

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 29 March 2005

### Four political objectives

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

### Four economic objectives

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

### Four social objectives

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



## Tatmadaw discharging State's duties with sincere goodwill

With its allegiance to the nation and the people, our Tatmadaw is serving the interests of the nation with sincere goodwill. As the Tatmadaw, the Government and the people make concerted efforts in nation-building and national defence with a strength born of unity, our country has been achieving progress despite all sorts of restrictions, sanctions and onslaughts. Our political reforms have gained acceptance not only among our neighbours and nations within the region but also among all positive-thinking countries. This is the direct result of our Tatmadaw discharging its national duties with sincerity and goodwill, adhering to its Twelve Traditions, hand in hand with the people.

**Senior General Than Shwe**  
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council  
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services  
(From address delivered at the parade of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

## PM Lt-Gen Soe Win receives representative of UNHCR

YANGON, 28 March —Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win received representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr Rajiv Kapur at

Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta this morning. Present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy

Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.—MNA

### INSIDE

*Tatmadaw would never turn a blind eye to the interests of the national people throughout the course of history and that it had pledged to continue making strenuous efforts hand in hand with the national people possessing patriotism and Union Spirit, to fertilize their justified ambitions, hopes and wishes until the seven-point Road Map had met with full success.*

(Page 8)

TEKKATHO MYAT THU



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr Rajiv Kapur at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta .—MNA

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Tuesday, 29 March, 2005

**Safeguard development infrastructures**

The State Peace and Development Council has been striving for all-round development of the nation, enlisting the united strength of national forces and making effective use of natural resources. For regional development, plans are being successfully implemented within their target periods and so economic and social infrastructures are emerging one after another.

As a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam was inaugurated in Pinyinana Township, Mandalay Division, on 25 March. Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye himself graced the opening ceremony and extended greetings to the local people present on the occasion. In his greetings to them, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye stressed the importance of concerted cooperation between the people and the Tatmadaw in all national endeavours. He added that it was necessary for the people to safeguard the dam so that it could last long and the hydel power station could operate to its full capacity.

The Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam is 3,100 feet long and 430 feet high. It can irrigate 35,000 acres of farmland and the underground hydel power plant can generate 280 megawatts. The Paunglaung Hydel power Station is the very first of its kind in Myanmar. Constructed with the use of advanced technology, it has 37 tunnels, big and small.

The Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam is the 172nd built by the government since its assumption of State responsibilities. When the contribution of the diversion weir and canals has been completed, up to 70,000 acres of farmland can be irrigated.

The government is building dams and other infrastructures that will directly contribute to development of the agriculture sector and improvement of the living standard of the people. While the government is building development infrastructures for regional and national development, we would like to call on the local people to safeguard them for the long-term interests of the nation as well as for their own.

**Vietnamese delegation arrives**

YANGON, 28 March — Jointly-organized by Myanmar Radio and Television and Radio the Voice of Vietnam-VOV, a three-member delegation led by Mr Hoang Huu Khai of Head of Section of Radio the Voice of Vietnam of Socialist Republic of Vietnam arrived here by air yesterday evening. The Vietnamese study delegation together with officials visited Shwedagon pagoda and paid homage to it and made cash donations.

While visiting MRTV, they were briefed on broadcasting services and producing of television programmes and conducted round the department by Deputy Director-General of MRTV U Thein Aung and officials.

The delegation members also visited Drugs Elimination Museum where they were conducted round by museum in-charge Lt-Col U Htay Aung.

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

**Myanmar delegation leaves for Singapore**

YANGON, 28 March— Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo left here for Singapore by air this morning to attend Global Asia Security-2005 Exhibition and Conference to be held in Singapore from 29 to 31 March.



Myanmar delegation led by Home Affairs Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo being seen off at the airport before departure for Singapore.— MNA

The Myanmar delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr T Jasudasan, heads of Myanmar Police Force

and Departments and their families.

The minister was accompanied by Deputy

Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Col Zaw Win, Head of office Major Aung Swe

Nyunt and Head of Transnational Criminal Department Police Col Sit Aye. —MNA

**Paved streets opened in Yangon**

YANGON, 28 March — Paved streets were opened in North Okkalapa and Dawbon townships, Yangon, today hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

The streets were built by the people on self-reliant basis with the assistance of Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Central Executive Committee member of USDA Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, acting Secretary of Yangon Division USDA U Aung Myint and Secretary of North Okkalapa Township USDA U Kyaw Kyaw Soe formally opened the 1,400-foot

long Thukhamain Street in Hsa Ward, North Okkalapa Township. Accompanied by officials, the mayor inspected the 14-foot wide street.

