.

Japan's employment situation improved over the past one year, mainly thanks to an export-led economic rebound.

MNA/Xinhua

## Malaysia, Singapore to move forward talks on bilateral issues

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 March — Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak Tuesday expressed confidence that the problem related to Indonesia's claim over Malaysia's oil concession area in the Sulawesi Sea can be resolved at the negotiating table.

Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta were enjoying a close relationship, Najib told reporters here, adding that "our relationship is good. We can resolve whatever problem through negotiations."

Najib, who is also Defence Minister, was asked about Indonesia's deployment of three warships in the oil concession area. Last week, the republic lodged a protest against a Malaysian oil production sharing contract with Anglo-Dutch giant Royal Dutch Shell in the Ambalat and East Ambalat Blocks in the Sulawesi Sea, which Jakarta claims as its territory.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Monday that the area granted by Petronas, the Malaysian National Oil Company, to Shell to explore oil and gas in two deep-water blocks in the Sulawesi Sea was within

Malaysian territory.

Petronas, on 16 February, signed a contract with Shell for the oil and gas concession when it won the bid tendered in September last year.

However, Indonesia has claimed that the Ambalat and East Ambalat Blocks to the east of Kalimantan have long been under the republic's administration and contracts for the development of the Ambalat Block and East Ambalat Block have already been awarded to Italian oil company ENI and US oil firm Unocal.

Indonesia has been protesting against Malaysia's claim of the areas since 1980, saying that Malaysia has no right to the oil and gas areas in Sulawesi Sea as both the countries have yet to decide on the new border between them. — MNA/Xinhua

## US soldier killed in gunfire in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 1 March — A US soldier was shot dead late Sunday while manning a traffic checkpoint in Baghdad, the US military said on Monday.

The Task Force Baghdad soldier died at a level two care facility just after 9 pm, 40 minutes after being shot while manning a traffic control point in southern

Baghdad, the military said in a statement. The military gave no further details, but said the incident was under investigation.

More than 1,490 US servicemen have been killed in Iraq since the US invasion of the country in March 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis wait near destroyed shops adjacent to the headquarters of the Iraqi Army in Fallujah, west of Baghdad recently.—INTERNET

## Wen Jiabao hopes for more cooperation with Malaysia

BEIJING, 2 March — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Tuesday that he hopes that both China and Malaysia will strengthen cooperation to the benefit of the peoples of both nations.

Premier Wen made the remarks at a meeting with Malaysian Supreme Head of State Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, who is here on a state visit to China at the invitation of President Hu Jintao. Concerning Sino-Malaysian trade, Wen said that Sino-Malaysian trade have grown rapidly over recent years and bilateral fruitful cooperation have been conducted in agriculture, high-tech, resources development and tourism.

He said the Chinese side is satisfied with the progress scored in bilateral economic and trade cooperation and there are still huge potentials for further cooperation.

Wen also talked about the good momentum for the growth of Sino-Malaysian relations and said that the Chinese side will, in line with the principle of building friendship and partnership with neighbours, be Malaysia's good friend with mutual trust and good partner with reciprocal cooperation forever.

Wen spoke highly of China-ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) relations, citing the substantial progress in China-ASEAN relations last year with the setting up of their strategic partnership and the initiation of building process of their free trade area.

The Chinese side will conduct close cooperation with Malaysia to consolidate China-ASEAN partnership and raise their cooperation to a new level, he said. Sirajuddin said that Malaysia resolutely adheres to the one-China policy and will continuously strengthen bilateral cooperation with mutual respect and reciprocal cooperation.

Malaysia-China economic and trade relations have been progressing rapidly, he acknowledged, and it is highly possible for the two countries to realize their trade goal of 50 billion US dollars in 2010.— MNA/Xinhua

## China strengthening aid to ethnic minority areas

**BEIJING, 1 March** — China has increasingly strengthened its assistance to impoverished ethnic minority areas, says a white paper issued by the Information Office of the State Council on Monday.

According to the white paper titled Regional Autonomy for Ethnic Minorities in China, since the mid-1980s, when the Chinese Government launched its large-scale poverty-alleviation drive in an organized and programme way, ethnic minorities and areas they live have always been key targets of governmental aid. Among the 331 impoverished counties designated as key recipients of state aid in 1986, 141 are in ethnic autonomous areas, accounting for 42.6 per cent of the total.

In 1994, China began implementing a Seven-Year Programme for Delivering 80 Million Peo-

ple out of Poverty, and among the 592 impoverished counties designated as key recipients of state aid, 257 are in ethnic autonomous areas, accounting for 43.4 per cent of the total.

The Outline Programme for Poverty Alleviation and Development in the Rural Areas of China, which began being implemented in 2001, once again recognized ethnic minority areas as key targets for assistance, the white paper says. In the 592 counties newly designated for state poverty alleviation and development, 267 are located in ethnic autonomous areas (excluding Tibet), ac-

counting for 45.1 per cent of the total. Tibet as a whole has been included as a target for key poverty alleviation and development from the state.

In 1990, the state established the Food and Clothing Fund for Impoverished Ethnic Minority Areas, aiming primarily at impoverished ethnic minority counties. In 1992, the state established the Fund for Ethnic Minorities Development, which is mainly used to deal with special difficulties encountered in the development of ethnic autonomous areas, and in the production and lives of ethnic minorities.

MNA/Xinhua



မြူးခြွေတာ၊ ထိန်းပါလေလွင်္ဂ၊ ထုတ်တုန်မြင်

An employee of Japan's electronics giant Matsushita Electric, known for its Panasonic-brand products, displays its new DVD recorder on 1 March, 2005.—INTERNET

## E China's sacred mountain to get renovation

**JINAN, 2 March** — China will renovate the sacred mountain of Taishan, a World Heritage site, to boom local tourism beginning in early March.

The face-lift, which costs an estimated 15 million yuan (about 1.8 million US dollars), will finish in late October, said an official with the tourism bureau of Shandong Province, where the mountain is located.

Dubbed as "the most preeminent of China's five sacred mountains," Taishan was listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1987 as a world natural and cultural heritage.

The other four mountains are western Huashan, southern Hengshan, northern Eternity and central

Songshan. The renovation includes repair work on historic relics and rebuilding damaged cultural architecture. Besides, blots on the landscape inconsistent with the historic scenery, such as modern buildings, will be demolished, the official said.

Taishan has received the warning for its commercialization, followed by Huangshan Mountain in east China's Anhui Province and The Wulingyuan Scenic Area in Zhangjiajie in central China's Hunan Province.

MNA/Xinhua.



Indian fishermen paddle their boats as sun rises over the River Ganges in the northern Indian city of Allahabad on 1 March, 2005. — INTERNET

## Deal on Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline possible if India agrees

**ISLAMABAD, 2 March** — Pakistani Petroleum Minister Amanullah Khan Jadoon on Monday said agreement on the multi-billion dollars Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project is possible in mid March if India agrees to join the proposed project.

"The agreement is possible on March 18 if India agrees to join the project," the minister was quoted by local Geo Television as saying on Monday.

Under the plan, natural gas would be transferred from southern Iran via a 1600-kilometre pipeline to Pakistan and on to India through a 1000-kilo-

metre line at an estimated cost of 3.5 billion US dollars.

Indian Oil Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar will visit Pakistan in March to attend an energy conference of petroleum ministers from seven South Asian countries.

"If India agrees we can ink an agreement on the

sidelines of the energy conference," the Pakistani Petroleum Minister said.

India had been concerned over the security of the proposed 3.5 billion dollars gas pipeline through Pakistan, an idea the three countries have been pursuing for the past several years without success.

Iran has been pursuing

the pipeline proposal with India and Pakistan since 1996.

Pakistan would have access to the gas, and earn an estimated 600 million dollars a year in transit fees. Iran says the proposed pipeline would save India around 300 million dollars a year in energy costs.

MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesia to teach students how to anticipate natural disasters

**JAKARTA, 2 March** — The Indonesian Ministry of National Education has planned to introduce a natural disaster anticipation programme to schools located in disaster-prone areas following the tsunamis that devastated Aceh in December.

Director General of Primary and Secondary Education Indra Djati Sidi has said that aside from rebuilding the areas, the government would train local people to prepare for a natural disaster and provide a trauma centre in the aftermath of a disaster.

"The post-tsunami

conditions leave us with a question of how to draft a school curriculum to help students anticipate an earthquake, flood, or other disasters as we realize that Indonesia is geographically vulnerable to disasters," he was quoted on Tuesday by the *Jakarta Post* newspaper as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

## Exxon Mobil plans to sell Sinopec shares

**NEW YORK, 2 March** — Exxon Mobil Corp said that it planned to sell its stake in China Petroleum & Chemical Corp (Sinopec) for 1.4 billion US dollars.

Exxon Mobil Corp, the world's largest company by market value, told investors that it offered to sell Sinopec shares valued at 1.4 billion US dollars, twice its initial investment in the company four years ago.

