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Tuesday, 15 March, 2005

## Importance of wider exploitation of land and water resources in Bago Division stressed Senior General Than Shwe meets local authorities, officials, members of social organizations in Toungoo

YANGON, 14 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe met with local authorities, division-level officials and township level officials of Toungoo District and townships at Southern Command Headquarters in Toungoo yesterday.

First, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko reported to the Senior General on population of Bago Division and land use, saying that the division put 2,561,725 acres of land under monsoon paddy, exceeding the target of 2,450,000 acres. It has cultivated 285,568 acres of summer paddy to this date, or 95.18 per cent of the target of 300,000 acres. Annual plans are being implemented to grow up to three million acres of monsoon paddy.

The commander continued to explain the efforts being made to ensure local food and edible oil sufficiency in the division, the implementation of hydel power projects, running of livestock breeding farms, implementing of social, health, education, transport and rural development undertakings, and progress in implementing the projects of fiscal 2004-2005.

Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha said that targets of the short-term projects for national development have exceeded. Bago Division is contributing to the national economy as a vital division. The division has bright prospects to contribute more to the national economic development. He also explained the inter-relationships between the economy of the division and



Senior General Than Shwe inspects site to build the main dam of Pyu Creek Multipurpose Dam Project. —MNA

that of the nation.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann expressed pleasure to see united efforts to develop the region during the tour, led by the Head of State. Thanks to community peace and tranquillity, Bago Division is achieving progress and success, he said. The people in all the states and divisions of the Union can earn their living safely and peacefully at any time and place. Thus, he said, the whole nation has witnessed economic development.

The social sector including the health and education is developing together with the economic progress. The developments can be seen practically. It is important for all to maintain and safeguard the solid foundations of national peace and progress.

(See page 8)

- \* Bago Division is to make constant endeavours for its regional development as man needs to make tireless efforts to improve his life.
- \* There are many tasks to be carried out for development of the whole division and improvement of living standard of the people residing in it.
- \* Only concerted and well-coordinated efforts are required for regional development as there have been a lot of bright prospects in the division.

### INSIDE

*Now is the most opportune time for the entire national people to exert harmonious endeavours in unison for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.*

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AUNG MOE SAN



The photo shows the site of Pyu Creek Multipurpose Dam Project. —MNA

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



# PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 15 March, 2005

## Build more resorts for development of tourism industry

The Union of Myanmar is home to more than 100 national races and each national race has its own tradition, colourful traditional costumes and beautiful culture. Beautiful lakes, waterfalls, mountain resorts and beach resorts make up wonderful scenic spots of the country. Therefore, it has many sights to offer. And it has such a temperate climate that tourists can visit it all the year round. This being so, the government is taking measures to develop the tourism industry.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on 12 March inspected the measures to beautify the Kandawgyi Lake in Toungoo and development of the town. Then Senior General and party proceeded to Thandaung Hill Station, Thandaung Township, and enjoyed its scenic beauty. In his meeting with responsible personnel at the hill station and giving guidance to them, Senior General Than Shwe said that, like PyinOoLwin and Kalaw, Thandaung should be built as a hill station of Lower Myanmar.

Thandaung Hill Station is 28 miles away from Toungoo and 4050 feet above sea level. Holidaymakers can easily reach it by car. Three hotel zones have been designated and hotels are being built there. For the development of the hill station, the 18-mile-long Thandaung-Leiktho road is being extended and cinchona trees are growing on either side of the road. The upgrading of Thandaung Hill Station, the building of the hill station and the construction of the road to the hill station are under way. Moreover, steps are being taken to supply water and electricity to the station.

Recreation centres have been built by national entrepreneurs and they are full of visitors now. There is a 16-bed hospital at the hill station and coffee, tea, pepper, cinchona and cardamom plants are being grown there. The government is building resorts all over the nation to attract foreign and local tourists. It is expected that about one million tourists will visit Myanmar and the government is cooperating with neighbouring countries as well as ASEAN nations for this.

We believe that all those responsible will bear in mind the guidance given by the Head of State and translate it into action.

## Armed Forces Day commemorative computer quiz continues

YANGON, 13 March — Organized by Work Committee for Staging the Booths on Twelve Objectives of the State, the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative computer quiz 2005 continued for the fifth day today at Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute, Dagon Township this morning. First, Chairman of Work Committee Lt-Col Aung Gyi of Directorate of Resettlement of the Ministry of Defence explained the purpose of the holding the computer quiz to members of township Union Solidarity and Development Associations and Lecturer of Yangon Institute of Computer Studies U Tin Win did its rules.

A total of 75 participants from Thakayta, Dagon Myothit (East) and (West) townships took part in the quiz which continues up to 19 March. — MNA

## 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

## Military columns practise parade drills



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe checks parade drills of military columns. —PUPR

YANGON, 12 March — The military columns which are going to take part in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade participated in practice session of the parade drills by marching from the Myoma Grounds to the Resistance Park, here, from 6 am to 9.30 am today.

Under command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun, 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— rehearsed parade drills.

Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed

Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and senior military officers inspected the drills of the parade columns.

MNA

## Tailoring course of MMCWA concludes

YANGON, 14 March — The tailoring course (No—36/2005) of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association concluded at the office of the MMCWA this afternoon.

The closing ceremony was attended by MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win and CEC

members. Daw Khin Khin Win delivered a speech and presented prizes to outstanding trainees. Next, MMCWA CEC member Daw Aye Aye presented completion certificates to the trainees. The two-month course was attended by 25 trainees.

MNA

## Temporary road closure

YANGON, 14 March — The Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation will begin erection of the Kyaukyedwin overpass in North Okkalapa Township on 20 March 2005. Starting 16 March, the section of Kyaukyedwin street from Thudhamma junction to Gyobu conduit overpass will be closed for the time being.

MNA

## Course No 3/2005 in Enhanced Diplomatic Skills concludes

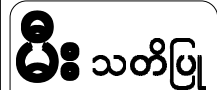
YANGON, 14 March — The Graduation Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Enhanced Diplomatic Skills (EDS 3/2005) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held today at Wunzin Minyazar Hall of the Ministry with an address delivered by U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Directors-General of the departments under the Ministry, Attorney-General's Of-

fice, departmental officials, Myanmar Ambassadors, senior diplomats, a rector and professors of universities and institutes concerned and trainees.

Various subjects such as International Law, International Trade, Trade Negotiation & WTO Regulations are included in the course. A total of 93 trainees attended the 8-week course.

MNA



## Official inspects district road

YANGON, 14 March — Director-General of Development Affairs Department U Myo Myint inspected the No 2 district road in Bago Division on 11 March.

Accompanied by officials, the director-general observed the Toungoo-Yeni district road on the east bank of Sittoung River. He then

inspected heavy machinery at work to expand the road at Htonbogyi village and earth works at Kayinchaung village, and gave instructions to officials.

When completed 33-mile road will become a direct link between villages on the east bank of Sittoung and Lewe and Pynmana towns.

MNA



Director-General of Department of Development Affairs U Myo Myint looks into progress in building of district-to-district roads in Bago Division. —MNA

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

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



Indian villagers look at a remote controlled model of an airplane during the All India Remote Controlled Aero-Modeling Competition at Phaphamau Air Base, 20 km from the northern Indian city of Allahabad, on 13 March, 2005. —INTERNET

### “Anti-corruption” most popular catch phrase in China in 2005

BEIJING, 13 March — Newspaper readers picked "anti-corruption" as the government catch phrase that will receive the most attention in China in 2005, according to a recent survey by the China Youth Daily, one of China's most influential newspapers.

The paper's attempt to predict the ten most popular catch-phrases in 2005 received 10,977 responses from February 23 to 28. Survey participants were asked to choose 10 expressions from a list of 23 involving politics, economy, culture, education and entertainment.

Chinese people have repeatedly expressed their concerns about rampant government corruption, which has been called "the

largest threat to the ruling authority" of the Communist Party of China.

"Anti-corruption" was selected by 49.4 per cent of voters as the most likely popular expression in 2005. "Governance capability," a catch-phrase used by the CPC, followed with 44 per cent of the votes. "Income gap," "harmonious society" and "problems with agriculture, rural regions and farmers" ranked next.

For the past four years, Beijing Language University, supported by the State Language Re-

source Monitor Centre and the Chinese Information Processing Society of China, has chosen the ten most popular expressions in term of frequency of usage among words in 14 mainstream Chinese newspapers.

"Governance capability" was the most popular expression in mainstream Chinese newspapers in 2004, followed by "Athens Olympics," "audit storm," "scientific concept of development," "allowance for land-losing farmers" and "anti-secession Law". —MNA/Xinhua

### ADB to provide additional grants for Indonesia reconstruction

JAKARTA, 13 March — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide an additional 300 million US dollars in grants for the reconstruction of Indonesian Provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra which were hit by the December 26 earthquake and tsunami, local media reported Saturday.

The funds will bring the ADB's total financial commitment to the tsunami-affected areas to 775 million dollars, which went to India, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia, English daily *Jakarta Post* quoted ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda as saying. The additional money could be promptly disbursed for projects to

restore essential infrastructure and services there, he added.

"The disbursement of the funds is essential to ensure that the incomes and livelihoods of people in the area are quickly restored," said Kuroda.

The 300 million dollars will be used to finance a two-phase, multi-sector Earthquake and

Tsunami Emergency Support Project (ETESP) to facilitate disaster management, reconstruction and rehabilitation in the affected areas of the two provinces.

The first phase will last from April to June 2007 and involve the tackling of urgent priorities in some of the less devastated areas. —MNA/Xinhua

### Japan's Nuclear Development Institute to pay residents a fine

TOKYO, 13 March — The Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute will start paying a fine of 750,000 yen (7,210 US dollars) a day to local residents in the western Japanese town of Yurihama from Friday for its failure to meet a deadline to remove uranium-contaminated soil left in the town.

JNC, a state-backed organization developing technologies for nuclear fuel cycle, said it is seeking a place to temporarily store the tainted soil to end the payment of the fines as early as possible.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology supervises the JNC. According to *Kyodo News*, a court-ordered deadline expired Thursday for JNC to re-

move 290 cubic metres of about 3,000 cubic metres of contaminated soil abandoned in the area for about 40 years. The abandoned soil came from the site of test uranium drilling conducted from 1956 to 1967 by

JNC's predecessor, Power Reactor & Nuclear Fuel Development Corp, *Kyodo* said.

