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Sunday, 13 March, 2005

Completion of Shwegyin Hydel Power Plant will lead to development of cottage industry Senior General Than Shwe tours Shwegyin region in Bago Division

YANGON, 12 March—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by members of the State

of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials. The deputy minister

reported on location of the Shwegyin hydel power project, data, supply of sand and gravel from the project area and its environs, designing of the zoned type dam, construction of diaphragm wall

and progress of work. Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on arrangements for distribution of power through the grid, generation of power from four turbines and the cost of

the project. The Senior General gave guidance on early completion of the project. The Senior General and party inspected samples of gravel, sand and earth and scale model of the

dam. They later visited the project site. The 75-megawatt Shwegyin hydel power project is being implemented on Shwegyin Creek. (See Page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Shwegyin hydel power project near Kyauknaga Village, Shwegyin Township. —MNA

Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, the ministers, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departments, went to the site of Shwegyin hydel power project being implemented by Hydro-electric power Department of the Ministry of Electric Power near Kyauknaga Village, six miles northeast of Shwegyin Township yesterday.

Senior General Than Shwe and party were welcomed by Chairman



Excerpts from speech delivered by Senior General Than Shwe

- * The government renovated and upgraded Nyaunglaybin-Madauk road and built Sittoung river crossing Shwegyin Bridge for development of Shwegyin region
- * With better transport marketing in the region is making progress
- * In addition to better transport, the government has been taking systematic steps for development of education and health sectors of the region.
- * As a result, the Shwegyin Township People's Hospital was upgraded from 16-bed hospital to 100-bed facility.
- * Shwegyin region should step up implementation of tasks with the use of agriculture as the base for higher economy.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 13 March, 2005

Gear up for historic democracy movement

The National Convention went into recess after one of its sessions had been held successfully from 17 May to 9 July last year. With the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention, it resumed on 17 February this year and has now been in progress at Nyaungnnapin Camp, Yangon Division.

All the delegates to the National Convention are finding themselves discussing and coordinating in harmony and unison as to the framing of the Constitution. They have now successfully adopted the detailed basic principles for the distribution of legislative powers.

The National Convention Convening Commission, the NCC Work Committee and the NCC Management Committee held a coordination meeting at Anawrahta Yeiktha at the camp on 11 March. NCCC Chairman and also State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addressed the meeting.

In his speech, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that it is necessary to continue undaunted efforts that will remain historic and to put first the future welfare of the country in lieu of paying heed to invented and groundless news reports about the National Convention by inside and outside pessimists and their subversive acts. Among the three pillars, legislative, executive and judicial, which are most imperative for the writing of the Constitution in a nation, deeper and broader is the legislative sector.

Putting aside the tendency of personal cult, sectarianism, localism and racism, the delegates to the National Convention held discussions and offered suggestions with the same Union Spirit. As a result, the detailed basic principles have been laid down successfully for the legislative sector.

The collected proposals of the Work Committee Chairman have been revealed to the delegates to enable them to have easy access to the adoption of detailed basic principles for the executive and judicial sectors. They are now holding groupwise discussions on those proposals.

Pessimists in and out of the country still go on with a variety of destructive acts by broadcasting fabricated and baseless reports.

The Work Committee Chairman's studies as to the legislative, executive and judicial matters to be put in practice in the future democratic nation were aired on radio and television and reported in the dailies.

All in all, no matter whatever the fabrications and deterrances are, the onus is on the delegates to the National Convention to prepare themselves for the historic democracy movement with love of the country and with the full sense of Union Spirit.



Ancient objects collected by Nyaungkoebin Sayadaw in Hanlingyi.—CULTURE

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

Parade columns keep up marching practice



Chairman of Management Committee for Observance of the Armed Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects the parade columns.—MNA

YANGON, 12 March — Under command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun, nine parade columns comprising Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Services and Red Cross Brigade participated in the marching drill from the Myoma Grounds to the

Resistance Park, here, from 6 am to 9.30 am today.

The parade columns — Anawrahta Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Kyansitha by Col Tha Aung, Bayintnaung by Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Nawade by Captain Aung Zaw Win (Navy),

Aungzeya by Col Myo Win, Hsinbyushin by Col Khin Aung Myint, Bandoola by Col Khin Maung Oo, Myawady by Col Win Swe and Aung San by Col Thein Zaw— will take part in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.

Chairman of the Man-

agement Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and senior military officers inspected the drills of the parade columns.

MNA

Semifossilized skeleton, skulls unearthed in ancient Hanlingyi city

YANGON, 12 March— A human skeletal-remains which was buried in the seven and half feet depth in the earth was discovered while digging a well in the farmland of U Maung Naing, about 700 yards from Shwegugyi Pagoda in ancient Hanlingyi city, Wetlet Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Division, recently.

The human skeletal-remains oriented toward 38° north-east. Its height measures about 5 feet and four inches. According to the anatomical analysis, the skeletal-remains can be identified to be female and the age was estimated to be between forty and fifty years old. The remains was buried systematically due to the posture of two arms upon womb. It was being semifossilized that condition should be indicated to the remote past. A jar and a small pot were buried beside the waist of the skeletal-remains.

Three more human skulls were unearthed about 20 feet north of the skeletal-remains while digging a well. The skulls were also semifossilized. The skulls can be identified as two male adults and one child. These skull-re-



Experts inspect human skull unearthed about 20 feet north of the female skeletal-remain while digging a well on 5 March.—CULTURE

mains date back the same period of the female the skeleton.

Previously, Neolithic implements, bronze age artefacts and tools of iron age were occasionally excavated at ancient Hanlin city. It shows comprehensively the evidence of cultural continuities flourished from stone age to bronze age and then iron age to the present. Evidence associated with human skeletal-remains, which shows somewhat burial practice of ancient Myanmar, hence its place may be a cemetery site of early bronze age.

The skeletal-remains

seems to be earlier than those of the previous discoveries, such as Nyaungkan in Budalin Township, Myin-Oo-hle and Hnawkan of Mahlaing Township, Inte of Taungtha Township, Kokko Khala of Wundwin Township, Ywahtingon of Pyawbwe Township and Myohla of Yamethin Township, to more solidified and semi-fossilized.

Experts and scholars have assumed the date belongs to four thousand years of age due to the finding of a few pottery and lack of beads and bronze artefacts.

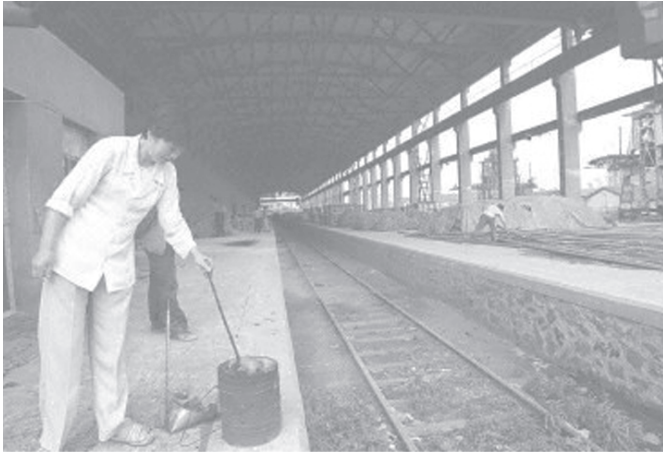
The stone tools in-

dedicated to neolithic age, weapons of bronze, small package of bronze wires belonged to the Bronze Age, iron implements of Iron Age; seals of Pyu scripts, Pyu burial urn, finger-marking bricks, stone-ring, bangle, dishes on single stem of offering lamp and different shapes of pottery in the surrounding of Hanlingyi ancient city. Therefore, these areas have been continuously settled or inhabited by man from stone age and bronze age to ancestors of Pyu-Myanmar era which could be some 4,000 years ago.

MNA

60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

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



A local resident (L) fires up a bucket at a huge former state-owned construction material depository warehouse in Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province, on 12 March, 2005. —INTERNET

Indonesia, Malaysia to send technical teams on boundary dispute

JAKARTA, 11 March — Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed to appoint technical teams that will represent both governments in the negotiations over a disputed offshore area in their maritime boundaries, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda said on Thursday.

Wirajuda said the agreement was reached during a one-and-a-half-hour meeting with his Malaysian counterpart Syed Hamid Albar here on Wednesday evening.

"We agreed that a single meeting will not be able to resolve a problem that is technically and legally very complicated," he told reporters on the sidelines of the 15th Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)-European Union Ministerial Meeting here.

He said the teams will hold their first meeting here on 23 March to be followed by a series of other meetings in both countries.

The Indonesian team, he said, will comprise officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Ministry of Maritime and Fishery, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Indonesian Military.

He said the upcoming meetings are expected to "help ease the growing tension between two countries and produce peaceful solution".

Indonesia and Malaysia have involved in dispute over the ownership of what Indonesia claims as the Ambalat area, which is located between Indonesia's East Kalimantan Province and Malaysia's Sabah State.

MNA/Xinhua

Poland plans to withdraw some Iraq troops

WARSAW, 11 March — Poland, the fourth-largest contributor of troops to the US led occupation of Iraq, plans to withdraw several hundred of its 1,700 soldiers from the country in July, the defence minister said in an interview published on Friday.

"I can only say that we assume a reduction of the Polish contingent by several hundred troops," Jerzy Szmajdzinski told the Rzeczpospolita daily when asked whether Poland would reduce its troop level with its next regular rotation, scheduled for July.

The cutback will also involve handing over authority for Wasit province, now patrolled largely by Ukrainian soldiers, to Iraqis. Poland plans to hand over the other two provinces for which it is responsible — Babil and Qadisiyah — at a later time, Szmajdzinski said.

Ukraine intends to pull out its entire 1,650-strong contingent in a phased

withdrawal between 15 March and October. Its troops also serve in a Polish-led security force in central Iraq that currently numbers 4,700. At its peak, the force had 9,500 soldiers.

Polish leaders have said repeatedly that they want to scale down their troop presence in Iraq this year in hopes of possibly leaving by year's end, but they have not given a specific timetable. The country ranks behind the United States, Britain and Italy in numbers of troops deployed in Iraq. Szmajdzinski said details will be decided at a meeting in Warsaw in April of countries contributing troops to Iraq. —Internet



New Cabinet lines up in Thailand

BANGKOK, 12 March — Thailand's long-anticipated new Cabinet was formed on Friday following the royal endorsement of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the first ever elected single-party government in the country's history.

In an official announcement made by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, the newly endorsed Cabinet include six deputy prime ministers. They are Somkid Jatusripitak, Police General Chitchai Wannasathit, Suwit Khunitti, Vissanu Krea-ngam, Surakiart Sathirathai, former Foreign Minister and Pinjk Jarusombat.

Kantathi Suphamongkhon, one of three Thai Trade Representatives and a former Foreign Ministry official takes over as Thailand's top diplomat. Former Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop moved down to be the Justice Minister. Somkid was authorized to handle the country's overall economic affairs, concurrently serving as finance minister, while Police General Chitchai

was appointed as head of the Interior Ministry. Defence Minister went to General Thamarak Isarangura, while Commerce Minister was assumed by Thanong Bidaya, the former Finance Minister, according to the announcement. Mrs Sudarat Keyuraphan, former Public Health Minister, was shifted to be the new Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister, while Sudarat's deputy Suchai Charoenrattanakul stepped up to take top seat of the ministry.