Exxon was the third

of the world's three biggest publicly traded oil companies to sell Sinopec stakes they bought in 2000 to help gain access to China. BP Plc and Royal Dutch/Shell Group, two largest European oil companies, also sold their stakes in Sinopec last year.

He said the programme was part of the master plan now being prepared by the National Development Planning Board.

Indra said his office had started training teachers and students in certain areas after a major earthquake hit Bengkulu in 2002.

## Tobacco export tops \$117m in Yunnan Province

**KUNMING, 2 March** — Southwest China's Yunnan Province exported 81,500 tons of flue-cured tobacco in 2004, which topped 117 million US dollars, creating a record high, according to local Customs on Monday. Exports of the province's flue-cured tobacco accounted for 52.9 per cent of the country's total in 2004 which stood at 221 million US dollars, or 9.7 percentage points higher than the 2003 figure.

The flue-cured tobacco exported by the province in 2004 was priced at 1,434 US dollars per ton on average, representing an increase of 250 US dollars over figures registered in 2003. Some 18 countries and regions imported flue-cured tobacco from Yunnan in 2004, instead of 15 in 2003.—MNA/Xinhua



# Towards new nation with flourishing Niraggala

*Chingya (Maubin)*

The national people of the Union of Myanmar have been independent throughout the history of the nation. With own culture, customs and traditions along with natural resources in abundance, the nation has put emphasis on the legislative, executive and judicial sectors, and the Niraggala flourishes all over the nation. According to the Rajadhamma Singaha Treatise written by Yawmingyi U Po Hlaing, the word Niraggala is made up of two words "Ni" and "Raggala". The word "Ni" means "no need" and the word "Raggala", door. So, it can be learnt that in the past, the crime-occurrence rate of Myanmar was so low that it did not need to install doors in the doorways of the homes.

In the course of Myanmar history, Myanmar nationals wrote and established laws, ruled the nation and delivered judgements on their own. The respective boards of judges divided the cases into several groups such as civil appeal case, criminal case, revenue case, and religious affairs case and so on and so forth. And the cases were delivered by judges at six levels — court of village headman, court of town governor, court of four judges, court of crown prince, court of the queen, and court of the ruling king. Whenever court of the ruling king made some mistakes accidentally or ignorantly, Sasanabaing Sayadaws (members of the Buddhist Order) pointed out the weaknesses and ratified into correct order.

According to the fourth volume of Visodita Treatise compiled by the Sishei Sayadaw, ten per cent of the costs were levied on criminal cases, compiling the facts about the cases, civil appeal cases and other cases, issuing warrant orders, hiring lawyers, and holding those who broke laws in custody. The rates of fees to pay to plaintiffs had to be announced for the awareness of the public. Those who overcharged the fees were taken action. All the courts in the nation delivered the cases in accordance with the existing laws. The royal decree was issued in 1215 Myanmar Era.

At that time, the cases were judged in conformity with the treatises on the Code of Laws. Among them, the treatise compiled by King Dwuttabaung was recommended unanimously by all those who were well versed in law. According to the data collected by King Dwuttabaung, there were 36 treatises on Code of Laws altogether at that time.

Whenever there were criminal cases to be delivered more than usual, special appellate benches were formed temporarily to avert delay. All the defendants who faced sentences did not feel offended at the judgements delivered by the judges, and they were satisfied with the sentences. So, it reflected the principles of justice in the rule of Myanmar kings.

A British attache Sir Michael Seamas who was on a visit in Innwa in 1795 in his travel diary said he found that Myanmarers enjoyed themselves at the festivals. They obeyed and observed disciplines and he found no one drunken. There were no thefts nor insults to each other. Even though people who picked up by chance valuable belongings of others on the roads, they never thought to misappropriate them and handed them over to the owners. It was far away from the fact that Myanmarers were completely kept in the dark about things, and no doubt, the nationals were polite and had learnt much. The codes of laws indicated knowledge and wisdom and good moral conducts of the people.

After annexing Myanmar through the three aggressive wars on the nation, the British colonialists practised the Divide and Rule policy

to drive a wedge between the mainland and the hilly regions. The other laws including Sanad which were enacted just for the hilly regions with the intention of sowing discord and hatred among the national brethren.

The British colonialists also enacted the 1935 Myanmar administration law, of which Section 41 (1) said that the prescribed laws did not dominate the hilly regions. And these took effect only when the British colonialists issued special notifications.

The invaders then designated Myanmar as a state of India. The invaders replaced the Myanmar's code of laws with the English code of laws that was being practised in the courts of India. There were changes in the constitution of courts and judicial sector of Myanmar.

The judicial power practised in Myanmar in the colonial days contributed towards strengthening the colonialism alone, and it was not in conformity with the customs and traditions of the nation. In

**Now, the National Convention is on its way. The delegates made discussions at the National Convention that resumed on 17-5-2004 to lay down basic principles for the sharing of legislative power. The delegates attending the National Convention that resumed on 17-2-2005 are holding discussions to adopt detailed basic principles for division of the legislative power and the judicial power.**

response to the demands of Myanmar people, the intruders established some laws. The imperialists enacted Myanmar Act No 24 in 1939 to satisfy the demand of the Young Men Buddhist Association and Myanmar Young Women's Associations.

A total of 769 laws were enacted in the nation during the period from the colonial period to the parliament period (1948-1962), and 182 laws from 1962 to 1974.

After 1988, the Tatmadaw Government practised the policy through which skilled lawyers delivered the cases and served the interests of the people. During the time of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, a total of 139 laws were established, and during the time of the State Peace and Development Council (up to 25-5-2001), 30. In Myanmar a total of 1,245 laws were enacted and 495, annulled, and 750 are existing.

Now, steps are being taken to strengthen the judicial sector of the nation based on the acts, rules and regulations, directives, and procedures descended from the 750 laws. The State leaders occasionally give instructions on measures and steps for further strengthening the legal sector of the nation. With respect to the outbreak of 11 major categories of crimes in Myanmar, there were 8,510 cases in 2001, compared to 38,596 in 1980.

Now, the National Convention, the first and foremost of the State's seven-point Road Map, is on its way. The delegates made discussions at the National Convention that resumed on 17 May 2004 to lay down basic principles for the sharing of legislative power. The delegates attending the National Convention that resumed on 17 February 2005 are holding discussions to adopt the detailed basic principles for the division of the legislative power and the judicial power.

Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein addressed the plenary session of the National Convention on 17 February 2005. In his address, the NCCC

chairman said that only when the embankment of a lake is strong enough will lily flowers be in full bloom. Likewise, only when Our Three Main National Causes are in order can democratic system last long. No lily flowers blossom amid flames and hot ashes. In like manner, democracy will flourish only in the disciplined human society where peace and stability prevail with the rule of law.

According to the basic principles adopted for the legislative, executive and judicial powers, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw made up of Pyithu Hluttaw and National Hluttaw, is the highest-level legislative organization.

It is learnt that the Pyithu Hluttaw will be consisted of 440 delegates, and the National Hluttaw, 220 delegates. Division Hluttaws or State Hluttaws will be formed as well.

The representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw will be elected by the people across the nation. Therefore, the delegates representing all the national races will be elected to the Pyithu Hluttaw. And 12 delegates from each Division or State will be elected to the National Hluttaw.

Now, the National Convention has adopted principles for more national brethren to be membership of respective legislative bodies. At the National Convention that resumed on 17 May 2004, the delegates led by the National Convention Convening Work Committee held thorough discussions on drawing lists of legislative bodies at the Union level, and Division or State levels if necessary for matters on legislation to be taken by respective legislative bodies at the National Convention. They also discussed matters on laws to be made by the self-administered districts. Concerning the forming of legislative bodies at all levels, the National Convention delegates made discussions to their full satisfaction and then submitted 18 papers to the National Convention.

The National Convention will lay down detailed basic principles for delegation of the legislative power to be included in the framing of the State Constitution. They will also make discussions for laying down detailed basic principles for delegation of the executive and judicial powers. Now, a total of 1,075 delegates from the eight delegate groups accounting for 99.44 per cent are discussing at the National Convention for adopting detailed basic principles for the three branches of the new State — legislative, executive and judicial powers.

Since years of yore, Niraggala has flourished in Myanmar, home to a variety of national races who have strictly preserved good moral conducts in order not to commit misdeeds physically, verbally and mentally. The Tatmadaw Government is making all-out efforts to ensure successful completion of the National Convention so as to flourish genuine democracy at home.

Taking the most valuable lessons from the nation's historic events and warding off racism, localism and sectarianism and overcoming the possible evil consequences that can undermine the unity among the national races due to the alien instigations and interventions, the delegates hand in hand with each other are holding discussions at the National Convention for the emergence of an enduring State Constitution.

The National Convention will have laid down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles for legislative, executive and judicial sectors, three branches of the State sovereignty. Thus, Niraggala will flourish again in Myanmar soon.