In October 2004, the Supreme Court finalized an order for JNC to remove the contaminated soil. —MNA/Xinhua

### Japan to offer financial aid to seven African nations

TOKYO, 13 March — Japan will give 38.5 million US dollars in grant aid to seven conflict-torn African countries through UN organizations to support their reconstruction, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Of the total, 9.28 million dollars will go to Uganda to boost assistance to refugees in the country, while 7.57 million dollars will be used to help the Democratic Republic of the Congo hold elections.

MNA/Xinhua

### Two US contractors killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 March — Two American security contractors were killed and a third wounded in a roadside bomb attack south of the Iraqi capital, the US Embassy said Sunday. The three were working for Blackwater Security, a North Carolina-based contracting firm that provides security for US State Department officials in Iraq.

They were attacked on the main road to Hillah, south of Baghdad, US Embassy spokesman Bob Callahan said.

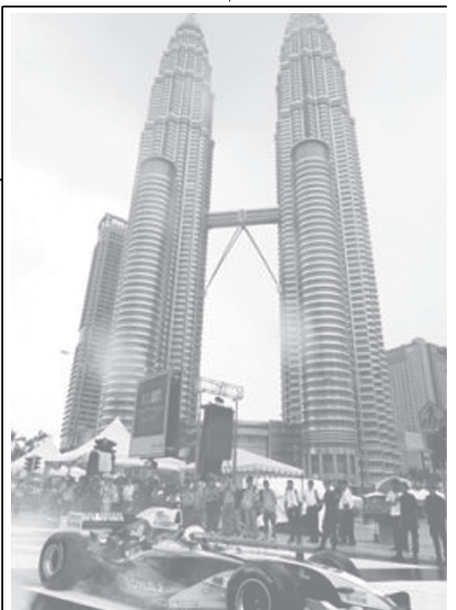
Two Iraqis were killed and five injured when a roadside bomb missed a US convoy in al-Obeidi in southeastern Baghdad on Sunday, said Dr Ali Karim of Kindi hospital, where the casualties were brought. Foreign contractors are

often targeted by anti-US guerrillas. At least 232 American civilian security and reconstruction contractors were killed in Iraq up to the end of 2004, according to the Washington-based Brookings Institution.

The Blackwater employees killed Saturday were in the last vehicle in a four-vehicle convoy and were travelling to Hillah from Baghdad, Callahan

said. A foreign security official said they were in a black Chevrolet Suburban. The road south traverses an area known as the "Triangle of Death" because of the frequency of guerilla attacks.

*Associated Press* writers Rawya Rageh, Sameer N Yacoub and Qasim Abdul-Zahra in Baghdad and Yahya Barzanji in Kirkuk contributed to this report. — Internet



Sauber Petronas Formula One team driver Felipe Massa of Brazil drives past Malaysian landmark Petronas Twin Tower during his performance in downtown Kuala Lumpur, on 13 March, 2005.

INTERNET





Shoppers line at the registers at a supermarket on the outskirts of Tokyo on 13 March, 2005. —INTERNET

## China's 2nd largest hydropower station to operate in 2007

**NANNING, 13 March**— Longtan hydropower station, located on the upper reaches of the Pearl River in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, will begin power generation in May 2007.

The projected opening is two months ahead of schedule, said Dai Bo, general manager of Longtan Hydropower Project Development Co. Ltd.

According to Dai, concrete pouring of the 216.5-metre dam has entered a crucial stage. The dam, which will need 8 million cubic metres of concrete for construction, will be the biggest of its kind worldwide.

A score of specialists, including five academicians, were invited to the site to give guidance on technical problems ranging from temperature control, timing of water storage, to quality control in building of the dam,

said Dai. The Longtan hydropower project is the largest of the 10 hydraulic power facilities to be built on Hongshui River, the upper reaches of Pearl River. It will generate 18.7 billion kilowatt per hour annually when the project finishes construction in December 2009.

Longtan hydropower project should play an

important role in harnessing the flood-prone Hongshui River and reducing flood damage to the benefit of the lower reaches of the Pearl River.

The flood on the Hongshui River in 1996, for instance, endangered 12.01 million residents and ruined 470,000 hectares of farmland.

MNA/Xinhua

## Macedonian FM reaffirms "One-China" policy

**TIRANA, 13 March** — Macedonian Foreign Minister Ilinka Mitreva reaffirmed Friday Macedonia's stance to stick to "one-China" policy during the meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Macedonia Zhang Wanxue, the MIA news agency reported.

The Anti-Secession Law marks China's constructive effort to make step forward to China's peaceful reunification, said Mitreva.

During the ongoing plenary session starting 5 March, deputies of the Chinese National People's Congress, the country's legislature, will deliberate the draft and vote to ratify the law.

Mitreva and the Chinese Ambassador also expressed satisfaction about the relations and cooperation based on friendship and mutual respect between China and Macedonia.

MNA/Xinhua

## Kentucky deserter becomes high-profile Iraq war opponent

**KENTUCKY, 14 March**—An Army Specialist from Kentucky has become a high-profile opponent of the Iraq war. He's one of many US military deserters who have fled to Canada.

Many Canadians who oppose America's policy in Iraq see 22-year-old Darrell Anderson as a hero. But back home in Lexington, some say he should be severely punished.

Anderson says he never imagined that he would be in the position he's in. He's hoping the Canadian government gives him asylum in the country. But he's had to leave his family behind. Anderson was slightly wounded during action in Iraq last year. Once he returned home for Christmas in December, he says he decided he couldn't go back.—Internet

Internet

ဝက်ပျံ့ပွားအား ခေတ်တော်လွှာ

## Italian PM urges world to cooperate to combat terrorism

**ROME, 13 March** — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi Friday urged the world to further cooperate to combat terrorism as Rome and other European countries marked the first anniversary of the Madrid train bombings.

"There is only one road to fight such a plague of terrorism: the union of all people, governments and countries," said Berlusconi when attending the inauguration of a memorial stone in Rome.

"Terrorism cannot be defeated without spreading freedom and democracy," he said, referring to the recent successful elections in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Berlusconi also warned that the world should remain "respectful of human dignity" at all times in the fight against terrorism.

The Madrid train bombings on 11 March, 2004 — one of the worst terror attacks ever in Europe — killed 191 people and injured more than 1,500.

MNA/Xinhua

## Crude oil futures climb on stronger demand outlook

**NEW YORK, 13 March** — Crude oil prices rose Friday after the International Energy Agency (IEA) raised its forecasts for global oil demand in 2005.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, light, sweet oil futures for April delivery rose 89 cents to settle at 54.43 dollars a barrel. Meanwhile, the April Brent crude-oil futures contract added 44 cents to end at 53.10 dollars per barrel on London's Interna-

tional Petroleum Exchange.

The IEA, a Paris-based oil agency, said Friday that oil demand would increase by 1.81 million barrels a day, bringing its estimates for average daily demand to 84.3 million barrels in 2005. It raised its demand forecast by

330,000 barrels a day from earlier estimates.

Oil prices retreated Thursday in what analysts described as profit-taking after the market tested the October peak above 55 dollars a barrel on Wednesday, but failed to beat it. However, analysts said crude prices remained generally strong on a weak US dollar and strengthened global demand.

Analysts said worries over a March 16 meeting of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Iran were easing as oil ministers assured traders in recent weeks that the group would keep the market well supplied.

OPEC officials said the oil cartel had about two million barrels a day in spare production capacity that could be quickly brought on line if there was a surge in demand. But analysts said the actual figure might be closer to one million barrels.—MNA/Xinhua

## E China's Jiangsu to invest \$602m on country road construction

**NANJING, 13 March** — East China's Jiangsu Province plans to invest 5 billion yuan (602.4 million US dollars) this year to beef up the provincial country road network construction. The province vows to build 130,000 kilometres of country roads in 2005, with priority given to roads linking villages. The provincial government has instructed various local authorities to create a plan to meet the target.

Jiangsu has built 24,900 kilometres of country roads during the past two years, accomplishing more than 60 per cent of the province's five-year target on country road construction, which effectively boosted rural economic development and helped increase farmers' incomes. About 27 million rural residents across the province have benefitted from the country roads.

The provincial government has set strict demands on the quality of road construction and urged various localities to pay attention to the protection of farmland and environment while pushing forward road construction projects. —MNA/Xinhua



The debris of a vehicle is seen in rain water following a car bomb in an eastern district of Baghdad, on 13 March, 2005.—INTERNET



## Tung Chee Hwa elected CPPCC Vice-Chairman

BEIJING, 13 March — Tung Chee Hwa, chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), and two others were elected vice chairpersons of China's top political advisory body on Saturday.

Tung, 67, announced in Hong Kong Thursday that he had officially submitted to the central government his request for resignation from the post as chief executive of the HKSAR for health reasons.

The third session of the Tenth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) also elected Zhang Meiyong and Zhang Rongming vice chairwomen.

Zhang Meiyong, 61, is executive vice chairwoman of the Central Committee of the China Democratic League, and Zhang Rongming, also 61, serves as executive vice chairwoman of the Central Committee of the China Democratic National Construction Association.

The CPPCC National Committee would close its annual full session Saturday afternoon after adopting a political resolution. — MNA/Xinhua

## New Zealand conducts research on flu outbreak

WELLINGTON, 13 March — An influenza pandemic in New Zealand could cost 3,700 lives and put 20,000 more people in hospital, a research commissioned by New Zealand Health Ministry shows.

The research, published in the latest (New Zealand) Medical Journal, says a flu pandemic could also see more than a million New Zealanders needing to visit a doctor, placing added strain on the health system.

Karen Poutasi, Director-General of Health, said Friday that the predictions reinforce the need

to take the illness seriously and continue preparations to deal with a major outbreak of flu.

The figures were sobering but not surprise because concern about a pandemic of bird flu or a similar type of flu had been mounting worldwide, she said. "Nobody can be sure where or when it will emerge, but the ongoing H5N1 bird flu

outbreaks in Southeast Asia have the experts concerned. We need to act prudently and responsibly in continuing to prepare."

The strain of bird flu known as H5N1 has killed 47 people, who appear to have caught it from chickens and other poultry.

Poutasi said it was important to strike a balance between making people aware of the seriousness of a flu pandemic and preventing panic.

"The biggest assurance is that we have done the planning. There is no magic solution."

MNA/Xinhua

## Annual session of China's top advisory body closes

BEIJING, 13 March — The third session of the Tenth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) closed here Saturday afternoon after electing a number of vice chairpersons and adopting a political resolution of the national advisory body.

Top Chinese leaders including Hu Jintao, Wu Bangguo and Wen Jiabao were present at the closing meeting presided over

by Jia Qinglin, chairman of the CPPCC National Committee.