Surakiart Sathirathai and Sudarat Keyuraphan are the two ministers who held their portfolio through Thaksin's many Cabinet reshuffles in his first term. Sudarat is also considered part of the Prime Minister's close inner circle.

MNA/Xinhua

China's highways to reach 2.3m kilometres by 2010

BEIJING, 11 March — China's highways will reach 2.3 million kilometres by 2010, according to a plan for highways and waterways released by the Ministry of Communications Thursday.

By 2010 China will build 55,000 more kilometres of expressways, reaching cities with a population of more than 200,000, according to the plan. By then, drivers will be able to complete a round trip of 400 to 500 kilometres and single trip of 800 to 1,000 kilometres in one day, the plan says. All counties should have regular buses.

China also aims to enhance its port handling capacity to 6.4 billion tons and container capacity to 100 million TEUs. The ministry will also work to reduce accidents in highway and waterway transportation by providing transportation information service and setting up a monitoring system and emergency services. —MNA/Xinhua

Uruguay appoints new ambassador to China

MONTEVIDEO, 11 March — The new Uruguayan Government has appointed career diplomat Cesar Ferrer as the new ambassador to the People's Republic of China, government officials said on Thursday. President Tabare Vazquez held a meeting on Wednesday in Montevideo with Ferrer on the present and future relations between Uruguay and China, the officials told Xinhua.

Ferrer, currently Uruguay's ambassador to Egypt, had also served as the Latin American country's envoy to Libya. He used to be the director of the public relations office of the Foreign Ministry.

The Uruguayan Government places great importance to the relations with China, and in particular to the expansion of trade and cooperation, officials said.

MNA/Xinhua



The Philippine National Rowing Team vigorously paddle their dragon boat into the finish line to win the during the launching of the Manila Bay Festival on 12 March, 2005. — INTERNET



Malaysia's busy Malacca Strait seen on 12 March, 2005.

INTERNET

US troops shoot dead Iraqi policeman in raid

TIKRIT (Iraq), 11 March — In action against suspects within the US-installed Iraqi police, American troops raided the house of a policeman and killed him on Thursday, police sources said.

Alshad Mehdi Muzahem, a policeman belonging to the Dijia police station, was shot dead by US soldiers who surrounded his house north of Baghdad in a pre-dawn raid, the source told Xinhua.

Elsewhere, US forces surrounded the main police station in Baiji, 200 kilometre north of Baghdad, preventing police staff from entering.

There was no word from the US military on either of the operations, which appeared to be part of an effort to eliminate collaborators with guerrillas in the US-trained police force.

Similar unexplained operations have met with resentment in the

Salahuldin Province. Last week, US forces briefly detained two police officers, triggering a police strike to protest at what they called the US heavy-handedness.

The US military later said the arrest was made following a discovery of illegal weapons in a police warehouse, and the two were released immediately after questioning.

While some policemen were suspected of leaking information to rebels bent on destabilizing the country in a transitional period, the general police force, being accused of collaborating with US-led multinational forces, has been targeted in the

country-wide guerilla attacks.

A police station chief was assassinated in broad light on Thursday by guerrillas who, dressed in police uniforms, set up a fake checkpoint in central Baghdad. Two other policemen were also killed in the ambush.

MNA/Xinhua

Police chief shot dead in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 11 March — Guerrillas dressed in Iraqi police uniforms shot dead the chief of a central Baghdad police station on Thursday, police sources said.

They said the guerrillas set up a fake police checkpoint and stopped the police officer's car as he was on the way to work at Salhiya police station. After asking his name, they shot him along with two other policemen in his car. One of the guerrillas filmed the killing, police said.

MNA/Reuters

Physicians condemn failure to count Iraq casualties

LONDON, 11 March — The US and Britain should to set up a commission to assess the number of civilian casualties in Iraq, an international group of doctors said in a statement on Friday.

"We believe that the joint US/UK failure to make any effort to monitor Iraqi casualties, is from a public health perspective, wholly irresponsible," the doctors said in a statement on the British Medical Journal's Web site.

The appeal coincided with a warning from Kofi Annan, UN secretary general, that Iraq's new government needs to act fast to stem the violence that has risen again to pre-election levels after a brief lull.

Both the scale and sophistication of attacks are on the rise, worrying signs as Iraq's new leaders prepare to take power, Mr

Annan said in a report on Friday.

The US government, which led the invasion of Iraq in 2003 that removed Saddam Hussein's regime, says it does not count civilian casualties and that all care is taken to avoid them.

The British government says it relies on figures from the Iraqi health ministry which, since April 2004, has reported daily the number of civilians (which may include insurgents) who have been killed or injured in terrorist incidents or as a result of military action.

But Klim McPherson,

visiting professor of public health epidemiology at Oxford University, said these figures were likely to be "seriously biased", because they did not take into account deaths during the first 12 months since the invasion.

Also, only violence related deaths reported through the health system were taken into account and non-violent deaths due to the destruction of war were not.

Figures for civilian casualties in Iraq since the US-led invasion have ranged from tens of thousands to a hundred thousand. The Lancet medical



Minister urges French firms to try harder in Asia

MANILA, 11 March — French companies need to make more effort in promoting their businesses in Asia, Foreign Trade Minister Francois Loos said on Friday.

Loos, winding up a three-day visit to Manila, said there were many opportunities waiting for French business in the region.

Over the past two weeks Loos has led a delegation of 20 top French businessmen to Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines to explore business opportunities.

Loos said he was extremely happy with the

tour but added: "It is obvious to me that French companies need to make more effort."

"In the countries we visited there is a great deal of potential but French companies are making minimum effort," he told AFP.

Loos said French companies were doing well in the Philippines.

He noted that Lafarge's Philippine subsidiary,

Lafarge Cement Services (Philippines), was the largest cement manufacturer in the Philippines with more than USD 1 billion (EUR 745 million) invested in the country.

"Obviously Lafarge is satisfied with its investment here," he said.

Recent orders by Cebu Pacific Airlines and Philippine Airlines for the Airbus was "good for French business but we can do more", he said.

Among the companies represented in the delegation were Lafarge, mobile phone maker Alcatel and financial groups BNP Paribas and Calyon.

After meetings with the country's central bank and trade department officials, Loos said he thought the Philippine government was doing its best in solving the economic problems it faces.

France is the Philippines' ninth biggest investor and was the sixth biggest aid donor from 1992 to 2003, official government figures showed.

About 100 French companies with a combined investment of about EUR 1.6 billion (EUR 1.19 billion) employ a Filipino workforce of about 8,000 in the country.—Internet

Singapore studies use of over-the-counter HIV test kits

SINGAPORE, 11 March — Singapore said on Wednesday it was studying the use of over-the-counter HIV test kits for early detection following a jump in the number of new cases last year.

"These test kits are easy to use because they test the saliva. This will allow those at risk to test

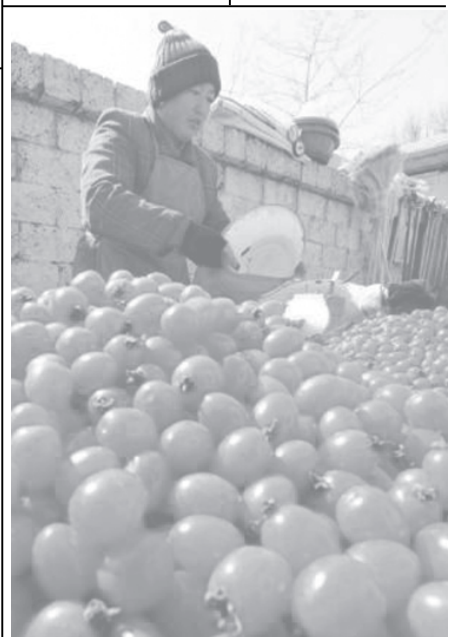
themselves," Senior Minister of State for Health Balaji Sadasivan told Parliament.

The number of new HIV/AIDS cases in Singapore rose 28 per cent to 311 last year, up from 242 in 2003, he said.

The minister said 90 per cent of newly diagnosed patients were male and a third of them were gay men.

Although the wealthy Southeast Asian island has one of Asia's lowest levels of HIV infection, it is tightening defences due to the jump in cases, notably among gays and heterosexual men who have casual sex.

MNA/Reuters



A Chinese vendor weighs tomatoes at a vegetable market in Beijing on 11 March, 2005.

INTERNET

Thailand requires anti-smoking photo on cigarette packs

BANGKOK, 12 March — Cigarettes sold in Thailand are required to carry photos of patients with smoking-incurred disease on their packs, the Public Health Ministry has announced.

The regulation will take place on March 25 and manufacturers and retailers failing to implement it will face fine of 20,000 to 100,000 baht (500 to 2,500 US dollars), state-run *Thai News Agency* on Thursday quoted the Public Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan as saying.

A skinny patient with breathing mask and tubes around was shown on one of the photos required to be carried on cigarette packs, it showed pictures published by local Press. There are the other five choices for cigarette manufacturers including pictures of cancer-infected lungs and teeth stained by cigarette tar.

The frightening coloured photo will occupy almost half of the whole front of a cigarette pack.

These anti-smoking messages dis-

played on the packets are part of the government's campaign to convince smokers to quit and discourage others from starting, said Sudarat.

From the World No-Smoking Day on May 31, tobacco advertisements will be prohibited at selling points of cigarettes, cigars and tobacco, she added.

From the same day on, the authorities will also ban selling of cigarettes and tobacco within 500 metres of schools or religious places.

A 24-hour call centre will be opened to receive complaints or reports of violations of the anti-smoking regulations.

Thailand has implement strict rules against smoking at public places including air-conditioned shops and restaurants.

MNA/Xinhua

India prepares for talks on \$4b gas pipeline

NEW DELHI, 11 March — The United States has reminded India about its concerns over Iran, as New Delhi prepares for talks on a four-billion-US-dollar pipeline to bring Iranian gas to South Asia, the Indian Oil Minister said on Thursday.

Mani Shankar Aiyar said New Delhi had "noted" Washington's concerns and hoped that the US would resolve its concerns over Iran by the time India negotiated a deal with Teheran.

The US concerns were conveyed to him about a month ago by Washington's Ambassador to New Delhi, David Mulford, Aiyar said.

"I think the United States is well aware of our energy security requirements," Aiyar told reporters.

"So long as we are sensitive to each other I don't imagine it would be an insuperable obstacle either to their concern or our being able to take the

measures required for our energy security," the diplomat-turned-politician said.

"We hope they can resolve their issues with Iran by the time we can resolve contractual issues."

The *Indian Express* newspaper had reported on Thursday that Mulford had told Aiyar that Washington faced serious difficulties with Iran because of its nuclear programme and there appeared no immediate solution.

The newspaper said it was the first time the United States had formally conveyed its reservations about the long-running proposal to build the pipeline that will go through Pakistan.

US President George W. Bush accuses Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons and has called it part of an "axis of evil". Teheran insists its nuclear programme is intended solely to generate electricity.

The newspaper said US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will likely to reiterate her concerns over Iran to Indian and Pakistani leaders during her first tour of the region next week.

