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Friday, 18 March, 2005

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Development tasks supervised in Taninthayi Division



Lt-Gen Maung Bo oversees rubber nursery in Toe Village-tract, Palaw Township.—MNA

YANGON, 17 March—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence viewed undertakings for regional development and rubber farms in Palaw and Palauk townships in Myeik District on 12 March.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, accompanied by Taninthayi Division PDC Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, senior military of-

ficers, officials and departmental heads, inspected the rubber farm of U Su Su in Toe village-tract, Palaw Township.

Farmer U Su Su and officials of the Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise reported on the nurturing of rubber saplings including 50 RRIC-717 strain saplings and 120,000 BPM-24 saplings. Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions to the officials and called on

the rubber growers and local people to play a role in the regional development tasks.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo observed the production process at the rubber factory of U Maung Nyo in Patkon Village. On the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo called for boosting production of quality products in their interests and also of the nation.

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Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects booths at Defence Services Museum

YANGON, 17 March — Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win this evening inspected display of booths to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road.

On arrival at the museum, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win was welcomed by Chairman of the Management Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Vice-Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Htin Aung Kyaw, senior military officers, Deputy Director of Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute Lt-Col Zaw Win and officials.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the booths of 12 State Objectives, the booths of Defence Services (Navy), Defence Services (Air) and the Office of

(See page 8)



Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects booths at Defence Services Museum.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 18 March, 2005

In the interests of the nation and the people

Not long after its assumption of State responsibilities in 1988, the Tatmadaw Government introduced the market-oriented economic system. As a result of the new economic system and the support and encouragement of the government, the private economic enterprises have been flourishing.

The economic sector of the nation comprises State-run, cooperative and private enterprises. Cooperative and private enterprises account for 90 per cent of the economic sector. Private ownership is becoming greater and greater in the manufacturing and trade sectors, especially in the trade sector. To be exact, 91 per cent of the trade sector is private enterprises. For sustainable development of the national economy, more investments are needed in the manufacturing sector.

The 14th Annual General Meeting of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon on 12 March and it was attended by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that now was the time for entrepreneurs to work in the interests of the nation as well as in their own, to enhance their reputation and to place emphasis on long-term interests. And he added that they were to do business that could bear benefits in the long run and that they should do so with new ideas.

Nowadays, the role of entrepreneurs, who ought to shape the national economy properly and put it on the right track, is very important. And they are required to take in consideration the future of the nation and their fellow citizens. In executing economic transactions with other nations, they should do so not to harm the interests of the nation and the people and, in trading with the nations in the region also, they should do so in the interests of the nation and the region.

For consumption or for manufacturing, it is necessary not to depend solely on import. Therefore, emphasis must be placed on establishment of industries that produces import-substitute goods and to boost export. Only if the ratio of import and export is proportionate will the currency and the national economy of the nation be stable. Therefore, we would like to urge all the national entrepreneurs to do business in accordance with rules and regulations and with a view to serving the interests of the nation and the people with national and patriotic spirit.



UMFCCI OFFICIAL LEAVES: Joint Secretary of UMFCCI U Tun Aung left here by air on 15 March to attend Model COE Networking Meeting to be organized by Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) in Yokohama of Japan on 17-18 March. The joint secretary is seen off at the airport by General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and officials of UMFCCI.—UMFCCI

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

Foreign Minister sends message of congratulations to Thailand

YANGON, 17 March — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Kantathi Suphamongkhon, who has been appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. — MNA

Basic diplomatic skills course concludes

YANGON, 17 March — A concluding ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills 12/2004-05 conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held today with an address by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Maung Myint, directors-general of the departments under the ministry, Myanmar Ambassadors, senior diplomats, rectors and professors of the institutes and universities and trainees.

Altogether 160 trainees completed the 12-week course. — MNA

Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training

Maj-Gen Aung Kyi inspects practising drill of

parade columns.—PUPR



Tatmadaw columns practise drills

YANGON, 17 March — The Tatmadaw columns which will participate in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade continued practising drills from Myoma Ground to the Resistance Park this morning.

During their drills, Tatmadawmen from Anawrahta Column led by Reserve Column Commander Col Tin Aye, Kyansitha Column led by Column Commander Col Tha Aung, Bayintnaung Column led by Reserve Column Commander Col Khin Maung Htoo, Nawade Column led by Reserve Column Commander Captain Myint Thein (Navy), Aungzeya Column led by Column Commander Col Myo Win, Hsinbyushin Column led by Reserve Column Commander Col Hsan Oo Hlaing, Bandoola Column led by Column Commander Col Khin Maung Oo, Myawady Column led by Column Commander Col Win Swe and Aung San Column led by Reserve Column Commander Col Tin Aung took part in practice session of parade drills under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun together with Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade and Red Cross.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

YANGON, 17 March — The State Peace and Development Council has transferred the following persons to the service organizations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Saw Han Shein	Reactor
Reactor	Mawlamyine University
Hpa-an University	Higher Education Department
Higher Education Department	(Lower Myanmar)
(Lower Myanmar)	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	
(b) U Kyaw Win	Director-General
Director-General	Archaeology Department
Fine Arts Department	Ministry of Culture
Ministry of Culture	

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr U Khin Hla	Reactor
Professor/Head of Department	Institute of Paramedical Sciences (Mandalay)
Institute of Paramedical Sciences (Mandalay)	Medical Science Department
Medical Science Department	Ministry of Health
Ministry of Health	
(b) U Ngwe Tun	Director-General
Deputy Director-General	Fine Arts Department
Fine Arts Department	Ministry of Culture
Ministry of Culture	

MNA

Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and military officers watched the practising drills. — MNA

Radio play hailing 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 17 March — As a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a radio play directed by Yin Yin Hla, scenario of Soe Naung (Paukkan), will be aired at 7.15 pm on 20 March.

Actress Moe Pyae Pyae Maung and staff of the Radio Myanmar participated in the play. — MNA



60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

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



A member of the Turtle Conservation Team of Indonesia attends to a 265 lb. endangered Green Turtle, which washed ashore, on 17 March, 2005, in Riau, Indonesia. According to the team, the 70-year-old turtle was the largest ever found in the Riau Islands. —Internet

Koizumi hails Wen's proposal on improving bilateral relations

TOKYO, 16 March — Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Monday responded positively to remarks made by Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao over improving bilateral relations.

Koizumi said that he thought it was "good to realize visits at a time that is desirable to both sides," the *Kyodo* news service reported.

He also said Japan agreed with Wen's view that relations between Japan and China are one of

the most important bilateral relationships.

Vice-Foreign Minister Shotaro Yachi said, "We rate the proposals highly as we also believe Japan and China must develop bilateral ties with the future in mind," *Kyodo* said.

Wen told a news conference in Beijing on Monday that China and Japan should make joint efforts to create conditions for high-level exchanges of visits in a bid to improve bilateral relations.

He suggested the foreign affairs departments of the two countries should begin strategic study and research on strengthening

and improving China-Japan relations. And problems left over from history should be properly handled.

On the means of improving the bilateral relationship, Wen proposed three principles: taking history as a mirror and look forward into the future; that Japan should adhere to the "one China" principle; and that cooperation should be strengthened to pursue common development.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said Japan will "carefully study the contents" of the three principles.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Zambia to promote women's development

BEIJING, 16 March—President of the All-China Women's Federation Gu Xiulian met with Zambian First Lady Maureen Mwanawasa here on Tuesday, exchanging views on women's development in the two countries.

Gu said the Chinese Government attaches great importance to women's development, taking such measures as enacting about 11 laws to safeguard women's rights, assuring equal participation between men and women in both family and political lives, and improving education level for women, especially for those who live in poverty-stricken rural areas.

China has implemented a project since 1989 for helping those girls, who

were unable to go to school because of poverty, go back to school and accept education, Gu said, noting that under this project, China has raised 350 million yuan (42 million US dollars) to assist about 1.5 million girl students. Gu expressed her hope that China and Zambia will strengthen exchanges on such experiences of promoting women's development, so as to make more progress in this field.

Mwanawasa said Zambia also provides

similar assistance for its women and children, hoping that China will help and support Zambia to expand such programmes to promote development of women and children.

Mwanawasa briefed Gu on major efforts made by the Maureen Mwanawasa Community Initiative, a non-governmental organization personally run by the First Lady to improve the living standards of the Zambian underprivileged family.

The First Lady said her

organization has worked for helping women and children receive education, enabling vulnerable women and children access safe and clean water, and providing mobile clinics to the most vulnerable people.

Similarly with China, Zambia also gives financial support to women by providing loans to them, in a bid to improve their living standards, she noted.

Mwanawasa arrived here Monday morning on an eight-day visit to China as guest of the Soong Ching Ling Foundation, a non-governmental organization set up in 1982 to promote welfare of youth and children. —MNA/Xinhua

Singapore's CPI for households up 1.7% in 2004

SINGAPORE, 16 March — The consumer price index (CPI) for the general households in Singapore rose by 1.7 per cent in 2004 as compared with that in 2003.

According to the figures released by the Singapore Department of Statistics (SDS) on Tuesday, the increase in CPI should be attributed mainly to the higher prices for cigarettes, cooked food, petrol and newspapers, as well as tuition fees paid to foreign universities.

The CPI for the households in the lowest 20 per cent and middle 60 per cent income groups grew by 2.3 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively in 2004, while that for households in the top 20 per cent income group experienced a moderate inflation rate of 0.3 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

1,517 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 16 March — As of Wednesday, 16 March, 2005, at least 1,517 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,156 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The *AP* count is six higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Wednesday. The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death

each. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,379 US military members have died, according to *AP*'s count. That includes at least 1,047 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 11,285 US servicemembers have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally released on 8 March. There was no update this week.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

A US soldier died on Wednesday of injuries from an explosion south of Baghdad, Iraq.

Internet



Japanese college students, from left, Kureha Tsukamoto, Naoko Tateyama, and Kaori Nijikubo, all age 21, try on the black robes worn by judges as they participate in a seminar, organized by the Justice Ministry, at a Tokyo courthouse on 16 March, 2005, offering the public its first chance to find out about jury trials being introduced as part of Japan's most drastic judicial reforms since World War II.—INTERNET

Malaysian trade delegation to visit Thailand

BANGKOK, 16 March — A Malaysian trade and investment mission led by International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz will begin a visit to Thailand later this week.