*(Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 2-3-2005)*

**(Translation: MS)**

## 140m gallons to be added to...

(from page 1)  
station and installation of power lines by the mayor and construction of the syphon and use of 76 inches diameter steel pipes by YCDC member Co Tin Soe.

After giving necessary instruction, the Secretary-1 inspected documentary photos of building the head regulator and the syphon and progress of tasks.

Next, they proceeded to the construction site of Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyeik) near Ahtayu Village in Hmawby Township and oversaw construction of lakes at the different areas, the pump station and the sub-power station.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein reports on functions of Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyeik). — MNA

tion.

Head of Assessment Department Dr Tun Than Tun briefed the Secretary-1 on availability of clean water

and process of water supply system. The Secretary-1 stressed the need to supply hygienic standard of drinking water and to minimize

loss and wastage systematically due to increase of city dwellers population.

Next, the Secretary-1 inspected sedi-

ment and cleaning process of water from the main canal.

On completion of the project, it can add supply of more 140

million gallons of water to the city's daily water supply system in addition to present 95 million gallons.

MNA

## NC delegates in recreational activities

YANGON, 2 March — As today being a public holiday, the delegates to the National Convention Convening took relaxation at Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township today.

During their recreation, they took physical exercises playing valleyball, golf, tennis, badminton and lifting

weight.

Moreover, the delegates bought the personal goods, books, journals and notebooks from the welfare shops opening at the camp. They also enjoyed foreign and local news and other interesting programme through channel lines of TV.

MNA



NC delegates practicing golf on holiday of National Convention.

MNA

National Convention delegates taking physical exercises.

MNA

## Repared road put back into service in Thakayta

YANGON, 2 March — As a gesture hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to put back the repaved Yadanabon 2nd lane into service was held at the archway on the street in Ward 9, Thakayta Township, this morning.

Present were those in charge of Yangon Division USDA Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn and Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, officials and local people. USDA CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Yangon Division USDA Acting Secretary U Aung Myint and wards elder U Ba Khin formally opened the street.

Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Col Maung Pa sprinkled scented water on the stone plaque.

The street, 1,205 feet long and 10 feet wide, was built at a cost of over K 3.3 million.

Next, the CEC members managed to supply drinking water to local people of Ward 9.— MNA

## Grovit chewtablets introduced

YANGON, 2 March— The product Grovit chewtablet, imported by the USV Co Ltd and distributed by the Zizawa Healthcare Co Ltd, was

introduced at the Traders Hotel here this afternoon.

Managing Director of the company U Saw Mya Aung and Country Manager of the USV de-

livered speeches on the occasion.

The officials concerned briefed those present on the product.

MNA



The ceremony to introduce Grovit chewtablets in progress.— MNA

## Spoken English course opened

YANGON, 2 March— The opening of the spo-

ken English course No 1/2005 for staff of the In-

land Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport was held at the IWT on Pansodan Street here yesterday.

A total of 54 trainees are attending the course.

MNA

### All this needs to be known

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



## Commander, Minister open Mandalay City Hotel



Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han formally open Mandalay City Hotel.— COMMUNICATION

YANGON, 2 Mar — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw attended the ceremony to open Mandalay City Hotel at the corner of 26th and 27th Streets, Chanayethasan Township on 28 February.

First, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint formally unveiled the signboard of the hotel and so did Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and a hotelier U Hla Aung. Next, the commander, the minister and party viewed

around the hotel.

Afterwards, the minister together with officials concerned proceeded to Meiktila Hotel, Meiktila Township, where the minister looked into tasks being carried out for rebuilding of hotel and gave necessary instructions to the officials concerned.

After that, the minister went to post offices in Meiktila, Mahlaing, Taungtha and Myingyan Townships and inspected measures to be taken for better communication system in the region.

Later, the minister checked progress in building of Mandalay Palace Tower in Bagan-NyaungU Township and gave instructions on timely completion of the construction project.

MNA

## USDA CEC member tours Mon State

YANGON, 2 March — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, accompanied by Managing Director U Win Htein of Myanma Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise, on 25 February, inspected placing of gravel on Kawhnat Road in Kadoe-Kawhnat of Mawlamyine Township.

On 26 February, the CEC member attended the ceremony to open Shwehintha Gymnasium in Mudon. Next, the ceremony to hand over sports equipment to

Mon State Sports and Physical Education Committee was held at the Mon State Hall. The CEC member attended the ceremony together with Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

The CEC member oversaw the site for construction of Vocation Training School of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Kwanta Village of Mudon Township. He also inspected construction of the annex of Mudon Home for the Aged.

On 27 February, the CEC member met with local USDA members in Ye Township and Khawza Township. In his tour, the CEC member oversaw rural development tasks.

On 28 February, Brig-Gen Ohn Myint met with the secretary and executives of Ye Township at the Ye Station Hall. In Lamaing, he also met with local authorities and departmental officials and inspected progress of building the combined team.

On 1 March, the CEC member explained success of the seven-step road map and active participation of rural development after meeting with the acting Secretary and executives of Mon State USDA. In Paung, the minister inspected salt production area and gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA

## Trainees visit National Races Village

YANGON, 2 March — Altogether 50 trainees of Public Relations Proficiency Officer Course No 1/2005, organized by the Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information, accompanied by Deputy Director of IPRD U Than Tun, Assistant Director Daw Khin Myint Khine and officials, went on study tour of National Races Village, Thakayta Township this morning.

During their arrival, NRV construction project in-charge Major Zaw Win Aung explained purpose of opening the National Races Village and its salient points to the trainees. The trainees observed traditional culture of the national races there.

MNA

## Myanmar delegation arrives back

YANGON, 2 March — At the invitation of Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe arrived back here by air yesterday evening.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pham Quang Khon, Director-General of Department of Development

Affairs Col Myo Myint and officials concerned.

The Myanmar delegation and Vice-Chairman of Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs Deputy Minister Mr Ha Hung exchanged views on national races affairs and development tasks of border areas. After the meeting, the Myanmar delegation was hosted dinner by Chairman of Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs Minister Mr Ksor Phuc.

The Myanmar delegation went on study tour of Vietnamese border areas such as Lang Son Province as Quang Ninh and Tra Vinh.

MNA

## Minister for Foreign Affairs sends felicitations to his counterpart of Bulgaria

YANGON, 3 March — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Solomon Passy, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2005. — MNA

## Minister inspects paving of roads, extension of runway at Hkamti Airport

YANGON, 1 March — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and officials of Public Works inspected paving of the road in Taze Township, Shwebo District on 19 February.

On 20 February, the minister and party inspected waterway in Maukkataw Creek in Minkin Township. The minister gave instructions on maintenance of bridges and culverts and regular inspection.

The minister inspected the site for construction of Phonetone Creek Bridge on Thetkalkyin-Phaungpyin-Hkamti. On completion of the Bridge, one can go to Kalewa from Mawleik via Thetkalkyin and Thanandaw. The minister inspected Aw, Maing and Mu Creek bridges.

On 21 February, the minister met officials and told them to build all-weather road and extend the roads. He inspected construction sites for Nant Hteinkwin Bridge and Uru River Bridge.

Uru River Bridge, a suspension bridge, is 1,090 feet long. On 22 February, the minister and party inspected extension of the runway at Hkamti Airport. The runway will be extended to 8,500 feet long and 100 feet wide. In the future jets can take off and land at the airport. — MNA

## CEC member makes field trips

YANGON, 2 March — USDA CEC member Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt met with executives and organizers of Kyaiklat Township at the township association office on 28 February.

In the afternoon, the CEC member attended the ceremony to open the 18th Aung Awba Street built by Bogale Township Development Affairs Committee and Bogale Township USDA as a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

Next, the CEC member joined the meeting with executives, organizers of Bogale and Mawlamyinegyun Township USAs and War Veterans Organizations at Bogale Township USDA Office.

On 1 March, the CEC member held a discussion with executives and organizers of Dedaye Township USDA and War Veterans Organization members at the Dedaye Township USDA Office.— MNA



Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Col Tin Ngwe discusses national races affairs and development tasks of border areas with Vietnamese Chairman of Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs Minister Mr Ksor Phuc.— PBANRDA

## Syria seeking help from some Arab friends

**DAMASCUS, 2 March**—Syria is seeking the help of some Arab friends who are also regional allies of the United States to fend off mounting pressure over its presence in Lebanon, analysts and diplomats said on Tuesday.

Lebanon's Syrian-backed government collapsed on Monday at a parliamentary sitting on the assassination of former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri, which shocked Lebanon and piled pressure on the country many held responsible — Syria.

"There is a drive to secure an Arab cover for the situation," said prominent Syrian political analyst Imad al-Shuaibi. "Syria is directing its effort into preventing the situation from becoming an international matter."

"It is only normal that Syria cooperates with its traditional allies, who are at the same time allies of the United States, to deflate tension," an Arab diplomat said. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara met top Egyptian and Saudi officials at the weekend, apparently to try to offset US pressure, compounded by Israeli accusations that Damascus had a hand in a Tel Aviv suicide bombing on Friday.