The ambitious pipeline project was stalled for years, mainly because of differences between India and Pakistan, and concern in New Delhi that its energy supplies could be held hostage to Islamabad if tensions rose.—MNA/Reuters

Malaysian PM to visit New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 12 March — New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark announced on Thursday that Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmed Badawi will make an official visit to New Zealand from 30 March to 1 April.

Welcoming the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit, Clark said in a statement that Malaysia is a respected and influential voice in ASEAN and the wider Asian region.

"Malaysia chairs the Organization of Islamic Conference, and is actively involved in many areas of multilateral diplomacy," Clark said.

"We have a long history of close and friendly ties in education, defence, tourism, and business with Malaysia. Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi's visit will be an opportunity to discuss the

scope for deeper engagement.

"It will also enable us to share views on developments in Asia of strategic importance to both countries, as well as shared global concerns, such as security, economic development, and WTO issues."

Clark said there is considerable scope to boost two-way economic links between Malaysia and New Zealand. Both countries have concluded studies into the possible benefits of a bilateral free trade agreement.

"An FTA with Ma-

laysia would provide real gains for both countries. It would enhance our bilateral relationship and complement negotiations underway with ASEAN as a whole," Clark said.

Malaysia is New Zealand's tenth largest trading partner with merchandise trade worth more than one billion NZ dollars (about 730 million US dollars). Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi is expected to be accompanied by senior Cabinet ministers and a delegation of business leaders.

MNA/Xinhua



A worker pulls steel rods from a pile at a steel wholesaler in Beijing on 12 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Vietnam, Japan announce visa exemptions

HANOI, 12 March — Vietnam and Japan have announced visa exemptions for official and diplomatic passport holders from the two countries who stay for less than 50 days.

The protocols to this effect were exchanged between Vietnam's Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien and his Japanese counterpart Nobutaka Machimura during the former's March 6-10 visit to Japan, Vietnam's newspaper *Saigon Times* reported on Friday.

The visa exemption will take effect on 1 May. Vietnam made a unilateral decision early last year to waive its visa requirements for Japanese tourists in a bid to attract more travellers from the Northeast Asian country.

During his trip to Japan, Nien paid a courtesy call on Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, and also met

with the country's Finance Minister and other Japanese parliamentarians.

The Japanese officials pledged to support Vietnam's bid to join the World Trade Organization. The two sides agreed to strengthen exchange of delegations from the two countries, especially in the fields of tourism and culture. Japan was the third biggest tourism market of Vietnam, after China and the United States, last year with over 267,200 travelling to the Southeast Asian nation, posting year-on-year rise of 27.5 per cent, said the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism.

MNA/Xinhua

US accused of undermining Cuba's pol credibility

HAVANA, 11 March — Cuba's Parliament Adviser Jorge Lezcano on Wednesday accused the United States of trying to prevent the world from knowing Cuba's political system in order to "undermine the political credibility of the island". Addressing a gathering at the National Hotel in Havana, Lezcano said Washington attacks Cuba's democratic and electoral process in a plan approved by US President George W. Bush last May in an attempt to isolate and destroy the Cuban revolution. The adviser said the plan seeks to change the present Cuban electoral system with the one of the United States, adding the present US Administration "intends to turn the electoral issue as part of the permanent hostility against Cuba".

MNA/Xinhua



A Morken tribesman makes a fishing boat at a makeshift shelter in the Kuraburi District of Pang-nga Province, southern Thailand on 11 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Private sector contributing...

(from page 16)

federation has gained a great deal of work experience.

The federation serves as a bridge between the government and private entrepreneurs as well as foreign economic organizations and local businessmen for their convenience. In addition, the federation takes measures for ensuring smooth dealings between local private entrepreneurs, and conducts negotiations if there is a dispute between them.

It is capable of organizing international level and local level meetings and seminars. And it is representing the motherland at meetings, seminars, training courses and trade fairs held abroad, thereby enhancing the dignity of the nation as well as its pro-

preneurs to export the crops and kitchen crops that are produced in the newly-reclaimed farmland. Moreover, rubber and corn are allowed to be exported on a wider scale, and the export of rubber is on the increase this year.

The Prime Minister called for extended reclamation of land for export of more agricultural produce, efforts to develop agro-based industry for extended export of finished goods, and new items, measures for gaining firm foothold in new markets such as seeking better ways to export rubber, pepper, fruits and greens, extended cultivation of beans and pulses that are in good demand, production of value-added items, penetrating other international markets, extended production and export of value-added finished forest products, and marine products, boosting production of exportable goods through innovative meas-

operation plays an important role in private sector according to Hanoi Plan of Action, Bali Concord and Vientiane Action Programme approved by Heads of State.

The Bali Concord II laid down the objectives of further cooperation with dialogue partners to widen economic cooperation towards the ASEAN Economic Community. According to ASEAN Vision 2020, it was agreed that equal economic development would be brought about in ASEAN region through free transport of goods, the flow of investment and the flow of capital.

According to the strategy of the Vientiane Action Programme (2004-2010), efforts are being made for emergence of single market in priority sector in 2010 and increase of competitive power of small and medium enterprise including investment.

He dealt with measures to be taken by UMFCFI. In Mekong subregion economic cooperation programme, the first summit meeting of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the People's Republic of China was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The members of the association signed the statement of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). The meeting reflects economic cooperation on trade and investment among Mekong Subregional countries.

As Myanmar is a member of ASEAN, GMS, ACMECS and BIMSTEC, implementation of agreements in principle and Plan of Action, private sector has become important. He spoke of the need to apply the opportunities for the benefits of the region and the country in economic cooperation and to undertake the tasks for national interest in dealing with nations of the world.

Now is opportune time for the national entrepreneurs to work in the interests of the country and their own, to enhance their reputation and to place emphasis on long-term interest. With new system and new ideas they are to do businesses profitable in the long run. In doing so, the UMFCFI is to guide its members, he added.

It is necessary to take into consideration the important role of entrepreneurs and the future of the State and the people. It is the urgent duty for UMFCFI to organize the members to gain correct thoughts in doing their business in accord with laws and rules, he said.

It is an important point to undertake the official export and import enterprises in accord with the rules and regulations. The government would provide assistance to those who follow laws.

Reliance on imported goods must be reduced and import-substitute enterprises are to be established and efforts are to be made for increase of export volume so that the gap of import-export ratio will become narrow and monetary system of the country will be stable.

The Prime Minister urged the UMFCFI to cooperate with 44 branches in states and divisions and townships, to extend agriculture, to boost production and export in cooperation with traders and the people, to increase the number of new export items, to seek new markets, to produce value-added products and import-substitute items and to cooperate with international organizations.

(See page 7)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win visits a booth of Myanmar products exhibition.—MNA

ficiency. It is collaborating with international economic organizations such as the International Chambers of Commerce, ASEAN Chambers of Commerce, the GMS-BF and the CLMT-ECS. Gaining a vast experience and global knowledge to a certain extent, the federation has been capable of taking a leading role in the nation's economic affairs.

ures to be taken by the Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association and industrial producers' association, efforts to develop textile industry, combined endeavours to boost production of import-substitute goods including edible oil, coordination for establishment of more pharmaceutical factories to fulfil the local demand and boosting production of mar-

Now is opportune time for entrepreneurs to work in the interests of the country and their own, to enhance their reputation and to place emphasis on long-term interest. With new system and new ideas they are to do businesses that bring about interest in the long run. In doing so, the UMFCFI is to guide its members.

The private sector and the cooperative sector are contributing 90 per cent towards the nation's GDP. And the private sector is also contributing more than 91 per cent to the trade sector. As the State-run organizations have quitted the trading of such agricultural produce as rice, cotton, sugarcane and rubber, the turnover of the private sector is on the increase.

Overall, the private sector is playing more important role in GDP, production, and trade sectors. Before 1988, there were no national entrepreneurs, but now there have been a lot of national entrepreneurs, farmers, industrialists, traders, hoteliers, banking entrepreneurs, and construction entrepreneurs thanks to the new systems and the State's economic policies.

It is time to make greater investment in the production of goods for the long-term interests of the nation. With the greater success achieved in production of goods in the agricultural, meat and fish, industrial and forestry sectors, the nation will be able to enjoy greater development of the trade sector alongside boosting production of raw materials, value-added finished goods and the exporting of new items.

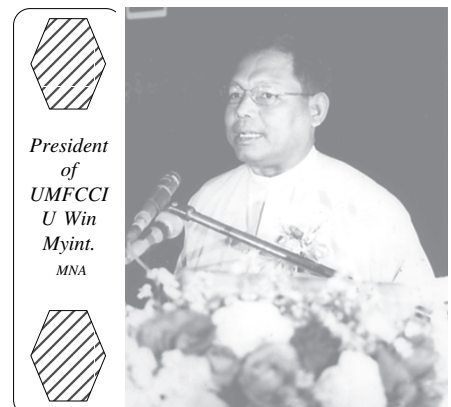
The government has allowed the national entre-

preneurs, coordination between the national entrepreneurs and the UMFCFI for further development of packing, transport and shipping needed for foreign trade.

Lt-Gen Soe Win also called on the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association to strive for organizing the mass of women to play an active role in region-wise and township-wise cottage industries in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperatives to create more job opportunities and raise the economy.

Therefore, efficiency and farsightedness and attempt of private entrepreneurs have become important for boosting production and trade development. He said the private entrepreneurs must have ability to do business relating to boosting production, export of new items, ensuring firm market for old items, deserved price, market information and equal ratio of export and import.

Now, the government is actively endeavouring for regional and international cooperation. Myanmar became a member of ASEAN in 1997 and signed agreements on economic cooperation in ASEAN. Co-



President
of
UMFCFI
U Win
Myint.
MNA

Private sector contributing...

(from page 6)

He said the government has laid down national economic plans and is making efforts for realization of the objectives of the third five-year plan. By doing so, the government has gained better foundations on reduction of budget deficit and inflation and increase of export volume and annual economic growth rate. Moreover, practice of abiding by laws, rules and regulations and system of procedures is making progress since trading is carried out in a proper way.

The private sector on its part is to strive together with the government as the latter is taking systematic measures for development of trade.

Only when the government, departments,

Private entrepreneurs and merchants are to earn their living in accordance with law, to always cultivate the noble nationalist spirit in them, and to work hard in concert with mutual understanding, sympathy, endurance and unity for further progress of the Federation.

merchants and entrepreneurs make integrated and well-coordinated efforts will there emerge prestigious trade and organizations and entrepreneurs.

Systematic steps are to be taken for the emergence of trade system and entrepreneurs of international level. Progress has been made in the economic sector as efforts were made for boosting production, development of trade, reducing inflation, ensuring trade surplus and enhancement of trade volume.

At such a time like this, efforts are to be made in a correct way for ensuring economic take-off, boosting the momentum of economic development and ensuring an enduring development.

Likewise, it is necessary for businessmen to take part in the process of transition to democracy with the sense of duty. It is also necessary to keep a watchful eye to internal destructive elements and

UMFCCI holds annual general meeting

YANGON, 12 March — The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry held its 14th annual general meeting at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

Patron of the Federation Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein gave a speech.

General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing sought approval from the members on the CEC annual report, financial statement and amendment of the rules and regulations of the Federation.