The 82-member mission, comprised of representatives from the Malaysian private sector as well as officials from the International Trade and Industry Ministry, the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) and Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade), is aimed at promoting bilateral trade and investment between the two countries.

It will also update the Thai business sector on the latest economic situation and trade and investment opportunities in Malaysia, the *Thai News Agency* reported on Tuesday.

During the visit, Rafidah will hold a dialogue session with members of the

Malaysian-Thai Chamber of Commerce (MTCC) on Thursday.

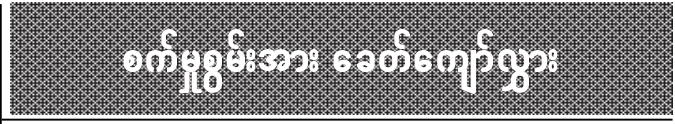
At a seminar on Friday, she plans to address local communities on business opportunities in Malaysia.

Thailand is ranked as Malaysia's fifth largest trading partner in the world and the second largest among ASEAN member countries.

In 2004, Malaysia's total trade with Thailand reached 11.8 billion US dollars, with exports of 6.0 billion US dollars and imports of 5.8 billion.

The trade mission's forthcoming visit to Thailand is part of its regional trip to ASEAN neighbours, which will also take it to Myanmar, Laos and Indonesia.

MNA/Xinhua



Internationally famed jazz singer Norah Jones performs her 'Feels Like Home' Asia Tour on 14 March, 2005, in Taipei County.—INTERNET

China willing to cooperate with nations in S China Sea region

BEIJING, 16 March — China is willing to continue its pragmatic cooperation with countries in South China Sea region and make it "a sea of friendship and cooperation," said China's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Jianchao on Tuesday.

"Oil companies from China, the Philippines and Vietnam signed a landmark agreement in Manila on Monday," Liu said at a regular Press conference here, adding that it is an important measure for the three parties to jointly implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, making historic contribution to the stability and peace in the region.

According to the agreement, a 15-million-US dollar joint marine seismic undertaking in the South China Sea will last for three years, a move that Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo described as a "historic breakthrough", during her meeting with representatives of the three companies Monday afternoon.

In a joint statement, the three parties held that the agreement showed their willingness to explore the reserve of petroleum resources within the area agreed by them. But it would not undermine the basic positions held by the governments of the relevant countries in the South China Sea.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia gearing for Asian-African Summit

JAKARTA, 16 March — The Indonesian Government is preparing for the Asian-African Conference in April, a government official said here on Tuesday.

Of the 105 invited countries, 45 have confirmed their participation in the conference that will mark the golden jubilee of the 1955 Asian-African Conference, said Bali Moniaga, Director of African Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA/Xinhua

India to host trade talks among 20 developing countries

NEW DELHI, 16 March — Trade ministers and representatives of 20 developing countries (G-20) will converge here on Friday for two days of talks to formulate a joint strategy for ongoing negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO), *Indo-Asian News Service* reported on Tuesday.

The two-day meeting will focus mainly on issues pertaining to farm trade and market access as part of the effort to conclude the next round of global trade talks by December, Indian Commerce Minister Kamal Nath said here Tuesday.

"We will try to arrive at a G-20 position paper that will set the tone for the multilateral trade talks," the Minister said, adding the paper would also seek to recommend the milestones to be achieved in the next four months.

In July, the WTO Secretariat is expected to circulate the first draft of

the agenda paper for consultations at the full WTO Ministerial Meeting scheduled in Hong Kong in December. G-20 wants its views to be reflected in the draft.

Kamal Nath said the G-20 meeting, among other issues, would try to push formulas for tariff reductions and scaling down of export subsidies.

Besides India, the G-20 comprises Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, the Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier gets 45 days' jail for Iraq incident

BAGHDAD, 17 March — A US Army platoon leader was sentenced to 45 days in a military prison on Wednesday for his role in forcing three Iraqi civilians into the Tigris River, where one of them allegedly drowned.

Army 1st Lieutenant Jack Saville, 25, was also ordered to forfeit \$US2000 (\$2531) of his \$US2970 monthly pay for six months.

Prosecutors had recommended Saville, who chose a non-jury trial, be discharged from the Army.

Reading from a statement, Saville said he has learned from his mistakes and has been forgiven by God. His actions, he said, "adversely affected US-Iraqi trust during critical times of reconstruction".

"I hope to use these experiences for greater good," Saville said.

Saville pleaded guilty on Monday to assault and other crimes for forcing two curfew violators into the river at gunpoint in January 2004 near Samarra. One of the men allegedly drowned.

Saville was convicted on Tuesday of a lesser assault charge for doing nothing to stop another Iraqi man from being forced into the river near Balad in December 2003.

The charges carried a maximum nine-and-a-half-year sentence, though a plea deal capped the sentence at 15 months. That part of the

agreement was kept secret so military judge Colonel Theodore Dixon would

not be influenced, Army officials said.

Internet

Ex-British Guantanamo detainee accuses US of torture

LONDON, 16 March — A former British Guantanamo Bay detainee said on Tuesday that inmates in the US detention camp in Cuba had been tortured by US military personnel who tried to make them "go crazy."

Martin Mubanga, who had been held at Guantanamo for three years as a terror suspect, told the BBC: "The main object of the Americans in their torture ... is to make you go crazy."

"There are a number of other detainees who have gone insane. I have seen beatings, I have seen humiliating treatment," said Mubanga who was released in January after being detained without charge.

MNA/Xinhua



Hong Kong movie star Jackie Chan demonstrates kickboxing during a news conference in Hong Kong on 15 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Indonesia to receive debt moratorium from Paris Club

JAKARTA, 16 March — The Indonesian Government will receive a debt moratorium offer from donor countries of the Paris Club, by postponing 2.6 billion US dollars debt payment for one year, an official said here on Monday.

"The debt moratorium offer will be taken, and we will think its payment, as it is the delay of debt payment, not an abolishment," Head of the National Development Planning Board Sri Mulyani Indrawati said at the Parliament building.

Last Wednesday the Club decided to delay Indonesia's debt payment for 2.6 billion US dollars for one year.

The decision was made after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank evaluated the damages in a number of countries hit by the 26 December earthquake and tsunami.

Currently, Indonesia has 48 billion US dollars of foreign debt to donor countries under the Paris Club.

MNA/Xinhua

China to increase chemical fertilizer import

BEIJING, 16 March — China will import four million tons of chemical fertilizer this year while ensuring prices remain low for farmers, said Li Shenglin deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), here on Tuesday.

China will consume 51 million tons of chemical fertilizer this year at a 5.6-per-cent increase year-on-year while its own chemical fertilizer production is expected to be around 47 million tons he said at a national teleconference on

improving supervision over farming material. "We'll take all necessary measures to guarantee chemical fertilizer supply and stabilize the domestic market prices to ensure farmers enjoy policy benefits of the government," he said. Al-

though chemical fertilizer prices in international markets have been increasing since last year, the Chinese Government has managed to keep the domestic prices about 30-per-cent lower than international prices he said.—MNA/Xinhua

Over speeding causes train derailment in Vietnam

HANOI, 16 March — Speeding caused the derailment of a north-south express train in central Vietnam which killed 11 people and injured 78 at the weekend, state media on Tuesday quoted police as saying.

Colonel Nguyen Thanh Toan, chief detective of Thua Thien-Hue Province police, told the *Tuoi Tre* newspaper the train's black box showed it was running at up to 69 kilos per hour (43 miles per hour), well above the 40 kilos per hour limit at the turn where it derailed on Saturday. Eight of the train's 13 carriages derailed and the track was blocked for a day.

Police have launched a criminal investigation and the two drivers could face 15 years in jail if charged and found guilty. State-run Vietnam Television said originally 13 people had died, but now says two women initially listed as dead turned up among the survivors.

MNA/Reuters



Passengers wait in line at a Cathay Pacific Airways check-in counter at the Hong Kong international airport on 16 March, 2005.

INTERNET

International Industry Expo to be held in Shenyang

SHENYANG, 16 March — The Eighth Northeast China International Industry Exposition will be held in Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning Province, in early April, organizers have announced.

The annual event is expected to attract more than 50,000 domestic and foreign businessmen, organizers said. Currently, more than 500 businesses from China, the United States, Germany and South Korea have ordered display booths.—MNA/Xinhua

Iraq's oil sector still limping along

KIRKUK, 16 March — In the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, where the air smells of crude and bright gas flares illuminate the night sky, the vast potential of Iraq oil industry — and its failures — are on dramatic display.

Ever since drillers unleashed a 50-foot oil gusher near the city in 1927, Iraq has been too unstable to take full advantage of its bounty.

This year, as happened last year, almost none of Kirkuk's oil will reach the international market.

Incessant sabotage of the northern oil pipeline by guerillas has all but sealed it off from its export terminal in Turkey. Before the US-led invasion, the line handled around 750,000 barrels a day.

Across Iraq, guerillas have battered oil installa-

tions with an average of two dozen blasts a day.

"There's always been something that held back Iraq's oil potential," said Jamal Qureshi, an Iraq oil analyst for Washington-based consultancy PFC Energy. "This is just another chapter in that saga."

In 1979, the country's best year, Iraqi oil production averaged roughly 3 million barrels a day. This year, analysts say it might not reach an average of 2 million, despite Oil Minister Thamer al-Ghadban's target of pumping 2.9 million barrels a day by year's end — and 3.5 million a day by mid-2006.

The IMF predicts Iraqi production won't reach 3.5 million barrels until 2009.

Internet

Cypriot anti-war organization calls for end to occupation of Iraq

NICOSIA, 17 March — A popular Cypriot anti-war organization urged on Wednesday the United States and Britain to withdraw their occupation forces from Iraq.

The organization, named "Stop the War Coalition-Cyprus", called for a speedy withdrawal of the occupation forces from Iraq in a statement on Wednesday.

"It is now acknowledged by all authorities, including Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan, that the US-led war against Iraq in 2003 was in breach of the international law," said the statement.

It also hurled sharp criticism at US President George W Bush and his staunchest ally in the Iraq war, British

Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"The true horror of Bush and Blair's bloody war and the subsequent occupation of Iraq has been revealed by the torture of Iraqi prisoners by the US and British troops, by the destruction of whole cities like Najaf and Falluja and the massacre of thousands of unarmed civilians," said the statement.

