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Saturday, 19 March, 2005

Research and development highly essential for producing quality eye-catching machines Senior General Than Shwe inspects plants, workshops at Indagaw Industrial Zone

YANGON, 18 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected plants and workshops at Indagaw Industrial Zone of the Ministry of Industry-2, Bago Township, Bago Division, this morning.

Accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials, the Senior General arrived at Indagaw Industrial Zone



Senior General Than Shwe observes products of Ball Bearing Plant in Indagaw Industrial Zone in Bago, Bago Division.— MNA

at 10 am.

On arrival at the zone, the Senior General and party were welcomed

by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern

Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, ministers, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Min-

ister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and heads of department.

At the briefing hall

of Research and Development Division of the zone, the Senior General and party heard a report on the progress in materializing the guidance given by the Senior General during his visit to the zone in June 2003, progress in building the Disc Wheel Plant, Radiator Plant, Metal Bearing Plant, Power Tiller Plant, Inlet and Exhaust Valve Plant, Steel Plant, Ball Bearing Plant and Aluminum Conductor Steel Plant (ACSR), staff strength, investment and productivity presented by Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin.

The minister also explained the situation of the electric motor plant and auto electric parts plant under construction, setting up of 19 new plants under the ministry beginning 1988, annual increase in the production of heavy and light
(See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe inspects new items produced by the research and development division in Indagaw Industrial Zone.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 19 March, 2005

Serve national interest with nationalistic spirit and esprit de corps

In building the nation into a peaceful modern and developed one, the government has been enhancing the role of the NGOs to ensure the participation of the entire national people.

With the participation of the NGOs made up of intellectuals, technocrats, literati, artistes and entrepreneurs, the nation-building endeavours are making notable progress.

Myanmar War Veterans Organization is one of the NGOs that have been serving the national interest whatever role they are in.

Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee held its Annual General Meeting 2/2005 at the MWVO Headquarters on Pyay Road in Mayangon Township on 12 March with an address by Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

He said it is important to ensure the perpetuation of an organization, we need to have shared concept, confidence and ambition, adding that is why all the members with these qualities are to carry out their duties conscientiously in the interest of the State and the people.

The MWVO upholding in the fore Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty—is engaged in those tasks such as enhancing the socio-economic life of the people, ensuring the national defence and security and serving the national interest.

Currently, the National Convention, a prerequisite for the well-being of the entire national people, is being held. To make the conference a success, all NGOs as well as the MWVO are to extend all possible support to it by doing their bit.

The special 24 development regions have been designated and work is well under way to bring about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation.

Meanwhile, the five rural development tasks are being implemented for raising the socio-economic life of the rural people. The MWVO is to contribute its shares in the nation-building endeavours. Therefore, the MWVO is urged to actively take part in the nation-building tasks in the interest of the State and the people with the nationalistic spirit and esprit de corps.

Tarmacking of roads inspected

YANGON, 18 March — Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected upgrading of roads in the city by the YCDC.

First, the mayor visited the quarry and tar mixer in Dawbon Township where he inspected production of gravel and tar and gave necessary instructions to officials.

The mayor also looked into the tarmacking of Banyadala road section between Satyon Street and Kyaikkasan road in Tamway township and Strand road near Kwinkyang street in Ahlon township and left necessary instructions.— MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

13th 47-member Plenary Meeting of 5th SSMNC concludes



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung attends the 13th 47-member Plenary Meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. — MNA

YANGON, 18 March — The second-day and final session of the 13th 47-member Plenary Meeting of the 5th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee took place at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin Hall on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

Present were SSMNC Vice-Chairman Sayadaws, the Secretary Sayadaw and Joint-Secretary Sayadaws, member Sayadaws, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of the Religious Affairs Department, Director-General Lt-Col Myo Kyaw of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, Pro-rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, and departmental officials.

SSMNC Vice-Chairman Aung Mingala Monastery Sayadaw of Magway Division Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Bhaddanta Kesara presided over the meeting. SSMNC Joint-Secretary Shwetaung Pali University Sayadaw of Yenangyoung Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Tejaninya emceed the meeting.

After a general round of discussions on religious

matters and education, the meeting went into recess.

The meeting resumed at 1 pm. Approvals were sought for proposed matters.

At the meeting, the list of Ovadacariya Sayadaws, SSMNC member Sayadaw and members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha was discussed.

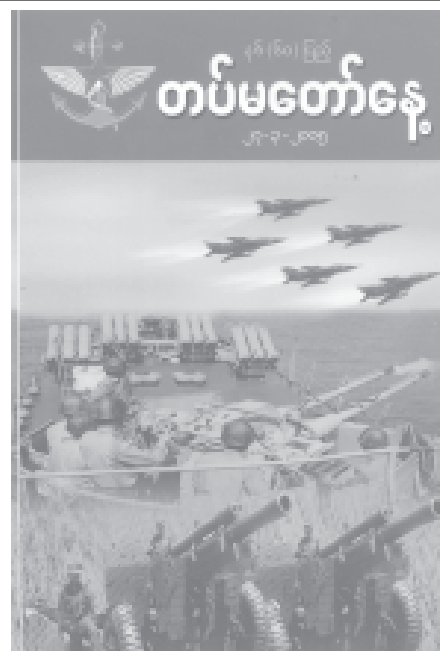
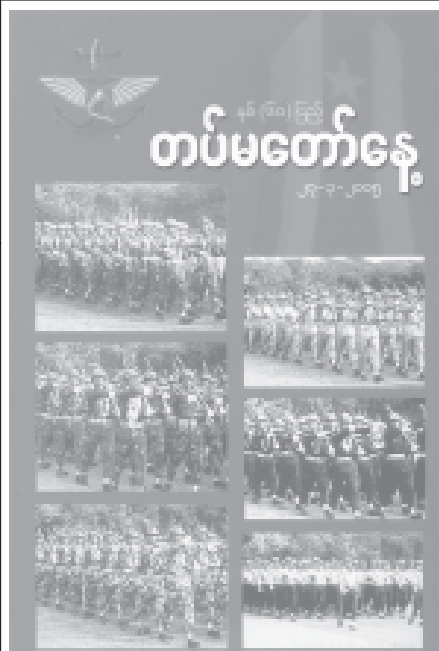
The plenary meeting came to a successful conclusion in the evening.

Wellwishers offered 'Soon' to Sayadaws present at the meeting. — MNA

Title recipient Sayadaws, lay persons to be honoured

YANGON, 18 March — The Buddha Sasana Nugga Organization, Hitethi Group and Women's Yogi Organization, will organize a ceremony to honour 15 religious title recipient Sayadaws and four lay persons who were awarded titles by the State Peace and Development Council at Phanyin Dhammayon of Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha at 16, Sasana Yeiktha Road in Bahan Township, at 1 pm on 25 March .

Anybody may attend the ceremony.— 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 man cycles past an Olympics logo on the side of a construction site in Beijing on 17 March, 2005. —INTERNET

Chinese, Belgian FMs agree to boost ties

BRUSSELS, 17 March — Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Belgian counterpart Karel de Gucht pledged on Wednesday to boost relations between China and Belgium.

During their talks held on Wednesday morning, Li said that the Chinese Government attaches importance to its ties with Belgium, extending the wish to make concerted efforts to score more progress in promoting bilateral relations.

De Gucht said he was

satisfied with the good momentum for the Belgium-China relations.

Both ministers spoke highly of the visit to Belgium by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao last year, stressing that the tour has contributed to pushing forward the development of bilateral ties.

De Gucht reiterated Belgium's adherence to the one-China policy, for which his Chinese colleague expressed appreciation. Li who arrived in Brussels on Tuesday night, is expected to meet with leaders of the European Union headquarters on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

Visa launches new brand identity in HK

HONG KONG, 17 March— Visa International announced plans to refresh and evolve its brand identity and structure on Tuesday in Hong Kong.

The changes include a new look for the famous blue, white and gold Visa logo and changes to card design features. The first cards and merchant signage bearing the new logo is expected to appear by the end of this year.

"We were simply a consumer credit card company. Today, debit and prepaid products, commercial payment solutions and processing and authentication services are major components of our business," said Christopher Rodrigues, president and CEO of Visa International.

"We need to evolve the way the brand is used to enable consumers and mer-

chants to distinguish between different Visa products and services while continuing to trust Visa to enable them to make efficient secure payments anywhere in the world," he added. The updated brand will work better across new technologies and payment channels, such as the Internet, mobile phones and handheld devices, he noted.

As well as a refreshed Visa logo on the card, the well-known Visa dove hologram on the front of the card will be moved to the back and be integrated with the magnetic stripe, making card counterfeiting more difficult. —MNA/Xinhua

Bulgaria reduces troops to Iraq, withdrawal to be discussed in March

SOFIA, 17 March — Bulgaria will reduce its troop contingent in Iraq from 462 to 370 soldiers in June, and the government will decide by the end of March whether to ask parliament for a full withdrawal, Bulgarian Defence Minister Nikolay Svinarov said.

"According to organizational plans there will be a considerable reduction, by almost 100 soldiers, of our next (rotation) contingent in Iraq," Svinarov told reporters on the sidelines of a weekly cabinet meeting. Svinarov seemed to rule out Bulgarian troops staying beyond the end of 2005 when he said: "I do not see anything wrong if we are present in Iraq in 2006 but this presence must be other than military." Svinarov said Italy had proposed withdrawing troops from Iraq based "on UN resolution 1546 ... and we will refer to this resolution if we decide to do the same thing."

Resolution 1546, adopted last year by the UN Security Council, says that the status of foreign troops in Iraq should

be reviewed this June.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has proposed withdrawing Italian troops from Iraq but no decision has been taken. Anti-coalition feelings were sparked here by a US "friendly fire" incident 4 March in Iraq in which a Bulgarian machine-gunner was killed due to lack of communication between his patrol and a US communications post. The same night, Italian intelligence agent Nicola Calipari was shot dead by US gunfire on the road to Baghdad airport, while escorting to safety a released Italian hostage, journalist Giuliana Sgrena. Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov said Tuesday that he felt Bulgarian troops should be reduced at rotation and completely withdrawn at the end of 2005. —Internet

Motorcycle swap project launched to reduce pollution in Thailand

BANGKOK, 17 March — The Thai Government and leading motorcycle manufacturers have started a motorcycle swap project in a bid to cut down pollution in the capital and save fuel.

The project enables owners of two-stroke motorcycles over 10 years old to trade the polluting model for a new four-stroke motorcycle with less money which consumes less gasoline and is more environmental-friendly.

Two-stroke bikes not only use twice as much fuel but also release twice as much exhaust fume as four-

stroke models, Aprichai Chawacharoenpan, director-general of the Pollution Control Department, was quoted by *Bangkok Post* newspaper as saying on Wednesday. He said that of the more than 100,000 two-stroke bikes in the city, only about 20 per cent were still in use, which was a major contribution to the city's air pollution. The old motorbikes have even

caused respiratory problems to a large number of Bangkokians.