The mayor opened the 1,280-foot by 12-foot Pale Street in Hta Ward, and 3,125-foot by 18-foot Bonma Street in Nya Ward. The people of the three wards presented 2,405 USDA membership applications to the mayor. A local authority of Nya Ward presented K 1 million for maintenance of the streets.

In Thinbawkyin Ward, Dawbon, the mayor formally opened the Myoma Street that is 1,410 feet long and 13 feet wide.

MNA

**Myanmar Weightlifting Federation President's Trophy tournament opens**

YANGON, 28 March — A ceremony to open Myanmar Weightlifting Federation President's Trophy tournament-2005 was held at Aung San Stadium this afternoon.

After the opening ceremony, President of MWF U Maung Weik made an opening speech. In the first day's events— women's weightlifting (open) 48 kilos, 53 kilos and 58 kilos; U-20 women's weightlifting 44 kilos, 48 kilos and 53 kilos; men's weightlifting (open) 56 kilos, 62 kilos, 69 kilos and 77 kilos and U-20 men's weightlifting 50 kilos and 56 kilos— were held.

The teams taking part in the tournament were Industry-1, Sports



President of MWF U Maung Weik makes a speech at the opening of MWF President's trophy tourney.— MNA

and Physical Education (Yangon) (A) and (B), Industry-2, YCDC, Rail Transportation (A) and (B), Agriculture and Irrigation (A) and (B), Navy and Central Command.

The tournament continues tomorrow.

MNA

**Apply for hydrant use**

YANGON, 28 March — Applications to use hydrants and water from Inya and Kandawgyi lakes during the Thingyan Festival should be presented to Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of Yangon City Development Committee at 2 pm on 11 April the latest.

The applications need the comments of the Township YCDC officer concerned. — MNA



French President Jacques Chirac (R) during his visit to a Digital Electronics factory in Osaka on 26 March, 2005.—INTERNET

## Sri Lanka's tourism making fast recovery

COLOMBO, 28 March — Sri Lanka's tourism industry devastated by last December's tsunami is making fast recovery, Chairman of the Ceylon Tourist Board Udaya Nanayakkara said Sunday.

"We have regained 50 per cent (tourist arrivals compared to the level before the tsunami) and we are quite confident of bouncing back," Nanayakkara said.

Tourist arrivals are expected to be 20 per cent below an original target of 600,000 for the current year, as devastation caused by the tsunami last year will keep foreign travellers away.

Sri Lanka shut 52 of its 246 hotels after tsunami slammed into two thirds of its coastline, washing out fishing villages, tourist resorts and ports.

The Indian Ocean island country attracted 566,000 visitors last year, the highest number on record. Tourism is the fourth largest foreign exchange earner to this country, accounting for about 5 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The industry expects revenue from the leisure industry to also decline between 15 per cent to 20 per cent in 2005 from an

earlier target of 510 million US dollars.

Since the tsunami the government has offered several incentives for the leisure industry, particularly for smaller players to help them recover from the disaster.

The Ceylon Tourist Board launched an international promotional campaign in mid February to lure back travellers to the country.

The board, operating as an autonomous corporation, was established by the government in 1966 and charged with promotional as well as organizational responsibilities.

MNA/Xinhua

## More foreign fighters entering Iraq: US general

Foreign fighters entering Iraq in recent months make up a growing percentage of guerillas battling US troops and the country's fledgling security force, according to a senior US military commander.

In an interview with CNN in Mosul, General John Abizaid - the commander of US Central Command which covers Iraq - said that while most insurgents appear to be Iraqis, "the percentage of foreign fighters over the past several months seems to have increased".

He also said the insurgents' ranks likely include "former Baathist criminals".

"It seems to be pretty well established that they tend to cross over from Syria, although we know that there have been some infiltrations from the Saudi border, there have been some from the Iranian border," General Abizaid said.

Internet

## Distrust divides Iraq's doctors and soldiers

BAGHDAD, 28 March — For 24 hours, Yarmouk Hospital emergency-room physicians worked without sleep, caring for about 40 victims of two car bombings that rattled the capital on 2 March. Their white smocks were stained red. They were exhausted.