MNA/Xinhua

## Shanghai Pudong Airport passes test on new runway

SHANGHAI, 13 March — The second runway of the Shanghai Pudong Airport has passed the test Friday, and is ready for operation, said an official with the airport.

The new runway, 2,260 metres east to the present runway, 3,800 metres long and 60 me-

tres wide, is built to accommodate the Airbus A380 superjumbo, the world's largest commercial jet.

The runway is also equipped with a sophisticated blind landing sys-



A Thai farmer casts his net in a parched irrigation canal in Thailand's central Angthong Province, nearly 100km (62 miles) north of Bangkok, on 13 March, 2005.—INTERNET

## Italian economy grew by 1.2% in 2004

ROME, 13 March — The Italian economy grew by 1.2 per cent in 2004, according to the definitive figures released on Friday by the Italian national statistics bureau Istat.

While in line with the government's most recent official estimate, the final growth figure was a little less than the 1.3 per cent to 1.4 per cent mentioned recently by Italian Economy Minister Domenico Siniscalco as a likely rate.

The slightly disappointing news came as government ministers met to discuss a series of long-awaited measures to help businesses become more

competitive.

Italian business leaders and the central bank often blame the country's sluggish growth in recent years on falling competitiveness.

The new measures, which have been the subject of considerable wrangling in the centre-right coalition, include a reform of Italy's bankruptcy law and tax incentives to encourage mergers among small firms.

There are also incentives to promote research and development, seen as crucial for the long-term competitiveness of Italian business.

According to the industrialists' association Confindustria, the Italian economy will grow only a little more in the next two years. It has predicted a rate of 1.4 per cent for 2005 and 1.5 per cent for 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

## 9th east, west China Trade Fair to open in April

XI'AN, 13 March— The Ninth Investment and Trade Fair for Cooperation between east and west China will be staged from April 6 to 10 in Xi'an, capi-

tal city of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, said an official with the provincial government Friday.

Li Xuemei, director of the trade fair organizing office, said the fair has lured at least 300 projects, with total investment of 40 billion yuan (about 4.82 billion US dollars).

The event aims to expand the scope of cooperation between east and west China for harmonious development.

The fair is divided into two zones. One caters to trade talks, with 700 booths and the other for display of commodities at 1,300 business booths.

The fair, launched in 1997, has become an important national economic and trade event and an important platform for exchanges and cooperation between China's east and west. It has played an active role in promoting the opening-up of the country's western regions.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

## US takes responsibility for Bulgarian soldier death in Iraq

SOFIA, 13 March — The US military has admitted responsibility for the death of a Bulgarian machinegunner last week in Iraq, but insisted it was "unintentional" and partly resulted from nearby guerilla attacks, Bulgaria's Defence Ministry said Saturday.

The Multinational Forces Command has admitted that the US forces "did not put enough effort into identifying the objects on Tampa Road and directly opened fire without the required warning shots," the ministry said.

A Bulgarian soldier, Private Gardi Gardev, was killed on March 4 by gunfire from a US communication post while patrolling on a road some 160 kilometres south of Baghdad.

"The gunfire against our patrol was preceded by a terrorist attack on an American logistics convoy nine kilometres south

of communication post number 5 (which opened fire on the Bulgarian patrol) and a second attack against a rapid deployment unit of post number 6, three to five kilometres south of the same post," the ministry said quoting an investigation report from the Multinational Forces Command.

The report said "the Bulgarian patrol had acted in complete compliance with the standard operational procedures and the rules for application of force and did not in any way threaten the security of the US communication unit".

But it also insisted that

the shooting was "unintentional" and was provoked by the two guerilla attacks.

Gardev's death has aroused strong resentment among the Bulgarians, with some Bulgarian parties demanding the Parliament and government reconsider the Balkan country's military presence in Iraq.

The Bulgarian soldier became the eighth fatal casualty while serving in Iraq, where the NATO member has about 450 peacekeepers stationed in Diwaniya as part of a multinational force under Polish command.



Japanese workers head to their office from a Tokyo railway station on 13 March 2005.—INTERNET



A Chinese young couple perform their tango dance during the Second Shanghai International Dancesport Open. More than 200 couples take part in an international dance sport competition held in Shanghai on 13 March, 2005.—INTERNET

မြို့ခြံရွှေတာ၊ ထိန်းပါလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်

## China's economy expected to grow 8-9% in 2005

BEIJING, 14 March — China's economy is still on the fast track, and its growth is expected to reach between eight and nine per cent in 2005, said a report published recently by the China Centre for National Accounting and Economic Growth.

The report, the China Economic Growth Report for 2005, cited a number of factors to support the forecast including stronger market forces, the improvement of economic system and the benefits brought by China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

It also pointed to the fact that the country's macro-control policy to rein

in the economy had been a success, easing unbalanced market supply and demand and inflation pressure.

In his annual government work report presented earlier this month to the National People's Congress, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao set the target of China's economic growth in 2005 at 8 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

## Legislator appeals for 12-year compulsory education programme

BEIJING, 14 March—A delegate to the National People's Congress (NPC) has submitted to the annual session of the Chinese Parliament a motion appealing for a programme to prolong the current 9-year compulsory education to a period of 12 years.

President Liu Weixing of Anhui branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the deputy, cited the following four major reasons:

- to help train more technical workers. Chinese enterprises are now forced to employ large numbers of less capable people because of the shortage of workers who master certain technology;

- to ease the pressure from unemployment. The country's population aged above 16 will add an average 5.5 million annually in the coming two decades, bringing the total labour force to 940 million by 2020. An extended compulsory education programme will enable them to be employed three or even more years later;

- to provide "knowledge asset" for poor families. A 12-year compulsory education programme is like "sending charcoal in snowy weather" to rural families and poverty-stricken urban households; and

- to help solve the "three rural" issue — agriculture, rural areas and farmers, a centrepiece on the work agenda of the Chinese leadership aiming for the achievement of balanced economic development and social harmony. An extended compulsory education pro-

gramme will cover more farmers and help them enhance the capability of raising income, Liu said.

The current 9-year compulsory education programme from primary to junior high school covers nearly 94 per cent of the Chinese population, sources say.

Liu noted that the country's fast and stable economic growth has created conditions for a 12-year compulsory education programme, while the swelling scale of higher-learning institutions have made it possible to enroll more students.

"The time (for the implementation of a 12-year compulsory education programme) is ripe now," he said.

Liu suggests different places install the scheme in line with their own conditions.

Beijing, the country's capital city, has already announced its plan to popularize a 12-year compulsory education scheme step by step, while the economic hub Shanghai said it had achieved the goal and was moving toward an upper goal: to let children and juveniles enjoy 14-year compulsory education.

MNA/Xinhua

## Water pollution control poses urgent task for China

BEIJING, 14 March — It is high time for China to bring water pollution under tight control, says a Chinese lawmaker.

"Statistics available from the Ministry of Resources show that more than 70 per cent of China's rivers and lakes have been polluted to varying extent," said He Shaoling, a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), China's legislature, Saturday on the sidelines of the ongoing annual NPC session.

"Water pollution has aggravated an acute shortage of water resources and endangered the health of people. There should allow no delay in bringing it under effective control," said He, who is also deputy chief engineer of the China Water Conservancy and Hydropower Research Institute.

Statistics of the Ministry of Water Resources show that pollution in the Yangtze River, Yellow River and Huaihe River have been worsening. Among them, more than 27 billion tons of waste water and sewage were discharged into the Yangtze River in 2003, an increase of 35 per cent over five years ago.

MNA/Xinhua

## Two arrested in largest corporate piracy case

HONG KONG, 14 March — Customs officers have cracked Hong Kong's largest corporate piracy case and arrested two men, a government Press release said on Saturday.

Customs officers earlier raided an electronic watch company in Kwai Chung, New Territory and seized 16 computers installed with pirated software. The software was high-priced professional graphic design programmes, such as PTC Pro/Engineer Wildfire, AutoDesk AutoCAD and Adobe Photoshop. The retail price of their genuine versions amounts to about 8 million HK dollars (one million US dollars).

Two men, aged 47 and 32, the company director and officer-in-charge of the computer section, were arrested. They have been released on 5,000-HK-dollar bail.

Hong Kong Customs have strengthened their anti-piracy efforts in recent years. And 105 operations have been mounted since April 2001, in which 74 companies were found to have breached the ordinance giving rise to the arrest of 141 people.

And 19 cases have been convicted in court, the heaviest penalty being a 50,000-HK-dollar fine and six-month prison sentence suspended for two years.

Hong Kong Customs and the Business Software Alliance also called on public awareness of using pirated software in conducting business and to encourage the reporting of suspected cases. — MNA/Xinhua

## Iran to allocate \$50m for rebuilding Afghanistan

KABUL, 14 March — The Iranian Government has decided to allocate 50 million US dollars for Afghanistan's reconstruction projects in 2005, said an Afghan official.

"Iran intends to spend 50 million US dollars on various reconstruction projects in Afghanistan throughout 2005," Afghan Finance Minister Anwarul Haq Ahadi was quoted by state-run *Anis Daily* as saying on Saturday. Iran pledged a 500-million-dollar package for the reconstruction process in postwar Afghanistan at Tokyo conference in 2002. — MNA/Xinhua



Indian private carrier Air Sahara, which will soon fly to Malaysia and neighbouring Singapore, has announced an ambitious five-year plan to triple its fleet and begin flights to lucrative Northeast Asia and New York.—INTERNET

## 25 feared drowned as Indian bus falls into canal

AHMEDABAD (India), 14 March — At least 25 people were feared drowned on Saturday after a bus fell into a canal in the western Indian state of Gujarat, police said.

A senior police official said the bus plunged into the canal in Kheda District when the driver lost control.

"Nearly 25 passengers on the bus are feared dead. One passenger who survived the accident after somehow swimming to safety informed the police that there were at least 25 passengers on the bus," district superintendent of police S S Trivedi said.— MNA/Reuters



# National Convention that will serve interests of entire people

Aung Moe San

Nowadays, certain nations are making comments that some political parties should have had opportunity to attend the National Convention, and are also criticizing the National Convention for the absence of these parties as though the National Convention were invalid. Their comments imply that the government has ignored the parties and prevented them from attending the National Convention. Such nations should review the nation's past situations and conditions to know how the National Convention was initiated, so that the cause of their absence will become clear to them. But they should not make any comments without knowing all the facts, and they ought to review things as they are.

The 1990 elections were held just for the emergence of the State Constitution needed in the nation. The party whose delegates won the majority of the votes made demands for handing over the State power to them without a constitution. That was why the present government held the National Convention representing the entire national people for the framing of the State Constitution.