Acting Director-General U Myo Oo of Directorate of Trade read out the functions and duties of the new Central Executive Committee members and ECs.

Later, President of the Federation U Win Myint gave concluding remarks.— MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein addresses the 14th Annual General Meeting of UMFCCI.

some superpowers attempting to disturb political stability and economic growth and to hold sway over and isolate the country from the international community.

The UMFCCI and its partner organizations are responsible to lead their respective subordinates to the correct path.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister said private entrepreneurs and merchants are to earn their living in accordance with law, to always cultivate the noble nationalist spirit in them, and to work hard in concert with mutual understanding, sympathy, endurance and unity for further progress of the Federation.

Next, the meeting went into recess. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greeted the guests and diplomats.

Later, the Prime Minister and party view Myanmar export-standard commodities, for instance, foodstuff, traditional medicines, electrical appliances, refrigerators, TV sets and accessories, stationery, transformers, traditional costumes, home decoration materials, cosmetics, traditional handicraft and paints.

Before the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party also viewed auto parts manufactured by industrial zones.— MNA

Secretary-1 addresses Annual...

(See page 16)

participate in successfully convening the National Convention in cooperation with the national people.

The State is striving its utmost to ensure the balanced development of all regions across the nation and rural progress by establishing 24 special development regions and five rural development tasks. In this process, the Secretary-1, said MWVO members are required to play their part in the development drive.

It is important that to ensure the perpetuation of an organization, we need to have shared concept, confidence and ambition, he added. That is why all the members with these characteristics in common are to serve their duties conscientiously in the interests of the State and the people. Next, Committee Secretary Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe passed the resolutions with the approval of the meeting and presented a work progress report.

Commandant of MWVO (Headquarters) Col Win Maung (Retd) read out the work plan (draft) for convening the National Convention. Then those present took part in the discussions, and the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the Secretary-1.

MNA

Blood donated to Children's Hospital

YANGON, 12 March—

As a gesture of honouring the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day (2005), the Yangon West District Union Solidarity and Development Association donated blood, submitted applications for permanent blood donor membership, and carried out sanitation tasks at Yangon Children's Hospital in Dagon Township here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, USDA CEC Member Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, CEC Member Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, USDA members, local authorities, officials and blood donors.

The commander delivered a speech, calling for speedy implementa-



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin visits USDA members donating blood in Yangon Children's Hospital. — MNA

tion of the tasks for the upgrading of Yangon City.

A total of 11,500 applications were submitted, and K 50,000 donated to the funds of the hospital.

Next, the commander, the mayor and party visited 45 USDA members donating blood and 1,850 members doing sanitation work in the hospital.

MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်း အတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ် မှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လအတွက်
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နှင့်
(၂၇-၃-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

မော်တော်ယာဉ် မောင်းနှင်သူအနေဖြင့် အရက် သောက်စား မူးယစ်မောင်းနှင်မှုကြောင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ မကြာခဏ ဖြစ်ပွားလျက်ရှိရာ ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော် စည်ပင်သာယာ နယ်နိမိတ်အတွင်း အရက်သေစာ သောက်စားမောင်းနှင်ခြင်း မပြုရန်နှင့် လိုက်နာခြင်းမရှိပါက ၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ် ဧပြီလ(၁)ရက်နေ့မှ စတင်၍ ခေတ်မီအရက်မူးတိုင်းကိရိယာ (ALCOHOL TESTER) ဖြင့် တိုင်းတာ၍ မူးယစ်မှုတွေ့ရှိပါက တရား ဥပဒေအရ ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်ညှင်ကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေး ကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ



Senior General Than Shwe hears a report by Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut on the Shwegyin Hydropower Project. — MNA

Completion of Shwegyin Hydel Power Plant will lead to...

(from page 1)

The Ministry of Electric Power is carrying out hydel power projects in Sittoung basin region. Of them, Zaungtu hydel power project in Bago Division has been completed. Apart from Shwegyin hydel power project, Kunchaung hydel power project, Phyuhaung power project, Khabaung hydel power project, Yenwe hydel power project and Pathi hydel power project in Bago Division and Palaung hydel power project and Upper Paunglaung hydel power

ceeded to Shwekyin.

At Myawady Hall of the local battalion, the Senior General and party met with Tatmadawmen and families of the regiments and units in Shwekyin Station.

At the meeting, General Thura Shwe Mann explained the purpose of the inspection tour of members of the State Peace and Development Council, senior military officers and the ministers led by the Senior General to Shwegyin, progress of political, economic and social sectors of the State and strengthening of organizational tasks inside and outside regiments and units.

local people at the same venue. Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Htwe Myint reported on area of the township, population, land utilization, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy exceeding the target, local food sufficiency, growing of cold season and perennial crops, development of education and health sectors and increase of per capita income in the region.

Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko briefed the Senior General on efforts being made for putting between 50,000 acres and over 100,000 acres under rubber plantations within three years in Bago Division beginning 2005-06, arrangements for extending over 30,000 acres of rubber in Shwegyin Township and tasks of establishing rubber nursery.

Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha reported on successful implementation of short-term plans for national development and efforts made with added momentum for development of Bago Division and that of national economy.

(See page 9)



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to the officials in the Shwegyin Hydropower Project. — MNA

project are under construction.

The plans are under way to implement Thaukyekhat and Bawgali hydel power projects in Bago Division and Namcho hydel power project in Mandalay Division.

After inspecting tasks of Shwekyin hydel power project, Senior General Than Shwe and party pro-

After giving guidance on building a strong and efficient Tatmadaw and living in oneness with the people the Senior General cordially greeted Tatmadawmen and their families.

In the afternoon, Senior General Than Shwe and members met with township departmental personnel, members of USDA and social organizations and

The 75-megawatt Shwegyin hydel power project is being implemented on Shwegyin Creek. The Ministry of Electric Power is carrying out hydel power projects in Sittoung basin region. Of them, Zaungtu hydel power project in Bago Division has been completed. Apart from Shwegyin hydel power project, Kunchaung hydel power project, Phyuhaung power project, Khabaung hydel power project, Yenwe hydel power project and Pathi hydel power project in Bago Division and Palaung hydel power project and Upper Paunglaung hydel power project are under construction.



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance in meeting with Tatmadaw members and their families of regiments and units of Shwegyin Station. — MNA

Completion of Shwegyin Hydel Power Plant will lead to.....

(from page 8)

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that he was in Shwegyin region to inspect regional development and implementation of Shwegyin Hydel Power project that will contribute to regional and national development as he has not been there for a long time.

He added that although the region is only over 100 miles from Yangon it took a long time to reach Yangon due to poor transport in the past.

The government renovated and upgraded Nyaunglaybin-Madauk road and built Sittoung river crossing Shwegyin Bridge for development of the region. With better transport marketing in the region is making progress, he stressed.

In addition to better transport, the government has been taking systematic steps for development of education and health sectors of the region. As a result, the Shwegyin Township People's Hospital was upgraded from 16-bed hospital to 100-bed facility. The completion of Shwegyin Hydel Power



Senior General Than Shwe has cordial conversation with Tatmadaw members and families in Shwegyin. —MNA

With this concept, the government is fulfilling necessary requirements.

It is incumbent upon local people to make relentless efforts for development of their regions while the government is building necessary infrastructures to bring about equitable and harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation.

In this regard, economic development is at the hub of the drive. According to the geopolitics, Shwegyin region should step up implementation of tasks with the use of agriculture as the base for higher economy. Better ways and means are to be sought for boosting per acre yield of seasonal crops including paddy and for extended growing of perennial crops. Only when innovative measures are to be taken effectively for boosting production of agricultural produce and new items, will the local people be able to enjoy food sufficiency with higher

living standard.

Being blessed with favourable conditions and climate for growing rubber, Shwegyin region has to broaden the scope of planting rubber that has ready market, in the interests of their own, region and the nation.

Rubber also grows well on slopes of mountains, and the region is thus to make effective use of all the vacant and virgin lands, discarding the old concept that rubber can grow only on the plains.

With the effective use of assistance provided by the government, the local people are to exert greater efforts to be able to enhance regional development and to raise the living standard of their own.

After the meeting, the Senior General cordially greeted those present. The Senior General and party viewed the progress of the region by car.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, who accompanied the Senior General, inspected the township People's Hospital (100-bed).

MNA

Better ways and means are to be sought for boosting per acre yield of seasonal crops including paddy and for extended growing of perennial crops. Only when innovative measures are to be taken effectively for boosting production of agricultural produce and new items, will the local people be able to enjoy food sufficiency with higher living standard.

Plant will also led to development of cottage industry, he disclosed.

Shwegyin region is a strategic region on the eastern bank of Sittoung River. If the region develops its contiguous rural regions will develop too.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects development tasks in Tanai, Phakant

YANGON, 12 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin of Tanai Station, met with officers, other ranks and families at Tanai Station Hall on 9 March morning.

At Hukaung Hall in Tanai, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with departmental personnel, social organizations and local people. He heard reports on matters related to the township and regional development tasks by officials. After leaving instructions, he cordially greeted those present.

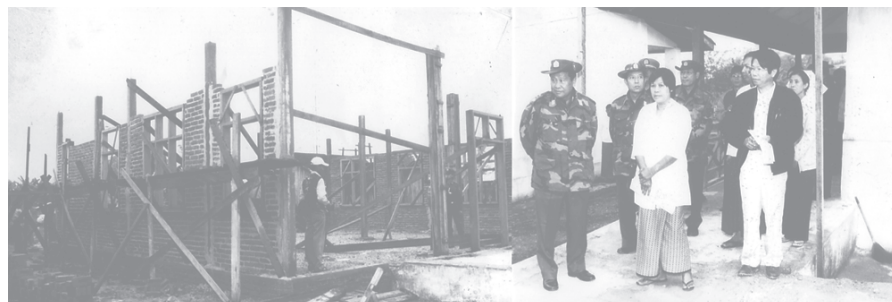
He presented a computer set to Tanai BEHS through Headmaster U Phillip Dee Sam. Next, two commanders gave gifts and cash of wellwishers to officials. Officer on Special Duty Col Than Shein handed over a welding

machine for Panhsaung water supply task donated by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs to Col Ye Aung of Tanai Station. Similarly, a private company donated 100 longyis each for men and women to the Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party oversaw maintenance of 942 feet long Tanai Bridge built of steel frame opened on 12 February 2002 (Union Day). Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed officials to ensure durability of the bridge and prevent bank erosion. They also inspected construction of the annex at Tanai People's Hospital and the building at Tanai BEHS.

On arrival at Shaduzok Village of Phakant Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party met with officers, other ranks and families of the local battalion. In Dunban Village, they also met with Tatmadawmen at the local battalion.

In the afternoon, they flew back Myitkyina by helicopter. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint views the construction of new building of Tanai People's Hospital in Kachin State. — MNA

U-21 Myanmar team trounce Singapore team 6-0

YANGON, 12 March — Selected Myanmar youth team whitewashed Singaporean youth team 6-0 in the Group B of the Hassanali Bolkiah Trophy Under-21 Invitational Football Tournament today.

The tournament is being held in Brunei from 12 to 26 March.