Syria also appears to be offering some tokens of goodwill, the analysts said.

It has given some of its strongest verbal support to Palestinian peace efforts with Israel and last week said it wanted to cooperate with the United Nations to find a way to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1559 calling for the withdrawal of foreign

forces from Lebanon.

It also agreed on Monday to hand back to Jordan a huge tract of land along their border, heralding a new era of ties with Amman after decades of Syrian incursions on its land.

And it might also be helping Washington on the Iraq front to placate it over Lebanon, analysts and diplomats said.

"It seems Syria wants an easier way out ... a compromise of some sort under an Arab umbrella," a diplomat said. "They appear more convinced that they should comply with Resolution 1559 but maybe they want to dress it with an Arab cover."

That cover, an Arab diplomat said, could be in the guise of the Taif Accord that ended Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, under which Syrian troops, which poured into Lebanon during the war, were to redeploy to the eastern Bekaa Valley. Syria and Lebanon were supposed to later negotiate a complete withdrawal of Syria's 14,000 troops.

Damascus wanted "to marry 1559 with the Taif Accord, which is an Arab arrangement, while the resolution is an American and French measure," the Arab diplomat said. Both Egypt and Saudi Arabia, informal allies of Syria, helped craft the 1989 Taif Accord. — *MNA/Reuters*



Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt attends the ceremony to inaugurate Aung Awba 18th Street in Bogale on 28-2-2005. (News on page 9) — PBANRDA

## Bosnian energy firm plans \$60 m investment in Indonesia

**JAKARTA, 2 March**—Bosnia and Herzegovina intends to increase its trade with Indonesia and invest 60 million US dollars in the power sector in the near future.

"Bosnia and Herzegovina's Energoinvest Co is planning to invest around 60 million in Indonesia's power sector," Bosnia and Herzegovina's ambassador to Indonesia Zdravko Rajic was quoted on Tuesday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

"It has already signed a memorandum of understanding with PLN (state-owned electricity company PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara) to build transmission lines," he said, adding Bosnia and Herzegovina's power and coal companies had a lot of experience in Indonesia.

Despite the two nations' close ties — especially on the political front — their economic relations are not reflective of the two

countries' potential. Rajic said that in 2003, the value of bilateral trade reached 4 million dollars.

He is optimistic that the situation will change rapidly in the coming months, after Bosnia and Herzegovina's Chamber of Commerce signed a memorandum of understanding on bilateral trade in December 2004 with its counterpart in Indonesia.

Indonesia exports cacao, furniture, wheat products, wood and carpet to Bosnia and Herzegovina and imports electrical products, machines and mechanical equipment from the country. Rajic said the high level contacts between the two country's leaders have strengthened the relationship.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Oil prices hold firm near \$52 per barrel

**NEW YORK, 2 March**—Oil prices held firm near 52 US dollars a barrel on Tuesday as cold, snowy weather in the US northeast kept furnaces blazing, putting strain on already tight heating oil stockpiles.

US light crude futures eased 7 cents to 51.68 US dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, 60 cents below a four-month peak of 52.28 US dollars struck on Monday. London Brent crude rose 5 cents to 50.11 US dollars a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange.

A blast of cold weather in the northeast, the world's largest heating oil market, was expected to bring this week's demand for the key winter fuel 14 per cent above normal, according to the US National Weather Service.

US heating oil inventories are already running about 7 per cent below a year ago, even as stockpiles of crude oil and gasoline run at an 8 per cent surplus, according to the latest government figures.

The US Energy Information Administration will release its new weekly inventory report on Wednesday.

day morning, with dealers anticipating further declines in distillate stocks, which include heating oil.

Traders said a tight global supply and demand balance and a weaker US dollar has also attracted increased fund interest in recent weeks, keeping prices lofty.

"Commodities seem to be a rather popular alternative (to bonds, equities and the dollar) for funds searching for a trend," wrote Edward Meir of brokerage Man Energy.

"The energy complex has captured its fair share of interest, as evidenced by expanding open interest. Whether this growing level of interest can be rewarded by ever-higher prices remains to be seen," he added.

Headline 50 US dollars crude has led OPEC oil producers to back away from talk of a possible output cut for the second quarter. — *MNA/Reuters*

## Chile, Bolivia sign visa exemption deal

**SANTIAGO, 2 March**—Chile and Bolivia signed an agreement Tuesday to enable their citizens to travel across the common border without visas or passports.

The agreement was signed by Foreign Ministers Ignacio Walker of Chile and Juan Siles of Bolivia at the Uruguayan capital of Montevideo, where the two were attending the inauguration ceremony of Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez.

Under the deal which will take effect in April or May, citizens of the two South American nations

can carry their identification documents to move through the common border, said reports reaching here from Montevideo.

Chilean President Ricardo Lagos highlighted the importance of the agreement, saying people used to spend two hours to have their documents authorized along the common border.

*MNA/Xinhua*



Selected Myanmar volleyball team and Kinki University of Japan team seen in action of Myanmar-Japan Friendly Volleyball Match on Wednesday. (News on page 16) — NLM



## Britain has one of the highest levels of child poverty

LONDON, 2 March — Britain has one of the highest levels of child poverty of the world's richest nations even though there was a significant drop in poverty rates over the last decade, a UN report said on Tuesday.

The UNICEF study said 15.4 per cent of British youngsters under 18 live in households with yearly income at 50 per cent or less of the national average of about 27,000 pounds.

The rate is classed by UNICEF as "exceptionally high".

But despite Britain's low showing, the UN report praised the government for its efforts to reduce child poverty. Britain was only one of four OECD countries out of 24 where poverty rates showed noticeable declines.

The report suggested Britain was on course in its battle to eradicate child poverty although it has a long way to go. Until the

late 1990s, the country had one of the highest child poverty rates in the OECD.

Among other countries, the report concluded child poverty was overall on the rise.

About 22 per cent of young people under the age of 18 in the United States and 28 per cent in Mexico live in poverty, but in Denmark the figure is only 2.4 per cent, 2.8 in Finland and 3.4 per cent in Norway, it said.

The report was based on figures supplied over the past 15 years by national governments to the OECD in Paris, which tracks the economies of its 30 high-income member nations, including the 24 in the study.

MNA/Reuters

## FAO reports 36 countries need food assistance

ROME, 2 March — A report of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said Tuesday 36 countries worldwide need external food assistance and 11 others face unfavourable harvest.

According to the latest issue of *Foodcrops and Shortages*, 23 of the countries that need external food assistance are located in Africa.

In Eritrea, "successive years of inadequate rains have seriously undermined crop and livestock production," and in Sudan, the harvest will be below average due to conflict and drought. Kenya's poor second season maize crop will exacerbate food shortages in parts of the country, while Somalia's good secondary harvest will improve food supplies in main agricultural areas, the report said.

In southern Africa, FAO said prospects for the 2005 main season crops are mixed because of "delayed, erratic and generally below normal rainfall during the first half of the season." The food situation, particularly in Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Swaziland, is precarious during the current lean months. In Asia, the earthquake and Indian Ocean tsunamis on 26 December "caused a large number of deaths and destroyed livelihoods of millions of people in several countries. The worst affected include Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, India and Thailand."

Total cereal production in China is forecast by the report to increase by 11 per cent over last year, as a result of good weather, strong prices and government support policies. A good harvest is expected in Afghanistan and Asian countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, owing mainly to favourable weather conditions, FAO said. — MNA/Xinhua



This is an undated photo, released by Nyko Technologies, of the Nyko Movie Player. Now that Apple's popular iPods are everywhere, logic dictates that there's a pretty penny to be made selling accessories for the must-have music player. —INTERNET

## Russia to test sea-based missile system

MOSCOW, 2 March — Russia will begin flight tests of a new sea-based intercontinental ballistic missile, Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said on Tuesday, according to ITAR-TASS news agency.

"We will begin flight tests of the sea-based *Bulava* intercontinental ballistic missiles" while adopting the *Topol-M* mobile missile systems, Ivanov told German and Italian Press. The minister did not say when the test of the strategic missile system, which could be armed with a nuclear warhead and modernized for land-based use in the future, will start.

Russia currently stores most of its heaviest, intercontinental ballistic *Topol-M* missiles in silos. The Russian leadership

has repeatedly said that it was developing unrivalled missiles that could penetrate any defence systems in the world and no other countries could catch up with.

Russia will remain a major nuclear power, "but we will not bake missiles like cakes as we did in the Soviet era," Ivanov was cited as saying.

He stressed that the quantity of the missiles should ensure Russia's security in any potential development of the international situation.

MNA/Xinhua

## "Smart" immune cells can fight off cancer

LOS ANGELES, 2 March — Scientists have found that some immune cells are "smarter" than others in efforts to educate the body to fight off cancer, the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Centre reported on Tuesday.