On 24 April 1992, the State issued the Announcement No 11/92 to launch the tasks for the holding of the National Convention. Then, on 28 May 1992, the State issued Order No 9/92 that read the government would hold a coordination meeting at the meeting hall in the compound of the Presidential Residence on Ahlon Street at 8 pm on 23 June 1992 on convening the National Convention. Fifteen delegates from National League for Democracy, six from Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, three from National Unity Party, one from Union Pa-O National Organization, one from Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization, one from Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, and one from Lahu National Development Party attended the meeting.

The government formed the Leading Committee, issuing Notification No 35/92 dated 28 May 1992 for discussions on the holding of the National Convention. The committee members and representatives of the invited political parties launched their talks on 23 June 1992. A total of 44 persons including those from the political parties and 15 members of the committee attended the meeting. They continued their discussions on 30 June and 10 July 1992. On 10 July 1992, on which the meeting concluded successfully, the committee chairman hosted a dinner in honour of the delegates to the meeting. The Head of State met the delegates and spoke words of encouragement to them. The meeting reached an agreement to set up eight groups of delegates and methods for selecting delegates and laid down the objectives of the National Convention. It is therefore obvious that the

Tatmadaw Government launched the National Convention through the agreement of the delegates of the party that won majority of votes and other political parties, and that the National Convention was not held with the Tatmadaw Government's wish alone. The National Convention was launched on 9 January 1993 at the meeting hall in the compound of the Presidential Residence. Altogether 702 delegates from eight delegate groups — (1) delegates of political parties, (2) delegates of representatives-

**Whatever it may be, the government, in its drive to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in a peaceful way in line with the seven-point Road Map, will make continued efforts steadfastly to ensure successful implementation of the National Convention in the interests of the entire national people, rather than a single organization.**

elect, (3) delegates of national races, (4) delegates of peasants, (5) delegates of workers, (6) delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, (7) delegates of State service personnel, and (8) delegates of 17 armed groups who exchanged arms for peace — and other invited persons. They were the representatives from all walks of life.

The National Convention (1993) was held with the delegates and representatives-elect of the certain political parties that are now absent and opposed to the ongoing National Convention. The delegates approved 15-chapter headings with one voice at the 1993 NC. They also adopted 104 basic principles in the Chapter (1), the principles on the State structure in Chapter (2), and basic principles on the Head of State in Chapter (3). So far out of the basic principles to be drawn for the sharing of legislative, executive and judicial powers, the ones on formation have been laid down in Chapters (4), (5) and (6).

Soon after restrictions on Daw Suu Kyi had been lifted in 1995, the delegates of the NLD walked out of the National Convention. Before that, US State Secretary Madeleine Albright met Daw Suu Kyi. Then, Daw Suu Kyi echoed the former's opinion that the National Convention was just a sham, after which she made the NLD delegates leave the National Convention. However, it did not have any impact on the NC, which went on with the number of delegates designated for the validity. The NC was

temporarily adjourned in 1996. It depicted the government's efforts to intimate democratic reform and national reconsolidation through its forbearance and own experiences.

In August 2003, the government announced the State's seven-point Road Map for transforming the nation to a discipline-flourishing democratic one. In accordance with the seven-point programme, the government resumed the National Convention on a grander scale with more than 1,000 delegates of eight groups representing the entire people from all strata of life, at Nyaunhnapin Camp in Hmawby Township from 17 May to 9 July. The government invited the delegates of political parties including the National League for Democracy and the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy to the NC. However, the delegates of the NLD and the SNLD are opposed to the NC.

The government will never allow any situations that will adversely affect the seven-point programme and the National Convention designed to serve the interests of the entire national people. The government will continue to give priority to the interests of the entire nation rather than that of an organization or two. Any other governments will do the same in such situations. There is a saying that goes "Even the god cannot fulfil man's wants". The first portion of the National Convention has been accomplished and the NC is in progress starting from 17 February 2005. Now, the delegates are discussing matters for adoption of detailed principles. Overall, the government has sent out invitations repeatedly to the said parties to attend the NC for the sake of national reconsolidation and democracy, but some political parties have intentionally opposed the NC. It may be their plan to copy the western democracy in compliance with the wishes of certain big powers and to seize the State power through short-cuts.

Now is the most opportune time for the entire national people to exert harmonious endeavours in unison for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Certain big powers' comments and criticisms are just for the sake of an organization or a handful of persons, not for the entire national people of Myanmar. Whatever it may be, the government, in its drive to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in a peaceful way in line with the seven-point Road Map, will make continued efforts steadfastly to ensure successful implementation of the National Convention in the interests of the entire national people, rather than that of a single organization.

Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 14-3-2005  
(Translation: MS)

## NC delegate groups discuss compilation...

(from page 16)

other invited persons.

NCCWC Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe presided over the meeting and Secretary U Thuang Nyunt acted as master of ceremonies. First, Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe said he had discussed with members of panels of chairmen matters related to compilation of papers on discussions of delegate groups.

Next, those present took part in the discussions. Then the meeting ended with concluding remarks by Chairman U Aung Toe.

MNA

## Iran puts on display captured 3 British naval boats

TEHERAN, 14 March—Iran on Sunday put on display three British naval boats it captured last year, shunning off protests by London which has demanded their return, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The boats, seized along with their crews by Iranian Revolutionary Guards last June in the Shatt al-Arab waterway which divides southwestern Iran from Iraq, were included in an exhibition of memorabilia from Iran's 1980-1988 War with Iraq.

They were displayed on the Shatt al-Arab close to where they were captured, IRNA said. An officer at the site will explain to visitors how the boats and their eight crew were seized.

The crew, who Britain said had been delivered the boats to Iraqi police when captured, were

held for three days and paraded blindfolded on Iranian television before being released.

London reacted angrily on Friday to Iran's plans to include the boats in the exhibition, which will run over Iran's New Year holiday period until April 4.

Teheran says the boats had strayed into Iranian waters. Britain says they were intercepted in Iraqi waters and forced over to the Iranian border.

MNA/Reuters

## Importance of wider exploitation of land and water resources in Bago Division stressed...

(from page 1)

With understanding, the people are taking part in the endeavours the Government has been making with good leadership, high vision and goodwill. Thus, sound developments can be seen in the entire nation. The developments and successes have been achieved due to the correct policies of the State, sincere goodwill of the Head of State, and the united strength of the national races.

The entire nation will achieve more progress and success if all work in unity and on self-reliant basis, whatever difficulties, obstacles and hindrances may lie ahead.

At present, the nation is materializing the seven-point Road Map in her process of transition to a discipline-flourishing democratic state. The entire people are required to cooperate with the Government in harmony and unison and work might and main for the successful materialization of the seven-points. The General then explained the guidance given by the Head of State including the task of adding value to the natural resources, raising the per acre yield of crops, extending rubber, tea, coffee, cardamom, pepper cultivation, and conserving and developing the forests of Bago Division. He also said that Bago Division should strive to extend monsoon paddy



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidances to officials concerned in Ottwin Township. — MNA

ment Council Office, heads of department, division level officials, officials of Toungoo District and Toungoo, Ottwin, Yedashe, Pyu, Kyaukgyi and Htatabin townships, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations, towns elders and trainee nurses.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance. He

There are many tasks to be carried out for development of the whole division and improvement of living standard of the people residing in it. For example, relentless efforts should be made to increase sown acreage of monsoon paddy to 3 million acres under the three-year project and to meet the target yield set for each major crop. Only concerted and



Senior General Than Shwe hears reports on progress of work of Pyu Creek Multipurpose Dam Project presented by Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut. — MNA

sown acreage to reach three million acres and to become one of the top regions of the nation in terms of economy.

Also present at the meeting were members of the State Peace and Development Council 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, ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Develop-

said that they were in Bago Division to fulfil requirements for regional development and to provide assistance for other matters.

He added that significant progress has been made in Bago Division and steps will have to be taken for ensuring further progress while maintaining progress already in placendeavours.

Bago Division is to make constant endeavours for its regional development as man needs to make tireless efforts for improvement of his life, he noted.

well-coordinated efforts need to be made for regional development as there have been a lot of bright prospects in the division.

It is necessary to have enough population as well as enough educated human resources and natural resources for development of a nation or a region. If relentless efforts are made based on the three points the nation or the region will make progress, he said.

(See page 9)



Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets local authorities and departmental heads at division level at the meeting hall of Southern Command Headquarters. — MNA

- \* It is necessary to have enough population as well as enough educated human resources and natural resources for development of a nation or a region.
- \* If relentless efforts are made based on the three points the nation or the region will make progress.
- \* There have been enough population, natural resources and educated human resources in Bago Division.
- \* Meanwhile, universities and colleges are subsidized in the region to be able to produce more educated human resources.
- \* The most important point is to widely exploit land and water resources in the division and renovation measures are to be taken in order to grow paddy and other crops in plain regions as well as in hilly regions.





Senior General Than Shwe gives guidances to local authorities, departmental heads at division, district and township levels in Bago Division. — MNA

## Importance of wider exploitation of land and water resources in Bago Division stressed...

(from page 8)

There have been enough population, natural resources and educated human resources in Bago Division. Meanwhile, universities and colleges are

to be taken in order to grow paddy and other crops in plain regions as well as in hilly regions. After giving guidance, Senior General Than Shwe greeted those present on the occasion.

and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported to Senior General Than Shwe and party on salient points of the project and progress of construction tasks.

Next, Deputy Minis-

ter U Myo Myint reported on acquisition of equipment for the project and financial matters.

Next, Deputy Minister U Myo Myint also reported on Thaukyaykhat hydel power project,

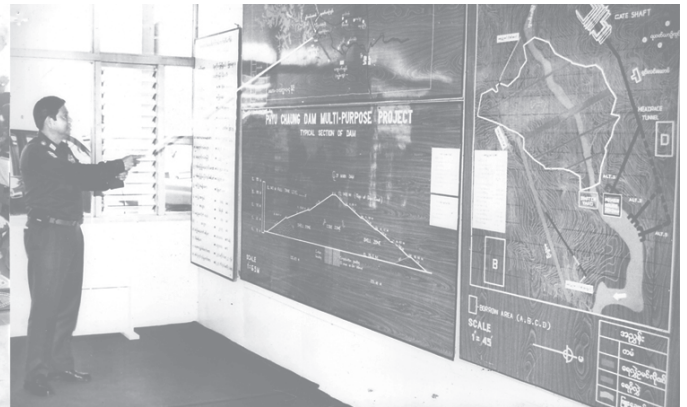
The Senior General

data of No 7 Sugar Mill (Oktwin), annual sugar production and growing of sugarcane. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo gave a supplementary report.