Yan Paing of Myanmar youth team scored an opening goal at sixth minute in first half, Mar La second goal at 12th minute in first half and sixth goal at 45th minute in second half. Khin Maung Tun third goal at 29th minute in first half, Kyaw Thura fourth goal at 31st minute in first half and Soe Lin Tun fifth at 43rd minute in second half.

The Myanmar youth team will meet with host Brunei youth team at 4 pm local time on 16 March.

MNA

Myawady TV programmes on air via new satellite

YANGON, 12 March — Myawady TV Broadcasting Unit is airing its programmes through satellite CHINASTAR-1 instead of PALAPA-C2 as of 1 March. Except TV antenna, satellite is to be changed its direction to CHINASTAR-1.

Facts and figures related to receiving TV programmes through CHINASTAR-1 are Satellite=CHINASTAR-1, Satellite location=87.5°E, Downlink Frequency=3733.5 Mhz, Symbol rate+ 5.925 Msym/S, FEC=3/4, Polarization=horizontal, Modulation= QPSK.

MNA

The region or state high courts should be vested with the exclusive original jurisdiction

YANGON, 12 March — *The following is the clarification made by Secretary of the National Convention Convening Work Committee U Thaug Nyunt, on behalf of the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee, on the judicial sector for laying down detailed basic principles for the sharing of judicial powers to be included in the State Constitution, at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, on 8 March.*

I will explain the Work Committee's study on distribution of judicial power to all levels of courts.

The National Convention has laid down the following basic principles concerning the judicial sector:

- (1) The judicial power of the State is distributed among the Supreme Court of the Union, region high courts, state high courts, and law courts of different levels including law courts of self-administered areas;
- (2) In the Union is constituted one Supreme Court of the Union. The Supreme Court of the Union is the highest law court of the State;
- (3) The Supreme Court of the Union has powers to issue writs;
- (4) A region high court is constituted in each of the regions, and a state high court is constituted in each of the states; and
- (5) The following are stipulated as judicial principles:
 - independent administration of justice in accord with law;
 - administration of justice in public, except where restricted by law;
 - giving of right of defence and right of appeal by law in cases.

Moreover, the National Convention has laid down the following detailed basic principles for the formation of the judicial power that should be included in writing the Constitution as basic principles:

The judicial power of the State is distributed:

- (a) in accordance with the State Constitution or by the other laws, among the Supreme Court of the Union, High Courts of the Regions, High Courts of the States, Courts of the self-administered division, Courts of the self-administered zones, District Courts, Township Courts, other courts constituted by the law and judges appointed in accordance with law;
- (b) in accordance with the State Constitution or by other laws among Courts Martial;
- (c) in accordance with the State Constitution, to the Constitutional Tribunal.

Now I will present the Work Committee's study on the distribution of judicial power to the Supreme Court of the Union, High Courts of the Regions, High Courts of the States, Courts of the self-administered division, Courts of the self-administered zones, District Courts, Township Courts according to the already-laid-down detailed basic principles.

The courts that had existed from 1948, the year in which the nation regained independence, to 1962, the year in which the Revolutionary Council began to assume the State duties are as follows:

- (a) The Supreme Court and the High Court formed in accord with the 1947 Constitution and the Union Judicial Act;
- (b) The district civil courts, additional civil courts, sub-divisional judge's courts and township courts formed in accord with the 1950 Courts Act and the 1953 State Courts Act,
- (c) Court of Session, Court of District Magistrate, Sub-divisional Magistrate, Township Magistrate and Additional Magistrate formed according to the Criminal Procedure Code
- (d) courts formed according to any law.

When the Revolutionary Council handed over the

duties on 2 March 1962, it suspended the Supreme Court and the High Court and formed the State Supreme Court. In August 1972, State/Division People's Courts, township people's courts, and ward/village-tract people's courts were formed under the State Supreme Court as the forerunner of the people's judicial system.

The Council of People's Justices, State Judges' Committees, Divisional Judges' Committees, Township Judges' Committees, Ward Judges' Committees and the Village-tract Judges' Committees were formed in 1974, the year in which the Pyithu Hluttaw and the different levels of People's Councils emerged, and existed till 1988. During the period, there were four levels of courts — the central level, the state/division level, township level and ward/village-tract level.

At present, the Union of Myanmar has the following four levels of courts:

- (a) The Supreme Court
- (b) State Court or Division Courts
- (c) District Courts
- (d) Township Courts

According to the basic principles laid down by the National Convention, the Supreme Court of the Union, High Courts of the Regions, High Courts of the States, district courts and township courts will be set up in the nation. There will be the self-administered division court and township courts in a self-administered division, and the self-administered zone court and township courts in a self-administered zone. I will explain the sharing of judicial power among the courts from the central level to township level.

I will present the Work Committee's study on judicial power that should be delegated to the Supreme Court of the Union. In the 1947 Constitution, of the two highest courts — the Supreme Court and the High Court — only the High Court is vested with the exclusive original jurisdiction, and the Supreme Court is not vested with exclusive original jurisdiction.

Concerning the matter, section 135 of the 1947 Constitution states, (1) "The High Court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction —

- (a) in all matters arising under any treaty made by the Union;
- (b) in all disputes between the Union and a unit or between one unit and another;
- (c) in such other matters, if any, as may be defined by law.

(2) "If the High Court is satisfied that a case pending in any inferior Court involves or is likely to involve substantially a question of validity of any law having regard to the provisions of this Constitution, the High Court shall transfer the case to itself for trial."

The National Convention has laid down the following basic principle in connection with the general provisions:

"A Constitutional Tribunal shall be set up to interpret provisions of the State Constitution; to scrutinize whether or not laws enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Region Hluttaws, State Hluttaws and functions of executive authorities of the Union, regions, states and self-administered areas are in conformity with the State Constitution; to decide on disputes in connection with the State Constitution between Union and regions, between Union and states, between regions and states, among regions, among states, between regions or states and self-administered areas and among self-administered areas themselves; and to perform other duties prescribed in the State Constitution."

If there arises any Constitutional disputes between the Union and a unit or between one unit and another and a case pending in any court involves a question of validity of any law having regard to the provisions of this Constitution, the matters will be concerned with the Constitutional Tribunal. The Supreme Court of the Union should be vested with the exclusive original jurisdiction to address the problems, apart from the above-mentioned matters, arising from the treaties

Work
Committee
Secretary
U Thaug
Nyunt.
MNA



reached between the Union Government and other nations, and the disputes, other than the constitutional disputes, between the Union Government and region or state governments, and between regions and states, among regions, among states, and between Union territories and regions or states.

Now I will deal with the matter concerning the vesting of the jurisdiction of appeal to the Supreme Court of the Union. The basic principle "giving the right to defence and right of appeal by law in cases" has already been laid down. According to this principle, the jurisdiction of appeal should be entrusted to the Supreme Court of the Union.

As the Supreme Court of the Union is the highest court, it should have the jurisdiction of appeal on judgments passed by the subordinate courts at all levels. Moreover, the jurisdiction of appeal will be vested in the Supreme Court of the Union according to the existing laws and any of the laws to be introduced. Thus, the Supreme Court of the Union will have to exercise the said jurisdiction.

As the courts at higher levels have the duty to supervise the subordinate courts for the judgments passed by them to be fair and just and be in accord with the law, they have to exercise the jurisdiction of revision according to the law. The Supreme Court of the Union should also exercise the jurisdiction of revision, submitted within the framework of the law.

In connection with the above-mentioned explanations, delegates will have to discuss and suggest whether or not the following detailed basic principles should be laid down:

- (a) **The Supreme Court of the Union shall have the exclusive original jurisdiction —**
 - (1) **in all matters arising under any treaty made by the Union;**
 - (2) **the disputes, other than the constitutional disputes, between the Union Government and region or state governments,**
 - (3) **the disputes, other than the constitutional disputes, among the regions, among the states, between regions and states and between Union territories and regions or states**
 - (4) **other matters prescribed by any laws**
- (b) **as the Supreme Court of the Union is the highest court of the State, it is also the final appellate court**
- (c) **as the judgments passed by the Supreme Court of the Union are final and conclusive, no right of appeal shall be permitted**
- (d) **The Supreme Court of the Union, subject to any provisions of this Constitution or any provisions of other law, shall have the appellate jurisdiction to decide on the judgments passed by the region or state high courts. The Supreme Court of the Union shall also have the appellate jurisdiction to inspect and decide on, according to the law, the judgments passed by other courts.**

(See page 11)

The judges appointed in accordance with law are to take charge of the entire judicial affairs across the whole Union at the courts formed according to the Constitution or any of other laws

YANGON, 12 MARCH — *The following is the presentation made by member of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein, on behalf of the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee, on the judicial sector for laying down detailed basic principles for the sharing of judicial powers to be included in the State Constitution, at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnaphin Camp in Hmawby Township, on 8 March.*

I will now present the study on the appellate jurisdiction. The High Court had the jurisdiction on the appeal according to the 1947 Constitution. The present state and division courts also enjoy the appellate jurisdiction. Thus, the appellate jurisdiction should be vested in the region or state high court. According to the already-laid-down basic principles, there will be district and township courts under the region or state high courts. There will be the self-administered division court and township courts in the self-administered division, and self-administered zone courts and township courts in the self-administered zones. Hence, the jurisdiction on the appeal should be vested in the region or state high courts.

As the courts at higher levels have the duty to supervise the subordinate courts for the judgments passed by them to be fair and equal and be in accord with the law, they have to exercise the jurisdiction of revision according to the law. The Supreme Court of the Union should also exercise the jurisdiction of revision, submitted to it within the framework of the law.

Thus, the **jurisdiction of revision** should be entrusted to the region or state high courts.

Of the detailed basic principles laid down in connection with the distribution of judicial power, one principle states that the judicial power of the State is distributed to "other courts constituted by law and judges appointed in accordance with law according to the State Constitution or by other laws". Therefore, there will emerge other courts constituted by law. The Work Committee found that it is promulgated in some laws that an appeal could be lodged at a court in the past in connection with the appeal against the judgment, order and decision passed by such courts.

With Notification No 6/89 dated 28 July 1989, the government formed a tax appellate court to hear the cases born out of Myanmar Income Tax Law, Income Tax Law, Profit Tax Law, Commercial Tax Act of 1952, Commercial Premises Tax Act of 1956, Hotels and Restaurants Tax Act of 1949, Entertainment Tax Act of 1947, Myanmar Excise Act, Myanmar Stamp Act, Myanmar Court Fees Act, Sea Customs Act, and Land Act. The tax appellate court has the right to transfer to the Supreme Court the case relating to legal matters. Therefore, the Supreme Court has the right to pass judgment on legal matters submitted in connection with the judgments of the tax appellate court.

If there are provisions in any future law that enables the courts of regions or states to pass judgments, it is appropriate to vest such courts with the **jurisdiction by any law** so that they can open a trial on such cases.