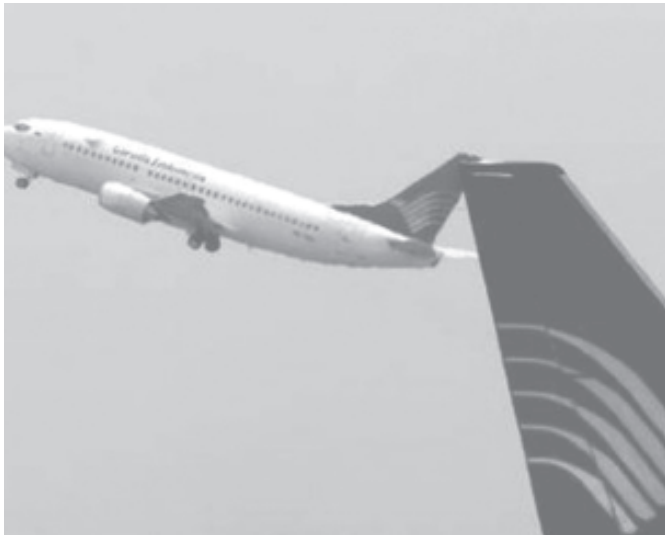
"Getting rid of these dangerous vehicles should be a priority," Aprichai noted.

Planning to join the scheme are leading motorcycle manufacturers Suzuki, Kawasaki and Honda, and many financial institutions.

MNA/Xinhua



Will I Am of the Black Eyed Peas, left, and Malaysian-born actress Michelle Yeoh, right, share a light moment during a Press conference in Kuala Lumpur on 17 March, 2005. —INTERNET



An aircraft from Indonesia's flag carrier Garuda takes off from Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta Airport on 17 March, 2005.—INTERNET

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Japan extends loan to Cambodia's Greater Mekong Project

PHNOM PENH, 17 March — Japanese Government on Wednesday extended a loan around 28.85 million US dollars to Cambodia to help it implementing the Greater Mekong Telecommunication Backbone Network Project.

The signing ceremony of Exchange of Note was held at the Foreign Ministry under the presence of Prime Minister Hun Sen and signed by Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and Takahashi

Fumiaki, Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia.

The project will install a new telecommunication network in this country stretching some 400 kilometres between Kampong Cham and Sihanoukville via Kandal, Phnom Penh, Takco and Kampot, which could be linked to existing network and thus connected to those in the neighbouring countries.

“The aim of this important project is to promote economic development by accelerating the development of the telecommunications and information sectors.

The installation of this network is expected furthermore to make the region attractive to foreign investors,” said Fumiaki.

MNA/Xinhua

More Singaporeans risk suffering stroke, diabetes and obesity

SINGAPORE, 17 March — More Singaporeans risk suffering stroke, diabetes and other diseases as obesity levels rise in the affluent Southeast Asian city-state, a new government system of measuring body fat shows.

Singapore's collective waistline is bulging, a trend some researchers attribute to a gradual shift in diet on the predominantly ethnic-Chinese island towards Western fast foods.

The Health Promotion Board said it was lowering a scale which correlates an individual's body mass index (BMI) to health risks after new findings from local studies and recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Recent studies have shown that many Asians, widely envied for their slim waists, actually have more fat as a proportion of total body weight than Caucasians of the same

age, sex and BMI.

Asians also run an increased risk of developing cardiovascular diseases and diabetes mellitus at relatively low BMI levels, the board said in a statement.

“According to the WHO, obesity is fast becoming a global epidemic and Singapore is following a similar trend as that of developed countries,” said Dr Lam Sian Lian, the board's chief executive.

“With the new guidelines, about half of the adult population will be at moderate-high risk.

Previously we were looking at about a third, going by the WHO international cut-offs for over-

weight and obese,” Lam said. Singapore's last national health survey in 1998 showed that the proportion of its population listed as overweight had risen in six years from 21 to 24 per cent, while those categorized as obese had increased from 5 to 6 per cent.

The WHO has recommended body weight classifications — underweight and gradations of excess weight or overweight — that are associated with

increased risk of some diseases.

Obesity is usually defined as having a body mass index — a measure of weight relative to height — of 30 or above, while a healthy weight is an index of less than 25.

Under Singapore's new system, people with a BMI of 27.5 and above are considered at high risk of disease, while 23 to 27.4 signals moderate risk and 18.5 to 22.9 is healthy.

MNA/Reuters

Thailand's vehicle sales drop in February

BANGKOK, 17 March — Soaring oil prices have affected Thailand's automobile sales, which dropped 4.1 per cent in February compared to the same period of last year.

In February, 47,038 vehicles were sold, down 4.1 per cent from 49,044 units in February 2004, the state-run Thai News Agency (TNA) on Wednesday quoted Director of the Automobile Institute Vallop Tiwetsiri as saying. Climbing oil prices are believed to be major reason for the decreased automobile sales.

“Amid the absence of new models, the segment was hard hit due to the higher petrol prices, which had a negative psychological impact,” said a research paper released by Syrus Securities Ltd on Tuesday.

Many automobile producers believe that the kingdom's vehicle sales would stay around 680,000 units, down from the target of 700,000 units. Last year, the kingdom's total car sales were 628,000 units.

MNA/Xinhua

Traffic offences increased in Singapore last year

SINGAPORE, 17 March — Traffic offences such as drink driving, speeding and driving while using mobile phones increased in Singapore last year, according to Channel News Asia report on Wednesday.

A survey of the island state's situation in 2004 conducted by the traffic police showed the 23 per cent more drunk drivers, mostly motorists, were arrested last year despite of heavy penalties.

MNA/Xinhua

New Zealand launches Ocean Survey over next 15 years

WELLINGTON, 17 March — New Zealand has launched Ocean Survey, which is to complete by 2020, with an aim to build up a comprehensive picture of New Zealand's oceanic interests and the resources and ecosystems they contain over the next 15 years.

Minister for Land Information Pete Hodgson said in a statement on Wednesday that New Zealand's future prosperity would depend increasingly on ocean resources such as fisheries, aquaculture, natural products, hydrocarbons and other minerals.

“Before we can efficiently and sustainably manage those resources, we need a fuller understanding of their make up. Ocean Survey 20/20 is designed to deliver that,” he said.

The survey will cover an area of around 6.5 million square kilometres including the seabed, water column and airspace of New Zealand's exclusive economic zone and extend out to the edge of the continental shelf.

MNA/Xinhua

1518 US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 March — As of Thursday, 17 March, 2005, at least 1,518 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 seven higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST on Thursday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; 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, 1,380 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. —Internet



A scale model of 'Howl's Moving Castle,' on display in Tokyo. Oscar-winning animator Hayao Miyazaki's latest fantasy 'Howl's Moving Castle,' which has broken box office records in Japan, will hit US theatres in June.—INTERNET

Zambian First lady learns about China's education relief work

BEIJING, 17 March—Zambian First Lady Maureen Mwanawasa visited the China Youth Development Foundation (CYDF) here on Wednesday, acquainting herself with China's education relief work.

Tu Meng, standing vice-secretary-general of the CEDF, said: "China always attaches great importance to development of agriculture, rural areas and farmers, taking such programme as Project Hope to help children in poverty-stricken areas pursue primary education."

Project Hope was founded by the CYDF in 1989 as a public welfare programme, with a mission to educate and motivate society to help relieve the education problem in poverty-stricken region.

Under this project, China has raised 1.6 million yuan (193 million US dollars) to provide more than 2.58 million children from underprivileged families with the opportunity to go to or return to school, and to build more than 11,000 primary schools in poverty-

stricken regions, Tu said.

China is facing tremendous challenges in educating its 1.3 billion people, particularly children and teenagers in underprivileged rural areas. About 40 million rural students are unable to acquire adequate education due to their families' financial problems.

"Education is very important for every country," Mwanawasa said, noting that Azambia also faced the same challenges as China in education problems.

The First Lady expressed her appreciation for the achievements made by the CYDF, hoping that Zambia would learn from experiences of the CYDF to improve the schooling condition of children in Zambia.

MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait to speed up construction of 4th refinery

KUWAIT CITY, 17 March—Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Tuesday it will speed up the construction of a fourth oil refinery and complete it in 2007, the *Kuwait News Agency* (KUNA) reported.

KPC's Managing Director for Finance and Planning Suhail Bukreis said the decision was made following a failure to reach agreements with Qatar and Iran to supply Kuwait with natural gas needed to operate a power station. Kuwait at present has three refineries with a total production capacity of 930,000 barrels per day.

The fourth refinery, at a construction cost of 3.3 billion US dollars, will have a capacity of 450,000 BPD, said the report. —MNA/Xinhua

China approves layouts of track commuters in 3 developed regions

BEIJING, 17 March—Chinese State Council approved the transportation layouts on Wednesday for track commuters in the country's most developed three regions, the Bohai Bay area including Beijing and Tianjin, the Yangtze River Delta, and the Zhujiang (Pearl) River Delta.

The State Council's executive meeting, which Premier Wen Jiabao presided over Wednesday, decided to build a modern transportation system with track commuters between scattered cities to facilitate economic integration.

The construction of a 115-kilometre-long track linking Beijing and Tianjin will start in July. It will

only take about half an hour to travel between the two cities at 200 kilometres per hour by train in 2008.

In eastern China's Yangtze River Delta, Shanghai and Nanjing are planning to build a 295-kilometre-long track commuter. The construction of another one to connect Nanjing, Hefei and Wuhan is underway.

The Zhujiang River

delta also plans to build a 595.6 kilometre-long track to make travelling in the region much easier and faster.

A statement of the meeting required relevant departments to push forward technological innovation, introduce advanced technology and minimize the land occupied to protect the environment.—MNA/Xinhua



Tourists swim in the Andaman Sea off Maya Beach after arriving on a tour boat carrying people to Phi Phi Island from Phuket in southern Thailand, on 17 March 2005.—INTERNET

American cultural delegation visits Henan Province

ZHENGZHOU, 17 March—A seven-member delegation from the US state Oregon has been touring Henan, China's most populous province, since Sunday, the provincial cultural bureau said.

The delegation, mostly musicians from Oregon State University (OSU), including Marlan Carlson, Music Director of the Corvallis-OSU Symphony Orchestra, will carry out a range of artistic exchange activities in Zhengzhou, the provincial capital, including a symphony concert and a piano concert by Alexander Tutunov, and American pianist of Belarus origin who is now a professor of piano with OSU, said an official of Hainan Provincial Government.

Henan and Oregon have been on friendly ties since June 2001, when a cultural mission from Henan toured Oregon.