The Senior General



Senior General Than Shwe hears reports on the Pyu Creek Multipurpose Dam Project presented by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo at its briefing hall. — MNA



established in the region to be able to produce more educated human resources. If the people in the division make efforts for development more progress can be made in the division with better foundations. The most important point is to widely exploit land and water resources in the division and renovation measures are

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived at Pyu Creek Multipurpose Dam project in Pyu Township where they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Agriculture

ter U Ohn Myint reported on laying of concrete work and other matters.

Next, Deputy Minister U Myo Myint reported on Pyu Creek hydel power project being implemented by Hydro Electric Power Department and progress of work.

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on arrangements

Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut on the project area and geological data of Sittoung basin.

The Senior General gave guidance on implementation of Thaukyaykhat hydel power project, responsibilities and tasks for Pyu Creek project to be undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Electric Power. The Senior General and party inspected the site for the main dam of Pyu Creek Multi-purpose project and progress of work.

Pyu Creek Multi-purpose project will jointly be undertaken by construction-4 of Irrigation Department and No 3 Construction of Hydro Elec-

and party went by helicopter to No 7 Sugar Mill of Myanmar Sugarcane Enterprise in Ottwin Township where they were wel-

gave guidance on efforts for full operation at the State-run sugar mills including No 7 Sugar Mill.



Minister U Soe Tha presents reports. MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko presents reports. — MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann gives clarifications. MNA

comed by Col Aung Chain and Col Tin Aye of Ottwin Station.

Acting Managing Director of Myanmar Sugarcane Enterprise U Ye Htut reported on condition of sugar mills,

No 7 Sugar Mill can crush 2,000 tons of sugarcane a day. In the afternoon, the Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived in Toungoo by helicopter.

MNA

## Lt-Gen Maung Bo on tour of Kawthoung, Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 14 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and senior military officers, officials concerned of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads at division level, on 8 March, inspected 100-bed newly-built Kawthoung Township People's Hospital.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo also inspected development tasks in Kawthoung Township and met service personnel of Kawthoung District, members of social organizations and local people.

On arrival at Myeik Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint met service personnel of Kawthoung District, local authorities, members of social organizations and local people. During their meeting, they heard reports on cultivation of monsoon paddy, summer paddy and winter crops and land reclamation presented by District Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Ye Maung;

cultivation of oil palm and rubber and arrangements to be made for extension of sown acreage by Kawthoung District Manager of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise U Than Htaik; sector-wise performances and development tasks in the district by Head of Kawthoung District Fisheries Department U Myint Soe and Head of Kawthoung District Planning Department U Win Naing and progress of regional development tasks, economic, health, education and social sectors by Chairman of Kawthoung District PDC Lt-Col Tin Soe.

After reviewing the reports, Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint gave supplementary reports.

Concerning the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo delivered an address to the meeting and attended to the needs.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met Tatmadawmen of Kawthoung Station and their families and urged them to be united, good-disciplined in the station, to serve interests of the State and the people in line with fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

MNA

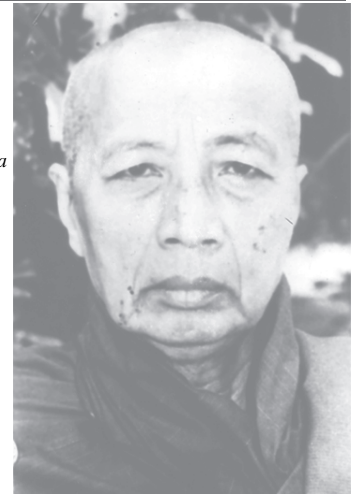


Lt-Gen Maung Bo meets Tatmadawmen of Kawthoung Station and their families in Kawthoung Township. — MNA

## Biography of late Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara (Agga Maha Pandita)

Sayadaw  
Bhaddanta  
Kesara  
(Agga  
Maha  
Pandita).

MNA



The Sayadaw was born of U Po Yeik and Daw Nyunt at Hsinchaung village, Pantanaw Township, on Monday, the 10th waxing of Taboung 1276 ME. He was initiated into novice by Sayadaw U Tejavanta at the village in 1291 ME. Sayadaw U Tejavanta ordained him into monk at the village on 15th waxing of Kason 1297 ME. He learned basic pitaka from the Sayadaw. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara continued to learn pariyatti at various monasteries. When he became the presiding Sayadaw of Shwedaung Monastery, he taught pitaka treatises to monks. He worked for the promotion, propagation and purification of the Sasana as the Ovadacariya Sayadaw of a number of pagodas and the State Ovadacariya Sayadaw. The State conferred Agga Maha Pandita title on the Sayadaw in 1991.

The Sayadaw passed away peacefully at the age 90, vasa 71 at 10.30 am on the 3rd waxing of Taboung 1366 (12 March 2005) while serving the Sasana's interest.

MNA

## Minister inspects construction of Chindwin Shipyards

YANGON, 14 March — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Shwe inspected construction of maintenance and engineering workshop of Chindwin Shipyards of Inland Water Transport in Monywa on 11 March.

The minister inspected vessels moored at the jetty and Thanlawady-6 of IWT. He went to the Chindwin Shipyards project site where Managing Director of IWT U Soe Tint and Assistant General Manager U Myo Naing reported on progress of work. The minister inspected docks, godowns and houses for staff.

The minister proceeded to the office of the head of department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems where officials reported on arrangements for supply of machines used in river water pumping station.

The minister heard a report on functions of District Hydrology and Meteorology Department.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, the minister and Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han arrived at Gawwein Jetty and inspected Shwekinnayi-2 of IWT.

They proceeded to Mandalay Yadanabon Shipyards where Managing Director of IWT U Soe Tint and officials reported on functions of the shipyards and plying of vessels.

The minister also inspected the division head of Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, Shipyards of Marine Administration Department, Mandalay International Airport.

MNA

## Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Rules Enforcement Committee meets

YANGON, 14 March — The 1366 ME Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Rules Enforcement Committee held its coordination meeting at the office of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council on Bank Street in Kyauktada Township here at 1 pm today with an address by Chairman of the Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of the Committee Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and members, and officials.

In his address, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that the 1366 ME Myanmar Traditional

Thingyan will be held on a grand scale and stressed the need for officials to take systematic measures to prevent undesirable acts and behaviours that are detrimental to the State and the people.

Next, the vice-chairmen reported on work being carried out for holding the water festival in accord with Myanmar traditions and cultures and action to be taken against decadent acts and mode of dress contrary to Myanmar traditions and cultures.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone reported on matters related to cooperation of the respective sub-committees to hold the water festival on a grand scale.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses the meeting of Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Rules Enforcement Committee. — MNA



## Seminar on Malaysia-Myanmar Business Opportunities held

YANGON, 14 March — A seminar on Malaysia-Myanmar Business Opportunities was held at the Sedona Hotel on KabaAye Pagoda Road here this morning.

The seminar was attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Labour and for Science and Technology U Thaug, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia Dato'

CEC members, Myanmar business entrepreneurs, Malaysian trade and investment delegation and guests.

UMFCCI General Secretary U Zaw Min Win who presided over the seminar first extended greetings. At the seminar Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein stressed the need to make all-round cooperation between the two countries to improve trade and investment.

## Minister looks into factories in Indakaw Industrial Zone



Industry-2 Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspects electric motor industry project in Indakaw Industrial Zone. — INDUSTRY-2

YANGON, 14 March — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, accompanied by Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials concerned arrived at Indakaw Industrial Zone, Bago Division yesterday. First, the minister and party inspected production of spare parts at foundry shop and forging shop.

At the extended building of the foundry shop, they checked installation of advanced machines and the minister instructed officials to produce machine spare parts meeting the set standard, to minimize loss and wastage and to ensure worksite safety.

Next, the minister inspected production of ball bearing at the ball bearing workshop of Myanmar Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries and instructed the officials to produce the ball bearing meeting the set standard, to make arrangements to sell finished ball bearing to government departments and industrial zones and to use electricity efficiently.

While inspecting Auto Electricals Manufacturing Industry Project and Electric Motor Manufacturing Industry Project, the minister heard reports on progress in building of the industry, arrival of imported machines from the foreign countries and arrangements to install the machines presented by Managing Director of Myanma Machine Tool and Electrical Industries U Kyaw Win and General Manager U Pe Than Hlaing.

In response to the reports, the minister gave instructions on timely installation of imported machines, test-run of the machines, and measures to be taken for timely arrival of remaining machines.

MNA



Commerce Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein addresses the Seminar on Malaysia-Myanmar Business Opportunities. — MNA

Seri Rafidah Aziz, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, departmental heads and officials of the ministries, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato' Cheah Sam Kip, General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win and

Next, Minister U Thaug explained investment opportunities in Myanmar. The Malaysian minister also explained matters relating to business cooperation between the two countries.

Afterwards, the Malaysian Minister answered the queries raised by those present. The seminar went into recess after the concluding remarks made by the meeting chairman.

At 2.30 pm, Myanmar business entrepreneurs and Malaysian trade and investment delegation members discussed matters related to business opportunities, and the seminar concluded. Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein hosted a dinner in honour of Malaysian guests. At the Karaweik Palace in Kandawgyi yesterday evening. Also present at the dinner were Minister for Labour and for Science and Technology U Thaug, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-

Gen Aung Tun, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato' Cheah Sam Kip, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Commerce and officials. Yesterday evening, over 50 Malaysian business entrepreneurs visited the Myanmar Convention Centre, where Myanma products were displayed by the UMFCCI. —MNA

Gen Aung Tun, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato' Cheah Sam Kip, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Commerce and officials.

Yesterday evening, over 50 Malaysian business entrepreneurs visited the Myanmar Convention Centre, where Myanma products were displayed by the UMFCCI. —MNA

## Medical Seminar held

YANGON, 14 March — Jointly-organized by AA Medical Products Ltd and Hanmi Pharm Co Ltd of Korea, a seminar on Scientific Symposium on Irritable Bowel Syndrome & 3rd Generation Cephalosporin (Cefixime) was held at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Head of Department of Yangon Institute of Medicine-1 Prof Dr Saw Naing, professors, doctors, Prof Dr Hyo Jin Park of Yonsei University College of Medicine of Korea, Team Manager Pharmacist Ms Eun Young Seo of Hanmi Pharm Co Ltd of Korea, officials of AA Medical Products Ltd and Hanmi Pharm Co Ltd of Korea.

First, Managing Director of AA Medical Products Ltd U Zaw Moe Khaing and Prof Dr Saw Naing delivered opening speeches on the occasion.