I have presented the Work Committee's study on which jurisdiction should be vested in the courts of regions or states. According to this presentation, the courts of regions or states should be vested with the judicatures as follows:

The courts of regions or states are vested with the following jurisdiction in accordance with law:

- (1) adjudicating on original case
- (2) adjudicating on appeal case
- (3) adjudicating on revision case
- (4) adjudicating on matters vested by any law

In writing the State Constitution, one of the detailed basic principles laid down for 'the State Structure' states that "the State is delineated and constituted with seven regions, seven states and Union territories". Among the detailed basic principles already laid down are "Yangon City, which is the Capital of the Union, is designated as Union territory placed under the direct administration of the President of the State"; and "Cocogyun Township which has a special situation is designated as Union territory and placed under the direct administration of the President of the State". According to these detailed basic principles, Yangon City and Cocogyun Township, which have been designated as Union territories, do not belong to any region or state, and they will emerge as separate areas placed under the direct administration of the President of the State. The point of the designation of Union territories is to enable the President of the State to directly handle the administrative affairs of areas that have special situation in connection with national defence, security, administration, economy and so on. Designated Hluttaws will carry out the matter of legislation concerning these areas. Likewise, as to judicial matters, the courts situated in these Union territories will be placed under a designated high court. According to the detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention, the Union territory will have district courts and township courts. In view of the judicial matter, the Yangon Region High Court should be designated to be the high court of the courts situated in Yangon City and Cocogyun Township.

The National Convention has laid down a detailed basic principle that if the need arises to designate as Union territory the areas with special situation as to national defence, security, administration, economy, etc., they may be so designated as Union territories placed under the direct administration of the President of the State after enacting laws if need be. If an area located in any region or any state is designated to be a Union territory according to the Constitution, it is appropriate to designate the region or state high court concerned to be the high court of the courts situated in the said Union territory.

In connection with the judicial matters in Union territories, it is therefore necessary to discuss and suggest as to whether or not detailed basic principles should be laid down as follows:

- (a) **With regard to the judicial matter, Yangon Region High Court is the high court of the courts situated in Yangon City and Cocogyun Township.**
- (b) **In case any area located in regions or states is designated to be a Union territory, the region or state high court concerned with regard to the judicial matter is the high court of the courts situated in the said Union territory.**

I will now present the matters related to the distribution of judicial power to the different levels of the courts under the region or state high court.

Detailed basic principles have been laid down in connection with the formation of the different levels of the courts under the region or state high court. District courts, self-administered area courts and district courts of the Union territory should be vested with the judicial powers for the trial on the primary case, the appeal case and the revision case as regards the judgment, order and decision passed by a township court under them.

It is prescribed in the provisions of some existing laws with regard to which court alone has the power to open trials on the cases mentioned in these laws. The laws to be enacted in future will embody provisions with regard to which court alone has the power

(See page 15)

Work
Committee
Member
Deputy
Minister
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MNA



The region or state high...

(from page 10)

- (e) **The Supreme Court of the Union shall have the jurisdiction of the revision case according to law.**

Here, I will explain the Work Committee's study on delegation of the power to issue writs to the Supreme Court of the Union. The basic principle "The Union Supreme Court has powers to issue writs" has already been laid down.

If citizens face loss of rights the Constitution has granted, they will be allowed to submit the matter to the Chief Justice for issuance of writs. But in a region where state of emergency is declared, submission for issuance of writs should be suspended.

The study of the Work Committee shows that the 1947 Constitution of Myanmar and the constitutions of some nations suspend the submission of the issuance of writs during the state of emergency. Hence, a detailed basic principle "the submission for issuance of writs should be suspended in the areas where the state of emergency has been declared" should be laid down.

The delegates will have to discuss and suggest whether or not the following detailed basic principles should be laid down:

- (a) **The Supreme Court of the Union has the power to issue the following writs:**
 1. Writ of habeas corpus
 2. Writ of mandamus
 3. Writ of prohibition
 4. Writ of quo warranto
 5. Writ of certiorari
- (b) **The submission for issuance of writs shall be suspended in the areas where the state of emergency is declared.**

Now I will present the Work Committee's study on the delegation of judicial power to the region or state high courts.

Concerning the State Structure, the basic principle "the existing seven divisions are designated seven regions and the existing seven states are designated seven states. Those seven regions and seven states are of equal status and authority" has already been laid down.

According to the basic principle, a total of 14 high courts will be set up in the Union of Myanmar. As all the 14 high courts are of equal status, the equal judicial powers should be vested in them. Now, I will discuss the types of judicial powers that should be delegated to the region and state high courts.

Supreme Courts of most of the nations have the exclusive original jurisdiction. The 1947 Constitution of Myanmar also stipulates the exclusive original jurisdiction of the High Court.

Thus, the region or state high courts should be vested with the exclusive original jurisdiction.

MNA

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

Win Mu Tin
 M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
 for **TORAY KABUSHIKI**
KAISHA.
 P. O. Box 60, Yangon
 Dated: 13 March, 2005.

Swiss balloon accident blamed on human error

GENEVA, 11 March — Investigators blamed human error for a hot-air balloon accident at the Swiss Transport Museum last July that left an Indian tourist dead, according to a report published here on Thursday.

The report by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) found that the tethered balloon, known as the *Hiflyer*, was carrying too many passengers when it made an ascent in dangerous weather conditions.

"The accident is attributable to the fact that on the occasion of an ascent in conditions with excessively high wind speeds and in an overloaded condition, the gondola... was damaged by a winch cable in such a way that a passenger fell to Earth, suffering fatal injuries," stated the AAIB report.

In its findings, the agency criticized the balloon crew for carrying out two extra trips — including the fatal one — in "critical weather conditions".

It noted that a wind warning from Meteoswiss, a national weather service, had arrived by fax at the *Hiflyer*'s operation centre, but had not been brought to the attention of the balloon pilots. — *MNA/Xinhua*

UNION OF MYANMAR
 MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
 MYANMA RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats, US Dollars:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	12(T)1/MR(ML) 2005-2006	Spare Parts for DEL & DHL	1-Lot 1-Lot
2.	12(T)2/MR(ML) 2005-2006	Spare Parts for DEL & DHL	

Closing Date. -12.4.2005 (Tuesday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 14.3.2005 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 (Ext-602,605,612)

Deputy General Manager
 Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V "SITTWE" VOY NO. ST117/N

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V "SITTWE" Voy No. ST117/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 13-3-2005 and will be berthing on about 14.3.2005 and cargos will be discharged into the premises 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.

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
 Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

Ciampi hopes for swift investigations into shooting of Calipari

ROME, 11 March — Italian Head of State Carlo Azeglio Ciampi told US President George W Bush on Thursday that his country hopes for swift and transparent investigations into the shooting of Italian agent Nicola Calipari in Iraq.

Ciampi was replying to Bush's "letter of solidarity" after Friday's incident in Baghdad when US soldiers shot Calipari dead and wounded another agent and a hostage who had just been freed.

"I appreciated the sincerity in your expressions of solidarity," said Ciampi, addressing the President "Dear George".

On Wednesday, in a letter to Ciampi, Bush gave "assurances that the United States will move ahead with a rapid and comprehensive inquiry, carried out jointly by Italy and the United States, to shed light on this terrible tragedy".

The Italian President said he welcomed Bush's promise "that the United States will hold thorough

and joint investigations so that the facts surrounding this tragedy can be cleared up completely".

Ciampi said that Bush understood and was anxious to comply with Italians' concern for the need of "transparency and swiftness" in the investigations.

On Thursday, US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld told Italian Defence Minister Antonio Martino that he will personally ensure thorough investigations into the shooting.

Rumsfeld provided personal and total cooperation to ensure that the joint US-Italian investigations into last Friday's incident will be "comprehensive".

MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

"Total" to double oil production in Venezuela

PARIS, 11 March — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez announced here on Wednesday that the French oil giant Total will double its oil production in Venezuela to 400,000 barrels a day from 200,000 barrels.

Chavez made the announcement after meeting with French President Jacques Chirac. He said Total will invest several billion US dollars to double its production and has been authorized to operate off Venezuela's Atlantic shore, where there are large gas reserves.

However, Venezuela will not cut US companies' oil production in it as it wants to increase the total oil production, Chavez said.

Chavez arrived in Paris on Wednesday for a 24-hour working visit. Before holding talks with Chirac, Chavez had met with Total chief executive Thierry Desmarest. — *MNA/Xinhua*

MRI scans produce effects similar to use of antidepressants

WASHINGTON, 12 March — High-speed magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans produce effects in rats similar to the use of antidepressants, confirming observations made in human patients, US researchers reported on Thursday.

The finding suggests that electromagnetic fields can affect brain biology, the team at McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School reported.

"We found that when we administered the magnetic stimulation to the rats, we saw an antidepressant-like effect, the same effect as seen after administration of standard antidepressant drugs," said William Carlezon, director of McLean's Behavioural Genetics Laboratory.

Writing in the journal *Biological Psychiatry*, Carlezon and colleagues said they tested the rats after another team at the hospital reported a new type of magnetic

resonance imaging, called echo planar magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging (EP-MRSI), had improved the mood of people in the depressed phase of bipolar disorder.

The new study was designed "to see if we could demonstrate in an animal model what the clinicians thought they were seeing in humans," Carlezon said.

When repeatedly stressed, rats develop helpless behaviour, which may be their version of despair, the researchers said. But in the experiment, the rats that had been exposed to EP-MRSI showed less helplessness during the stress tests.

"They behaved as if

they had received an antidepressant," said Dr. Bruce Cohen, psychiatrist in chief at McLean.

"It's a non-drug way to change the firing of nerve cells," Cohen said. "That's why the implications of this work have the potential to be so profound."

While this may offer a new way to treat depression, it also suggests that at least some forms of MRI are more invasive than previously thought, the researchers said.

"Renewed caution is warranted when high-speed MRI is used to diagnose or study disorders involving the brain," the researchers wrote. — *MNA/Reuters*



A Siberian tiger enjoys the fresh snow at the Moscow Zoo on 10 March, 2005.

INTERNET

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China Mobile has topped earnings forecasts with a 5.1 billion US dollar net profit for 2004.

INTERNET

Researchers say Plavix helps reduce heart attacks

WASHINGTON, 11 March — Adding Plavix to the standard anti-clotting medication for heart attack patients can help keep arteries open and reduce deaths, researchers said on Wednesday.

Researchers attending an American College of Cardiology meeting held in Orlando, Florida, said the new strategy is the first big advance in heart attack care in more than a decade.

Two large-scale international studies tested the safety and effect of Plavix in treating major heart attacks. They showed Plavix can help prevent the reclosing of the artery and a consequent second heart attack, which occurs in about one-fourth of heart attack patients given medications to dissolve the clot that completely or almost fully blocks the coronary artery.

About one third of heart attacks are caused by such blockages of a coronary artery. Plavix, whose

chemical name is clopidogrel, has been sold by Sanofi-Aventis and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co, which funded the studies.

One study in North America and Europe involved about 3,500 men and women who were treated within 12 hours of reaching the hospital with severe heart attacks caused by complete blockages of a coronary artery.

All patients received standard anti-clotting medications including clot-busting drugs, and Aspirin and Heparin to prevent new clots. About half also took daily doses of Plavix, while the others got a placebo.

Angiograms within about a week after the drug treatment showed 21.7 per cent of the placebo group

still had clogged arteries, died or suffered a second heart attack, compared with only 15 per cent in the Plavix group.

This means that Plavix plus standard medications reduced the risk of death or a second heart attack by 36 per cent, said lead researcher Marc Sabatine, of the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

In the other study, which involved about 46,000 patients in China, the risk was 9 per cent lower in the Plavix group than the placebo group.