MNA/Xinhua

Khatami urges US to stop "wrong policies"

TEHERAN, 17 March—Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Wednesday called on Washington to stop its "wrong policies" concerning Iran and the Middle East, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.

"The ongoing issues, gripping Iran and the US itself, stem from US President George W Bush's wrong policies," Khatami was quoted as saying in the central city of Isfahan.

"If the US is really trying to stop nuclear weapons, it had better go to the states which are neither member to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty nor are abiding by the international regulations and have large nuclear arsenals, the most dangerous of which is Israel," said

Khatami.

Khatami reiterated that Iran was not pursuing nuclear weapons, stressing that Teheran shared concerns with the world over production and stockpiling of nuclear arms.

"We are not at all after weapons of mass destruction because given our beliefs and the events taking place in the world, we consider nuclear weapons as the most dangerous threat to the world," Khatami said.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers patrol during Operation Casablanca, in the Dora district of southern Baghdad on 17 March 2005.—INTERNET

Saudi Arabia to promote Sri Lanka's tourism industry

COLOMBO, 17 March—A Prince of Saudi Arabian Royal Family called on Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Wednesday and pledged to promote the Indian Ocean country's tourism industry.

Saudi Arabian Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Abdulaziz Al Saud conveyed the sympathy of the Saudi Royal family and the people of Saudi Arabia to President Kumaratunga on the recent tsunami.

The Prince said he was happy to be of assistance to Sri Lanka and that he is here to see for himself the extent of the disaster.

The Saudi Government has already donated 300 million US dollars to Sri Lanka, which will be utilized to construct new houses for the displaced, most of them in Kirinda in southern Sri Lanka.

The Prince said the Saudi assistance could be utilized to provide new homes

for the tsunami victims and that his government was not particular about directing them to any one community.

The Saudi Prince said his government wishes to provide further assistance, by way of new investments in the hospitality industry, which would afford employment opportunities to Sri Lankans and also attract more tourists.

President Kumaratunga thanked the visiting Prince for his concerns and requested him to convey Sri Lanka's gratitude to the Saudi Royal Family and the people of Saudi Arabia for the assistance thus far and the pledges made for the future.

MNA/Xinhua

COMESA looks forward to cementing ties with China

LUSAKA, 18 March — The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretary-General Erastus Mwencha said on Wednesday his organization is looking forward to strengthening its relations with China, particularly in trade and investment.

He made the remarks in an exclusive interview with *Xinhua* on his planned visit to China in April. Mwencha described China as an all-weather friend of Africa. "China has been with Africa for a long time. They stood with Africa even during the struggle for independence.

China has also got through similar things with African countries. It is close to our heart. That's why we want to do more business with China," he said.

Over the years, China has been participating in the COMESA region in various ways, investing in the area and supporting member countries' development," said Mwencha.

The Secretary-General said China is becoming an economic power and that economic cooperation between China and COMESA will benefit both sides.

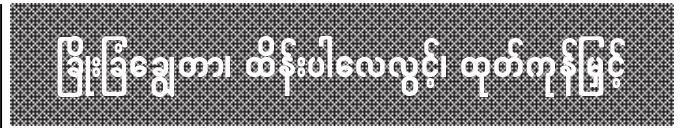
"China is a major consumer of some raw materials we found in COMESA, like copper

and oil.

And we believe China has got the technology that we could be looking at, like in telecommunications, industry and agribusiness," he said.

The Secretary-General said China and COMESA countries share similar views on many issues of trade. The two sides can cooperate in the framework of the World Trade Organization in deciding the global trade architecture.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese real estate talk with potential buyers at a property exhibition in Shanghai, on 17 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Drought expected to cause \$250m damage in Thailand

BANGKOK, 17 March— Severe drought affecting many parts of Thailand would cause the kingdom economic damage of more than 10 billion baht (250 million US dollars) if the situation not relieved, said a securities house.

"We expect the drought to add to food-price inflation and lower agriculture exports during the second quarter," newspaper *The Nation* on Wednesday quoted a report of the Phatra Securities as saying.

The drought has already affected 13.5 million rai (21,600 square kilometres) of farmland, causing hardship to 9.6 million farmers, said the Phatra report issued on Tuesday. Direct loss of farm production was expected to reach 7.4 billion baht (185 million US dollars), while decreased agriculture products exports and trade along main rivers would add up the losses, according to the securities house. Entering dry season in March, many parts of Thailand have reported severe drought.

The government in last week declared eight zones as the worst draught-hit areas, while local Press reported water lines in some reservoirs have dropped to a dangerous low level. — MNA/Xinhua



Workers sort freshly caught crabs at a fish market in Hong Kong on 17 March, 2005.—INTERNET

ADB seeks carbon buyers for environmentally friendly project in China

BEIJING, 13 March — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is inviting expressions of interest in purchasing carbon credits from an environmentally friendly Coal Mine Methane/Coal Bed Methane Utilization Project in northeast China.

The invitation, which will last until 31 March, is the Bank's first project under its Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Facility to be presented to carbon buyers, the Bank said in a statement released on Wednesday.

Between 2006 and 2012, more than five million carbon credits are expected to be generated from the project in Fuxin City in northeast China's

Liaoning Province, part of an Environmental Improvement Project in the province, the Bank said.

The project has been backed by an ADB loan of 70 million US dollars, which was approved in November 2004.

The Bank will help the project find a buyer for the credits and facilitate the transaction process during 2005. The project will improve coal-

mine methane and coal bed methane extraction, distribution and utilization, both boosting coal mine safety and supplying methane as a clean fuel to residents, industry and electricity generation schemes.

It will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by capturing and using methane that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere during the

mining process. The CDM is a market-based financial instrument set up under the Kyoto Protocol that allows industrialized countries to invest in developing country projects and acquire greenhouse gas emission reduction credits, or carbon credits, that they can then use to meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan drug trafficker sentenced to life imprisonment

BANGKOK, 18 March — A Pakistani national on Wednesday was sentenced to life imprisonment in Thailand for smuggling one kilo of heroin into the kingdom in last August.

Thailand's Criminal Court first sentenced the 34-year-old Saeed Areef to death, but reduced it to life imprisonment due to his confession, reported the state-run *Thai News Agency*.

Areef was caught with

heroin in his stomach after receiving X-ray check in Bangkok in last August.

He reportedly swallowed the heroin in bags before boarding on a flight from Lahore to Bangkok.

The tipped-off Thai

authorities stopped Areef when he landed in Bangkok. He was transferred to hospital to receive X-ray examination when the authorities failed to find any drugs in his possession.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan agrees with China to end yen loans by 2008

TOKYO, 18 March — Japan has reached a broad agreement with China to end yen loans to its Asian neighbour by 2008, Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura said on Thursday.

Japan has scaled back low-interest loans to a booming China for three consecutive years and government officials have recently pointed to the need for Beijing to "graduate" from its reliance on the aid.

"We have been holding talks about ending new yen loans before the Beijing Olympics and we have reached a broad agreement," Machimura told a budget committee in Parliament's Upper House.—MNA/Reuters

Central Philippines threatened with typhoon

MANILA, 18 March — The Visayas region in central Philippines is threatened with typhoon as the country raised public storm signal N01 over some provinces of the region on Wednesday.

The Philippine national weather forecast bureau, PAGASA, said that typhoon "Auring" has been intensifying and continuing to threaten the region.

The typhoon was last seen at 570 kilometres northeast of Guian,

Eastern Samar in central Philippines, and has strongest sustained winds of 95 kilometres per hour near the centre and gustiness up to 120 kilometres per hour.

It is moving west at 28 kilometres per hour.

Therefore, signal No1 is hoisted over Samar Provinces, Leyte Provinces, Biliran Island, Bohol, Cebu, Masbate, Northern Negros, Surigao provinces and Dinagat Island, said PAGASA.

MNA/Xinhua

Let us harmoniously strive to produce quality goods

Hein Htut

Quality can be divided into two sectors — quality of products and quality of services. The word "Quality control" is defined as a system of manufacturing a standardized commodity at the least cost. As the industries are developing and the human society is advancing, the role of quality control has become more important.

During his inspection of Padonma Soap Factory near Thebyugon village in Paung Township, Mon State, on 7 February, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying, "Efforts should be made to produce more Padonma soap of various brands for people from all strata of life in addition to building a stable market for them. The factory officials will have to make plans to acquire technology needed in manufacturing brands of export-quality soap in the future and to ensure competitive edge in the market."

Standardization is needed to know the quality grade of a product or a service. There are two kinds of standardization — technology standard and instrument standard. The standardization procedure has the following stages:

- Company standardization
- National standardization
- Regional standardization
- Global ISO — International Organization for Standardization

To materialize one of the five objectives of the Myanmar Industrial Development Committee, which says, "Quantitative and qualitative improvement of industrial products", Standardization Subcommittee and Quality Improvement Subcommittee have already been formed in the Technology Subcommittees. Myanmar needs to manufacture goods that meet the standard quality to have competitive edge in penetrating local and foreign markets.

Of the industrial zones, Mandalay, Monywa, and Ayethaya (Taunggyi) industrial zones are in the process of setting up advanced steel works with the assistance of the Government. Standardization Subcommittee and Quality Improvement Subcommittee are always trying to get in touch with the objective conditions of the industrial zones and

find effective means to raise the standard of the products.

Although the world nations have set quality standards to guard against health and environmental hazards, some of their standards are not in harmony with international standards; and there are differences in quality assessment, and this resulted in the TBT or technical barrier to trade. ASEAN Economic Ministers meeting gave a green light to the formation of the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standard and Quality (ACCSQ), with the aim of removing TBT and applying Common Effective Preferential Tariff system to set up the ASEAN Free Trade Area.

To remove TBT, the ACCSQ has been carrying out mutual recognition of standard conformity assessment and harmonization on national standards

Of the 19 industrial zones, Mandalay, Monywa, Taunggyi and Ayethaya industrial zones are in the process of setting up advanced steel works with the assistance of the Government. Standardization Subcommittee and Quality Improvement Subcommittee are always trying to get in touch with the objective conditions of the industrial zones and find effective means to raise the standard of the products.

with international standards. As an ASEAN member, Myanmar has been fully cooperating with the ACCSQ. If the nation forms National Standardization Body and National Recognition Body to improve the standard of the small and medium private industries and permit laboratories of the respective departments to issue certificates, the nation's industrial sector will be on the path to progress. Moreover, the practice will protect national interests. And if the Standardization and Quality Improvement Subcommittee, one of the subordinate bodies of the Myanmar Industrial Development Work Committee, cooperates with the ACCSQ, it will help promote the quality of the products of the industrial zones.

The ACCSQ is also cooperating with non-

ASEAN nations, namely, Australia and New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Japan, EU countries and the US, to remove the TBT. The ASEAN nations including Myanmar are holding workshops, seminars and courses on standardization and quality control, and sharing knowledge of technology among themselves. The BIMSTEC, formed with Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand also includes the sector of standardization.