Next, Export Team Manager of Hanmi Pharm Co Ltd Mr YS Bang discussed situation of companies; Prof Dr Hyo Jin Park of Yonsei University

College of Medicine, Irritable Bowel Syndrome-related medicines; Team Manager Pharmacist Ms Eun



Prof Dr Saw Naing and officials reply to queries raised by those present at medical seminar. — MNA

Young Seo of Hanmi Pharm Co Ltd, medicines manufactured from the company and salient points of knowledge on the 3rd Generation Cephalosporin.

After the seminar, Prof Dr Saw Naing, Prof Dr Hyo Jin Park and Pharmacist Ms Eun Young Seo replied to the queries raised by those present. —MNA

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**"MV BAGO VOY: NO. (5)"**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BAGO VOY: NO. (5) arrived on 14.3.05 are hereby notified that their cargo 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 byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone : 295279, 295281, 295658, 295659

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV SEA MERCHANT VOY: NO. (551)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT VOY: NO. (551) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-3-05 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER**

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U Than Maung, Advocate For EF English First B.V., C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd Unit 223 Summit Parkview 350 Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp. Yangon, Union of Myanmar. kelvin.chia.ygn@mptmail.net.mm Dated 15 March 2005

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**  
Toyota Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha (also trading as Toyota Motor Corporation), a Company incorporated in Japan, of 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi, Aichi-ken, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark-



Reg. No. 1385/1989 in respect of "Automobiles and their parts (International Class 12)".

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 Toyota Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha P. O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 15 March 2005.

**TRADEMARK CAUTION**

Smithers-Oasis Company, a company incorporated in the State of Ohio, USA of 2020 Front Street, Suite 301, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221, USA is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark -



(Reg. No. IV/3280/2004)

in respect of - "Phenolic foam used for flower arranging sold in blocks, sheets, in plastic cages with a plastic base, on a plastic, mache, or urethane base for stability and/or to contain water and either wrapped or not in plastic to contain moisture, in bouquet holders, in pew clips and in vases; urethane foam blocks, sheets and precut and preformed shapes; all included in Class 17".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Htain Lin Oo (LL.B) Advocate MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm Tel: 254037 G.P.O Box: 666 Yangon. 15 March 2005

**Air China plane stuck in asphalt at Los Angeles Airport**

LOS ANGELES, 14 March — An Air China's Boeing-747 passenger plane got stuck in the asphalt of Los Angeles International Airport early Sunday morning, but there were no injuries, authorities said.

The pilot of the jumbo jet apparently turned too sharply while taxiing toward a runway at the airport, said Diana Joubert of the Federal Aviation administration.

Joubert said the mishap involving the Beijing-bound Air China Flight 984, scheduled to depart at 1:40 am (local time), was reported at 1:55 am (local time). The "right main gear crossed into a non-access area of the intersection, and the gear sank 1.5 feet to three feet into asphalt," said Nancy Castles of Los Angeles International Airport.—MNA/Xinhua

**Judge, reporter shot to death in US courthouse**

WASHINGTON, 13 March — A judge and a reporter covering court affairs were killed Friday morning in a shooting incident at a courthouse in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, authorities said. Lieutenant-Governor Mark Taylor confirmed

earlier TV reports that Superior Court Judge Rowland Barnes and his court reporter were killed in the incident.

Barnes was shot on the eighth floor of the courthouse, news reports said.

At least two others were wounded, and a search for the suspect, identified by local authorities as 33-year-old Brian Nichols, was under way.—MNA/Xinhua

**ကျောင်းတစ်ပါးပင်**  
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**Ancient Chinese stunt act still alive in Guangxi**

NANNING, 13 March — A barefoot man in a black scarf and clothes stood still before a dead 20-metre tree trunk with 20 sharpened swords sticking out of it.

Suddenly, he jumped onto the tree, grasping two swords and standing on two others. In less than three minutes he was at the top.

He was performing the "ascending the swords hill", an allegedly lost stunt of the Yao ethnic group in southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

"I don't agree that the stunt has died out. The Yao people are brave and many people in my hometown can do it," said Li Chunrong, 42, the performer from Jinxiu County in Guangxi. MNA/Xinhua

**Spanish police arrest people suspected of siphoning funds from YUKOS**

MADRID, 14 March — Spanish police have arrested people suspected of siphoning funds from Russian oil firm YUKOS without the company's knowledge as part of a bigger money-laundering ring, a source close to the investigation said on Sunday.

"These are individuals who from inside the Russian company appear to have diverted sums of money ... which then left the country without the knowledge of the company nor the tax authorities," the source told Reuters.

Spanish police said on Saturday they had cracked a money-laundering operation worth up to 250 million

euros (335.8 million US dollars) which might have links to YUKOS, but did not specify what those links might be.

Police arrested 41 people, including several lawyers, based on Spain's southern coast and suspected of being part of a large criminal network spanning several countries. They said they were chasing links to other activities including homicide, drug trafficking, illegal arms and prostitution.

The source declined to say how many of the 41 were Russian.

"They seem to have been ripping (YUKOS) off as well, to invest in a Dutch company, which then sent the money to Spain," the source said. MNA/Reuters

**Some NZ online bank users blocked because of US spyware threat**

WELLINGTON, 13 March — Hundreds of customers of New Zealand's major banks will be unable to access their accounts via the Internet from Saturday because of a "spyware" threat.

The spyware, created by United States firm Marketscore, infects PCs when the user accesses certain web sites.

All major banks are understood to be working on helping customers clean up their PCs, the *New Zealand Herald* reported Saturday.

Westpac Bank has notified 1,400 customers. Some ANZ National, ASB and BNZ users have also been warned.

No fraud is being committed but banks are concerned about "secure" Internet sessions, where

passwords and usernames are required.

Marketscore offers incentives to download from its web site, such as faster Internet access, but downloads its tracking software at the same time.

The spyware then gathers information on what users do online, and sells it to advertising firms.

Marketscore outlines the process in a privacy statement on its site, saying its software "monitors all your Internet behaviour".

Banks that have detected the hidden software have posted information on their web sites saying what to do if customers have been blocked. More than 1.4 million New Zealanders are registered to bank online.—MNA/Xinhua

**Guatemalans continue protests against FTA ratification**

MEXICO, 13 March — Protests in Guatemala against a free trade agreement (FTA) between Central America and the United States entered the fourth day on Friday, following the Parliament's approval of the agreement a day earlier despite intense demonstrations.

According to reports from the Guatemalan capital, nearly 100 students from the state-run San Carlos University demonstrated outside the US Embassy.

Shouting "We don't want to be a US colony," the students also marched to the front of the

Legislative Palace, guarded by over 1,500 police.

The demonstrators said in a statement, "We oppose the FTA because it responds to the interests of the dominating economic elite, without taking into account the opinions and needs of people."

Meanwhile, the Global Board, which integrates tens of social organizations opposing the FTA, decided to call a national strike on Monday.

The demonstrators are expected to suspend public-school classes, take control of public buildings

and block major highways in the Central American country.

The Global Board's leaders said, "We're going to reject and condemn the ratification of the FTA, because it damages the national sovereignty, and the life and health of people, and it will lead to the plundering of our national resources by transnational firms." MNA/Xinhua

**DON'T SMOKE**

**Illicit cigarettes worth 11.64 million HK dollars seized**

HONG KONG, 13 March — Hong Kong Customs officers seized 7.7 million illicit cigarettes valued at about 11.64 million HK dollars during a raid, a government Press release said Friday.

Customs officers raid a river trade vessel with a 40-foot container which declared to be carrying 980 cartons of cookware at a container terminal Thursday. About 7.7 million illicit cigarettes with duty potential of 6.24 million HK dollars were found inside the container. MNA/Xinhua



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### China aims to become world's largest shipbuilder

BEIJING, 13 March — China aims to build more ships in the years ahead to cope with a growing demand from the international market and turn itself into the world's largest shipbuilding nation, said He Rongguang, president of Bohai Shipbuilding Heavy Industrial Co Ltd based in north-east China's Liaoning Province.

China presently builds about 15 per cent of the world's total tonnage of ships and holds 17 per cent of all the global orders, said He, a deputy to the 10th National People's Congress, in an interview with *Xinhua* on Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua

### Cyclone "Ingrid" batters Australia's Tiwi islands

SYDNEY, 14 March — Cyclone Ingrid battered island communities off Australia's tropical city of Darwin on Monday, uprooting trees and ripping off roofs as it moved across the country's northern coast, but there were no reports of injuries.

Winds of up to 135 miles-per-hour cut communications to the Tiwi islands but Ingrid spared Darwin, which was destroyed by a cyclone on Christmas Day 1974.

"At this stage there are no reported injuries," said Northern Territory Police Commissioner Paul White.

Cyclone Ingrid, currently a mid-scale category three cyclone, was passing west of Bathurst Island on Monday and moving slowly into the Timor Sea, said weather officials. Bathurst and Melville islands make up the Tiwi Islands, named for the Tiwi people, and have a population of

about 2,500.

"Gale force winds generated by Cyclone Ingrid have caused significant damage on the Tiwi Islands north of Darwin overnight, but the Northern Territory's capital is expected to escape its destructive force," said the latest cyclone warning bulletin.

Authorities said the full extent of damage on the small islands would not be known until communications were restored.

Tropical cyclone forecaster Sally Cutter said a cyclone warning still existed for Darwin, despite forecasts the storm had passed the city.

MNA/Reuters



South Korean workers unload boxes carrying goods manufactured in Kaesong Industrial Park, at the headquarters of South Korean textile firm Shinwon in Seoul, on 10 March, 2005. —INTERNET

### 17 Canadians on "Forbes" billionaires list

OTTAWA, 13 March — Another Canadian has made his entry into the exclusive but growing circle of people worth at least one billion US dollars in 2005, it is reported here on Friday.

According to *Forbes* magazine's annual survey of the world's super-rich, Russian-born businessman Alexander Shnaider, who is now a naturalized Canadian, is worth 1.4 billion US dollars, good enough for 488th place.

Shnaider is chairman of the Midland Group, a privately-owned international investment organization.

He recently paid about 41.5 mil-

lion US dollars to buy a Formula One car racing team and is planning to build Toronto's tallest building with real estate mogul Donald Trump.

The wealthiest Canadian entry on the list is still media magnate Ken Thomson and family, who again rank 15th on the list overall with a net worth of 17.9 billion US dollars. Fifteen other Canadian individuals and families remain billionaires.