"The treatment was very effective and very safe," commented Zhengming Chen of the University of Oxford in England, who led the Chinese study.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists identify gene responsible for eye damage

LOS ANGELES, 11 March — Three independent studies have identified a gene involved in a form of eye damage that is the leading cause of blindness in the elderly, US scientists reported on Thursday.

These findings, appearing in the latest issue of the Science journal, may lead to tests that would allow earlier detection of the disorder, known as age-related macular degeneration or AMD, which in turn may lead to better treatments.

Macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness in Americans over the age of 50, is a very complex disease. By age 75, an estimated 30 per cent of Americans have some manifestation of AMD.

In patients with AMD, the central region of the

retina deteriorates, leading to loss of central vision. No therapy has proven to be broadly effective. But three research teams scanned the genomes of individuals with and without AMD in search of patterns that could be linked to the disorder.

Robert Klein and colleagues at Rockefeller University and Yale University examined more than 100,000 sequence variants, known as single nucleotide polymorphisms or "SNPs," across the entire genome and were able to

identify a specific variant in the CFH gene that was strongly tied to AMD.

They estimate that this variant increases an individual's risk of developing AMD by three- to seven-fold.

The CFH gene encodes a protein called complement factor H that helps regulate inflammation in a branch of the immune system known as the complement system.

MNA/Xinhua

"Titanic" director to launch new ocean exploration project

LOS ANGELES, 11 March — James Cameron, director of Hollywood's blockbuster "Titanic", is to host a private screening of his new documentary, "Aliens of the Deep", to launch a new ocean exploration project on 24 March.

The Deep Ocean One project, led by Mike McDowell, CEO of a deep-water exploration company Deep Ocean Expeditions, aims to attract more governments to invest in the ocean field by proposing a series of deep ocean exploration projects.

McDowell, whose company was the first operator to take "eco-tourists" to the deck of the Titanic, will also attend Cameron's screening to be held at the director's digital recording studio in Santa Monica.

MNA/Xinhua

NZ Focus Centre to be opened in Hong Kong

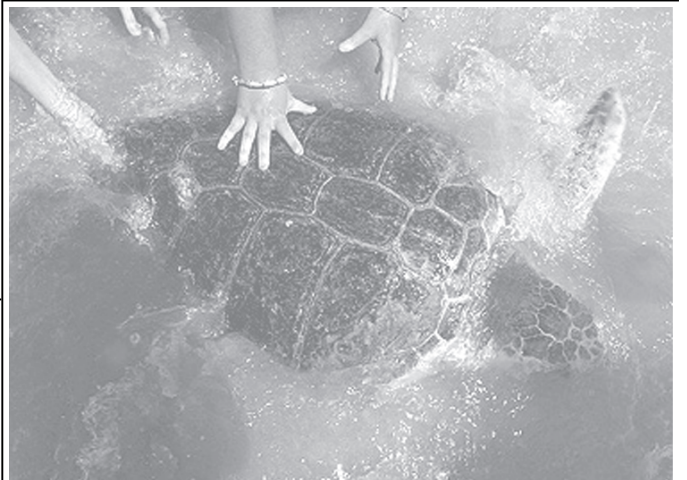
WELLINGTON, 11 March — New Zealand will open the New Zealand Focus Centre in Hong Kong later this year to boost trade opportunities for New Zealand in Asia, it was announced here on Thursday.

The centre will be a showcase for New Zealand food and beverage retail products, whiteware, tourism, education and other business, boosting trade opportunities for New Zealand exporters targeting North Asia.

Congratulating New Zealand Trade and Enterprise on the announcement, Trade Negotiations Minister Jim Sutton said on Thursday at a business conference in Auckland, that the centre targets Hong Kong's own population base, where there is strong demand for New Zealand products, but is also designed to create new markets for New Zealand exports in China's mainland.

"Global trade flows, population demographics and our relationships with other countries all point to North Asia being our future export trading focus," Sutton said.

He said that this is an innovative and exciting initiative that demonstrates New Zealand's long term commitment to its relationship with Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland.— MNA/Xinhua



A juvenile Loggerhead sea trule is given a push toward freedom in Greece, on 11 March, 2005.—INTERNET

HKSAR government sets up Public Affairs Forum

HONG KONG, 11 March — The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government announced on Thursday the establishment of the Public Affairs Forum, a consultative forum to advise the government on major public issues in Hong Kong.

The Public Affairs Forum Web Site was launched at the same time, according to a government Press release.

"This is an initiative flowing from the 2004 Policy Address of the Chief Executive," a Home Affairs Bureau spokesman said.

"The setting up of the Public Affairs Forum shows that the government attaches great importance to the middle

class, appreciates their values and beliefs, as well as their aspirations to participate in public affairs," the spokesman said.

Members of the Forum are mainly salaried employees from the business, professional and academic fields who have attained tertiary education level or obtained professional qualifications. They regard themselves as members of the middle

class, and the community in general regard them as such.

"The Public Affairs Forum has adopted a new mode of operation through a dedicated web site which provides a platform for exchange of views among Forum members.

Such an arrangement allows Forum members maximum flexibility in carrying out discussions.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Chess great Kasparov announces retirement

MADRID, 11 March— Former world champion Garry Kasparov has announced his retirement from competition chess, according to Spanish media reports. Kasparov, 41, announced his decision after winning a prestigious tournament in the southern Spanish town of Linares for the ninth time on Thursday, state radio said.

Kasparov, a leading member of a Russian liberal grouping known as Committee 2008, plans to devote himself to politics and to writing books, the radio said. Tournament organizers could not immediately be reached to confirm the reports.

"I will play chess, because I like it a lot, but not professionally. I may play in simultaneous games or fast games, but nothing more," Spanish sports web site Marca quoted Kasparov as saying.

It quoted him as saying that he took the decision because of the enormous pressure he had been under in recent years. Bulgarian Veselin Topalov beat Kasparov in Thursday's final round at Linares but Kasparov had already assured himself of victory in the tournament.

MNA/Reuters

UEFA looking into Chelsea-Baca incidents

LONDON, 11 March— UEFA is looking into the incidents that marred the end of Chelsea's Champions League victory over Barcelona at Stamford Bridge this week.

"I am only in a position for now to say we are investigating the incidents and gathering more information," a spokesman for European soccer's governing body said on Thursday.

Barcelona's Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o told reporters a Chelsea steward had abused at him as he left the pitch after his team's 4-2 defeat on Wednesday.

Chelsea, who won the first knockout round tie 5-

4 on aggregate, denied the accusations in a statement on Wednesday.

A scintillating see-saw match that was incident-free for the 90 minutes was marred by angry scenes near the tunnel afterwards with stewards hurrying Barca players and coach Frank Rijkaard off the pitch.

Chelsea raced into a 3-0 lead in 19 minutes, turning the tie their way, but Barcelona hit back with two Ronaldinho goals before halftime and would have qualified on the away goals rule but for John Terry's 76th-minute winner.

A plastic bottle was

thrown from the area of the crowd where the Barcelona fans sat as Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich made his way to the dressing rooms.

The bad blood between the two sides began during the first leg at the Nou Camp when Chelsea accused Rijkaard of attempting to influence Swedish referee Anders Frisk at halftime.

Chelsea are already under investigation by UEFA for sending their players back out onto the pitch late for the second half in Barcelona and failing to attend the mandatory post-match news conference.

MNA/Reuters



Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho was fined 5,000 pounds for remarks questioning the integrity of the referee who handled his side's League Cup semi-final first leg against Manchester United.

INTERNET

Australia seeking to join Asian Football Confederation

CANBERRA, 12 March— Australia have asked world soccer's governing body FIFA for permission to join Asia as part of a move to develop their domestic game and make it easier to qualify for the World Cup.

Frank Lowy, chairman of the Football Federation of Australia (FFA), released a statement in Sydney on Friday confirming talks were underway for his country to join the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) after 2006.

"For some time now the FFA has had an objective to join AFC," Lowy said. "Our current affiliation leaves Australia in an anomalous situation in a football sense."

FFA chief executive John O'Neill said the push to join Asia was part of a long-term strategy to improve the commercial and competitive nature of soccer in Australia.

"There is no doubt that if FFA is able to achieve membership of

AFC, it will go a long way towards transforming football in Australia," O'Neill said.

"As we move from a domestic competitive environment into an exciting, dynamic, regional one, (this) will contribute to the improved competitive position of the game at all levels, particularly national team and club."

Australia's long thoughts of joining Asia intensified after FIFA went back on its promise to award Oceania direct entry to the 2006 World Cup. The Oceania winner, Australia or the Solomon Islands, now have to play off against a South American team while Asia has four direct qualifying spots and a playoff position.—MNA/Reuters

Forlan to be recalled to Uruguay squad

MONTEVIDEO, 11 March— Villarreal striker Diego Forlan will be recalled to the Uruguay squad after ironing out his differences with coach Jorge Fossati.

Fossati is set to name a squad on Friday for World Cup qualifiers at the end of March and said on Thursday that former Manchester United striker Forlan would be included.

"We've spoken to Diego and everything's fine, it's all settled and so he will be picked for the next two games," Fossati told reporters.

Forlan had announced in October he was temporarily quitting the Uruguay team because he was not being selected despite making the long trans-Atlantic trips to South America from Europe for 2006 World Cup qualifiers.

Fossati appears to have had a change of heart with Forlan enjoying a rich vein of form playing for Villarreal in Spain where he is Primera Liga top scorer with 16 goals.

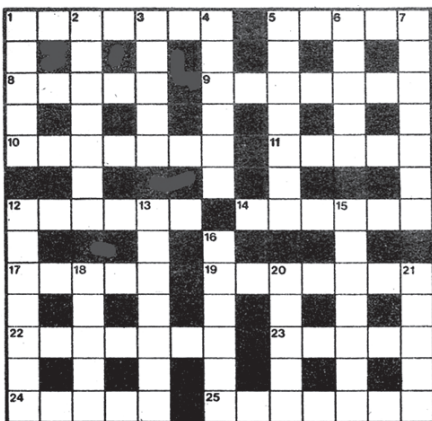
Forlan earned a 7.5 million pound (14.44 million US dollars) transfer to Manchester United in 2002 on the back of his scoring feats for Independiente in Argentina but he struggled to nail down a regular first team slot in England and moved to Villarreal last year for three million euros (4 million US dollars).

MNA/Reuters

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Parts of harness
- 5 Source of flour
- 8 At no time
- 9 Bitterness
- 10 Vacation
- 11 Scandinavian
- 12 Huckster
- 14 Wandering
- 17 Rascal
- 19 Early form of jazz
- 22 Chosen by vote
- 23 Astound
- 24 Tendency
- 25 Esteem

DOWN

- 1 Seat of justice
- 2 Disabled person
- 3 Enticed
- 4 Sprinkles
- 5 Royal town
- 6 Make runaway marriage
- 7 Torture
- 12 Ideal
- 13 Aided
- 15 Stip up
- 16 Buyer and seller
- 18 Diving bird
- 20 Drinking vessel
- 21 Throw out

Henry out of action for calf strain

LONDON, 11 March— Arsenal striker Thierry Henry will be sidelined for two or three weeks with a calf strain, manager Arsene Wenger said on Thursday.