Today, people are facing the hazards caused by faked medicines and cosmetics and low-quality electrical apparatus. All the products of every kind should be inspected to ascertain whether or not they meet the standard for the safety of consumers.

A company will be able to adopt the total quality management (TQM) system if it standardizes the products to meet the quality grade and leaves behind the old management systems and introduces the new and effective management techniques.

TQM is a cost-effective method to manufacture quality goods that meet the consumer needs. In addition to the producers, services and other enterprises are also applying TQM.

TQM is being implemented under a five-year plan from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2005. Myanmar has organized four TQM seminars in cooperation with Japanese Standards Association (JSA). Two factories — one factory each of the Toyo Battery Company and Top Detergent Company — have been chosen as model TQM factories. Two experts from JSA have conducted seven one-month courses in Myanmar. Scholars including four officials from the two model companies have been sent to Japan to acquire TQM knowledge.

Although Myanmar is an agro-based nation, it is giving priority to the development of the industrial sector, with private industries as the base, to catch up with other global nations in terms of development. In this regard, we all need to harmoniously play a role in manufacturing environmental-friendly quality goods free from hazards.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin+Kyemon: 18.3.2004.

* * *

Sunbed users in N Europe warned of skin cancer

GENEVA, 18 March—The World Health Organization (WHO), warned young Europeans on Thursday that their taste for getting a tan even before they hit the beach could result in an "epidemic" of skin cancer within a decade.

WHO said sunbeds adhere to," he said, adding people ought to be supervised and use goggles to protect their eyes. Recent studies have shown a direct link between ultraviolet radiation emitted by sunbeds and sunlamps and skin cancers, prompting the WHO to call for stricter controls on their use.

Some 25 per cent of sunbed users in northern Europe are aged between 16 and 24, making them the target audience for the warning, Repacholi told Reuters.

Regular sunbed use may cause disfigurement

from removal of skin cancers and early death if the cancer is a malignant melanoma, the UN agency said, adding it would also add substantial costs to national health systems.

Promoted by an unregulated, multibillion dollar industry, tanning devices in commercial studios are popular among whites, especially in Western Europe and increasingly Eastern Europe.

Young females, many fair-skinned, often turn to "all-over tan", clam-shaped sunbeds ahead of a beach holiday.

MNA/Reuters

Problem with "ISS" circuit breaker shuts down gyroscope

MELBOURNE (Florida), 18 March—A problem with a circuit breaker aboard the International Space Station on Wednesday shut down a gyroscope that helps keep the research outpost properly positioned in orbit, NASA officials said.

While the station can be safely steered with its two remaining gyros, the loss of the third device may impact planning for shuttle *Discovery's* mission to the orbital complex in May — the first planned shuttle flight since the *Columbia* disaster in February 2003.

"The situation is being evaluated," said Johnson Space Centre spokeswoman Kylie Clem. "We don't know yet what effects (the gyroscope shutdown) will have."

Although *Discovery's* mission is intended to serve as a test-flight to determine

if changes ordered after the *Columbia* accident are effective, the shuttle will be carrying critical equipment to the space station, including a replacement gyroscope. The station is equipped with four gyroscopes, but one failed in June 2002. The gyroscopes work by spinning, creating momentum that is used to position the station for temperature control, solar-power generation and other operational requirements without tapping the limited supply of fuel for rocket thruster burns.

NASA hopes to resur-

rect the gyroscope that shut down on Wednesday by remotely resetting the popped breaker, which is located outside the station. The device, known as a remote power controller, was installed during a spacewalk by the previous station crew in June 2004.

While engineers hope to recover use of the gyroscope through remote commands, the station crew could be asked to replace or work on the circuit breaker during a spacewalk planned for later this month, Clem said.

MNA/Reuters



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin and officials in the Research and Development Department in Indagaw Industrial Zone in Bago, Bago Division. — MNA

Research and development special requirement...

(from page 1)

cars, tractors, trailers, power-tillers, pumps, various kinds of machines and household electrical apparatuses, various types of tyres and landscaping of the industrial zone.

Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that the Government has been making investments to set up plants and workshops for rapid development of the State industrial sector, and increasing the industrial sector's contribution to the gross domestic product. In manufacturing goods, industry officials will have to draw detailed projects on how to extend manufacturing of new types of machines, and which parts of the manufactured machines should be substituted with better ones and what kind of new parts should be added to them to further improve their quality, after studying both the actual requirements of the industries and the entire nation in a practical way, he pointed out. Only then will the industries be able to produce standard machines including new brands according to the demand.

It is the work of research and development that is a special requirement for the machines to become eye-catching and for improving their quality. Research work should focus on ensuring consumer satisfaction. Factory officials will have to make arrangements to receive suggestions and criticism from consumers, and only if they know and remedy their weakness, will the production enterprise be able to achieve greater success.

Another important requirement is the harmo-

nious cooperation and coordination among the different divisions in the functions and in assembling the machines. As the government departments have plants and workshops, installed with advanced equipment, of their own, one important factor is that there should be knowledge sharing and bilateral cooperation in the industries. Moreover, the State-owned industries should have interrelations and cooperation with the private sector in the necessary fields. Only then will both the government and the private sectors be able to help each other in manufacturing machines.

The Senior General and party were conducted round the CAD & CAM computer room, where computerized designs for new types of machines are made, and metallographic microstructure testing room, by the minister, the deputy minister and officials.

They also observed the car, tractor, motorcycle and bicycle tyres produced by Myanma Tyre and Rubber Industries, rubber produced by the rubber plantations of the Industry-2 Ministry, equipment installed at engine testing room and mechanical and physical properties room, batteries and harvesters produced by the Myanma Agricultural Machinery Industries through innovative means, new X-2000 type gas-fired car engine and CNG vehicles and petrol vehicles designed by Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries, and production process at the Ball Bearing Plant.

During the visit of the Aluminum Conductor Steel Plant, the Senior General and party inspected the different stages of the production line and storage of raw materials.

Excerpts from Senior General's address

- * Industry officials will have to draw detailed projects on how to extend manufacturing of new types of machines, and which parts of the manufactured machines should be substituted with better ones and what kind of new parts should be added to them to further improve their quality.
- * Factory officials will have to make arrangements to receive suggestions and criticism from consumers, and only if they know and remedy their weakness, will the production enterprise be able to achieve greater success.
- * As the government departments have plants and workshops, installed with advanced equipment, of their own, one important factor is that there should be knowledge sharing and bilateral cooperation in the industries.
- * State-owned industries should have interrelations and cooperation with the private sector in the necessary fields.

At the electric motor plant, which is under construction, they observed the progress in erecting the plant and machines to be installed there. They arrived back here in the afternoon. — MNA

Capacity Enhancement Course on Public Relations (Officer) concludes

YANGON, 18 March— The Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information concluded its Capacity Enhancement Course on Public Relations (Officer) No 1/ 2005 at the training hall of the News and Periodicals Enterprise on Pansodan Street here this morning.

Present were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises of the ministry, officials of IPRD, course instructors, guests, and trainees.

Speaking on the occasion, Brig-Gen Aung Thein said the point of conducting the course is to enhance the capacity

of IPRD staff and to enable them to carry out the ministry's goals in full swing.

The deputy minister quoted the minister as saying all the ministry staff, as pro-government activists, should be in

constant pursuit of higher efficiency. He also called for dynamic efforts to gear themselves up for nation-building tasks and to organize the general public in a correct way.

Next, the deputy minister gave away

course completion certificates, which the trainee leader, on behalf of the trainees, accepted. He also presented gifts to course instructors through a course instructor.

MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein presents first prize to Daw Nyunt Nyunt Sein. — MNA

Blood donated in honour of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 18 March — Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, 60 members of Yangon North District Union Solidarity and Development Association donated blood at the meeting hall of Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) this morning.

Yangon North District USDA Executive U Zaw Win Tun and Htantabin Township USDA Executive U Aung Myint explained the purpose of the blood donation.

Next, Commandant of the hospital Col Tun Tun presented certificates of honour to the donors. — MNA

Myanmar reaches semi finals in Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy

YANGON, 18 March — Myanmar youth soccer team is participating in the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy Under-21 invitational football tournament which is being held from 12 to 26 March in Brunei.

Myanmar has reached semi finals with six points from two wins and one defeat in group-B round ups.

Laotians defeated Myanmar 2-1 in the third match of the groups.

MNA

12,000 feet long runway at...

(from page 16)
and inspected Yebyu BEHS, Township Hospital and regional development tasks.

In Kaleinaung, they paid homage to Hsutaungpyay Hsandaw-

shin Pagoda. At the office of Kaleinaung General Administration Department, he met with departmental personnel and local people. After hearing the reports related to the town, he gave

necessary instructions. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected Kaleinaung Station Hospital.

In Yebyu, he oversaw progress in building Heinne Bridge. They attended the ceremony to harvest the sample plot of

summer paddy in Zahar Village of Dawei Township.

On 14 March, they observed manufacturing of multipurpose three-wheel vehicles and motorcycles at Dawei Industrial Zone. Next, they inspected dredging of

Mingala Hmyaw-in Lake in Dawei. Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint reported on arrangements being made for holding the 250th anniversary of Dawei, the history of the lake and re-dredging tasks.

On arrival at the

workshop of Myanmar Wood Mart Co Ltd at the industrial zone on the highway, Lt-Gen Maung Bo viewed round production process of rubber timber-based furniture. They arrived back here by air.

MNA

Delegates continue reading proposals to be submitted to NC plenary session

YANGON, 17 March— Delegate groups of political parties, State service personnel and other invited persons held meetings at the Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, today, attended by members of panel of chairmen and NC delegates.

Delegate group of political parties

The delegate group of political parties held a meeting to read its proposals at meeting hall-1 at 9 am. U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party chaired the meeting. Deputy Director U Khin Maung Phyu acted as MC and Assistant Director Daw Yin Yin Than as co-MC.

It was attended by 28 out of 29 delegates accounting for 96.55 per cent. The meeting chairman delivered a speech.

U Saw Than Aung

and Man Tin Maung (a) Man Myo Nyunt read the proposals of the Union Kayin League; and Ko Oo Nyi Palok, the proposals of the Wa National Development Party regarding the clarifications of the NCC Work Committee chairman for laying down basic detailed principles for the sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the framing of the State Constitution. Next, they presented the proposals to the meeting chairman. The meeting ended at 10.20 am with concluding remarks of the chairman.

Delegate group of State service personnel

The delegate group of State service personnel held a meeting at the meeting hall-7 at 9 am. U Hla Tin of the Ministry of Commerce chaired the meeting together with

Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence and Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin of the Ministry of Health. Deputy Director U Htay Win acted as MC and Assistant Director U Htein Min as co-MC.

A total of 107 out of 109 delegates attended the meeting. The alternate chairman delivered a speech.