The anti-war organization pointed the finger of blame at the US-led coalition forces for the rampant violence in Iraq, asserting the Iraqis have every right to resist them.—MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb blasts in central Baghdad, six wounded

BAGHDAD, 16 March — A car bomb blew up on Tuesday morning near a Sunni mosque and the Health Ministry in central Baghdad, wounding six people, including a police officer, said police.

"I was driving my car near the booby trapped vehicle before the explosion, it was empty, there was no driver in it," Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Saadoun, who was injured in the blast, told *Xinhua*.

The blast took place at about 8:30 am (0530 GMT) when a white Chevrolet detonated inside a parking lot used by the Health Ministry employees, Saadoun said.—MNA/Xinhua



Kurdish Iraqi women carry wood on a road leading to the northern Kurdish town of Halabj on 16 March, 2005. —INTERNET

Japanese tugboat attacked in Malacca Strait

Tokyo, 16 March — A Japanese tugboat was attacked by pirates in the Malacca Strait on Monday, according to local media reports which differed in the fates of the crew members.

Two Japanese and a Filipino are missing, *Kyodo News* reported, quoting Japan Coast Guard and the International Maritime Bureau. While *Jiji News* said three people on board had been abducted, including two Japanese. The Japanese Foreign Ministry said it is in the process of confirming the reports. Niuel Choong, regional manager of the bureau's Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, said the centre received a distress call from one of the three

crew members on board the tugboat at around 6 pm and Malaysian police were alerted, according to *Kyodo*.

Choong said the attack occurred somewhere north of the strait, near Malaysia's Penang Island. The whereabouts of the tugboat's captain, engineer and crewman were unknown, he said. "Action is still ongoing. Police are proceeding to the location. The pirates are still on board the vessel," he said. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Japanese-registered tugboat 'Idaten,' foreground, waits off Penang Island, Malaysia, on 15 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Interpol Symposium opens in HK

HONG KONG, 16 March — The 15th Interpol Symposium for Heads of Public Training, co-hosted by Interpol and the Hong Kong Police Force, opened here on Tuesday.

Some 120 delegates from more than 50 countries and regions including world police training leaders and prominent police scholars together with Hong Kong police representatives attended the event to discuss training solutions to terrorism, global and organized crime. At the opening ceremony, Interpol Secretary-General Ronald K Noble said it is vital to build an international capability to counter threats such as terrorism, trafficking of human beings, drugs and arms, as well as other forms of serious and organized crimes.

One of Interpol's most important tasks was to develop expert knowledge about international crime, to provide expert operational advice and to support the police services in its 182 members, said he.

According to Noble, training plays an invaluable role for everyone in law enforcement, and therefore, 67 police conferences, workshops and meetings at the General Secretariat in Lyndon of France were held during the past year. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Japan, US urged to remove all Marines from Okinawa

WASHINGTON, 16 March — The governor of Okinawa has asked Japan and the United States to remove all of the nearly 20,000 US Marines from the southern Japanese island chain, he said on Tuesday.

Governor Keiichi Inamine said he also requested the downsizing or relocation of US air bases of Kadena and Futenma away from Okinawa's densely populated main island and revision of the Status of Forces Agreement, which grants the US military jurisdiction over its troops in many legal matters.

"If the situation proceeds in a way that is unsatisfactory to the Okinawan people, this could shake the Japan-US security relationship," he said in a speech at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

Inamine, who described himself as a "conservative who supports the Japan-US security alliance," said he had lodged a similar request in Tokyo before he flew to Washington for meetings with US officials

this week.

Among officials he met in Washington was Michael Green, senior director for Asia on the White House National Security Council.

Inamine is an elected politician with limited influence on Tokyo's policies. Japanese media quoted Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura as saying it was "hard to imagine" reducing the number of US Marines on

Okinawa to zero. Last October, Japanese leaders were reported to have asked for the removal of 2,000 to 3,000 troops from Okinawa.

Angered by accidents, violent crimes and environmental issues, many people in Okinawa have called for reducing what they say is their unfair burden of hosting the bulk of the US military's 47,000 personnel in Japan.

MNA/Reuters

Afghanistan destroys drugs labs, over 2 tons of opium

KABUL, 16 March — Afghan counter narcotics squads destroyed several drug laboratories and more than two tons of opium in raids in eastern Afghanistan, the country's enforcement agency said on Tuesday.

Washington has earmarked 700 million US dollars to wage a war on drugs in Afghanistan, while Britain is putting up 100 million US dollars and seeking another 300 million US dollars from smaller countries.

The raids in Achin District in the eastern province of Nangarhar found several drug laboratories in Gul Baghak Village.

To reach the remote area agents had to fly by helicopter then hike for several kilometres (miles) through the rugged mountains that straddle the border with Pakistan.

The National Interdiction Unit said there were no casualties during the raids.

Aside from the dry opium found, the raids also netted 15 kilos of heroin and 1,750 litres (380 gal-

lons) of liquid containing opium, as well as chemicals used by the laboratories.

"This successful operation shows that the government of Afghanistan is serious about ridding our country of drugs," General Sayed Kamal Sadat, head of the counter-narcotics police, said in the statement.

Encouraged by the Western powers, President Hamid Karzai has vowed to wage a war on a drug trade which is threatening to turn the country into a narco-state, just three years after US and Afghan resistance forces drove the Taliban from power.

Afghanistan has ideal conditions for growing the poppy flower that produces opium — the base for heroin and morphine.

It takes between eight

and 10 tons of opium to produce one tonne of heroin.

This year, Afghanistan is estimated to have supplied 87 per cent of the heroin sold worldwide.

The United Nations estimated that the opium trade reached 2.8 billion US dollars this year, equivalent to 60 per cent of Afghanistan's GDP.

A Paris based non-governmental organization, the Senlis Council, recommended earlier this month that opium from Afghanistan should be used to fix the world's shortage of painkillers.

Senlis estimated a shortage of drugs like morphine and codeine equated to around 10,000 tons of opium annually, whereas Afghanistan produces 4,000 tons a year.

MNA/Reuters

13 fall after eating scallops in HK

HONG KONG, 16 March — Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection has received five reports of suspected shellfish poisoning that affected five men and eight women aged 11 to 57.

According to a government Press release, the patients developed nervous system-related symptoms including dizziness, limb weakness, blurred vision and cramps after eating steamed scallops at home on Monday and Tuesday.

The scallops were bought from markets in several Hong Kong districts.

The cases, first reported in 2005, have been referred to the Food & Environmental Hygiene Department for follow-up action.

MNA/Xinhua



The Hope Pearl, part of an exhibit *The Allure of Pearls*, is shown at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, on 16 March, 2005. A pearl once owned by the builder of the Taj Mahal, another on loan from actress Elizabeth Taylor, and the Hope Pearl — a former partner to the Hope Diamond — are among a dozen of the world's rarest pearls on display in the exhibit, opening on 18 March and running through 5 Sept.—INTERNET

Government investing heavily in projects for improvement of transport and education, development of human resources and economy, and enhancement of health care

Maungmagan BEMS gets new school building

YANGON, 17 March — A new school building constructed with public contributions was inaugurated with ceremony at a basic education middle school in Maungmagan, Dawei Township, Taninthayi Division, on 13 March. Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony and spoke of the need for the development of education and health.

Present on the occasion were Taninthayi Division PDC Chairman and also Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, senior military officers, responsible personnel of the SPDC Office, departmental officials, local authorities, members of social organizations, teachers, and students.

On the occasion, Dawei District Lt-Col Khin Maung Nyo, Schoolhead U Tin Maung Myint, and member of the school board of trustees U Ni formally inaugurated the school building. And Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint unveiled the signboard of the school building.

Next, the commander and party viewed the computer-aided instruction room, the language lab, the print media room, and the cottage industry room at the newly-opened school building. They also enjoyed the entertainment presented by students at the music hall.

Later, U Khin Maung Win, a member of the school board of trustees, briefed on the purpose of constructing the school building.

U Kyi Win, chairman of the school board of trustees, handed over documents related to the school building to Director U Ba Ba of the No 1 Basic Education Department, who later spoke words of thanks for the construction of the school building.

Speaking on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint said Dawei district has now possessed one university, three colleges, 16 high schools, 6 branches of high schools, four affiliated high schools, 23 middle schools, three branches of middle schools, five affiliated middle schools, 434 primary schools and two affiliated primary schools.

In the country, all the sectors including the education sector, are developing as a result of the combined efforts made in harmony by the government, the public and social organizations.

Roofed with zinc-corrugated sheets, the school building opened today measures 202 feet by 96 feet. It is also a one-story building and cost over K 69.3 million.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, in his address, said that the government is implementing the three projects across the country—the first for the development of border areas and national races, the second for special development zones, and the third for five-phase rural development project — to ensure equitable progress in the Union.

The government is investing heavily in these projects to improve transport and education, to develop human resources and economy, and enhance

health care.

Thanks to these measures, the number of high schools has risen to 1,894, that of middle schools to 2,612, that of post-primary schools to 4,774, and that of primary schools to 31,225.

Under the 30-year long-term education plan, plans have been made to open high, middle and primary schools in townships, towns and villages in 68 townships in border areas.

The school enrolment rate has now been on the increase by up to 96.56 per cent.

The government is making all-out efforts to bring about well-rounded individuals who will enable the country to stand tall and grand in the international community.

Now is the time when nations are competing with one another to harness the science and technology in protecting the national economy of their own. It is therefore necessary to arm the youths of the country with modern branches of science and technology so that they will be able to shape the future of their country.