Henry picked up the injury during the Premier League side's Champions League exit to Bayern Munich on Wednesday. Henry scored in a 1-0 Arsenal win at Highbury but Bayern went through to the quarterfinals 3-2 on aggregate.

"We have lost Thierry Henry for two or three weeks with a calf strain," said Wenger, who must do without his leading scorer for Saturday's FA Cup quarterfinal at Bolton Wanderers.

Brazilian midfielder Edu, who has a knee injury, will also be out for at least a month.

"It is his cartilage and he needs surgery," said

Wenger. "I don't know when he will decide to have it done but he is out for three to four weeks now."—MNA/Reuters

Man City boss Keegan quits

LONDON, 11 March— Manchester City manager Kevin Keegan has left the English Premier League club and is set to be replaced temporarily by his assistant Stuart Pearce, according to BBC on Thursday.

The former England coach, 54, had previously said that he would not stay on when his contract runs out at the end of next season and the club has started the search for his replacement.

"Kevin has got one and a half seasons to go so we are not silly enough to sit back and say that we are not going to do anything," club chairman John Wardle said following the club's Annual General Meeting in December.

"We have got to be thinking about it, looking at it and deciding what kind of thing to do as time moves on. But I must stress that at this point there are no names in the frame as it is too early."

Keegan, who also coached English Premier League sides Newcastle United and Fulham, had been in charge at City since May 2001. City have collected 36 points from 29 matches to stand 12th in the 20-team Premier League.

MNA/Xinhua



Former England left-back Stuart Pearce has been installed as Manchester City manager until the end of the current season following the shock departure of Kevin Keegan.—INTERNET

The judges appointed in...

(from page 11)

to try the cases mentioned in these laws. District courts, self-administered division courts and self-administered area courts should be vested with the jurisdiction in connection with the matters vested by any law to enable them to use such jurisdiction thus vested by any law.

It is therefore necessary to discuss and suggest as to whether or not district courts, self-administered division courts and self-administered area courts should be vested with the judicature as follows:

"District courts, self-administered division courts and self-administered area courts have the jurisdiction with regard to original criminal cases, original civil cases, or appeal cases and revision cases, or the matters vested by any law."

I will now present the Work Committee's study on the judicial powers of township courts. Township courts are the courts which are basically responsible to hear primary cases. Moreover, they should have the jurisdiction on the matters vested by any law. It is therefore necessary to discuss and suggest as to whether or not township courts should be vested with the jurisdiction as follows:

"Township courts have the jurisdiction with regard to original criminal cases, original civil cases, or the matters vested by any law."

The judges appointed in accordance with law are to take charge of the entire judicial affairs across the whole Union at the courts formed according to the Constitution or any of other laws. In connection with the appointment of judges, the distribution of judicial powers to them, the designation of their duties, rights and privileges, and the formation of service organizations at such courts and the designation of their duties, rights and privileges, the National Convention has laid down detailed basic principles as follows:

"(a) Appointing judges at various levels of courts under the High Court of the Region or State; giving them judicial powers; and prescribing their duties, rights and privileges shall be in accordance with law; (b) forming service organizations comprising officers and other ranks at the Supreme Court of the Union, High Courts of Regions or States and other courts and prescribing duties, rights and privileges of service personnel in them shall be in accordance with law."

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, necessary laws are to be enacted in connection with the proper practice of judicial powers by the Union Supreme Court that will come into existence according to the Constitution, the high courts of regions or states and their subordinate courts at different levels, and the effective functions and systems of respective courts; or in connection with the matters related to the supervision of courts, judiciary management and the appointment of judicial officers; or in connection with the designation of duties, rights and privileges of judges.

I have presented the matters related to judicial matters in the legislative sector. These matters have been embodied in the detailed basic principle that should be laid down for the submission of the Bill by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. It will therefore not be necessary to lay down again a detailed basic principle in the delegation of judicial power. In connection with the entire judicial affairs to be carried out, it is however necessary to discuss and suggest as to whether or not a detailed basic principle should be laid down as follows:

"The judges appointed in accordance with law are to take charge of the entire judicial affairs across the whole Union at the courts formed according to this Constitution or any of other laws."

In connection with the financial matters related to the Union Supreme Court, and the courts of regions or states and their subordinate courts, the Union Supreme Court should be vested with the power to manage and supervise as deemed proper. It will be necessary for the Union Supreme Court to take charge of the matters related to the budgets of the courts at different levels, in other words, matters related to the annual budget. It is therefore necessary to discuss and suggest as to whether or not the Union Supreme Court should be vested with the powers and functions as follows:

"The Union Supreme Court shall submit judiciary budget to the Union government to express them

in the Bill of the Annual Union Budget in accordance with the provisions embodied in this Constitution."

The Chief Justice of the Union should have the right to submit the important judiciary condition concerning the State or the public in writing to the session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, or to the session of the Pyithu Hluttaw or the Amyotha Hluttaw on an occasional basis. It is therefore necessary to discuss and suggest as to whether or not a detailed basic principles should be laid down as follows:

"The Chief Justice of the Union shall have the right to submit the important judiciary condition concerning the State or the public in writing to the session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, or to the session of the Pyithu Hluttaw or the Amyotha Hluttaw on an occasional basis."

I will now sort out the detailed basic principles that should be adopted in connection with the distribution of judicial power that shall be embodied in the writing of the Constitution based on the studies I have presented.

1. "(a) The Supreme Court of the Union shall have the exclusive original jurisdiction —

- (1) in all matters arising under any treaty made by the Union;
- (2) the disputes, other than the constitutional disputes, between the Union Government and region or state governments,
- (3) the disputes, other than the constitutional disputes, among the regions, among the states, between regions and states and between Union territories and regions or states
- (4) other matters prescribed by any laws
- (b) as the Supreme Court of the Union is the highest court of the State, it is also the final appellate court
- (c) as the judgments passed by the Supreme Court of the Union are final and conclusive, no right of appeal shall be permitted
- (d) The Supreme Court of the Union, subject to any provisions of this Constitution or any provisions of other law, shall have the appellate jurisdiction to decide on the judgments passed by the region or state high courts. The Supreme Court of the Union shall also have the appellate jurisdiction to inspect and decide on, according to the law, the judgments passed by other courts.
- (e) The Supreme Court of the Union shall have the jurisdiction of revision according to law."

2. "(a) The Supreme Court of the Union has the power to issue the following writs:

- (1) Writ of habeas corpus
- (2) Writ of mandamus
- (3) Writ of prohibition
- (4) Writ of quo warranto
- (5) Writ of certiorari

(b) The submission for issuance of writs shall be suspended in the areas where the state of emergency is declared."

3. "The courts of regions or states are vested with the following jurisdiction in accordance with law:

- (1) adjudicating on original case
- (2) adjudicating on appeal case
- (3) adjudicating on revision case
- (4) adjudicating on matters vested by any law"

4. "(a) With regard to the judicial matter, Yangon Region High Court is the high court of the courts situated in Yangon City and Cocogyun Township.

- (b) In case any area located in regions or states is designated to be a Union territory, the region or state high court concerned with regard to the judicial matter is the high court of the courts situated in the said Union territory."

5. "District courts, self-administered division courts and self-administered area courts have the jurisdiction with regard to original criminal cases, original civil cases, or appeal cases and revision cases, or the matters vested by any law."

6. "Township courts have the jurisdiction with regard to original criminal cases, original civil cases, or the matters vested by any law."

7. "The judges appointed in accordance with law are to take charge of the entire judicial affairs across the whole Union at the courts formed according to this Constitution or any of other laws."

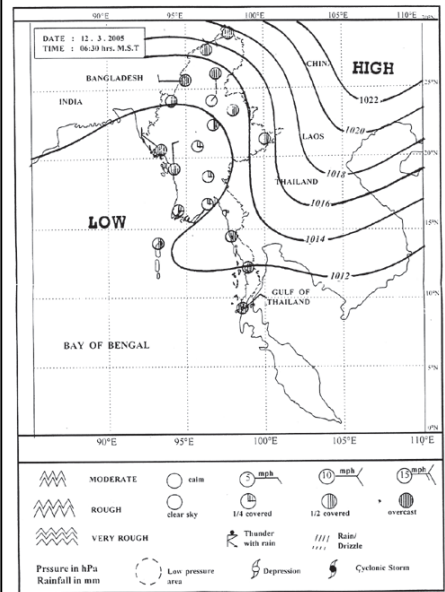
8. "The Union Supreme Court shall submit judiciary budget to the Union government to express them in the Bill of the Annual Union Budget in accordance with the provisions embodied in this Constitution."

9. "The Chief Justice of the Union shall have the right to submit the important judiciary condition concerning the State or the public in writing to the session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, or to the session of the Pyithu Hluttaw or the Amyotha Hluttaw on an occasional basis."

I would like to conclude by requesting whether or not detailed basic principles should be laid down in connection with the distribution of judicial power.

MNA

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 12 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Chin, Kayin State, lower Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (40°C) each in Minbu, Magway and Hpa-an.

Maximum temperature on 11-3-2005 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 12-3-2005 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 12-3-2005 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 11-3-2005 was (8.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 12-3-2005 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 (9) mph from Southeast at (9:30) hours MST on 12-3-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 13-3-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Northern Rakhine and Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-3-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-3-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 12:00 hours M.S.T on 12. 3. 2005.)

An earthquake of slight intensity (4.4) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about (30) miles west of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (10) hrs (15) min (52) sec M.S.T on 12th March, 2005.

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

**Private sector contributing more than 91 pc to trade sector
As State-run organizations quitted trading rice, cotton, sugarcane, rubber, turnover of private sector is on the increase**



YANGON, 12 March — The 14th Annual General Meeting of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry took place at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township here this afternoon. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win addressed the meeting.

Present at the meeting were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors of foreign embassies in Yangon, officials of the SPDC office, heads of department, the UMFCCI president, vice-presidents and members, state and division chambers of commerce and industry under the UMFCCI, officials and guests.

On arrival at the MCC at 1 pm, the Prime Minister was welcomed by the commander, the ministers, deputy

ministers and UMFCCI president and members.

Next, the AGM of the UMFCCI was held and UMFCCI President U Win Myint extended greetings. He said the federation was first established as the Union of Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 6 January 1989. And it was restructured as the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 1 April 1999 with 11 objectives and 20 points of its duties and responsibilities.

Next, the Prime Minister delivered a speech:

He said that with the proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system, the role of the UMFCCI, which has organized the private entrepreneurs on a wider scale, becomes more and more important. In six years, the

(See page 6)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses 14th annual general meeting of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.— MNA

Secretary-1 addresses Annual General Meeting (2/2005) of MWVO

YANGON, 12 March — Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee held its Annual General Meeting (2/2005) at the MWVO Headquarters here this morning, with an address by Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Adjutant General Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of MWVO Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, committee members—ministers, senior military officials, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen

Thein Sein said that the plenary session of the National Convention, the first phase of the State's seven-point Road Map, is now being held. So, it is important to complete the National Convention successfully. The Secretary-1 called on all the committee members to

(See page 7)



Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at Meeting 2/2005 of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee.— MNA