Three delegates read the proposals of the delegate group of State service personnel to submit them to the NC for the adoption of detailed basic principles for the delegation of executive and judicial powers to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution in respect of the sharing of executive and judicial powers of self-administered region leading bodies. The chairman approved the proposals with the unanimous agreement



U Hla Tin of Ministry of Commerce speaking at the meeting of Delegates of State Service Personnel.—MNA

of the delegates, which brought the meeting to a close at 10.25 am.

Delegate group of other invited persons

The delegate group of other invited persons met at meeting hall-8 at 10.45 am. Dr Manan Tu Ja presided over the meeting together with U Aung Kham Hti and U Saing Aung Tun. Deputy Direc-

tor U Aung Kyi emceed it together with Assistant Director U Win Myint.

Altogether 94 per cent of the delegates were present at the meeting. The alternate chairman delivered a speech.

U Min Ein and U Khun Tin Htut read the proposals of the delegate group of other invited persons with regard to

matters on laying down of detailed basic principles for the sharing of the executive and judicial powers to be included in the framing of the State Constitution.

With the agreement of the delegates, the meeting chairman approved the proposals. The meeting ended at noon.

MNA



Alternate Chairman Dr Manan Tu Ja speaking at the coordination meeting of Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons.—MNA



Alternate Chairman U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party speaking at the meeting to read proposal of Delegate Group of Political Parties.—MNA

တက္ကသိုလ်တိုက်ဖျက်ရေးနေ့
(၂၀၀၅)ခုနှစ် မတ်လ(၂၄)ရက်

**“Frontline TB Care Providers:
Heroes in the Fight Against Tuberculosis”**

**“တိုက်တိုက်တိုက်ကျေး၊ တီတီဆေး၊
ရွှေတန်းကတား၊ ဇေတနာရှင်များ”**

*ရက်ထပ်ထပ်(၃)ပတ် ဆေးကုသမှုများကို နီးစပ်ရာကျန်းမာရေး ဌာနတွင် ခံစားပေးပါ။	*တီတီဆေးကုသမှုများအား ဆက်မြက်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးပါ။ မျှတမြင့် အသေ ရောက်ပါသည်။	*“တိုက်တိုက်တိုက်ကျေး” နှင့် “တီတီဆေး” တို့ကို အသုံးပြု ရန်အတွက် ကုသရေး တီတီဆေးကုသရေး ပံ့ပိုးပါ။
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Students seen at the Computer Quiz to mark 60th Anniversary Armed Forces day at Defence Services Museum.—MNA

Coord meeting between NCCWC, Panel of Chairmen held



NCCWC Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe addresses coordination meeting of NCCWC and members of the panel of chairmen.— MNA



NCCWC
Vice-
Chairman
Attorney-
General
U Aye
Maung.
MNA

YANGON, 18 March — The National Convention Convening Work Committee and members of the panel of chairmen of the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention held a coordination meeting at Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township this afternoon.

Chairman of the Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe presiding over the meeting extended greetings on the occasion. Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thaung Nyunt, members of the panel of chairmen submitted reports on their sectors.

Later, the meeting chairman gave the concluding remarks.—MNA



NCCWC
Secretary
U Thaung
Nyunt.
MNA

YANGON, 18 March — Minister for Immigration and Population and Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, accompanied by Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thuang, directors-general and officials this afternoon inspected the booths of twelve objectives, nation-building endeavours, the Ministries of IP and SWRR to be displayed at the Defence Services Museum marking the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.



After hearing reports by officials, the minister attended to the needs.
MNA

Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspects booth of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at Defence Services Museum.
MNA

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejinda of Gwa passes away

YANGON, 18 March — The Department of Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana announced that Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejinda of Maha Bawdihara Monastery in Kalabyin Village of Gwa Township, aged 96 and 77 vasa, passed away at 9 am on 15 March, 6th Waxing of Taboung, 1366 ME.

The final rite will be held on 24 March.— MNA

Respect paying ceremony at Ba Htoo High School

YANGON, 18 March — The Golden Jubilee Ceremony of paying respects to teachers will be held on November 2005 at Tatmadaw Children's High School in Ba Htoo Tatmyo.

Those wishing to donate for the ceremony may contact U Khin Maung Win (Tel: 01-584499 and 0950-17234), U Phone Aung (Tel: 01-525707), Daw Than Than Nwe (Tel: 01-510595), U Nyunt Aung (Tel: 01-538530), U Than Maung (Tel: 081-40101) and SAT Daw The Nu (Tel: 081-40087).

MNA



Commandant Col Tun Tun encourages the blood donors at Tatmadaw Orthopaedics Hospital.—PUPR

POEM

Noble Union Pleasant Jetty

* Union oarsmen all
Mon, Kayah, Chin, Kachin
Kayin, Bamar, Rakhine, Shan
Forming a peaceful family
Nationalities are many
Assemble new strength, our relations
Open all sails, use all oars
Let's sail all together.

* The Union Boat that is ours
Braving the wind and waves
Meet head-on without turning back
The dirty wiles of neo-colonialists
We'll remove them for sure
Let the blood come together
We'll surely come out victorious

* Our boat, the Union
To build our nation
The Constitution to be written
'Tis being prepared
Our brethren in eight teams
Working for the Union we love
Noble, pleasant jetty to be ready
Time's drawing very near
Isn't far from reach
As seven basic principles
Are showing the right path
'Tis important to unite
Won't give up even if the hull alone is left.
To keep up the incessant sound of water-swell
O, people, lets get on with the job.
Tekkatho Tin Kha (Trs)
(Composed to hail the National Convention)

Armed Forces Day commemorative booths inspected

Makmann TV retransmission station starts programmes

YANGON, 18 March — Construction of a TV retransmission station in Makmann, Shan State (East), under the TV retransmission programmes finished on 13 March 2005 and programmes of Myanmar Television have been on air beginning 14 March, it is learnt.—MNA

CPPCC chairman meets Maltese guests

BEIJING, 18 March— Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), met here on Thursday with a delegation of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs of the Maltese Parliament led by its Chairman Jason Azzopardi.

He said since the establishment of China-Malta diplomatic ties 33 years ago, bilateral relations have grown steadily. In recent years, the two countries have kept frequent high-level exchanges with political mutual trust enhanced, and bilateral trade has increased rapidly, Jia said.

The two countries have strengthened their exchanges and cooperation in culture, education, health and civil affairs, and kept good coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs, said Jia.

He said he appreciated the Maltese Government and Parliament's adherence to the one-China principle as well as their support for China's peaceful reunification cause.

"China attaches great importance to developing the relations with Malta, and is willing to push forward such friendly relations of cooperation to a higher level on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit," Jia said.

Jia briefed the guests on the just-

concluded annual sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the CPPCC.

He said China's Anti-Secession Law, recently passed by the NPC, is a law to promote the cross-strait relations and peaceful reunification, safeguard state sovereignty and territorial integrity and oppose "Taiwan independence".

Jia thanked the Maltese Government for "its support for the Chinese Government's motive to make the Anti-Secession Law".

"With a good momentum of development of bilateral relations, the two countries should consolidate their mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, education and tourism," Azzopardi said.

"The Maltese Foreign Ministry's support for China's Anti-Secession law reflects Malta's consistent stand on supporting the one-China principle," he said.

He called on all countries in the world to "agree on this law aimed at safeguarding stability across the Taiwan Straits.

MNA/Xinhua

China selects theme for World Environment Day 2005

BEIJING, 18 March—China selected the theme "everyone joins in building a green home" for the upcoming World Environment Day 2005 on 5, June China's State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) said here on Thursday.

The administration selected the theme to encourage the public to participate in environmental protection practices in China, an official with the administration said, adding that as an echo to the international theme "Green Cities and Plan for the Planet" selected by the UN Environment Programme, China's theme shows the government's determination to create a "green home" and "build a harmonious society" for the people.

Statistics released by the administration show that China has 14 pilot zones for environment-friendly industries and 166 state ecology demonstration zones with the

government's continual efforts to promote environmental protection and a recycling economy.

Pan Yue, vice-minister of SEPA, said the Chinese Government lists environmental protection as one of its basic policies, adding his administration would provide more opportunities for the public to participate in environmental protection and release more information on the sector for the public to monitor the administration's work.

The SEPA will hold a series of activities to celebrate World Environment Day 2005, including a forum, a photograph exhibit and related contests.

MNA/Xinhua

Azerbaijani President arrives in Beijing

BEIJING, 18 March— At the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev arrived here Thursday morning, kicking off his state visit to China from 17 to 19 March.

In Beijing, Aliyev will hold talks with Hu and meet with Premier Wen Jiabao. He will also visit Shanghai, China's economic hub.

Aliyev's companies include his wife and three ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development, and Sports, Tourism and Youth.

This is Aliyev's first state visit to China, who was elected President of Azerbaijan in October 2003.— MNA/Xinhua

Belgium reiterates one-China policy

BRUSSELS, 18 March—Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt and Belgian Parliament heads reiterated here on Thursday the stance of adhering to the one-China policy when meeting with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

During the meeting at Verhofstadt's office, the Belgian Prime Minister said the Belgian Government will adhere to the one-China policy, which it has stuck to for years.

He also spoke highly of the remarkable achievements made in Belgium-China political and economic cooperation, urging more economic cooperation and investment from Chinese businessmen.

Verhofstadt said upcoming visit of King Albert II to China will be a big event in bilateral relations, noting that the

Belgian side is looking forward to the success of the visit.

Li extended appreciation for Belgium's adherence to the one-China policy, saying the Chinese side will join hands with the Belgian side to make King Albert II's China tour a success.

On late Thursday morning, the Chinese Foreign Minister also met with Anne-Marie Lizin, president of Belgian Federal Senate, and Herman de Croo, president of Belgian House of Representatives.

Both Parliament lead-

ers said they understand China's position on the Taiwan issue.

Later on Thursday, Li is expected to meet with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and European Union (EU) foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

On Thursday evening, the Chinese Foreign Minister will fly to Luxembourg, which is holding the current EU presidency, to hold talks with Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker as well as his counterpart Jean Asselborn. MNA/Xinhua



Headmistress Daw Ohn Kyin presents completion certificate to fourth standard student Ma Nyein Yu Nwe at South Okkalapa BEPS No 17 on 13-3-2005.—(H)

12 missing, 21 houses buried in Turkish landslide

ANKARA, 18 March— Twelve people were missing and 21 houses were buried on Thursday after a landslide in a central Turkish village, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Earlier, NTV commercial television had reported 14 missing and 20 houses buried.

A 15-strong rescue team was heading by helicopter to the area in Koyulhisar District of Sivas Province, about 280 miles east of the capital Ankara, the statement said. The Turkish Red Crescent has sent food, clothes and 40 tents, it said, adding that three commando squads were helping the rescue efforts.