MNA/Xinhua

### Eight foreign terror suspects granted bail in Britain

LONDON, 13 March — Eight foreign terror detainees who have been held for up to three years without charge in Britain were granted bail on Friday by a British judge.

At a hearing of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission, Justice Ouseley signed orders granting bail to the men, who will leave custody under strict conditions — including a 12-hour curfew and restrictions on who they can meet and on their access to mobile phones and the Internet.

Among them was 33-year-old Jordanian Mahmoud Suliman Ahmed Abu Rideh, who was imprisoned at

Belmarsh high security jail following his detention in December 2001. Others were given code names such as B, P, E, H, K and Q.

The foreign suspects were detained under powers in the 2001 Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act, which expires on 13 March 2005 and which Britain's highest court ruled, in December 2004, as being illegal and breaching the European Convention on Human Rights.

MNA/Xinhua

### At least 15 injured in eastern Turkey quake

ANKARA, 13 March — At least 15 people were slightly injured in an earthquake in eastern Turkey on Saturday morning, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Erkan Capar, the head of Karliova Town of eastern city of Bingol, said 15 people were slightly injured in the earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter Scale.

MNA/Xinhua

### Two leading steel companies in N-E China to merge

BEIJING, 13 March — Anshan Iron and Steel Group, one of the steel giants in China, would merge with another major steel company soon, General Manager Liu Jie said here Saturday on the sidelines of the national legislature's annual session.

The merger of Anshan Steel and Benxi Steel, both located in northeast China Liaoning Province, will create China's second largest steel producer with an annual capacity of more than 20 million tons, next only to the Shanghai-based Baosteel, said Liu, without giving any details of the deal. Baosteel is the first China steel company with annual production exceeding 20 million tons. The company pro-

duced 21.38 million tons of steel last year.

Baosteel General Manager Ai Baojun, also a deputy to the national legislature, told *Xinhua* his company still have a long way to go if it wants compete with multinational steel moguls in production capacity, market share of high-end products, cost advantages, self-owned intellectual property rights and core competitiveness.

MNA/Xinhua



Kashmiri school children jostle to be photographed after winter vacations in a Christian missionary school in Srinagar on 14 March, 2005. Schools in the Kashmir region reopened on Monday after they were closed for nearly three months due to the harsh winters from the middle of December to the middle of March in the Himalayan region. —INTERNET

### Colombia to host first Latam Education Conf

BOGOTA, 13 March — Colombia will host the first Latin American Education Congress scheduled for 17-18 March to analyse the educational policies of the region, organizers said on Friday.

Luz Saavedra, a coordinator of the meeting dubbed "Educators: Great Social Transformers", said the participants will examine the educational policies of Latin America so as to make comparisons with those of Colombia, and to debate free, popular and submissive pedagogy.

"We want to know if the changes introduced by the school organization, the institutional projects, the assessment of performance and the lack of training, among other aspects, do good or bad to education," Saavedra said.

The educators will also elaborate on their positions on a free trade agreement among Colombia, Peru and Ecuador and the United States.

MNA/Xinhua

## Qatar Masters golf tourney

DOHA, 14 March—World number three Ernie Els fired a seven-under 65 to storm to a one-shot win over Sweden's Henrik Stenson at the Qatar Masters on Sunday.

It gave the South African, who carded eight birdies and one bogey, a 12-under aggregate 276 and a second victory in seven days after his third Dubai Desert Classic success last week.

Els, who languished in joint 81st place after an opening 73, began his final round five shots down on overnight leader Stenson.

The former world number one started with a flourish, almost chipping in for an eagle at the first. After dropping a shot on the short third Els went on a birdie spree for a front-nine 33 before adding four more birdies on his return. Els next plays at the Bay Hill Invitational in Orlando, Florida next week.

Swede Stenson began well with two birdies in the opening three holes, but two bogeys and then a double-bogey at the 14th dropped him down the leaderboard before he rallied with three birdies to finish second on 11-under. Australian Richard Green and Sweden's Pierre Fulke tied for third on nine-under-par.—MNA/Reuters

## Blackburn defeat Leicester City 1-0

LONDON, 14 March—Striker Paul Dickov scored a late penalty to give Blackburn Rovers a scrappy 1-0 victory over his old club Leicester City and a place in the FA Cup semifinals on Sunday.

Blackburn were heading for a replay against their Second Division opponents until Norwegian midfielder Morten Gamst Pedersen was felled by defender Darren Kenton and Dickov blasted home the spot-kick in the 83rd minute at Ewood Park.

Mark Hughes' men join holders Manchester United, who thrashed Southampton 4-0 in their quarterfinal on Saturday, and Arsenal, who beat Bolton Wanderers 1-0, in Monday's draw.

Hughes, who will return to his native Wales for next month's semifinals, told Radio Rovers: "It was a difficult game, one of those where it was a little scruffy and stop-start. We never got the momentum."

As for his match-winner, Hughes said: "It showed the mental strength of Paul. He's stood up to be counted, taken the responsibility and he's got his reward."

Blackburn had spurned several earlier chances to book their first appearance in the semifinals since 1960, with Pedersen proving their most dangerous player.

The Norwegian hit the woodwork with an early free kick and followed up with another in the second half which caused a scramble just a metre from the

Leicester goal line.

Australian defender Lucas Neill had Blackburn's other clearcut chance, but his scuffed shot under pressure was easily gathered by Leicester keeper Ian Walker. Dickov, who joined Blackburn this season after a two-year spell at Leicester, decided the tie when Pedersen was floored by Kenton's clumsy sliding challenge and his booming spot-kick gave Walker no chance.

The FA Cup action was due to continue later on Sunday with Newcastle United entertaining Tottenham Hotspur at St. James' Park.—MNA/Reuter



Blackburn Rovers' Paul Dickov, left, is tackled by Leicester City's Nikos Dabizas during their English FA Cup quarter final soccer match played at Ewood Park, Blackburn, England, on Sunday, 13 March, 2005.—INTERNET

## Kaka gives AC Milan all three points against Sampdoria

MILAN, 14 March—AC Milan hung on for a 1-0 win over Sampdoria in Serie A on Sunday with a 65th minute header from Brazilian Kaka, ensuring they keep the pressure on rivals Juventus.

Milan lead on 63 points with Juventus, who play at Chievo Verona later on Sunday, three points behind in second place.

During a nervous finale for Milan, Sampdoria went close to a late equalizer when Francesco Flachi's shot was cleared off the line by Jaap Stam.

David Di Michele scored a hat-trick for Udinese as they enjoyed a shock 5-1 win at Palermo while Gianfranco Zola inspired Cagliari to a 3-0 victory over AS Roma — scoring his side's opener and creating the second.

On Saturday, third-placed Inter Milan drew 1-1 at Lazio.

Milan have now notched up nine successive victories, including their two Champions League wins over Manchester United, and six of them have ended with a 1-0 scoreline in their favour.

The champions went close to a first-half opener when Rui Costa's deflected shot struck the cross-bar but Milan, who had to replace defenders Alessandro Nesta and Paolo Maldini due to injuries, also suffered scares.

In the 62nd minute Belarussian Vitali Kutuzov, formerly with Milan, struck the post with a shot from inside the area but three minutes later Milan were ahead.

Kaka peeled away to the back post and met a splendid Andrea Pirlo cross with a perfectly placed header to beat Francesco Antonioli.

Roma's hopes of making a place in the Champions League are fading fast with Luigi del Neri's side now nine points away from fourth place after a humiliating defeat in Sardinia.

MNA/Reuters

## Real Madrid slumped to 2-1 defeat at Getafe

MADRID, 14 March—Real Madrid effectively waved goodbye to their already faint hopes of mounting a challenge for the Spanish league title when they slumped to a 2-1 defeat at modest city neighbours Getafe on Sunday.



Real Madrid's Raul (L) and Ronaldo (R) react after conceding the second goal during their Spanish League football match at the Alfonso Perez Munoz Coliseum in Getafe near Real Madrid.—INTERNET

Real's third league loss in five games, which comes just four days after Real were knocked out of the Champions League by Juventus, leaves them 11 points adrift of leaders Barcelona with 10 games left until the end of the season.

Unlike Real, Barca shook off the disappointment of their Champions League loss to Chelsea with a 2-0 win over Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

Apart from a brief spell

of early domination, Real were always on the back foot against Getafe, who have mounted an impressive bid for survival this season despite their limited resources.

A neatly-taken volley by midfielder Raul Albiol and a superb finish from former Real striker Riki handed Getafe a thoroughly deserved win against their illustrious neighbours.

Earlier Villarreal moved up to third spot in

the standings, seven points behind Real after striker Diego Forlan inspired them to a 4-1 home win over Espanyol.

The Uruguayan scored one goal, made another and then won a penalty in a brilliant display against fellow high-flyers Espanyol.

Forlan put Villarreal in front and took his tally for the season to 17 goals when he whipped the ball into the net from the edge of the area 26 minutes into the game at El Madrigal.

Espanyol hit back five minutes later when Albert Lopo scored with a fine diving header after bursting between two defenders to meet Oscar Serrano's cross from the right.

Forlan helped restore his side's lead five minutes into the second half when he picked out Juan Pablo Sorin with a pinpoint cross from the right, leaving the Argentine midfielder to finish with a close-range header.—MNA/Reuters

## Newcastle advance to FA Cup semis with 1-0 victory over Spurs

NEWCASTLE (England), 14 March—Newcastle United advanced to the FA Cup semifinals with a 1-0 victory over Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, while Blackburn Rovers also squeezed through 1-0 against Leicester City.

Newcastle's Dutch striker Patrick Kluyvert, neatly set up by captain Alan Shearer, coolly finished into the far corner after five minutes of a rousing game at St. James' Park.

Striker Paul Dickov converted an 83rd minute penalty to give Blackburn a scrappy victory over his old club, securing their first appearance in the last four since 1960.

The winning teams joined holders Manchester United, who thrashed Southampton 4-0 in their quarterfinal on Saturday, and Arsenal, who beat Bolton Wanderers 1-0, in Monday's draw.

Sunday's spotlight was trained firmly on Tyneside, where an early header by Kluyvert had secured a 1-0 win over runaway Premier League leaders Chelsea in the previous round.

This time, Kluyvert side-footed past England keeper Paul Robinson from eight metres for his 11th goal of the season and Newcastle's seventh consecutive victory.

The breakthrough followed good work by Shearer who made the most of poor defending by Ledley King when he pulled the ball back to Kluyvert to deliver the finishing touch.

Despite the early setback, Martin Jol's visitors retained their composure and enjoyed plenty of possession, but were unable to translate that supremacy into goals.