Now, literacy rate has reached 93.3 per cent in the country, enjoying top positions in Asia.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo expressed his thanks towards all who gave a helping hand to the emergence of the school building.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted education staff, members of the school board of trustees, the parent-teacher association, and parents of students. — MNA

Development tasks in Mandalay Division inspected

YANGON, 17 March — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, accompanied by Director of Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee U Kan Hla and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Myint Oo arrived at Myotwin village via Kume, Myittha Township, Mandalay Division

this morning. During their arrival, the deputy minister gave supplementary instructions concerning the reports on location of an axis to be connected with Gonywa village of Wundwin Township and Kyaukse District ring road-4 presented by Deputy Superintending Engineer U Myint Oo. At the briefing hall, the deputy minister met

local people and spoke at length regarding five rural development tasks being implemented by the State. After inspecting measures being taken for building 30-foot wide earth road between Gonywa and Kanswa villages, he left necessary instructions. Afterwards, the deputy minister inspected 19-mile long village-to-village road. MNA



Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe inspects construction of District-to-District road No.2 in Mandalay Division. — PBNARDA

27th Inter-State/Division Golf Championship continues



YANGON, 17 March — Organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Golf Federation, mainly sponsored by Isuzu Motor Ltd, the 27th Inter-State/Division Golf Championship continued at Yangon Golf Club, Danyingon, this morning. After third round, Yangon Division team retained its first position in the tournament with 683 strokes in total gross

in the team scratch event, followed by Bago Division team with 706 and Sagaing Division team with 709. In the individual scratch event, Naing Naing Lin of Yangon Division stood first by firing 220 strokes in total gross, followed by his compatriot Nay Bala Win Myint with 229 and Thant Naing Oo of Sagaing Division with 229. In the team handicap event, Bago Division team put its position in the first place by firing

625 strokes in total nett. His runners-up were Shan State (South) with 628 and Yangon Division with 633. In the individual handicap event, Nay Bala Win Myint of Yangon Division stood first after shooting 203 strokes in total nett, followed by Tun Tun Oo of Rakhine State with 205 and Kar Let of Kayah State with 207 strokes. Han Event Management organized to successfully realize the tournament which continues tomorrow. — MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊
ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

**၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ (၁၅)ရက်နေ့ထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင်
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ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။**

ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက်
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ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

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ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

Development tasks supervised...

(from page 1)

Lt-Gen Maung Bo held a meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations, entrepreneurs and local residents. The township PDC chairman reported on the administration, management, community peace and stability, and prevalence of law and order, and the agriculture, education and health sectors.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that Palaw and Palaw Township have enjoyed development to an extent, but they are to make sustained efforts for greater progress.

In the past, the entire Taninthayi Division except some of its cities lagged behind in development due to lack of peace and stability. So, the government made efforts to restore peace and tranquillity and to

ensure prevalence of law and order through national solidarity. Then, it constructed roads and bridges to improve the region's transport sector. It is implementing the regional development projects in collaboration with local people, social organizations and respective departments. In consequence, the entire nation and Taninthayi Division are witnessing cumulative development.

This success depicts the correct leadership of the government, and harmonious cooperation of service personnel, social organizations and the people, he said, calling for further cementing of national unity for greater development.

Now, the State's seven-point Road Map is well under way for the emergence of peaceful, modern and developed nation with flourishing discipline. Responsible personnel are to nurture the youths not only for national development but for that of human

resources, and for enhancing knowledge of the youths, and convincing them with correct concepts.

The entire people on their part are to join departments and social organizations for region and national progress and to cultivate good habits to be able to practise genuine democracy with flourishing discipline.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo also inspected the construction of a post-primary school in Nantaung village, Palauk.

He met departmental officials and members of social organizations in Palauk GAD and dealt with regional development undertakings.

He visited Shinmokhti Pagoda and Loka Tharaphu reclining Buddha Image in Dawei and made cash donations to the funds of the pagodas. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects ...

(from page 1)

Chief of Armed Forces Training on the ground floor, booths of military commands, nation-building endeavours and public welfare on the first floor, booths of ministries, Yangon City Development Committee, MCDC and directorates of the Ministry of Defence on the second floor. Those in charge of respective booths and Deputy Director Lt-Col Zaw Win conducted him round the booths.

After leaving instructions, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win left the museum. — MNA

UMFCCI continues its annual general meeting

YANGON, 17 March — The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) continued its annual general meeting at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindama Road on 12 March. Present were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, departmental personnel, and members of the UMFCCI.

Chairman of the Panel of Patrons of the UMFCCI Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein delivered an address at the meeting. UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing read out the annual report and year-end financial statement and sought approval. Amendment and addition were made to the organizational principles of the UMFCCI, and approval was also sought for it.

Acting Director-General of the Directorate of Trade U Myo Oo announced the name list of three members for the advisory board, that of 25 members for the central executive committee comprising UMFCCI President U Win Myint and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, and that of 50 members for the executive committee.

Next, the acting director-general announced the name list of 12 members for the central executive committee comprising Chairman U Htay Myint and Secretary U Bo Hsaing of Myanmar Oil Palm Growers Association, that of 15 members for the central executive committee comprising Chairman U Aung Myint Htoo and Secretary U Khaing Myint of the Myanmar Rubber Growers Association, that of 19 members for the central executive committee comprising Chairman U Win Aung and Secretary U Myint Kyu of the Myanmar Crop Growers Association, that of 14 members for the central executive committee comprising Chairman U Tin Soe Lin and Secretary U Aung Htwe of the Myanmar horticulturalists Association, and that of 18 members for the central executive committee comprising Chairman U Sein Win Hlaing and Secretary U Aung Than Oo of the Myanmar Rice Growers Association.

The meeting came to an end with the concluding address made by U Win Myint. — MNA

NCC Management Committee facilitates functions



Maj-Gen Lun Maung gives an opening address at the meeting.—MNA

YANGON, 17 March — National Convention Convening Management Committee held a work coordination meeting at its office at Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, this morning.

Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung presided over the meeting, and Secretary Lt-Col Than Htay acted as master of ceremonies.

Maj-Gen Lun Maung gave the opening address.

Chairmen, secretaries and members of programming subcommittee, invitation and accommodation subcommittee, reception subcommittee, en-

tertainment and welfare subcommittee, transport subcommittee, information subcommittee, health subcommittee, financial subcommittee, security subcommittee, and maintenance subcommittee explained the functions sector-wise.

Members of the Management Committee and subcommittees held a general round of discussions.

Maj-Gen Lun Maung made arrangements for work facilitation of the respective bodies.

Also present were Vice-Chairmen of the Management Committee Director of Supply and Transport of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials. — MNA

Officials urged to step up small-scale industrial development

YANGON, 17 March — Chairman of Subcommittee for Small-Scale Industrial Development Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min met Deputy Directors of Cooperatives Department at division and state levels at the meeting hall of the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San Street this morning and discussed small-scale industrial development matters with them.

Present on the occasion were the directors-general, deputy directors-general and officials of the Cooperatives Department, deputy directors-general and officials of

the Cottage Industries Department, deputy directors from states and divisions, the chairman of Cooperative Bank Ltd, the chairman of Industrial Cooperative Syndicate

and officials.

First, the minister delivered an address on the occasion. Next, the deputy directors from states and divisions reported on measures being

taken for small-scale industrial development and tasks to be carried out and the minister ended the meeting with concluding remarks.

MNA



Cooperative Minister Col Zaw Min delivers an address at the meeting.

MNA

All this needs to be known

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

13th Plenary Meeting of Fifth...

(from page 16)

World Buddhist Summit successfully as a milestone of the Theravada Buddhism from 9 to 11 December 2004 attended by representatives of 38 countries including that of Asia and Europe. He asserted that the government of the State Peace and Development Council schedules to hold the religious titles offering ceremony at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill on 24 March. After that,

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council will donate rice and alms to the Sayadaws from the entire country on a grand scale.

Joint Secretary Maha Wizatayon Monastery of Chanayethazan Township Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viçarindabhivamsa supplicated on the report of the second group of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. Next, the meeting went to recess. In the afternoon, members of the SSMNC discussed Vinichaya, religious and education matters and decided to select the Chairman

of SSMNC and its related matters. The meeting continues tomorrow. Today's 'soon' donors were Daw Myint Myint Thein and Daw Khin Win Myint of 26, Myasabei Street in Parami Yeiktha.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, the secretary Sayadaw, joint-secretary Sayadaws and members Sayadaws, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung and officials. — MNA

NC delegates continue group-wise ...

(from page 16)

The emcee announced the validity of the meeting. The meeting chairman delivered a speech.

U Thein Tun read and presented the proposals of

State Constitution to the meeting chairman. Next, U Aung Thein and U Tun Kyaw read and presented the proposals of independent representative-elect Dr Hmu Htan, U Aung Thein

wise coordination meeting at 9 am at Pyidaungsu Hall. U Man Ohn Maung of Kayin State presided over the meeting together with U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Yei and Duwah Zok Khaung of Shan

address.

U Saw Ohn Tin of Kayin State, Daw Mary Yan of Kayah State, Daw Nyunt Nyunt Win of Bago Division, U Ein Lin of Magway Division, Daw Nan Aye Tint of Shan State and Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Division read the proposals of the delegates of national races to be submitted to the session of the NC.

The alternate chairman approved the proposals under the agreement of those present. The meeting ended at 11.30 am.

Delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia

The delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia held a coordination meeting at 2 am at meeting hall-2. Alternate chairman was Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha) together with U Hla Myint and U Khin Zaw. Deputy Director U Than Win and Assistant Director U Nyein Myint acted as MC and co-MC.

Cent per cent delegates were present at the meeting. The chairman delivered an introductory ad-

dress.

Dr May Win Aung Khin read the proposals on functions and power of the president of the State submitted by delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia to the session of the NC regarding the laying down of basic principals for the sectors on the sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution; Dr U Khin Zaw on executive powers of the union government, region or state government, and self-administered region or region leading bodies; and Dr U Hla Than on sector of State service personnel and sector of the sharing of judicial power.

The proposals were approved by those present, after which the meeting ended with closing remarks of the chairman at 4.20 pm.

Delegate group of State service personnel

The coordination meeting of the delegate group of State service personnel took place at meeting hall-7 at 9 am. U Myat Ko of the Min-

istry of Home Affairs presided over the meeting together with Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence and U Hla Tin of the Ministry of Commerce. Deputy Director U Htay Win and Assistant Director U Htein Min acted as MC and co-MC.

A total of 107 out of 109 delegates, accounting for 98.17 per cent, attended the meeting. The meeting chairman spoke on the occasion.

Six delegates of the group read the proposals, to be submitted to the NC session, on the sectors of functions and power of the State president, executive powers of union government and region or state government with respect to detailed basic principles to be laid down for the delegation of executive and judicial powers to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution.

The meeting chairman delivered concluding remarks, which brought the meeting to an end at 10.50 am.

MNA



Delegates of State service personnel hold group-wise discussions. — MNA

the National Unity Party, and U San Tha Aung, proposals of Mro (a) Khami National Unity Organization regarding basic principles to be laid down for the sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the framing of the

and U Tun Kyaw, and U Hla Soe, proposals of six delegates to the chairman, who then gave concluding remarks.