Working with collections of human cells, scientists tested kill-rates of two kinds of T-cells "primed" to home in on myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow that kills over 11,000 Americans annually. Those living in the bone marrow outperformed their counterparts circulating in the blood by more than 90 per cent.

"It is very difficult to design cancer therapies that get the body's immune system to recognize and kill cancer cells that the system has ignored for a long time," said Ivan Borrello, MD, assistant

professor of oncology and director of the research, which is published in the 1 March issue of journal *Cancer Research*.

In nature, T-cells are responsible for identifying cells that are foreign to the body, including genetically altered cancer cells, and marking them for destruction. In the Hopkins study of both kinds of T-cells, those from the blood and bone marrow, scientists mixed them with magnetic beads coated with tumor antibodies, a sort of "artificial intelligence" that activated and expanded the T-cells'

cancer-killing mode.

The marrow T-cells identified not only mature myeloma cells but the primitive cells responsible for the disease. Activated bone marrow T-cells stopped the growth of 86 per cent of myeloma stem cell colonies compared to 47 per cent for activated T-cells taken from circulating blood. The researchers' next step is to determine whether the cells' ability to limit cancer growth in culture dishes ultimately may do the same in patients.

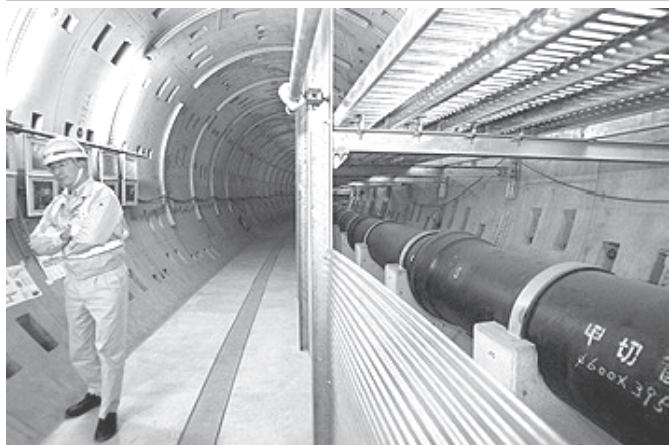
The researchers are planning studies in a small

number of myeloma patients to test the activated marrow T-cells alone and in combination with a myeloma vaccine.

"While T-cells from circulating blood traditionally are used in immunotherapy strategies because they are easy to obtain and grow, they often don't recognize the tumour," Borrello said.

"In the case of myeloma, we believe the marrow T-cells have certain surface markers that may help them migrate back to the site of the tumour," he added. "Moreover, the marrow itself contains some type of stimulant to attract the cells," says Kimberly Noonan, first author of the paper.

MNA/Xinhua



A worker walks in a common utility tunnel, which are under construction 40 metres beneath the surface in downtown Tokyo recently as one of the counter-measures against possible massive earthquakes.

INTERNET

## Lavish campaign unveiled to stamp out smoking across Europe

BRUSSELS, 2 March — Europe's health chief unveiled a lavish campaign on Tuesday to stamp out smoking across the European Union and reduce the hundreds of thousands of deaths each year that are blamed on consuming tobacco.

"It upsets me, it makes me furious that the single cause of so many preventable diseases is still there," EU Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Markos Kyprianou said two days after a global anti-smoking treaty went into force.

"The target of this campaign will be young people and we know they are the target of the tobacco companies," he said. "The average age of taking up smoking in the EU has gone down to 13. This is a very worrying trend," he told a news conference.

The campaign, called "HELP - For a life without tobacco", is the EU's second and will cost 72 million euros (95.13 million US dollars) up to 2008. The first ended in December and cost 18 million euros over three years. —MNA/Reuters

**ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV "MANDALAY" VOY NO 148/N**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MANDALAY" Voy No. 148/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 03-03-2005 and will be berthing on about 04.03.05 and cargoes will be discharged into the permits of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge or cargo from the vessel.

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

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**China draws framework  
on protecting Chengjiang fauna fossils**

KUNMING, 1 March — Scores of paleontologists from various parts of China are gathering at Chengjiang County in southwestern China's Yunnan Province to draw up a framework on protecting famous Chengjiang fauna fossils and adjacent geological environment.

The framework was made to deal with the contradictions between the protection of Chengjiang animal fossils and mineral exploitation. In recent years, people in Chengjiang County and some surrounding areas began to open up phosphoric deposits on the fringes of the Chengjiang fauna fossil protected zones, posing a

threat to this vital archaeological site.

The framework, drawn up by prestigious Yunnan University, underscores on coordinating efforts in protecting Chengjiang fauna fossils while boosting local economic growth and integrating scientific research with protection. It covers a wide range of subjects, said Zhang Keqin, vice-president of Yunnan University. Meanwhile, the paleontology laboratory of Yunnan University was inaugurated last week to make a further study on fauna fossils in Chengjiang where fossils recording "Cambrian explosion" were discovered.

MNA/Xinhua

**EU to delay new wood packaging rules**

BRUSSELS, 1 March — EU agriculture ministers agreed on Monday to delay new wood packaging rules aimed at keeping out tree-eating insects that the United States has complained would disrupt 80 billion US dollars worth of its exports, officials said.

The insects, which lurk in wood packaging used for a wide variety of products, can emerge to destroy European forests.

From 1 March, all wood packaging imported into the EU will have to meet international standards that cover pallets, cases, crates and loose packing. Materials such as plywood, chipboard and thinner woods used in fruit boxes will be exempt.

But in a move designed to soothe transatlantic tensions and proposed by the EU's executive Commission, the EU will not require that bark be stripped off pallets and other wooden materials until one year later, from

1 March, 2006.

"This compromise is a win-win situation, allowing the EU to implement already significantly strengthened rules while allowing our EU partners to adjust... for the future," EU Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Markos Kyprianou told a monthly meeting of Europe's agriculture ministers.

The United States complained that its wood packaging industry had not had enough time to prepare and raised questions about the necessity of the de-barking measure. It was joined by several other countries, including Canada, China and Mexico. "The Commission responded quite favourably. They didn't want to irritate the Americans," one EU diplomat said.

"The de-barking requirement will be suspended for a year," he said. "Phytosanitary

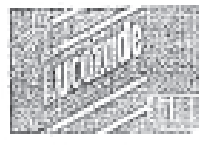
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**United Parcel Service Inc has big plans for China**

HONG KONG, 1 March — The world's largest package-delivery service, United Parcel Service Inc., is looking to China's burgeoning logistics market to drive growth for its earnings as the company's home market in the United States stagnates, a company official says.

"Our plan in China is really aggressive," said Daniel Chen, managing director for strategic planning and development for UPS in China.

"We are ahead of many players here in the field in terms of expanding and building up infrastructure," Chen said, noting the Atlanta-based firm has committed over 600 million US dollars (451 million Australian dollars) in the past three months for investment in China.

Of the total capital

expenditure earmarked for China, about 500 million US dollars (376 million Australian dollars) will be used to expand infrastructure by building 20 new warehouse and distribution facilities over the next two years. This will bring the total number of such centres to 60 by the end of 2006, Chen said on Friday.

UPS also plans to invest 100 million US dollars (75 million Australian dollars) in expanding a joint-venture express delivery company with Sinotrans Group, one of China's biggest express parcel operators.

When the deal is concluded, UPS will own the company, making it the first foreign company to have a wholly owned operation in the express parcel business in China once Beijing has relaxed

ownership rules in the sector at the end of the year under the World Trade Organization.

Once that happens, Chen said, UPS will have wholly owned operations in 23 locations in China covering 200 cities.

UPS' expansion in China follows a banner year for the company's China operations in 2004, when its export volume in the market doubled, reflecting the country's surging economy.

Chen expects business volume from China to grow at a faster rate in 2005 than in previous years.

"We grew 100 per cent last year while growth in the year before was between 50 per cent and 60 per cent," Chen said.

"So if you take that trend and project it onto this year, the growth could be as high as 200 per cent," he said.

Chen said UPS' future expansion in China may involve acquisitions of either international or local companies.

His bullish outlook for China contrasts with the firm's sluggish operating environment in its home market, the United States, where the company makes the bulk its revenue. UPS reported a mere 1.3-per cent on-year rise in fourth-quarter earnings from its overall operations, down from 20 per cent in the third quarter, due to competitive pressures.

MNA/AP

**Tanzania cracks down on vandalism of nat'l infrastructure**

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 2 March — The Tanzanian Government is to crack down on vandalism of the country's economic infrastructure as President Benjamin William Mkapa has given the go-ahead, according to local Press reports on Tuesday.

The President has described theft of transformer coolant oil, telephone wires, petroleum oil pipelines and railway tracks as economic sabotage and has ordered the arrest and prosecution of vandals.

MNA/Xinhua

**US seeks to dismiss of lawsuit over use of agent orange in Vietnam**

NEW YORK, 1 March — The US Justice Department has sought to dismiss a lawsuit by Vietnamese who say they were poisoned by the chemical defoliant Agent Orange used by US forces in the Vietnam War, *The New York Times* reported Monday.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of millions of Vietnamese, accuses US chemical makers of committing crimes against humanity by supplying to US forces Agent Orange, which contains dioxin and is extremely toxic.