MNA/Reuters

Iran slams UN for ignoring alleged abuses by US forces

GENEVA, 18 March—Iran on Thursday slammed the United Nations for ignoring alleged abuses by US forces of detainees at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, as well as their assault on the Iraqi city of Fallujah.

In a speech to the UN Commission on Human Rights, Deputy Foreign Minister Gholamali Khoshroo said that sparing some powers from international scrutiny showed "double standards", and called for reforms to end "politicization of human rights".

The 53-member state UN forum began its annual six-week session in Geneva on Monday to examine violations worldwide.

"The gross violations

in Abu Ghraib and Fallujah and the violations of human rights in Guantanamo Bay have not been judged as worthy of international scrutiny by the Commission on Human Rights," Khoshroo said.

Activists including the New York-based Human Rights Watch have urged the forum to condemn Washington for the alleged torture and mistreatment of prisoners detained abroad by the United States in its "war on terrorism". — MNA/Reuters



UMFCCI Joint-Secretary Dr Maung Maung Lay, CEC members U Myat Thin Aung, U Myint Soe and U Moe Kyaw and party being seen off at the airport on Friday to attend Miss ASEAN 2005 in Jakarta of Indonesia from 5 to 19 March.—UMFCCI

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Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **Grundfos A/S**
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 19 March 2005

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.3.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

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LA officials tout public transit as gas price soars

LOS ANGELES, 17 March — Los Angeles County transportation officials touted public transit on Wednesday as gas price continues to soar in the second largest US city.

Describing public transit as a way to mitigate rising fuel costs for consumers, transportation officials said the metropolitan transportation authority runs 200 local and rapid bus lines and 73 miles of rail service.

"When you really think about not only gas, but insurance and the wear and

tear on your car, wear and tear on you, it is a savings — both a mental savings and a financial savings," said David Solow, chief executive officer of Metrolink, a local light rail company.

According to the Automobile Club of Southern California, the average gas price in Southern California is now 2.34 US dollars per gallon of gasoline, up 21 cents in the past month.

For less than a tank of gasoline, commuters can travel throughout Los Angeles and beyond using

ISFAHAN (Iran), 17 March — OPEC producers on Wednesday rallied around a Saudi proposal for a 2-per-cent oil supply increase in a bid to rein in runaway crude prices.

The Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries is considering a Saudi plan to raise production limits by 500,000 barrels a day to 27.5 million BPD.

"Current oil price levels of 55 US dollars are high and we want prices to be between 40 US dollars and 50 US dollars a barrel,"

Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi told the London-based Arabic-language *Al-Hayat* newspaper.

US crude eased 41 cents in Wednesday trade in Asia to 54.64 US dollars a barrel.

Most ministers said they would support an increase in production. But, meeting at 0730 GMT (1100 local), they remain divided on the timing of the increase. Naimi wants to see the extra crude delivered immediately.

A committee of ministers chaired by Iran

recommended the increase be delayed until May 1 to allay concerns about a seasonal second quarter demand dip.

Naimi said his plan would mean actual OPEC output, including leakage of about 700,000 BPD over formal limits, would rise from 27.7 million to 28.2 million BPD.

With Iraq, not subject to an output quota, pumping about another two million BPD, that would put total OPEC supply back above 30 million BPD and close to September's 25-year production high.

MNA/Reuters

China, Italy to enhance cooperation

BEIJING, 17 March — The Chinese Armed Forces attach great importance to developing friendly and cooperative relations with its Italian counterpart, Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan said here Wednesday.

At a meeting with visiting Italian Commander-in-Chief of Military Police Lieutenant-General Gottardo, Cao said Sino-Italian relations have been progressing smoothly since the two countries established diplomatic ties 30 years ago.

Both China and Italy have shared identical or similar views on many important international issues and conducted cooperation covering a wide range of areas such as politics, economy, culture and the military, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Asteroids named after China's 1st manned spacecraft

BEIJING, 17 March — A grand ceremony was held at Beijing's "space city" on Wednesday, to mark the naming of two asteroids after *Shenzhou*, China's first manned space vehicle, and Yang Liwei, the country's first man to orbit in space.

The naming has been approved by the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

MNA/Xinhua

DON'T SMOKE

Kenya to vie for permanent seat of UNSC

NAIROBI, 18 March — Kenyan Foreign Affairs Minister Chirau Ali Mwak has disclosed that Kenya will vie for a permanent seat in the United Nations (UN) Security Council in the ongoing UN reforms, according to a news release available here.

Mwakwere said Kenya will compete for one of the two permanent seats if the African Union's recommendations to give African countries two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats is adopted while meeting separately with the Cuban and Nigerian ambassadors to Kenya in his office.

Mwakwere hailed the ongoing reforms at the UN Security Council aimed towards democratizing it. He said Kenya supports the common African position on the reforms of the Council, adding that being one of the most populated continents as well as one grappling with security issues, Africa

deserved to be allocated the two permanent seats at the Council.

Mwakwere also appealed for support of Kenya's candidacy to one of the permanent seats.

He said that the East African nation deserved the permanent seat due to the pivotal role she played in both the Sudan and Somalia peace processes, her peacekeeping efforts worldwide and being one of the most secure countries in the world among her many attribute and advantages.

The African Union Executive Council adopted a common African position on the reform of the United Nations on its 7th extraordinary session on March 7-8 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The position includes demand for not less than two permanent seats at the UN Security Council with right of veto and five non-permanent seats.

MNA/Xinhua

Denmark's Defence Minister asks for fighter upgrade

STOCKHOLM, 17 March — Danish Defence Minister Soeren Gade wants to ensure that the country's *F-16* fighter jets can continue to participate in international operations and has asked the Parliament for 311 million Danish kroner (48 million euros) to fund an upgrade, *Ritzau* news bureau reported on Tuesday.

The upgrade would

provide the jets with more accurate weapons through the use of global positioning systems, improve their ability to communicate with military computer networks, and strengthen their self-defence systems.

The upgrade is part of an international effort that would improve co-ordination among air forces from different

countries during multinational campaigns. Other countries involved in the project include Belgium, Holland, Norway and the United States.

Work on the jets will be performed in the United States, but some of the components required for will be supplied directly from Danish suppliers.

MNA/Xinhua



Megan Wing is carried by her partner Aaron Lowe from Vancouver as they perform their original dance in the ice dance competition at the World Figure Skating Championships on 17 March, 2005 in Moscow. The couple go into the free dance in tenth place. —INTERNET

မညာရေး ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေး ဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ ပြီးစီးခဲ့သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု

A man checks his mobile phone as he passes the Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) headquarters in Manila on 17 March, 2005. INTERNET



Drugs for AIDS also protect against cancers

WASHINGTON, 17 March — Drug cocktails taken to control the AIDS virus may not only keep patients healthy but may protect them against some cancers caused by the infection, international researchers said on Tuesday.

The drug mixtures, called highly active antiretroviral therapy or HAART, suppress the deadly and incurable virus and help prevent pneumonia and other infections caused when HIV is left free to destroy the immune system.

HAART also prevents some cancers, according to Gary Clifford of the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France, and colleagues. The IARC is associated

with the World Health Organization.

They analyzed the records of more than 7,300 Swiss HIV patients and found those on HAART had lower risks of Kaposi's sarcoma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma compared with those who did not use HAART.

Nonetheless, Kaposi's sarcoma — a cancer marked by red skin lesions and one of the hallmarks of full-blown AIDS — was 20 times more common in

HIV patients than in the general population. So was non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system. But the HIV patients still had a higher than usual risk of anal cancer, Hodgkin's lymphoma, cervical cancer, liver cancer, cancer of the lip, mouth, and pharynx, and non-melanoma skin cancer, the researchers reported in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

MNA/Reuters

US researchers find way to mass-produce embryonic stem cells

LOS ANGELES, 17 March — A new method to produce embryonic stem cells can raise the cell output by 100 times and lower the costs in the meantime, a US research group reported on Tuesday.

The finding's importance lies in the fact that traditional laboratory methods used to grow stem cells are costly and too slow to meet the increasing demand for human embryonic cells, said Shang-Tian Yang, a professor at Ohio State University who led this study.

Presenting their findings in San Diego at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society, Yang and his colleagues said they grew mouse embryonic stem cells in a bioreactor and

their growth increased 193-fold in 15 days. At the end of that period, the new method's result was from 10- to 100-fold higher than the conventional ones, which means hundreds of millions more stem cells.

He added that his new method could cut costs by at least 80 per cent as it requires less equipment and monitoring.

Embryonic stem cells are undifferentiated cells that can develop into any adult cell, including neural, bone, muscle or blood cells, a fact which gives

them big potential clinic value.

"We have to find a way to mass-produce them because traditional cell culturing methods cannot meet the projected high market demand for stem cells," Yang said.

They use the conventional way to grow a number of mouse embryonic stem cells in a flask, while the others grew upon strands of polymer threads inside a bioreactor.

While the bioreactor, a tissue-growing device developed by Ohio State

scientists, could be used to produce adult stem cells, the researchers chose to look solely at embryonic stem cells for this experiment.

The bioreactor has a chamber that holds the polymer threads on which the stem cells grow and another chamber that holds fluid, or medium. This medium delivers chemical messengers, called cytokines, to the stem cells. The cytokines essentially tell the cells to stay in their undifferentiated state. — MNA/Xinhua

Vitamin E might increase risk of heart failure for elders

WASHINGTON, 17 March — Daily Vitamin E supplements do not protect older people with vascular disease or diabetes from cancer, strokes or heart attacks, and might increase their risk of heart failure, showed a study on Tuesday.

"In conjunction with its lack of efficacy, the potential for harm suggested by our findings strongly supports the view that vitamin E supplements should not be used in patients with vascular disease or diabetes mellitus," said the study conducted by Canada's McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences Corp.

The study involved about 7,000 patients with diabetes or cardiovascular disease other than heart failure.

Patients age 55 and older who were given about 400 international units of vitamin E daily — a stand-

ard dosage — for about seven years on average were 13 per cent more likely to develop heart failure than the placebo group.

The vitamin "had no clear impact on fatal and nonfatal cancers, major cardiovascular events or deaths", the study said.

The study, published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association, is the latest to add to a growing body of evidence that suggests harm to health rather than benefit from vitamin E supplements, which millions of people take.

MNA/Xinhua

Man shoots from moving vehicle in US, kills 3

WASHINGTON, 17 March — A man squeezed through the sun roof of a Jaguar and opened fire with an assault rifle on another car near Dallas early Tuesday, killing three men, police said. Police at the University Park said the shooting may be related to a fight at a bar earlier in the evening in the Southern Methodist University area. They were searching for the gunman and two others riding in the Jaguar.

A fourth man was critically wounded.