Delegate group of national races

The delegate group of national races held a group-

State (North). Deputy Director U Than Tun emceed the meeting and Assistant Director U Tin Maung Oo as co-MC.

The attendance of the delegates accounted for 98.10 per cent. The chairman delivered an



Delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia hold group-wise discussions. — MNA



Delegates of representatives-elect hold group-wise discussions. — MNA

Reagent of Hepatitis C donated

YANGON, 17 March — Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) donated medical equipment worth US \$ 20,000 to be used in test of hepatitis C to Yangon General Hospital on 15 March.

Before the donation, the Resident Representative of KOICA explained the purpose of the donation. Afterwards, a total of 9,000 Test Kits for hepatitis C check-up were donated to the National Blood Centre and 1,000 Test Kits to the Liver Special Care Unit.

Next, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nu Nu

Tha of YGH expressed thanks and presented the

certificates of honours to the donors. — MNA



Korea International Co-operation Agency (KOICA) hands over the donations to Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha. — YGH



Minister U Nyan Win presents certificate to a trainee. (News on page 2) — MNA

Armed Forces Day commemorative booths inspected



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint inspects arrangements for the booth of the Ministry of Sports in the Defence Services Museum. — SPED

YANGON, 17 March— Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint arrived at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road this morning and inspected the booth of twelve objectives of the State, the booth of nation-building endeavours and the booth of the Ministry of Sports.

After giving instructions, the minister proceeded to Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna), where he attended opening of summer basic football training course, jointly-organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Sports Federations and gave encour-

agement to trainees.

Next, the minister presented cash assistance to coaches and viewed football training. A total of 27 sporting events including football has been opened in sports grounds and stadium in township-wise concerned from 14 March to 8 April.

MNA

District-to-district road built in Yedashe Township

YANGON, 17 March— Director-General of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Myo Myint together with officials concerned inspected district-to-district road built by Bago Division Development Affairs Committee in Yedashe Township yesterday.

At the briefing hall

near Yengan village, the director-general heard reports on progress of work presented by Director of Bago Division DAC U Maung Maung Aung, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Myint Thein.

Next, the director-general gave instructions on timely completion of the project meeting the set standard before the

rainy season. Afterwards, he looked into situation of building of an axis from Yengan village to Thitkyein village and instructed officials concerned to rebuild the road in Atetkyi village.

If completed, there will be easy access to Lewe and Pinyinman Townships.

MNA



Director-General U Myo Myint inspects construction of district-to-district road in Yedashe.—DAD

Italian kids are fittest in Europe

ROME, 17 March — Italy has the unenviable record of the highest percentage of obese children in the European Union, according to a European Commission report, Italian media reported on Tuesday.

Over the last nine years, the report said, obesity in the affluent north has risen from 6.1 per cent to 13.6 per cent of the young population.

The report said the problem could soon turn

into "an epidemic." Obesity as a youngster poses risks for later life, the report said. An obese child has a 30 to 60 per cent possibility of staying or becoming obese as an adult. In Italy, about one in three people are

overweight, including 41 per cent of men and 25 per cent of women, while the percentage of obese people is 9.7 per cent, including 9.5 per cent of men and 9.9 per cent of women.

MNA/Xinhua



MINISTER ARRIVES BACK: Minister for Education U Than Aung attended the 40th South-East Asian Education Ministers' Council Conference held in Hanoi, Vietnam, recently. Minister at the Prime Minister's Office U Than Shwe and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint welcome back Minister U Than Aung at the airport Thursday. — MNA

Eu regulators to tackle rise in obesity among children

BRUSSELS, 17 March— EU regulators joined forces with Europe's advertisers and food industry on Tuesday to tackle an alarming rise in obesity, particularly among children.

Agri-food companies, consumer bodies and nutrition experts from the EU's executive Commission will all contribute to a new think-tank set up to study obesity and recommend remedies.

"Obesity is rising rapidly, and Europe's expanding waistline brings with it devastating consequences for public health and huge economic costs," EU Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Markos Kyprianou said in a statement. The number of overweight schoolchildren in the EU is rising by some

400,000 a year, the Commission says. The problem is worst in southern Europe as traditionally healthy Mediterranean diets give way to processed foods rich in fat, sugar and salt.

"Our continent is facing an obesity epidemic every bit as bad as the one in North America," Kyprianou said. He told a news conference obesity-related diseases added between 2 and 8 per cent to healthcare costs across the 25-nation bloc, as well as leading to increased cancer risks.

According to Inter-

national Obesity Task Force (IOTF), the prevalence of obesity has risen by 10 to 40 per cent in the majority of European countries in the past 10 years. The new think-tank plans to develop strategies to promote physical exercise, avoid advertising of high-fat foods aimed at children and tighten food labelling.

"The lifestyle of children has changed: their form of entertainment is no longer physical activity, it's more sedentary — television, computer games," Kyprianou said.

MNA/Reuters



Progress of renovation of ministries' booths for Armed Forces Day Commemorative Exhibition at Defence Services Museum. — MNA



Members of USDA participating in Computer Quiz to mark 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day at Defence Services Museum. — MNA

Vietnam may issue intellectual property law later this year

HANOI, 17 March—Vietnam is reviewing a draft law on intellectual property (IP), which is expected to be ratified later this year as the country moves closer to the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s accession, *Vietnam News* reported on Wednesday.

"In the future, we will move towards a system where all IP-related disputes will be resolved in court," Bui Manh Hai, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology, said, adding that mass media campaigns and seminars will raise awareness of the new regulations, while IP agencies will see a shake-up to improve the law's enforcement.

The new legislation marks a giant step in Vietnam's economic adaptation to the WTO's legal rules, with the government vowing to push hard

for the law's ratification and protection of IP rights. The draft law has 14 chapters with 497 articles which cover various aspects of IP protection, such as copyrights, patents, industrial design, trade secrets and antitrust provisions.

Jeffrey Hardee, vice-president and regional director of the Business Software Alliance (BSA) in the Asia Pacific, is optimistic about Vietnam's future, with the country joining the Berne Convention for the protection of literary and artistic works in October 2004, agree-

ing to implement the WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, and drafting a separate law on IP.

He said Vietnam with the smallest information technology sector in the region stands to see some of the biggest gains from software piracy reductions. The local sector, which earned only 400 million US dollars in 2002, could grow to one billion dollars by 2006 with the help of a 10-point drop in piracy over four years, according to a BSA research.

MNA/Xinhua



In this photo released by the Bronx Zoo two-week-old cloud rat receives a meal from veterinarian technician Christine Bayha, on 15 March, 2005 in New York. Native to the Philippines, cloud rats are on exhibit at the Zoos Mouse House.

The little male rodent is just one of the over 4,000 creatures that dedicated zookeepers and vets care for at the Bronx Zoo each day. —INTERNET

Volkswagen's China JV to launch new Audi A6

BEIJING, 17 March—FAW-Volkswagen Automobile Co Ltd, China's top vehicle producer, will launch a new Audi A6 to challenge BMW's hold on China's high-end car market, the *Beijing Morning Post* reported.

The new A6 will go on sale in the middle of this year with a 4.2-litre V-8 engine and the choice of front-or-all-wheel drive. It will have six gears of manual and automatic transmissions, the newspaper said.

The premium-class auto will become China's most luxurious sedan, competing against high-volume sedans such as BMW's 5-series, Li Wu, general manager of FAW-Volkswagen's sales company, was quoted as saying. The new A6, like the present A6 and A4, are made at FAW-Volkswagen, German Volkswagen's joint ven-

ture with China's First Automotive Works Corp (FAW), in northeast China.

Before announcing the plan to produce new Audi A6, the FAW-Volkswagen cut the prices of Audi A6 and A4 by up to 43,000 yuan (5,180 US dollars) from late last week, after BMW reduced the prices of its 5-series by 80,000 yuan (9,638 US dollars) to 100,000 yuan (12,048 US dollars) in January to seize the high-end market. Audi, part of the Volkswagen group, sold 64,018 cars in China in 2004, with 46,177 units being Audi A6 and A4.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan's Yokoso! World Expo 2005 Aichi to be broadcast in HK

HONG KONG, 17 March—A Japanese Government information video entitled Yokoso! Japan Expo 2005 Aichi will be broadcast on 18 March in Hong Kong, according to a Press release received on Tuesday from the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong. The video will feature a "pretend" TV team from a foreign country as they visit Japan for the first time. With the help of their Japanese assistant, they introduce some of Japan's most famous tourist and sight-seeing spots including Tokyo, Nagoya, Ise and especially Aichi, which hosts the World Expo from the end of March.

MNA/Xinhua

Researchers find new way to treat skin cancer

LONDON, 17 March—Instead of removing skin cancer cells with surgery or killing them with drugs, scientists said on Tuesday they have tricked them into a permanent coma which could open up a new way to treat the disease.

In laboratory studies, researchers at the Marie Curie Research Institute in Britain reactivated a natural self-defence mechanism that is shut off in skin cancer cells and forced them into a state of senescence, or coma, stopping them from dividing and growing.

"It offers a real hope we will be able to tackle cancer by putting cells into a permanent coma," Thomas Hughes-Hallett, chief executive of the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity, told a news conference.

Dr Colin Goding and his team were studying a gene called Tbx2 which is overactive in melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer, when they dis-

covered it was linked to a mechanism that repressed senescence.

"What really surprised us was that when we inhibited Tbx2 in melanoma cells, they senesced and stopped dividing. This means we have potentially a new way of stopping cancer cells dividing," said Goding.

Cancer develops when certain genes are mutated and cells divide uncontrollably. Goding compared it to an accelerator in a car being jammed on.

Normal, healthy cells know something is wrong — the accelerator is jammed — and put on a brake or senescence. But in cancerous cells the brake is missing or switched off.

The scientists inhibited the action of Tbx2 in melanoma cells in culture with a technical trick. They discovered that the senescence mechanism was still there but had been switched off by the Tbx2 gene.

"What we have done is switched it back on," said Goding who reported the findings in the journal *Cancer Research*.

He now hopes to find out in what proportion of melanoma and other cancer cells senescence can be induced and whether a drug could be developed to activate it in cancer cells.

But he said it could be up to 10 years before any new treatments based on the findings will be available.

MNA/Reuters

Cancer-causing food colourant found in KFC's sauce

SHANGHAI, 17 March— All KFC outlets in China stopped selling New Orleans roast chicken wings and chicken hamburgers Wednesday after the cancer-causing food colouring, Sudan I, was found in the sauce Tuesday.