However, the US Government, which is not among the accused in the suit to be presided over by US District Judge Jack Weinstein, has contended the claimed effects of Agent Orange are not supported by direct evidence.

State Department lawyers sent a note to Weinstein last month, saying that if the case were

not thrown out, the "implications of plaintiffs' claims are astounding as they would (if accepted) open the courthouse doors of the American legal system for former enemy nationals and soldiers claiming to have been harmed by the US Armed Forces" during wars.

US forces sprayed Agent Orange to clear jungles and destroyed crops during the 1954-1975 Vietnam War. More than 80 million litres of the defoliant were used.

Some 10,000 US veterans receive medical disability benefits related to Agent Orange, which scientists blamed for cancer, diabetes, birth defects and other problems among the veterans and Vietnamese civilians.

In 1984, seven US chemical companies paid 180 million dollars to keep a veterans' class action suit out of court.

MNA/Xinhua

**Andean countries to define position in FTA talks with US**

QUITO, 1 March — Negotiators from Ecuador, Colombia and Peru started a meeting here Monday to define a common position for the coming round of free trade negotiations with the United States.

The four-day meeting will cover topics of agriculture, finance, industrial goods,

intellectual property, textiles, services, telecommunications and e-business, said the Ecuadorean Trade Ministry. In Quito, the participants are expected to define a position they will keep in the eighth round of talks with the United States slated for 14-18 March.

MNA/Xinhua

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Germany's winter warmer than usual despite cold snap

BERLIN, 2 March — Germany's winter was warmer than usual despite a cold snap that has sent temperatures plunging in many parts of the country...

"In winter 2004/05 (December to February) temperatures averaged 0.7 degrees Celsius (33.3 Fahrenheit), or about half a degree above the long-term average of 0.2 degrees," Deutsche Wetterdienst said in a statement.

The statement came just hours after overnight temperatures in parts of Germany plunged as low as minus 29 degrees Celsius, leading to a spate of road accidents.

Most of the country is forecast to remain frost bitten in the first days of March.

MNA/Reuters

Over 250,000 foreign diamond diggers expelled in Angola in 2004

LUANDA, 2 March — The Angolan authorities expelled over 250,000 foreigners from the southwestern African country last year in a crackdown against illegal diamond miners...

Speaking at a ceremony held here on Monday to mark the 29th anniversary of Angola's National Police Force, Interior Minister Osvaldo Serra Van-Dunem said a total of 256,417 foreigners had been deported in 2004 in the operation against illegal diamond miners...

Van-Dunem said the

Angolan Government was "satisfied" at the results of its operation to repatriate foreign diamond diggers, launched at the end of 2003. Separately, he told Angolan police commanders that their officers needed to be "disciplined and efficient"...

Angolan gems are of

high quality and each carat can fetch up to 400 US dollars, officials say. The government, which relies almost exclusively on oil for revenue, is eager to develop the official diamond industry.

However, Angola has lost millions of US dollars as a result of illegal diamond prospecting mainly by foreign citizens, according to local reports.

MNA/Xinhua



The lions of Goddess Cibele's fountain in Madrid are frozen due to a wave of cold weather on 28 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Egyptian baby being trained to breathe independently

CAIRO, 2 March — An Egyptian baby who underwent an operation to remove the head of a twin that failed to develop in the womb is gradually being trained to breathe independently...

"The child was placed on a ventilator and it is removed from time to time to train her to breathe naturally, so it can be permanently removed," Egypt's official Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted doctor Waleed Sharsheerah saying. Ten-month old Manar Maged had been

suffering from a very rare birth defect known as craniopagus parasiticus, a problem linked to that of conjoined twins linked at the skull.

A 13-hour operation in Benha north of Cairo to remove the head, which could smile and blink but was not capable of inde-

pendent life, ended on 19 February.

Doctors treating Manar were not immediately available to comment further but had previously told Reuters her parents and Egyptian officials had asked them not to talk to journalists.

MNA/Reuters

Over 300 passengers evacuated after flight on fire in England

LONDON, 2 March — More than 300 passengers escaped down emergency chutes after a Pakistan International Airways flight caught fire at Manchester Airport in northwestern England on Tuesday.

The Boeing 777 Flight PK789, carrying 340 passengers from Karachi, landed at 0903 GMT and was taxiing on the runway when a fire began in the undercarriage...

A small fire in the undercarriage was spotted and the plane stopped near Terminal One where the airport's firefighters tackled the blaze, according to local media. Police said a number of people were treated at the scene for minor injuries.

"The Fire Brigade attended but there was no

evidence that a fire actually started, although it is believed overheating may have occurred in the undercarriage," a Greater Manchester Police spokesman said. "A small number of passengers were treated at the scene for minor injuries," he added.

The flight was stopping at Manchester en route to Toronto, Canada, when the emergency happened. The airport spokesman said passengers, who were unhurt, are now waiting in transit for a replacement jet to Toronto.

MNA/Xinhua

Blood test a must for workers in Chinese entertainment industry

BEIJING, 1 March — China's worst HIV/AIDS-affected province, Henan, has enacted a controversial law requiring mandatory HIV/AIDS and venereal testing for all employees in the entertainment industry.

On February 20, Henan government announced that anyone who wanted to work in the public entertainment and service industry such as beauty parlours, massage centres and discos must undergo HIV/AIDS and

venereal disease tests and study related issues before taking up their jobs, the state media reported Saturday.

Also, entertainment centres have to maintain admission and registration systems, which re-

quire all employees in the industry to have health certificates and relevant identification, the official 'China Daily' reported. Some critics say the admission system will discriminate against HIV carriers or AIDS patients

who have decent jobs in the entertainment industry.

A hairdresser in Zhengzhou said the policy amounted to discrimination, since it implies all employees in the profession are possible HIV carriers.

MNA/PTI



Director Sidney Lumet greets Actress Julia Roberts at the Governors Ball following the 77th Academy Awards on 27 Feb, 2005, in Los Angeles. Lumet received an honorary Oscar from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.—INTERNET

Nigeria promises to treat 250,000 AIDS sufferers by 2006

LAGOS, 2 March — The Nigerian Government has initiated a drive to treat 250,000 persons living with the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) by June 2006, local newspaper The Guardian reported on Monday.

Nigerian Health Minister Eytayo Lambo was quoted as saying that Nigeria "will be able to treat 250,000 persons living with AIDS (PLWHA) by June 2006" with grants from Global Funds, President Bush Relief Project for AIDS in Africa (PEPFAR) and the Nigerian Government.

According to an initial plan, the government plans to treat 100,000 PLWHA

by June 2005.

However, he admitted that this was far from the World Health Organization (WHO) target of treating 400,000 infected persons by the end of this year.

WHO, through its "3 by 5" initiative, hopes to provide three million AIDS sufferers in developing countries with life-prolonging anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs by the end of

2005, with Nigeria billed to cater 400,000 of the infected persons. Nigeria is able to treat only 15,000 PLWHA out of the 400,000 that are eligible for treatment under the highly subsidized scheme of 1,000 naira (about 7.5 US dollars) per patient monthly for anti-retroviral drugs under the National AIDS Treatment Programme.—MNA/Xinhua



Espanyol's Maxi Rodriguez of Argentina (L) vies with Barcelona's Giovanni Van Bronckhorst (R) during a Spanish League soccer match in Barcelona. The game ended scoreless.—INTERNET

## Espanyol hold Barcelona to goalless draw

MADRID, 2 March— An inspired performance from Espanyol keeper Carlos Kameni prevented Barcelona from extending their lead to 11 points at the top of the Primera Liga as they were held to a goalless draw at the Nou Camp on Tuesday.

Barcelona started the day eight points clear of Real Madrid, who host fourth-placed Real Betis on Wednesday, but their local rivals frustrated them with a robust defensive display.

Miguel Angel Lotina's side, who moved up to fourth in the standings, finished the game with 10 men after defender Daniel Jarque received a straight red card in the 66th minute.

Barcelona pressurised Espanyol throughout the second half and created a number of scoring opportunities, but Kameni and his defenders held firm to leave Barca nine points clear at the top.

La Liga's top scorer Samuel Eto'o had the perfect chance to put Barca ahead inside the opening minute as he cut into the visitors area and fired goalwards, but Kameni made his first intervention of the night to turn the shot wide with his foot.

Espanyol's five defenders weathered a nervy opening period but effectively smothered out most of the home side's attacking impetus and Kameni had little to do until after the interval.

With playmaker Ivan de la Pena suspended, and striker Raul Tamudo injured, Espanyol struggled to create much on the counter and failed to test Barca keeper Victor Valdes throughout the game.