Spurs striker Frederic Kanoute had a low shot saved by Shay Given, on superb form, and put a close-range effort

wide, while the keeper also denied Jermain Defoe.

Newcastle's cause was undermined five minutes before the break when centre half Titus Bramble limped off with an injury that will keep him out for several weeks and midfielder Jermaine Jenas ended up in the unfamiliar position of left back.

Tottenham pushed their hosts on to the back foot for much of the second half but were unable to find a way past Given, who pulled off one astonishing double-save.—MNA/Reuter



Newcastle's Lee Bowyer, left, tussles with Tottenham Hotspur's Noureddine Naybet for the ball during their FA Cup 6th Round soccer match at Newcastle's St James' Park, on Sunday, 13 March, 2005.—INTERNET



# US can end up in dock over reports of its war on terror

**GENEVA, 14 March** — The United States, usually a finger-pointer on human rights, could end up in the dock itself over reports of torture and abuse in its war on terror when the United Nations begins a worldwide scrutiny this week.

Activists, such as the New York-based Human Rights Watch, are urging members of the Commission on Human Rights to condemn Washington for mistreatment of prisoners detained abroad.

If any such move emerges during the commission's annual session, which starts on Monday, the United States will be in a similar position to Cuba, Iran and Sudan, countries which Washington and others are likely to seek to pillory.

"If the commission is going to be taken seriously, it needs to be looking at

the United States and other serious human rights situations," said Loubna Freih, Geneva representative of Human Rights Watch.

The United States has been strongly criticized over revelations of abuse of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan and allegations of mistreatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

A high level panel of experts probing the workings of the UN, at the request of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, concluded its credibility had been eroded because

members were more concerned with protecting themselves and their allies than in exposing rights violations.

Launched in 1946, the Geneva-based commission examines nations' adherence to treaties and conventions on issues ranging from illegal killings and arbitrary detention to women's rights, child pornography and the right to food and health. But the most political heat has traditionally been generated by report cards on individual countries.

MNA/Reuters

# Melting of Himalayan glaciers will cause water crisis

**GENEVA, 14 March**—The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) warned Monday that global warming is spurring the melting rate of glaciers in the Himalayan region, and will cause water shortage for people in China, India and Nepal.

The WWF said in a new report that the glaciers are now retreating at an average rate of 10 to 15 metres per year.

It "will first increase the volume of water in rivers, causing widespread

flooding", said Jennifer Morgan, director of the WWF's Global Climate Change Programme, in a statement.

"But in a few decades, this situation will change and the water level

in rivers will decline, meaning massive economic and environmental problems for people in western China, Nepal and northern India," she added.

MNA/Xinhua

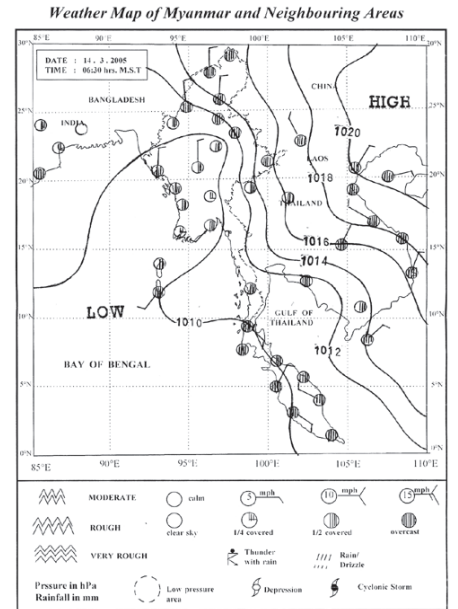
# French officials intensify contacts in effort to free its hostage

**PARIS, 14 March** — French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said on Sunday French officials had intensified contacts in an effort to free a French hostage in Iraq, which allowed him to be hopeful.

Florence Aubenas, a French journalist with Liberation newspaper, was taken hostage with her Iraqi driver Hussein Hanun al-Saadi in Baghdad on 5 January.

Raffarin told Radio J that since he launched a direct appeal to Aubenas's kidnappers on 3 March, French officials had achieved "an intensification in contacts and information, which today allows us to have some hope".

MNA/Reuters



## WEATHER

**Monday, 14 March, 2005**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Southern and Eastern Shan State, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and northern Rakhine States and upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) about normal in Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (40°C) each in Minbu, Patheingyi and Hpa-an.

Maximum temperature on 13-3-2005 was 102°F. Minimum temperature on 14-3-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-3-2005 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 13-3-2005 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfalls on 14-3-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (19:10) hours MST on 13-3-2005.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 15-3-2005:** Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin, northern Rakhine and northern Shan States and upper Sagaing Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Isolated light rain or thundershowers are likely in Northern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-3-2005:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-3-2005:** Partly cloudy.



## Tuesday, 15 March Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music: -Head over heels
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music: -Hard to say I'm sorry
- 8.50 am** National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music: -We've got love
- 9.05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music: -Good times
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch time music -More than words
- My love is real
- Even the nights are better
- Summer wine
- 9.00 pm** Talk: Myanmar Tatmadaw by (DSMN)
- 9.15 pm** Article/Music
- 9.25 pm** Weekly sports reel
- 9.35 pm** Music for your listening pleasure —My heart keeps following you —Gina
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

**Tuesday, 15 March View on today:**

<p><b>7:00 am</b> 1. Recitation of parittas by missionary sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p><b>7:25 am</b> 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b> 3. Morning news</p> <p><b>7:40 am</b> 4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p><b>7:50 am</b> 5. ကရာဝန်နိဗ္ဗာန်</p> <p><b>8:05 am</b> 6. အတီးမြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>8:10 am</b> 7. Song of yesteryears</p> <p><b>8:20 am</b> 8. ရော့ခ်စကေး (ရိုက်လှ) ရေလှောင်တစ်(ဝါး)တိုင်း</p> <p><b>8:30 am</b> 9. International news</p>	<p><b>8:45 am</b> 10. Let's Go</p> <p><b>4:00 pm</b> 1. Martial song</p> <p><b>4:15 pm</b> 2. Songs to uphold national spirit</p> <p><b>4:30 pm</b> 3. English for Everyday Use</p> <p><b>4:45 pm</b> 4. တစ်ခေတ်တစ်ခေတ်ပြုစားသိရင်း မြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ</p> <p><b>5:00 pm</b> 5. အခေအလင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ဖွံ့ဖြိုးသံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒ၊ ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ အထူးပြုများ) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)</p> <p><b>5:15 pm</b> 6. Dance of national races.</p> <p><b>5:30 pm</b> 7. မိဖုရားဆင် တေးအတိတ်</p> <p><b>5:45 pm</b> 8. Sing and Enjoy</p> <p><b>6:15 pm</b> 9. မိုင်းမြားစာတံလမ်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မာတိမင်းဂူရုနိ" (အပိုင်း-၇၆)</p>	<p><b>6:30 pm</b> 10. Evening news</p> <p><b>7:00 pm</b> 11. Weather report</p> <p><b>7:05 pm</b> 12. The mirror images of the musical oldies</p> <p><b>7:15 pm</b> 13. သားငါ့နှုတ်ပြည့်အကျိုး</p> <p><b>7:20 pm</b> 14. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် တစ်ခေတ်တစ်ခေတ်ပြုစားအစဉ်</p> <p><b>7:35 pm</b> 15. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံဂုဏ်ပြုစား</p> <p><b>7:45 pm</b> 16. "မရှိဘဲသောမျက်စိ မလှမ်းသောလတ်"</p> <p><b>8:00 pm</b> 17. News</p> <p><b>8:15 pm</b> 18. International news</p> <p><b>8:30 pm</b> 19. Weather report</p> <p><b>8:45 pm</b> 20. မိုင်းမြားစာတံလမ်းတွဲ "သံစဉ်ခရစ်သီလ" (အပိုင်း-၄၇) (ဓာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)</p> <p><b>9:00 pm</b> 21. The next day's programme</p>
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**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

**Prime Minister  
Lt-Gen Soe Win receives  
Malaysian Minister**

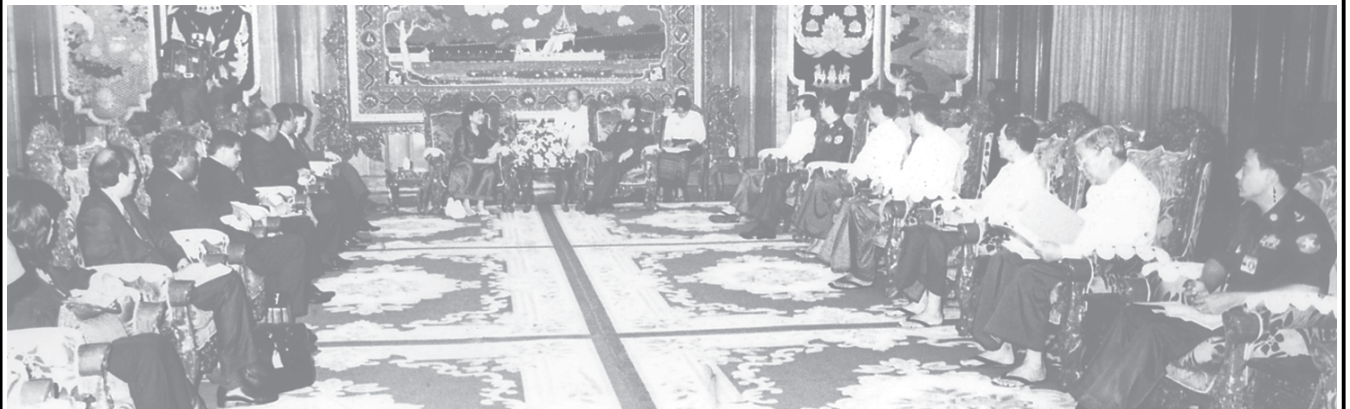
**YANGON, 14 March** — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar received Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz and party at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthta this morning.

Also present at the call were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato' Cheah Sam Kip.

During their meeting, they frankly discussed trade and investment between the two countries.

MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win greets Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthta. MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthta. — MNA

**NC delegate groups discuss compilation of papers on discussions**

**YANGON, 14 March** — Members of panels of chairmen of National Convention Convening Work Committee and members of panels of chairmen of National Convention delegate groups held a coordination meeting on compilation of papers on discussions of delegate groups at the Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby township this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by NCCWC Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney General U Aye Maung, Secretary U

Thaung Nyunt and members of panels of chairmen of the delegate group of political parties, delegate group of representatives-elect, delegate group of national races, delegate group of peasants, delegate group of workers, delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegate group of State service personnel and delegate group of (See page 7)



NCCWC Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe presides over the meeting. — MNA