According to a statement released Wednesday by Yum, KFC's parent company, the remaining "unsafe" sauce will be destroyed. Yum did not release the name of the sauce supplier.

"We feel deep sorry for this food safety accident and promise it will never happen again," said the statement.

The statement also said KFC have already found new sauce supplier and the New Orleans roast chicken wing is expected to be back on sale next week.

Sudan I is a red dye used for colouring solvents, oils waxes, petrol and shoe

and floor polishes. It cannot safely be used in food as it can increase the risk of cancer.

Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) first stepped in the Chinese market in 1987. It now has 1,200 outlets in 260 cities nationwide.

In fact, KFC is not the only case in this "red colourant storm".

China launched a severe food safety inspection when Sudan I was detected in a pepper sauce brand, Meiveiyuan, produced by the Guangzhou-based Heinz-Meiveiyuan Food Co, Ltd. The discovery was made in a routine inspec-

tion early this month and thousand boxes of the sauce were destroyed.

According to the China's General Administration for Industry and Commerce, food containing Sudan I had passed into China's municipalities, provinces and autonomous regions including Beijing and Shanghai.

Beijing's food safety office announced Wednesday that not only the pepper sauce and the chilli oil, but also all other flavouring products made by the Heinz-Meiveiyuan Food Co, Ltd have been banned in the country's capital.

MNA/Xinhua



Spanish 250cc World Champion rider Dani Pedrosa takes a curve over his 250cc Honda motorbike during the official test session at Catalunya's racetrack, near Barcelona, Spain, on 17 March, 2005. —INTERNET

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YANGON GOLF CLUB NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Yangon Golf Club will be held on Sunday 27th March, 2005 at Club House Premises at 10:00 hours.

Managing Member
Yangon Golf Club

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (374)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (374) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bylaws 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 discharged of cargo from the vessel.

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION**

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Number of group tourists to Macao on surge

MACAO, 16 March — The number of tourists travelling Macao in groups reached 186,445 in January, up 17.4 per cent from the same period of last year.

According to the statistics released by the Macao Statistics and Census Bureau on Monday, 147,469 of the total visitors were from the Chinese Mainland, up 12.5 per cent

from the corresponding period of last year.

Meanwhile, the number of group tourists from Taiwan surged by 41.6 per cent year-on-year to 15,046 in January.

The bureau's statistics also showed that the number of hotel rooms reached 9,630 accommodating a total of 302,431 guests in January. The averaged hotel room occupancy rate stood at 67 per cent, while that in three-star tourist hotels averaged 74 per cent during the period. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Smuggled mammoth tusks seized in Thailand

BANGKOK, 16 March — Some 6.8 kilogrammes of mammoth tusks, believed to be millions of years old, have been seized in Thailand, said the Customs officials.

The fossil was seized from an Afghan trader earlier March in the northern city of Chiang Mai, *Bangkok Post* on Tuesday quoted Customs Department chief Sathit Limpongphan as saying.

The confiscated tusks were believed to have been smuggled into the kingdom to be sold to collectors here. The Customs displayed the tusks relic at a Press conference, stressing that trade in the fossil was prohibited.

It is the first time the Thai authorities have seized smuggled tusks of mammoth, a huge woolly elephant-like mammal which existed millions of years ago. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Wulingyuan to raise ticket price for better preservation

CHANGSHA, 16 March — The local government will raise the ticket price of Wulingyuan scenic area, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Zhangjiajie in central China's Hunan Province, next month.

The municipal government of Zhangjiajie said here last weekend that approved by the provincial government, the ticket price of Wulingyuan will increase from the current 158 yuan (19.1 US dollars) to 245 yuan (29.6 dollars)

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IPR PHARMACEUTICALS INC., of Sabana Gardens Industrial Park, P. O. Box 1967, Carolina, PR 00984 is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-



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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for IPR PHARMACEUTICALS INC., P. O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 18 March 2005.

Canada's manufacturing sector sees pickup

OTTAWA, 16 March — Canada's manufacturing sector enjoyed a rebound in shipments and orders in January, Statistics Canada said Tuesday.

Shipments surged 3 per cent in January, rising to 51.5 million Canadian dollars (about 41 million US dollars). New orders soared 7.1 per cent and the country's manufacturers saw their backlog of unfilled orders jump 5.2 per cent to end a five-month slide. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Over 186,000 HK people receive influenza vaccination

HONG KONG, 16 March — Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government's Influenza Vaccination Programme for 2004-05, launched in October 2004, has so far provided protection to more than

starting from April 16. The extra income will go towards better preservation of the site.

"We used to spend approximately 60 million yuan (7.2 million dollars) each year on preservation before the price raise," said Gu Zhongyuan, vice director of the administration bureau of Wulingyuan Scenic Area.

"Because we draw eight yuan from each ticket as the preservation fund under the old price system,

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Thain Aung B.S. LL.B. Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mpipip@primall.net.mm
Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box 698
Yangon. 18 March 2005

US Army official sentenced to 45 days in jail

FORT HOOD (Texas), 16 March — A US Army lieutenant was sentenced on Tuesday to 45 days in jail and loss of 12,000 US dollars in pay for his part in assaults on Iraqi detainees that may have caused one to drown in the Tigris River.

Army 1st Lieutenant Jack Saville pleaded guilty to assault on having two Iraqis thrown at gunpoint into the Tigris in Samarra, Iraq, in January 2004 and was convicted of lesser assault in a separate incident at Balad, Iraq, in December 2003. Based on a plea agreement with prosecutors, he could have faced nearly two years in prison, but Colonel Theodore Dixon gave him just 45 days and ordered his pay cut by 2,000 US dollars a month for six months.

Saville's lawyer, Frank Spinner, told reporters afterward he would have preferred "non-judicial" punishment, but admitted, "I can't really complain about the sentence".

In a prepared statement Saville, a West Point

graduate, apologized to the Iraqi victims and said he had learned to be a better person.

In January, Saville's co-defendant in the Tigris River incident, Army Sergeant Tracy Perkins, was convicted of assault and sentenced to six months in prison.

Both men initially faced manslaughter charges because one Iraqi tossed into the Tigris was believed to have died.

But soldiers testified in Perkins' trial that both men swam to safety and the death was faked.

A judge's order to confirm the death by exhuming what is said to be the body of the drowning victim was never complied with because of security problems, prosecutors have said. Marwan Fadil, who survived the incident, testified in Perkins' trial that he and cousin Zaidoun Hassoun, 19, begged for mercy and soldiers laughed as Hassoun drowned.

They had been detained for violating curfew. — *MNA/Reuters*

Cuba accuses US of HR violations at Guantanamo

HAVANA, 6 March — The ill-treatment Washington gives to its prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is a total transgression of the most basic human rights, as those individuals do not even face charges and are not subject to a due process, Cuba said on Tuesday.

Cuba's parliament speaker Ricardo Alarcon condemned the US military personnel for mistreatment and torture of the prisoners kept at Guantanamo Bay. Talking about Washington's recent move to promote

its anti-Cuba resolution before the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Alarcon said it would be justified to analyze and condemn the human rights violations at Guantanamo Bay instead. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Stephane Lambiel of Switzerland performs his men's short programme at the World Figure Skating Championships in Moscow, on 15 March, 2005.
INTERNET



DON'T SMOKE

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Lung cancer patients given Avastin live longer

WASHINGTON, 16 March — Lung cancer patients given Genentech Inc's drug Avastin along with standard chemotherapy lived longer, the US National Cancer Institute said on Monday, sending the company's shares up 25 per cent and raising hopes for treatment of an often fatal cancer.

Patients given the targeted therapy along with the standard chemotherapy drugs Paclitaxel and Carboplatin lived a medium of 12.5 months compared to 10.2 months for patients given standard chemotherapy, said the NCI, which sponsored the study.

The results were published early because they were so important for a cancer that has a dismal cure rate, the NCI said. Additional details of the trial will be released at a meeting of the American

Society of Clinical Oncology in Orlando, Florida, in May.

The news prompted a buying frenzy in Genentech shares, during which about 11.5 billion US dollars was added to the company's market value during the final hour of trading. The stock closed up 24.77 per cent or 10.92 US dollars at 55 US dollars on the New York Stock Exchange, a two-month high, in its biggest one-day gain since May 19, 2003, when it rose 45 per cent after Avastin

was found to extend colon cancer patients' lives far longer than expected.

"The exciting results of this randomized study reveal, for the first time, an improvement in survival with the addition of a targeted agent to standard chemotherapy in this patient population," added Dr Alan Sandler, of the Vanderbilt University Medical Centre in Nashville, who led the study.

Avastin, known generically as bevacizumab, is a monoclonal antibody — a laboratory-made immune system protein designed to interfere with vascular endothelial growth factor. Tumors use VEGF to build blood vessels to feed themselves.

This class of drug may hold promise for treatment of a number of different kinds of cancer, analysts said. "In combination with standard therapies, they (monoclonals) can be used for a variety of cancers, leading to increased patient survival," said NCI Director Dr Andrew von Eschenbach.

MNA/Reuters



Journalists check the Internet recently. The future of online journalism will in part be shaped a landmark legal battle being waged in Canada pitting the Washington Post and 50 media giants against a former United Nations official who is suing the Post over an article published online.— INTERNET

Scientists discover how green tea helps to prevent cancer

LONDON, 16 March — Spanish and British scientists have discovered how green tea helps to prevent certain types of cancer.

Researchers at the University of Murcia in Spain (UMU) and the John Innes Centre (JIC) in Norwich, England have shown that a compound called EGCG in green tea prevents cancer cells from growing by binding to a specific enzyme.

"We have shown for the first time that EGCG, which is present in green tea at relatively high concentrations, inhibits the enzyme dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), which is

a recognized, established target for anti-cancer drugs," Professor Roger Thorneley, of JIC, told Reuters.

"This is the first time, to our knowledge, a known target for an anti-cancer drug has been identified as being inhibited by EGCG," he added.

Green tea has about five times as much EGCG as regular tea, studies have shown. It decreased rates of certain cancers but scientists were not sure what

compounds were involved or how they worked. Nor had they determined how much green tea a person would have to drink to have a beneficial effect, he said.

Thorneley said EGCG is probably just one of a number of anti-cancer mechanisms in green tea.