Barca coach Frank Rijkaard made a tactical change at halftime, withdrawing striker Maxi Lopez and midfielder Gerard Lopex replacing them with Juliano Belletti and Andres Iniesta in an attempt to create more goalscoring opportunities.

The changes produced the desired result for Rijkaard and within minutes Kameni came to the rescue once again with a stunning one-handed save from a driven Iniesta shot.—MNA/Reuters

## Spain coach fined 3000 euros for remarks about Henry

MADRID, 2 March— Spain coach Luis Aragonés was fined 3,000 euros (3,964 US dollars) by the Spanish Football Federation on Tuesday for remarks about France's Thierry Henry.

Aragonés caused controversy in October when he was heard in a training session telling striker Jose Antonio Reyes he was better than "that Black shit", referring to the Spaniard's Arsenal team mate Henry. "They have fined him 3,000 euros. The judge understood that because of the position he holds he should have behaved differently," a Federation spokesman said.

"It is not considered that he has broken any anti-racist rule. It is not considered that Luis Aragonés is racist," the spokesman added.

The Spanish federation opened an investigation into the coach's behaviour and the judge leading the probe recommended fining Aragonés 3,000 euros. Aragonés apologized after widespread criticism of his behaviour, saying he had not meant to offend anyone and that his conscience was clear. The 66-year-old stirred further controversy, however, by defending his comments before a friendly against England.

That match in Madrid was marred by racist abuse of England's Black players by sections of the crowd.—MNA/Reuters

## Clermont upset Lyon 4-2 in French Cup

PARIS, 2 March— Second division Clermont Foot pulled off a huge upset when they beat champions Olympique Lyon 4-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw to reach the French Cup quarter-finals on Tuesday.

Third division Nimes crushed Ligue 1 Nice 4-0 in another shock result and second division Sedan beat fourth division Quevilly 2-0.

Clermont Striker Bruno Rodriguez slotted in a 20-metre free kick to put his side ahead in the 54th minute and French international Sylvain Wiltord equalised for Lyon four minutes into stoppage time. The hosts hung on in extra time to force a penalty shootout, in which Lyon strikers Pierre-Alain Frau and Wiltord had their shots saved by Clermont goalkeeper Vincent Bouchard.

Clermont are only the second French side after Ligue 1 club Lille to beat

Olympique Lyon this season.

Lille eliminated the champions in the first round of the League Cup and beat them again in a home league match in January.

The result was a setback for Lyon, who demolished Werder Bremen 3-0 last week in the away leg of their Champions League first knockout round tie and beat arch-rivals St Etienne 3-2 in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

To add salt to their wounds, Lyon captain Sidney Govou picked up a thigh injury and is doubtful for the League match against Caen on Friday.

MNA/Reuters

## Man Utd star Keane in court on assault charge

LONDON, 1 March— Manchester United and Ireland soccer star Roy Keane grabbed a teenage boy round the neck, swore at him and swung a punch towards his face before stopping his fist at the last minute, a British court heard on Monday.

The midfielder, who denies a charge of assault and a public order offence, clashed with the 16-year-old student near his home in Manchester, northwest England, last year, Trafford Magistrates' Court was told.

Keane, 33, was walking his dogs when the boy rode past on a moped with a friend and beeped his horn to acknowledge the star, the court was told.

As the moped passed, Keane — who was then injured — swung out with his walking stick, prompting the 16-year-old, who was not named in court, to turn

around and make a crude hand gesture at the soccer player. A few weeks later in September 2004, the pair were visiting a friend near Keane's home when they were approached by the sportsman, the boy said in a videotaped interview to police shown to the court in place of direct testimony.

The teenager told police he noticed Keane walking towards him. "He walked up to me and I'm not sure what he said next; he was being a bit aggressive," the boy said.

MNA/Reuters

## Arsenal, Southampton, Blackburn reach FA Cup quarterfinals

LONDON, 2 March— Premier League sides Arsenal, Southampton and Blackburn Rovers reached the FA Cup quarter-finals with victories over lower division opponents in fifth-round replays on Tuesday.

Arsenal needed extra time and penalties to beat second division Sheffield United, England defender Ashley Cole converting the decisive spot-kick to win the shootout 4-2 following a goalless draw.

Striker Peter Crouch scored twice to help Southampton beat third division Brentford 3-1, and Blackburn's Morten Gamst Pedersen lashed in an 86th-minute winner to seal a 2-1 victory over local rivals Burnley.

Southampton will entertain holders Manchester United in the last eight, Arsenal travel to Bolton Wanderers and Blackburn host second division Leicester City.

Second division Nottingham Forest play Tottenham Hotspur in the last fifth-round replay on Wednesday with the winners travelling to Newcastle United in the quarter-finals on March 12 or 13.

Sheffield United forward Michael Tonge missed a golden opportunity to put his side ahead in the opening minute against Arsenal when he blazed the ball wide from just two metres out with the goal gaping.

The champions dominated the rest of the match, midfielder Francesc Fabregas hitting the crossbar in the second half,

but their goalkeeper Manuel Almunia had to make a fine save in stoppage time to deny United defender Jon Harley.

Arsenal, severely depleted by injuries and suspensions, also enjoyed the better of extra time, with defender Pascal Cygan and substitute striker Jeremie Aliadiere wasting good chances.

In the shootout, Arsenal's Lauren, Patrick Vieira, Freddie Ljungberg and Cole held their nerve to score, and Almunia produced good saves from Alan Quinn and Harley to put the London side through.

"It was a really tough game and you must give a lot of credit to Sheffield United," Vieira told Sky Sports. "But we always produce when our backs are against the wall and we are really happy to be in the next round."

Brentford took a shock lead after four minutes against Southampton through midfielder Eddie Hutchinson, only for Crouch to level seven minutes later.

The third division side had chances to restore their advantage but experienced forward Kevin Phillips put the visitors ahead from close range on 67 minutes and Crouch wrapped up victory in stoppage time.

MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Fredrik Ljungberg (L) and Mathieu Flamini (R) and Sheffield United's Andy Gray (C) vie during tonight's FA Cup clash at Bramall Lane, Sheffield. Arsenal won 4-2 on penalties.—INTERNET



## Uruguay restores full diplomatic relations with Cuba

MONTEVIDEO, 2 March— The new socialist government of Uruguay announced Tuesday to restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Only three hours after taking office as Uruguay's President, Tabare Vazquez presided over the ceremony for the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two Latin American countries.

"We received with pleasure the representatives of the sister nation of Cuba," said Vazquez.

Then, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Gargano and his Cuban counterpart Felipe Perez signed and exchanged notes on re-establishing the relations.

"It is very good that the nations of Latin America are united," said Vazquez, the first socialist president of Uruguay.

"The tokens of friendship and solidarity of Uruguay toward Cuba are permanent," Perez said after signing the documents.

MNA/Xinhua

## Syria to withdraw troops from Lebanon soon

WASHINGTON, 2 March — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has said that his country will withdraw its troops from Lebanon in a few months, the *Time* magazine reported Tuesday.

"It (withdrawal) should be very soon and maybe in the next few months. Not after that," Bashar told the *Time* magazine in an interview published on its web site on Tuesday.

Bashar declined to give a definite timetable for the pullout, saying it depended on technical, rather than political, considerations.

"I could not say we could do it in two months because I have not had the meeting with the Army people. They may say it will take six months."

Syria plays a dominant role in Lebanon and maintains 14,000 troops there. It said last week that it would begin moving its troops in Lebanon closer to its own border to allay mounting world and Lebanese calls for Syria to withdraw all its forces from its neighbour.

MNA/Xinhua

## EU remains divided over GMO foods

BRUSSELS, 2 March— The European Union remains deeply divided over genetically modified (GMO) foods, with the planting of biotech seeds a tremendously touchy area even though Brussels has resumed authorizing GMO products after a break of nearly six years.

Several EU states have passed a patchwork of laws to control growing of biotech crops but many are holding back in the hope that uniform EU rules will be drafted, officials say.

At the moment, EU governments must make their own rules for separating different crop types to minimize cross-pollination and for financial liability if a farmer claims a neighbour's sowings have damaged his crop. Very few have yet done so. Only a few GMO crops are allowed for growing, mostly maize.

Despite calls for more than a year from anti-GMO diehards such as Austria and Luxembourg for a bloc-wide law on crop separation, so-called co-existence, the EU's executive Commission has declined to oblige. One result of this approach is that several countries now have laws far stricter than the Commission would have wanted, angering the

biotech industry and raising the prospect of legal action for distorting the EU's single market.

Germany's law, perhaps the most controversial so far, has attracted the attention of Commission lawyers charged with checking that national laws comply with EU legislation and also conform with broad Commission guidelines from July 2003.

One clause specifies the joint liability of all GMO farmers with fields that border a "contaminated" non-GMO crop in cases where it is impossible to name an individual farmer as liable.