A Dallas police officer witnessed the shootings and stopped to help the victims. He was prohibited from pursuing the fleeing Jaguar because he had a prisoner in the back seat of his car. — MNA/Xinhua

JPMorgan Chase & Co agrees to pay \$2b to settle lawsuit

NEW YORK, 17 March — JPMorgan Chase & Co agreed to pay two billion US dollars to settle a lawsuit accusing it of hiding risks from WorldCom Inc investors when the bank helped the company sell bonds.

New York-based JPMorgan is the last major bank to settle the class-action lawsuit, which was filed on behalf of hundreds of thousands of investors who bought WorldCom stock and bonds before the phone company sought bankruptcy protection in July, 2002.

Only Citigroup Inc., which agreed to pay 2.58 billion US dollars, settled for more. But JPMorgan paid more on a percentage basis than Citigroup, in light of the relative responsibility the banks had for WorldCom's offerings. Many banks had settled their parts of the lawsuit this month.

"Given recent deve-

lopments, we made a decision to settle rather than risk the uncertainty of a trial," JPMorgan Chief Executive William Harrison said. On Tuesday, a Manhattan jury convicted former WorldCom chief executive Bernard Ebbers of orchestrating an 11-billion-US-dollar accounting fraud to prop up WorldCom shares.

JPMorgan expects to take a 900-million-US-dollar first-quarter pretax charge, or 560 million US dollars after taxes, for the settlement. Analysts polled by Reuters estimates on average expected the company to report a profit of 71 cents per share.

Last year, JPMorgan

set aside 2.3 billion US dollars for litigation related to WorldCom and Enron Corp.

If the settlements with JPMorgan and other banks receive court approval, the amount payable to investors would be \$6 billion, the largest US securities settlement ever.

The plaintiffs, led by New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi, accused the banks of helping WorldCom sell bonds when they should have known the company was lying about its finances.

The remaining defendants include failed auditor Arthur Andersen LLP and various former WorldCom directors. — MNA/Reuters



Chinese workers return to work at a new high-rise construction site in Beijing on 17 March, 2005.

INTERNET

Steaua Bucharest, Villarreal draw 0-0 in postponed match

BUCHAREST, 17 March — Steaua Bucharest and Villarreal drew 0-0 in the postponed first leg of their UEFA Cup second knockout round tie on Wednesday.

The two teams meet again in the second leg in Spain on Sunday looking for a place in the quarterfinals.

Villarreal coach Manuel Pellegrini said: "I'm satisfied with the draw. It was exactly how the story was written against Dinamo Kiev (in the previous round).

"It's good that my team did not concede a goal. I'm confident of going further in four days' time from now."

The match was postponed from last week because of a snow storm in the Romanian capital.

Villarreal forward Jose Mari, his team's most dangerous player, failed to put away a couple of good opportunities in the first half and their Argentine international Juan Pablo Sorin missed in front of an open goal 10 minutes from time.—MNA/Reuters

Newcastle crush Olympiakos 4-0

LONDON, 17 March — Alan Shearer took his Newcastle United tally to 191 goals and Kieron Dyer netted a brilliant back-heel as the English side beat Olympiakos 4-0 in the second leg of their UEFA Cup second knockout round tie on Wednesday.

Newcastle completed a 7-1 aggregate victory after their 3-1 win in Piraeus last week, when the Greek side had two men sent off, to go into Friday's quarter-final draw.

Shearer kept up his record of scoring in every round when he took his total to nine goals in seven matches with a low left-foot shot inside the post just before halftime from Dyer's pull-back from the line.

The former England captain also added Newcastle's fourth in the 69th minute, beating the offside trap to reach Jermaine Jenas' through ball before rounding goalkeeper Antonis Nikopolidis and rifling his shot into the roof

of the net.

Dyer had put Newcastle ahead in the 18th minute when he ran onto a header from the left by Lee Bowyer and beat

Nikopolidis with a cheeky back-heel as Greece's Euro 2004 keeper tried to block his way to goal.

MNA/Reuters



Newcastle United's Keiron Dyer (R) is challenged by Olympiakos' Georgios Anatolakis. A double from Newcastle captain Alan Shearer inspired his side to a 4-0 humbling of Greek outfit Olympiakos and handed them a place in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals with a 7-1 final aggregate score.—INTERNET

AS Roma scrape into Italian Cup semis

ROME, 17 March — AS Roma scraped into the Italian Cup semifinals 7-6 on penalties after a 1-0 defeat by Fiorentina left the quarterfinal tie level at 1-1 on Wednesday.



AS Roma's Damien Cufre, left, of Argentina and Fiorentina's Fabrizio Miccoli fight for the ball during their Cup of Italy quarterfinal second leg match at the Artemio Franchi stadium in Florence, Italy, on 16 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Roma, 1-0 up from the first leg, came into the second leg on the back of a turbulent few days following the departure of coach Luigi Del Neri and the appointment of Bruno Conti to replace him.

Fiorentina made the most of a quiet first half and took the lead through an 11th-minute own goal by Roma defender Matteo Ferrari, who turned a cross from midfielder Christian Obodo into his own net.

Roma played with greater urgency after the interval and Italy forward Francesco Totti tested home keeper Christian Cejas with a powerful free kick.

The Roma captain again came close to hitting the target towards the end of normal time, when he narrowly failed to connect with a low cross.

Seven minutes into the first period of extra time Roma were reduced to 10 men when Ferrari received his second yellow card but Fiorentina failed to capitalize.

It was the visitors who pressed forward and Traianos Dellas put in a header which forced a diving save from Cejas.

MNA/Reuters

Liverpool salvage 0-0 draw with Blackburn

LONDON, 17 March — Liverpool were held to a frustrating 0-0 draw at home by Blackburn Rovers and Charlton Athletic beat visiting London rivals Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 in Wednesday's Premier League matches.

Liverpool's hopes of finishing fourth and earning a place in next season's Champions League qualifying round faded further as they remained in fifth, seven points behind local rivals Everton who they play in the Merseyside derby on Sunday.

Blackburn stayed 14th in the table, eight points clear of relegation.

There were few clear-cut chances in a poor game at Anfield, with Liverpool's Czech striker Milan Baros guilty of the worst miss in the second half when he blazed the ball over the bar from eight metres.

The Champions League quarterfinalists struggled to break down Blackburn's well organized defence and were reduced to optimistic long shots by the closing stages, rarely troubling Blackburn

goalkeeper Brad Friedel.

Charlton took the lead against Spurs after only four minutes at The Valley when young winger Jerome Thomas found the net with a sweet strike from 20 metres.

Former Liverpool midfielder Danny Murphy doubled the lead five minutes from time with a low free kick from just outside the penalty area.

Victory took Charlton up to seventh in the standings, just one point behind Liverpool and in contention for a UEFA Cup place.

Tottenham, knocked out of the FA Cup by Newcastle United in the quarterfinals on Sunday, remain ninth, four points behind their south London opponents.

MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's Steve Finnan, front, is challenged by Blackburn Rovers' Steven Reid during their English Premiership soccer match played at Anfield, Liverpool, England, on 16 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Sochaux, St Etienne win in Ligue 1 matches

PARIS, 17 March — Double strikes by Sochaux's Brazilian Araujo Ilan and Saint-Etienne's Frederic Piquionne helped their sides beat Metz and AC Ajaccio respectively in rescheduled Ligue 1 matches played on Wednesday.

Sochaux won 2-1 in a game that saw two early penalties with Ilan opening the scoring in the 12th minute and Gregory Froment equalizing five minutes later. But it was Ilan's goal from open play on the hour that gave the home side the points.

Saint-Etienne's 3-0 win came courtesy of Piquionne's two goals in two second-half minutes just after the hour mark after a fine strike from Pascal Feindouno in the 54th minute.

Sochaux have moved up two places to seventh with 41 points, 18 adrift of leaders Olympique Lyon, while Saint-Etienne are a point and a place behind after jumping three positions.

Monaco missed the opportunity to leapfrog UEFA Cup quarterfinalists Lille into the third Champions League spot in Wednesday's other rescheduled Ligue 1 match.—MNA/Reuters

Getafe beat Athletic Bilbao 2-1

MADRID, 17 March — Primera Liga newcomers Getafe took a major step towards preserving their top-flight status with a 2-1 victory over Athletic Bilbao at San Mames on Wednesday, their first away win of the season.

Bilbao, who have only lost once at home this term, took the lead nine minutes before halftime when midfielder Santo Ezquerro stabbed the ball low past keeper Sergio Aragonese after a neat pass from Joseba Etxeberria.

They should have extended their lead before the break when Getafe defender David Belenguier was penalized for handling the ball in the area, but Aragonese saved Andoni Iraola's spot-kick. Getafe, who secured an impressive 2-1 win over Real Madrid on Sunday, fought back hard and equalized midway through the second half when midfielder Daniel Kome got his head to a Mariano Pernia free kick and flicked the ball into the net.

Substitute Michel grabbed the winner when he side-footed home from close range 10 minutes from time after great work by fellow striker Riki on the right.

MNA/Reuters

AZ Alkmaar reach UEFA Cup quarters

ALKMAAR (Netherlands), 17 March — AZ Alkmaar reached the UEFA Cup quarterfinals after a comfortable 2-1 victory over Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday. AZ, holding a 3-1 lead from the first leg, increased their advantage on aggregate with a goal after just nine minutes thanks to a moment of brilliance from Barry van Galen, who curled a shot past keeper Jan Lastuvka from 16 metres.

Martijn Meerdink and Kenneth Perez then missed good chances to put the tie beyond doubt for the home side before the break and Lastuvka also tipped a Perez free kick over the bar.

Early in the second half Shakhtar coach Mircea Lucescu brought on three substitutes to try to change the game but after 65 minutes Meerdink, set up by Perez, doubled AZ' lead.—MNA/Reuters

French library to put European literary works on Internet

PARIS, 18 March— President Jacques Chirac told France's national library on Wednesday to draw up a plan to put European literary works on the Internet, rivalling a similar project by US-based web search engine Google.

Chirac gave the go-ahead for research into the project after Jean-Noel Jeanneney, who heads the national library, expressed concern that Google's plan to put books from some of the world's great libraries online would favour the English language.

Chirac asked Jeanneney and France's Culture Minister to look at ways "in which the collections of the great libraries in France and Europe could be made more widely and more quickly accessible by Internet", Chirac's office said in a statement.

Chirac would seek support among other European countries in the coming weeks for a bigger, coordinated push to get Europe's literary works online.

Jeanneney, who met Chirac on Wednesday, said last month Google's choice of works was likely to favour Anglo-Saxon ideas and that he wanted the European Union to balance this with its own programme and its own Internet search engines. His

views made waves among intellectuals in France, where many people are wary of the impact of American ways and ideas on the French language and culture.

California-based Google Inc said last December it would scan millions of books and periodicals into its popular search engine over the next few years. Its partners in the project are Harvard University, Stanford University, Oxford University, the University of Michigan and the New York Public Library.