"We have identified this enzyme in tumour cells that EGCG targets and understand how it stops this enzyme from making DNA. This means we may be able to develop new anti-cancer drugs based on the structure of the EGCG molecule," Thorneley explained.

The scientists decided to look at EGCG after they realized its structure was similar to a cancer drug called Methotrexate.

"We discovered that EGCG can kill cancer cells in the same way as Methotrexate," Dr Jose Neptuno Rodriguez-Lopez, of UMU, a joint author of the research published in the journal Cancer Research.

EGCG binds strongly to DHFR, which is essential in both healthy and cancerous cells. But it does not bind as tightly as Methotrexate, so its side effects on healthy cells could be less severe than those of the drug.

Thorneley said EGCG could be a lead compound for new anti-cancer drugs.

MNA/Reuters

Specialized MBA education takes on in China

BEIJING, 16 March — An MBA degree may be enough to attract Chinese employers looking for the brightest talents. But potential bosses may ask one more question: "have you taken any specialized MBA courses?"

"Professional MBA education has become a trend in China's MBA education," said Tong Yunheng, president assistant of the training college of the Beijing-based People's University.

Some students who take general management courses fail to apply what they have learnt in actual work, said Wang Qiang, general manager of the Beijing Xunda International Trading Company.

"The point is business schools mainly focus on general MBA education without a strong professional basis," he said.

People's University has recently started an

IT-MBA training course. It also provides MBA courses focusing on sectors such as real estate, medicare and telecommunication. Many other universities with MBA education have also started courses with different majors to make the education more career-specific.

Some economically developed countries have begun to rank their business schools according to different categories of MBA education these schools offer. This shows clearly that more vocation-focused education has become an international trend, Tong said.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan grants visa-free access to Macao SAR passport holders

MACAO, 16 March — China's Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) passport holders will be exempted from the requirement to hold a visa when travelling to Japan from on 25 March this year.

Takanori Kitamura, Japanese Consul-General in Hong Kong delivered the message on the visa exemption to Edmund Ho Hau Wah, chief executive of the Macao SAR Gov-

ernment when the two met here Tuesday.

The Japanese Government granted the visa-free access to Macao SAR passport holders entering Japan for the purpose of short-stay visits up to 90 days from 25 March this year.

Kitamura said that by granting the visa-free access to Macao, the Japanese Government hopes to boost the tourist industry in Japan, which welcomed 13,000 Macao tourists in 2004, up 66 per cent from 2003.

He said that Japan enjoys long and friendly relations with Macao, and expects that the mutually beneficial exchanges between Japan and Macao in vari-

ous fields would be further accelerated and the friendly relations further deepened.

Presently, holders of valid Japanese passports have been able to enter the Macao SAR without a visa for a stay of 30 days maximum. From March 25, the maximum stay will also be extended to 90 days, according to the Macao SAR government.

There are now 63 countries and territories granting visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to Macao SAR passport holders, 50 of which share mutual visa exemption status with Macao, and 12 are territories giving Macao visa exemption and one visa-on-arrival. — MNA/Xinhua

Beijing allocates 80m yuan to improve rural medical services

BEIJING, 16 March — The municipal government of Beijing plans to allocate 80 million yuan (9.63 million US dollars) this year to improve the rural medical services, said sources with the city's development and reform committee.

The city vows to prioritize the development of rural medical and health facilities and setting up

comprehensive medical service network.

As an important step, the city will devote major efforts to implementing the new-type medical cooperation system in a bid to spur exchanges between rural and urban medical staff.

The 80 million yuan appropriated by the municipal government will be mainly injected into the de-

velopment of the rural illness prevention and control centre, mother and child healthcare centre, and township and village hospitals. To date, the municipal development and reform committee has provided 40 million yuan (4.81 million US dollars) for the 21 reconstruction and renovation medical projects on the city's outskirts.—MNA/Xinhua

Chelsea stretch lead at top of Premier League

LONDON, 16 March — Chelsea stretched their lead at the top of the Premier League to 11 points with a 1-0 win over struggling West Bromwich Albion at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday.

Didier Drogba's first-half goal takes Chelsea on to 74 points from 29 matches with Manchester United in second place on 63 and champions Arsenal a further two points adrift in third.

With nine games to play, however, Chelsea captain John Terry said there was still a long way to go after a hard-fought win in a match rearranged because of their League Cup final appearance.

"Man United are pushing us all the way, Arsenal are still there, so all we can

do is keep winning our games and putting pressure on those two," the England defender told Sky Sports.

"We still need a few wins and hopefully we can do that with performances like that (tonight)," he added.

Chelsea, who commemorated the centenary of their foundation with a celebrity-studded dinner on Monday night, dominated from the start as they put the visitors under constant pressure.

They were rewarded after 26 minutes when striker Drogba tucked the ball home from eight metres after Damien Duff lost his marker down the left and cut back a precise low cross.

It was the 50th goal West Brom have conceded in the Premier League this season and only bottom club Norwich City (58) have let in more as the pair struggle to avoid relegation. Drogba should have scored a second goal just after the hour mark when he turned defender Thomas Gaardsoe outside the penalty area but flashed his low shot wide of Russell Hoult's far post.

MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Didier Drogba moves the ball past West Bromwich's Neil Clement during their Premiership match at Chelsea's grounds. —INTERNET

Platini to run for presidency of UEFA

PARIS, 16 March — Former France captain and manager Michel Platini plans to run for the presidency of the sport's European governing body, UEFA.

The 49-year-old, who led France to consecutive World Cup semi-finals in 1982 and 1986, said if he was elected he would put a smile back on the face of a sport he fears is becoming ruled by big business.

"I've sent a letter announcing my intention to the president of UEFA," he told reporters during a lunch on Tuesday. "There are many turbulences in the world of soccer and I want to do something about it."

The current president of UEFA is Lennart Johansson, but the Swede has already said he would not run for election again.

"We fully support him in his bid because we believe he can bring something new, something closer to the pitch," said French Federation president Jean-Pierre Escalettes.

Platini, who was voted European Footballer of the Year three times, won the 1984 European Championships with France and helped Juventus win three Italian titles and the European Cup, said his passion for the game is the reason he is running.

"I want soccer to be something other than what it is today," he said. "I want to

prevent the most beautiful game from becoming only business.

"I don't need the notoriety, I have it already. And I don't do this for money, because if I am elected, I will earn less money than today."

Platini, who scored a record 41 goals for France in 72 appearances, still commands huge respect in the game and has not been afraid to voice his displeasure at aspects of modern football in various administrative roles he has held since hanging up his boots in 1987.

He believes that the grassroots of the game must be protected, while the "win at all costs mentality" has to change. "We have to fight for the youth academies," he said. "It is unacceptable that a player leaves for a foreign country without having played for the club he has been formed at. We have to address this problem."

Platini criticized the treatment of Swedish referee Anders Frisk, who retired last week after receiving death threats.

"What has happened to Anders Frisk should not be tolerated," he said. "You know what fair play is? It is being able to lose with a smile on your face. Nowadays, it is like you are not allowed to lose."

MNA/Reuters

Adriano scores hat-trick as Inter beat Porto 3-1

MILAN, 16 March — Brazilian striker Adriano scored a hat-trick as Inter Milan beat Porto 3-1 to end their reign as European champions and put Inter safely through to the last eight of the Champions League on a 4-2 aggregate.

Adriano scored after six and 63 minutes to put Inter 3-1 ahead on aggregate but they were pegged back to 3-2 when Jorge Costa scored his first goal in the competition for more than five years by scrambling home from a corner after 69 minutes.

That set up an anxious last spell for the home side who could have made life easier for themselves if Javier Zanetti had scored on a breakaway in the closing minutes but his shot was cleared off the line by Pedro Emanuel.

Instead it was left to Adriano to complete his hat-trick three minutes from time to see Inter through to Friday's quarter-final draw along with Italian rivals AC Milan and Juventus.

The rest of the quarter-final lineup will be completed by Chelsea and Liverpool from England, Bayern Munich from Germany, PSV Eindhoven from the Netherlands and Olympique Lyon from France.

Porto, surprise winners last season, become the first defending champions to fail to make it to the last eight in the subsequent season.

Adriano had scored just one goal this calendar year but it was his return to his explosive best which proved to be the difference between the two sides. By the end of the match he had taken his Champions League tally for the season to seven goals from six matches.

The burly Brazilian gave Inter the perfect start with a somewhat fortunate opening goal.

The striker latched on to a misplaced Porto pass and burst down the left flank, overpowering Jorge Costa before unleashing a left-foot drive which took a big deflection off the sliding Pedro Emanuel and looped over Porto keeper Vitor Baia into the net.

That should have settled Inter's nerves and made it clear to the Portu-



Inter Brazilian soccer ace Adriano reacts after scoring his second personal goal during the Champions League first knockout, 2nd leg soccer match between Inter Milan and Porto at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, Italy, on 15 March, 2004. — INTERNET

guese side that they had to take Inter on.

But Porto, who made five changes from the team which on Friday suffered their worst home defeat for 30 years with a 4-0 loss to Nacional, struggled to get into the game.

Looking a poor imitation of the team which won the competition last season, when under the charge of current Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, Porto lacked shape and incisiveness.

Inter were little better with Argentine Juan Sebastian Veron and Serb Dejan Stankovic playing out of position on the flanks, they were unable to develop any fluidity to their game.

At the break Porto coach Jose Couceiro took off the ineffectual Brazilian Claudio, replacing him with Ricardo Quaresma and he made a swift impact with a 53rd minute shot whistling just wide of the post.

MNA/Reuters

Gravesen defends Real's Galactico policy

MADRID, 16 March — Real Madrid midfielder Thomas Gravesen defended the club's Galactico policy on Tuesday, saying the project simply needed time to make the team capable of competing at the highest levels.

"I don't think the Galactico project has been a failure. I think this is the best group of players you could have, and I believe we will show we are still a good side," Gravesen told reporters.

"When I was at Everton it took three to four years to build a side that could qualify for the Champions League. It is something that happens gradually. It doesn't happen in a day."

Real president Florentino Perez has championed a policy of pursuing high-profile purchases every year, such as Luis Figo, Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo, and mixing them

with players developed through the youth teams.

With Real now facing the prospect of a second successive season without silverware, out of the Champions League and King's Cup and 11 points behind Barcelona in the Primera Liga, this policy has been called into question.

The 29-year-old Danish international, signed from Everton in January, has urged against knee-jerk reactions. "At the moment we know we are not playing the best football we can, so we need to stick together and stop looking to point fingers at people,"

he said.