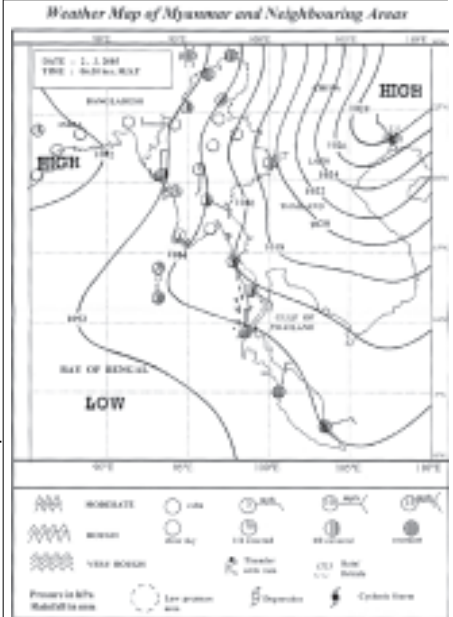
Critics say this would force a GMO farmer to prove that his crops were not to blame in a neighbour's contamination claim — a powerful and costly deterrent to planting GMO crops at all. "The Commission, being the guardians of the law, should see that the meas-

ures introduced aren't disproportionate," said Simon Barber of Brussels-based industry lobby group EuropaBio.

"What the German Government has done is way beyond what is required," he said. So far, only Germany, Denmark, Italy and five regions of Austria have laws to regulate GMO cultivation, while the main Dutch farming organizations have reached

a voluntary agreement. Another eight countries are drafting laws, with those from Spain, Luxembourg, Portugal, Poland and the Czech Republic the most advanced. Others have no plans yet for legislation.

France, the EU's top cereals grower, should submit a first report on a co-existence law to its Parliament in a few weeks. — MNA/Reuters



### WEATHER

Wednesday, 2 March, 2005

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, except for the light rain in Kachin State, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Kachin, Rakhine and Kayin States, Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Mandalay Division, (8°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 1-3-2005 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 2-3-2005 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-3-2005 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 1-3-2005 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfalls on 2-3-2005 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 4 mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 1-3-2005.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 3-3-2005:** Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair weather in the whole country.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-3-2005:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-3-2005:** Fair weather.

### Earthquake report

(Issued at 18:30 hours MST on 2-3-2005) An earthquake of strong intensity Richter Scale (6.8) with its epicenter outside Myanmar about (2,600) miles Southeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (17) hrs (19) min (30) sec MST on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2005.



Thursday, 3 March  
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: -Happy nation Perspectives
- 8.40 am Music: -Yellow river
- 8.45 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: -Venus
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music: Got the feeling
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music
- Endless love
- Save your love
- Real love
- Modern day romance
- 9.10 pm Article
- 9.20 pm Pourri
- Withering bamboos cause pandas to go hungry
- SriLankanbaby's parenthood tested with DNA
- US scientists transform HIV virus to anti-cancer missile
- Song feature
- Military songs sung by Kayah nationals
- 9.30 pm News/Slogan
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



Thursday, 3 March  
View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am 5. Dance of national races
- 8:10 am 6. Dance variety
- 8:20 am 7. ဘိုးဒါးရေလှောင်တံခွန်
- 8:30 am 8. International news
- 8:45 am 9. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song

- 4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. English For Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm 4. တပ်မတော်နေ့စဉ်ပြတေးသီချင်း ဖြိုင်ခွဲစုရတေးများ
- 5:00 pm 5. အစားသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ညွှာရေ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (သတ္တမော၊ ရက္ခမော အထူးပြုများ) (သတ္တမော)
- 5:15 pm 6. Cute little dancers
- 5:30 pm 7. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm 8. "အန္တရာယ်ဆိုတာလက်တစ်ကမ်းမှာ" (မိုးသူ၊ နန်းကလျာဠာရိုင် ကော်စီးအောင်၊ ကောင်းကျန်သစ်၊ ယင်း၊ ယင်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်စွာရိုင်)
- 5:55 pm 9. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 6:10 pm 10. မိုင်းခုံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းဖြင့် စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်
- 6:20 pm 11. Musical programme

- 6:30 pm 12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm 13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm 14. မိုင်းခြားစာတံလမ်းတွဲ "ရုပ်သောညီမ" (အပိုင်း-၁၁)
- 7:35 pm 15. နှစ် (၆၀) ပြည့်တော်မူသော ရုပ်သောညီမ
- 7:45 pm 16. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံရုပ်မြင်တေး
- 8:00 pm 17. News
- 18. International news
- 19. Weather report
- 20. Myanmar video feature: "ကောင်းကင်ရဲ့အမော်" (အပိုင်း-၁) (ဓမ္မ၊ နန္ဒာရိုင်၊ မြတ်ကောင်းအောင်၊ လင်းစာနုညီမော်၊ မြသဂ္ဂင်၊ ရတနာရိုင်) ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်စွာရိုင်
- 21. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးစိန္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်အယံဖျက်နစ် ဓမ္မဇာတာဝရာဇာဌားဖြင့် တရားတော်
- 22. The next day's programme

**60<sup>th</sup> 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

**Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win sends felicitations to his counterpart of Bulgaria**

YANGON, 3 March — Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Simoen Saxe-Cobrg Gotha, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2005. — MNA

**8th National Sanitation Week activities launched**

YANGON, 2 March — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, accompanied by officials at division/district/township levels, attended the ceremony to mark the eighth National Sanitation Week 2005 at the meeting hall of Monywa

Hospital yesterday morning.

The commander extended greetings and heard reports on sanitation tasks in Sagaing Division.

Next, U Than Nyunt, owner of ShweU-daung Brokerage and U Thauang (Chindwin Sunflower Blanket Factory) donated

50 commodes each worth K 80,000 each and Head of the Division Health Department Dr Kyaw Shein accepted the donations.

Later, the commander and party viewed the books, papers, and scale models of fly-proof latrine and documentary photos displayed in the meeting hall. — MNA



**North-East Command Commander inspects plantations in Lashio**

YANGON, 2 March — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and local national race leaders U Lwe Maung and U Kaung Taing inspected plantation of honey orange of regional battalion and bee-keeping in Lashio Township on 28 February.

The commander and

the local national race leaders visited coffee and macadamia plantations. The commander attended the cash donation ceremony for construction of Yantaingaug Hsutaungpyay MyoU Pagoda.

Officials concerned reported on construction of the pagoda, water supply and progress of work.

National race organizations and wellwishers presented cash for construction of the pagoda to the commander.

The commander and

party inspected progress of work of the pagoda. They went to Thathana-aye Kyaungtaik and presented offertories to Sayadaw U Tejaniya.

The commander and party oversaw soybean, summer paddy, lychee plantations and their products.

The commander also presented K 500,000 for construction of Yaymaungtan monastery in Hsaungkye Village, Mongyai Township to the Shan national race leaders. — MNA

**Myanmar beat Kinki University 3-2 in friendly volleyball match**



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint watches competition of Myanmar-Japan Friendly Volleyball Match at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna. — MNA

YANGON, 2 March — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the Myanmar-Japan Friendly Men's Volleyball Match at the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna), here, this evening.

Among the spectators were officials of the Ministry of Sports, Chairperson of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Central Committee Daw Aye Aye and members, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano and embassy staff.

Selected Myanmar volleyball team beat Kinki University volleyball team of Japan 3-2. The second match continues on 4 March afternoon.

The minister attended the dinner in honour of members of the Kinki University volleyball team of Japan at Traders Hotel, here, yesterday evening.

Also present at the dinner were Japanese Am-

bassador Mr Nobutake Odano, Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Central Committee Daw Aye Aye and members, President of Myanmar Volleyball Federation U Tun Myint Naing and members of the selected Myanmar volleyball team.

Before the dinner, the President of MVF and the leader of Japanese team exchanged souvenirs.

MNA

**60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade columns entertained**

YANGON, 2 March — Under the arrangements of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the Ministry of Defence, vocalists to the accompaniment of Tatmadaw TV Broadcasting Unit's Music Troupe performed entertainment to Tatmadawmen of Anawrahta Column, Bayintnaung Column and Aungzeya Column which will take part in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade at No 1 Transit Centre yesterday evening.

Similarly, No 1 and No 2 Mobile Public Relations Units entertained Anyeint, dance and songs to Tatmadawmen of Aung San Column at the local battalion in South Okkalapa Township and Hsinbyushin Column at the local battalion in Mingaladon Township. Likewise, Tatmadawmen of Nawade Column were entertained with the film titled "Hsan-yay".

The entertainment were enjoyed by column commanders, commanding officers, officers and Tatmadawmen of the respective columns.

MNA

**INSIDE**

*While working for all-round development of the nation, the government is translating into reality the seven-point policy programme for the future of the State so that a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation will emerge.*

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PERSEPECTIVES

*The representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw will be elected by the people across the nation. Therefore, the delegates representing all the national races will be elected to the Pyithu Hluttaw. And 12 delegates from each Division or State will be elected to the National Hluttaw.*

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CHINGYA (MAUBIN)