Google says the project will promote knowledge by making it more easily and widely accessible. It aims to make money by attracting people to its web site and to its advertisements.

Culture Minister Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres said the French move was not a direct challenge to Google's project. "It is simply the wish for a diversity of influence," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Six arrested with drugs in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 18 March— Police arrested six people with 734 grammes of brown sugar and 7.5 kilos of hashish from different places of the Kathmandu Valley on Wednesday.

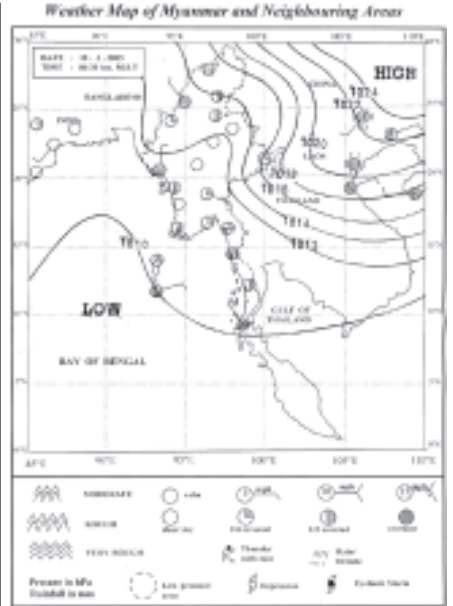
"Madan Kumar, 28, of Delhi was arrested with 690 grammes of brown sugar along with measuring scale and weights by the Narcotics Drugs Law Enforcement Unit of the police," said a Press statement

issued on Thursday by police news bulletin.

Kumar had been involved in smuggling brown sugar for the last seven years. He used to bring in the narcotics in large quantity and supply them.

The police also confiscated drugs and weighing machines from the other five persons who were arrested.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Friday, 18 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in upper Sagaing Division, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, (3°C) below normal in Bago Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (40°C) each in Magway and Hpa-an, (39°C) each in Minbu, Shwegyin and Patheingyi.

Maximum temperature on 17-3-2005 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 18-3-2005 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-3-2005 was 54%. Total sunshine hours on 17-3-2005 was (9.7) hours approx. Rainfalls on 18-3-2005 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 (10) mph from Northwest at (14:30) hours MST on 17-3-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19-3-2005: Isolated light rain or thundershowers are possible in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-3-2005: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-3-2005:** Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for third weekend of March 2005: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Saturday, 19 March
View on today:

- 7:00 am
 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
 5. အတီးမြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am
 6. Musical programme
- 8:20 am
 7. နဂါး-ရေလှောင်တံခံ
- 8:30 am
 8. International news
- 8:45 am
 9. Grammar Made Easy
- 11:00 am
 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am
 2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am
 3. News
- 11:40 am
 4. Games for children
- 12:05 pm
 5. Round up of the week's TV local news

- 12:45 pm
 6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်စရာ၊ ဓမ္မတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)
- 1:20 pm
 7. တပ်မတော်အောင်ပွဲရတုတော်တော် (ဒေးဒရီ)
- 1:30 pm
 8. "ဆေးလူကား၊ နားထောင်ခြင်း" (ကျော့သူ၊ ပြည့်အနီ၊ ခုံမတီနင်း၊ ဓမ္မသူ၊ ဓမ္မာပိုင်(ရှမ်းပြည်) (ခါရိုတီး-သတ်တင်)
- 2:10 pm
 9. ရွေးကောက်ပွဲရလဒ်များ (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 2:20 pm
 10. Dance of national races
- 2:35 pm
 11. ကံတော်အားလုံးရေလှောင်တံခံ
- 2:45 pm
 12. International news
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm
 4. တပ်မတော်ရေလှောင်ပွဲတော်သီချင်း၊ မြိုင်ပွဲရလဒ်များ (၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်)
- 5:00 pm
 5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့ပညာရေး ရရှိခြင်းကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဓမ္မ အထူးပြု) (သတ္တဓမ္မ)
- 5:15 pm
 6. Musical programme
- 5:30 pm
 7. နားဝင်ပီယိုလက်သံ

- 5:35 pm
 8. Musical programme
- 5:50 pm
 9. "ဓမ္မာပိုင်အောင်ပွဲရလဒ်" (အတော်အမီ ခင်မိုး၊ အတော်အမီ မင်းမောင်ကျွန်း၊ အတော်အမီ မိုးမြင့်အောင်) (ခါရိုတီး-ဝင်းထွန်းထွန်း)
- 5:55 pm
 10. Games for children
- 6:20 pm
 11. Musical programme
- 6:30 pm
 12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
 13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
 14. Discovery
- 7:10 pm
 15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်စရာ၊ ဓမ္မတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၇)
- 7:30 pm
 16. နှစ်(ပိဇ)ပြည့် တပ်မတော်နေ့ ရက်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 7:40 pm
 17. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံရက်ပြုစား
- 7:50 pm
 18. တစ်မျိုးသားလုံးအရေး တစ်မျိုးသားလုံး အကျိုးစီးပွားကို ဖော်ဆောင်ပည့် အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကြီး
- 8:00 pm
 19. News
- 8:05 pm
 20. International news
- 8:10 pm
 21. Weather report
- 8:15 pm
 22. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၇)
- 8:20 pm
 23. The next day's programme



Saturday, 19 March
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Yes you do
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Do I love you
- 8:55 am National news/Slogan
- 9:05 am Music: Where do you go?
- 9:10 am International news
- 9:15 am Music: -What can I do
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Request
 - Keep it together
 - Make a dream come true
 - The name of the game
 - Goodbye my love goodbye
- 9:00 pm ASEAN review
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Myanmar culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt -Myanma Army of late Konbaung Period II
- 9:30 pm Souvenirs
 - Island of dreams
 - Johnny Tilotsan
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

**Asleep in Jesus
U Saw Miraw
@
U Maung Lay
Age-93 years (Toungoo)**

U Saw Miraw (U Maung Lay), the eldest son of U Gwe Gyi and Daw Soe, husband of (Daw Khin Aye), father of U A Tin Myint-Daw May Kyi Lay, Daw Bernadette, Daw Marie, U Saw Damian (SMART/ FRONTIER DRILL)- Daw Nan Khin Khin Aye, grandfather of Ma Hnin Hnin Ei, Ma Aye Mi Mi Htet-U Moe Maw, Sai John, Sai Aung Thu, great grandfather of Ma Htet Eindare Lin, passed away peacefully at 62, Kyaukmyaung St, East Kyaukmyaung Qr, Tamway, at 4:55 pm on 18-3-05 (Friday). The funeral Mass will be held on 20-3-05 (Sunday) at 1:00 pm at Yayway Christian Cemetery. Buses will leave at 11:00 am on that day at the above residence.

Bereaved family

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

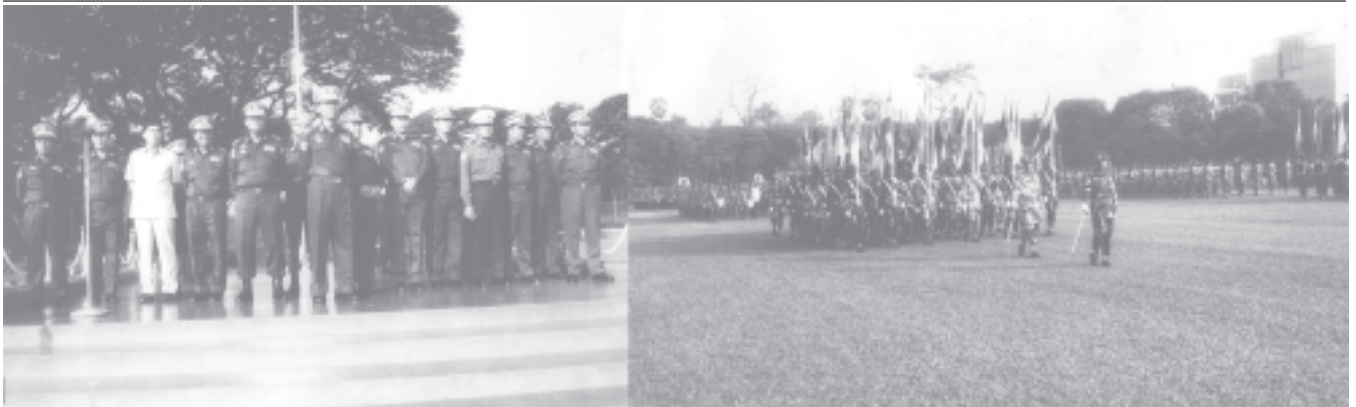
Four economic objectives

- * 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

General Thura Shwe Mann inspects drills of Tatmadaw columns



General Thura Shwe Mann inspects marching drills of military columns at the Resistance Park. — MNA

YANGON, 18 March — Member of State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence viewed the drills of Tatmadaw Columns which will participate in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade, from Myoma Grounds to the Resistance Park this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade Member of State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces

Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of the Management Committee Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and members, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Chairman of the Work Committee for the

Parade Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and senior military officers.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected the drills of the Anawrahta, Kyansittha, Bayitnaung, Nawade, Aungzeya, Hsinbyushin, Bandoola, Myawady and Aung San Columns under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun and gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA

**12,000 feet long runway at Dawei Airport under construction
Lt-Gen Maung Bo on inspection tour of Dawei District**

YANGON, 18 March— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence inspected transport, education, health and agriculture tasks in Dawei and Dawei District on 13 March morning.

Accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and local authorities, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on construction of Dawei Airport with a runway measuring 12,000 feet long, 100 feet wide and 26 inches thick by Directorate of Military Engineers, completion of earth work, re-

construction of Dawei-Ye Road section, completion of the concrete section of the runway measuring 4,400 feet long, 100 feet wide and 12 inches thick and future tasks presented by Lt-Col Soe Win of Directorate of Military Engineers. Lt-Gen Maung Bo urged officials to co-

ordinate construction tasks between Directorate of Military Engineers and Ministry of Transport. He oversaw progress of the tasks. Next, he inspected reconstruction of Dawei-Ye Road kept away from the airport.

At Dawei University, he heard reports on

academic and management matters of the university presented by Pro-Rector U Kyaw Kyaw Htay. Officials reported on construction of buildings on the university campus and future tasks. Lt-Gen Maung Bo greeted the faculty members and viewed round the campus. On arrival at

Maungmagan Beach, he looked into natural beauty of the beach and mainte-

nance of the beach resort. They proceeded to Yebyu (See page 9)

INSIDE

Standardization Subcommittee and Quality Improvement Subcommittee are always trying to get in touch with the objective conditions of the industrial zones and find effective means to improve the standard of the products.

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HEIN HTUT



Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends harvesting of summer paddy on sample plot in Zaha Village-tract of Dawei Township. — MNA