"I don't know what kind of players will be brought into the club in the future. Maybe the most important thing would be to give the players already here that extra edge and encourage them to come together as more of a group."

Although Real are second in La Liga with 10 games to play, last year's end-of-season collapse under coach Carlos Queiroz is still fresh in the memory.

Real lost six of their last seven games to finish fourth behind champions Valencia.

MNA/Reuters

African nations urged to harness science, tech to combat poverty

HARARE, 17 March — African countries have been urged to harness existing science and technology facilities in order to address biting poverty, ill health, environmental degradation and economic stagnation.

Olivia Muchena, Minister of State for Science and Technology in the Zimbabwean President's Office, said on Monday that Africa would not enjoy full development until it fully utilized its resources.

She was speaking at the Zimbabwe Staff College in Harare where she addressed students attending the Joint Command and Staff Course Number 18 on Science and Technology policy in the country. Muchena said many countries in the world were making huge strides in building the capacity to innovate, adapt and regulate technology in pursuit of their national goals and priorities. "Africa is richly endowed with mineral and biological resources that are enough to look after its people. The continent harbours a significant proportion of the world's biological diversity and has a substantial human resource base," she said.

Muchena said science, technology and innovation were critical for Africa's development and it was often argued that economic growth was predominantly a result of the application of knowledge in produc-

tive activities and the associated adjustments in social institutions. "Africa is seriously lagging behind and its challenge is therefore to develop comprehensive science, technology and innovation policies and strategies that reflect local needs, integrates traditional knowledge systems and takes full advantage of its rich resource base," she said. Key strategies for harnessing science and technology in Africa entailed developing comprehensive science and technology policies, investing in platform technologies and putting in place science and technology government structures, the minister said.

She said that unless appropriate science and technology policies were put in place, it would be difficult to address national needs and priorities.

Muchena added that Zimbabwe developed a science and technology policy that was launched by President Robert Mugabe in June 2002 which seeks to strategically position the country in the science and technology field, so as to promote rapid economic development and self-reliance. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Tanzania ponders national park admission fee hike

DAR-ES-SALLAM, 17 March — The Tanzania National Park Authority (TANAPA) has expressed intention to increase the entrance fees for its parks and nature reserves in a bid to gain more from the tourism sector.

The TANAPA, the national administrative body of the country's national parks, nature and game reserves, is reportedly to raise the entrance fees by 33 per cent for the Kilimanjaro and Serengeti national parks in January next year. The Kilimanjaro and Serengeti national parks are Tanzania's top-selling wildlife observance places.

Fees for the other national parks in the country will be raised by 20 per cent, according to Wednesday's edition of local English newspaper *Daily News*.

The entrance fees for both the Kilimanjaro National Park and the Serengeti National Park will be increased from 30 US dollars to 35 US dollars next year. Their fees are expected to go up further to 40 and 50 US dollars respectively in 2008.

The TANAPA also proposed to raise the entrance fees for the Lake Manyara, Arusha and Tarangire national parks

to 30, 35 and 40 dollars respectively before 2008. The Tanzania Association of Tour Operators, however, warned that the entrance fee hike might scare away planned and potential tourists from visiting these parks.

The tour operator association cited as a negative example that more than 50 per cent of the bookings by foreign tourists were cancelled in the year 2000 after the Kilimanjaro National Park had doubled up its entrance fees.

The association predicted a drop by between 50 and 65 per cent of the number of foreign tourists in the wake of the proposed admission fee hike starting next year.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe's tea exports on steady increase

HARARE, 17 March — Zimbabwe's tea exports increased to an estimated 25 million kilos last year, up from 23 million kilos in 2003, according to the *Herald* newspaper on Wednesday.

A total of 16.5 million US dollars was realized from tea and coffee exports last year; the figure is expected to increase to 20 million US dollars this year.

Zimbabwe's tea exports have been steadily increasing in the last four seasons.

Zimbabwe along with Indonesia, Malawi, Uganda and Tanzania are in the small and medium exporters category accounting for around 20 per cent of the world output. Kenya, now the world's largest exporter of the commodity, last year boosted its exports by a whopping 23.6 per cent to 333.802 million kilos.

Zimbabwe's tea is mainly grown in Nyanga and Chipinge, both located in the Eastern Highlands.

Around 80 per cent of the tea grown in Zimbabwe is exported. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Thursday, 17 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Kachin State and Ayeyawady Division, (5°C) below normal in Mandalay Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Southern Shan State, lower Sagaing and Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was (39°C) in Zauungtu.

Maximum temperature on 16-3-2005 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 17-3-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-3-2005 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 16-3-2005 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfalls on 17-3-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.59 inch) at Yangon Airport, (1.54 inches) at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (3) mph from Southwest at (17:00) hours MST on 16-3-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-3-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-3-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-3-2005: Fair weather.



- Friday, 18 March**
Tune in today:
- 8.30 am** Brief news
 - 8.35 am** Music: I keep it to myself
 - 8.40 am** Perspectives
 - 8.45 am** Music: -Can't get you out of my world
 - 8.50 am** National news/Slogan
 - 9.00 am** Music -I need to know
 - 9.05 am** International news
 - 9.10 am** Music -Don't go away
 - 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
 - 1.40 pm** Lunch time music -Just to be close to you -If you walk away -I'll be there -If you still love me
 - 9.00 pm** Talk: Fine traditions of Myanmar Tatmadaw
 - 9.15 pm** Article/Music
 - 9.25 pm** Music at your request
 - 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
 - 10.00 pm** PEL

TV Myanmar

Friday, 18 March
View on today:

- 7:00 am** Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am** 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am** 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am** 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am** 5. ရုပ်ရှင်ပုံပြင် စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်
- 8:05 am** 6. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:15 am** 7. အတူပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am** 8. အိမ်ပြုရင်တဲတဲ
- 8:30 am** 9. International news

- 8:45 am** 10. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm** 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm** 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm** 3. Practice in Reading
- 4:40 pm** 4. Musical programme
- 4:50 pm** 5. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်း ပြိုင်ပွဲအရတေးများ (၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်)
- 5:00 pm** 6. အစားသစ်ကုန်ကုန်သွယ်ရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခမေး၊ သတ္တမေး အထူးပြုများ) (ရက္ခမေး)
- 5:15 pm** 7. Song of national races
- 5:30 pm** 8. ရည်းစားနှစ်ဖက်အားကစားအပြပွဲ
- 5:45 pm** 9. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး
- 5:55 pm** 10. "မင်းမင်းသေးပါသွားကွာ" ခရာ၊ ငှက်ပျော့ကွဲကြီး၊ ချစ်ခရာ

- ကြိုကြိုသင်၊ အေးအေးခိုင်**
- ၁၂နိုက်တာ-ရွှေစင်ထိုက်**
- 6:05 pm** 11. Discovery
- 6:15 pm** 12. Songs of yesteryears
- 6:30 pm** 13. Evening news
- 7:00 pm** 14. Weather report
- 7:05 pm** 15. နိုင်ငံခြားတော်လှမ်းတဲ့ "ရန်ဆာဥပဒေ" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
- 7:30 pm** 16. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 7:45 pm** 17. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံဂုဏ်ပြုတေး
- 8:00 pm** 18. News
- 19. International news**
- 20. Weather report**
- 21. Myanmar movie** "နောင်တရေမြေ" (အပိုင်း-၂) (နိုးချ၊ ရန်အောင်၊ တွန်းအိန်စောစို) (၁၂နိုက်တာ-သက်မောင်မောင်)
- 22. The next day's programme**

13th Plenary Meeting of Fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicates on religious affairs at 13th Plenary Meeting of 5th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.— MNA

YANGON, 17 March — The 13th Plenary Meeting of the Fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was held at Wizaya Mingala Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Vice-Chairman Thayet Aungmingala Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Bhaddanta Kesara presided over the meeting. The Sayadaw delivered an Ovadakatha, saying that members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee are to perform four main tasks of the Sangha for purifying, stabilizing, ensuring propagation and organization of the Sasana without losing sight. Thus, they should avoid misconducts in organizing the Sangha and to assign duties of the four main tasks to SSMNC member Sayadaws to over 300,000 members of the Sangha.

Next, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on religious affairs. He said that

nowadays there are about 500,000 members of the Sangha including nuns in Myanmar, where Theravada Buddhism flourishes most in the world. The Government and local people donate robes, 'soon', monastery and medicines to members of the Sangha so as to enable the

latter to carry out their missionary tasks. Obviously the authorities join hands with members of the Sangha to help produce venerable monks, wipe out dogmatism, nurture local and foreign missionary monks and renovate and build religious buildings. In the education sector, hold-

ing of religious examinations at different levels as well as opening of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities are aimed at turning out members of the Sangha on whom all the Theravada Buddhists can rely. And then, Myanmar has hosted the (See page 9)



Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vicharindabhivamsa.— MNA



Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejaniya. MNA



Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara. MNA

NC delegates continue group-wise discussions

YANGON, 17 March—Meetings of delegate groups of representatives-elect, national races, intellectuals and intelligentsia and State service personnel took place at the meeting halls of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, today, attended by members of

the panel of chairmen and NC delegates.

Delegate group of representatives-elect

The delegate group of representatives-elect read the proposals at meeting hall-2 at 10.10 am. U Law Hsin Kwam of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party chaired the

meeting together with members of the panel of chairmen U Yaw Aye Hla of Lahu National Development Party and U Maung Gyi of Union Pa-O National Organization. Deputy Director U Maung Maung Phyu Tint acted as MC and Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Nwe as co-MC. (See page 9)



The discussion of Delegate Group of National Races in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township.— MNA

Booklet on Clarifications at Press Conference in circulation

The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held a Press Conference on 15 March 2005. The Press Conference explained acts to use the ILO as a political forum, to put pressure on and coerce Myanmar to install a puppet government in their favour; the behind-the-scene narcotic drug production and trafficking business of the Ywet Sit-led SURA terrorist group on the pretext of liberating Shan State; and the motive and acts, which pose a grave danger to the Union of Myanmar and her people, of SSA, SSNA, SURA, SNLD and Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council to establish a nominal Union, and then to secede from it. The booklet on the clarifications at the Press Conference will be distributed together with the dailies starting from 18 March 2005 issue. If the book is not attached to the daily, readers may ask it from newspaper agents free of charge.