Physician Nawzad Fwad Hussein says he was beaten by Iraqi National Guardsmen while working at Yarmouk Hospital.

By Elliot Blair Smith, USA TODAY

By 9.30 am the following day, the night had given way to relative calm. Physician Khalid Khalil al-Kaki, 37, had just completed his morning rounds and had not yet changed his clothes from the day before. A detachment of Iraqi soldiers, brandishing their rifles, stood by nine wounded soldiers in an operating area the doctors try to keep sterile.

Just then the mobile telephone of one of al-Kaki's colleagues, physician Nawzad Fwad Hussein, 30, rang. With-

out provocation, the two doctors say, three soldiers seized Hussein. They dragged him to their commander, a lieutenant, who knocked him down with the butt of his rifle and ordered him beaten.

Far from an isolated episode, violent scuffles between Iraqi soldiers and doctors are an occupational hazard in Iraq, the emergency-room physicians say. The hospitals can contain a combustible mix. Iraqi soldiers and police are the targets of near daily attacks and bombings. They have watched hundreds of their colleagues die. Overworked doctors and nurses in Iraq's poorly equipped hospitals routinely deal with mass casualties that would overtax far bigger,



## Poll finds American public dissatisfied with political leadership

WASHINGTON, 27 March — The American public is not satisfied with the country's political leadership, with only 45 per cent of those surveyed approving of the performance of President George W Bush, according to a poll released on Thursday.

The poll, conducted by the Pew Research Centre for the People & the Press, found that about 39 per cent of those surveyed approved of the job performance of Republican congressional leaders, and 37 per cent for Democratic leaders.

On the issue of social security, 44 per cent supported Bush's idea of creating private investment accounts, down from 46 per cent last month and 54 per cent in December last year.

Americans were split over an Administration-backed plan to permit oil

and gas drilling in the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, with 46 per cent opposing to and 42 per cent favouring it.

With gasoline prices rising, the poll found 50 per cent of the public were following news reports on this topic very closely, and 40 per cent were following news about the current situation in Iraq very closely.

The survey was conducted during March 17-21 among 1,505 Americans with a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. — MNA/Xinhua

## Price war cooling off for China's household appliances producers

BEIJING, 27 March — China's household appliances are increasing investment in mid- and high-end products instead of engaging in another "irrational" price war, Economic Information Daily reported.

With the price rises in raw materials and the government's requirement of energy labels for household appliances this year, the manufacturers have stopped trying to under-price the competition and focused on developing products to win back the declining market shares.

This year the cost of making an air conditioner will be up 20 per cent as raw material costs make up one-third

of the total cost. The iron and steel price has risen 70 per cent this year compared with the price in last October. The price of plastics is up 73.9 per cent and that of galvanization plate, up 39 per cent and copper, up 1,600 yuan (about 180 US dollars) per ton.

As the hot season for selling air conditioners is drawing near, both domestic and overseas producers have worked to increase their sale

prices.

According to the report, majority of some 40 new kinds of LG air conditioners that target Chinese consumers this year are high-end and new products. Gelanshi in south China's Guangdong Province, well-known for its low price strategy, also has been thinking of winning another expected wave of war by high technology.

MNA/Xinhua

better-equipped facilities. It's not clear what the soldiers were angry about, but such tensions now poison the relationship between Iraq's security forces and doctors. Yarmouk Hospital doctors say soldiers sometimes accuse them of sympathiz-

ing with insurgents and slipping them information about the soldiers' movements and numbers.

Internet



A worker at a flower plantation in Facatativa, Colombia, prepares roses for export on 25 March, 2005.—INTERNET

# China closes illegal 147 blood collection agencies to secure blood safety

**BELING, 26 March** — China's Health Ministry announced here on Thursday that it has closed 147 illegal blood collection and supply agencies since last May to help ensure blood safety.

Ma Xiaowei, Deputy Health Minister, said at a national conference on health supervision that a joint taskforce has been set up by China's Health Ministry, the Ministry of Public Security and the State Food and Drug Administration to conduct a nationwide campaign to eliminate illegal blood collection.

In addition to the 147 that were closed, 86 agencies were punished

for malpractice in the campaign, Ma said. "Thirty people were arrested and 15 others were jailed.

More than 100 people received administrative discipline," he said. China has more than 900 blood collection and supply agencies.

In the mid-1990s, illegal blood collection caused the spread of AIDS among rural residents in some localities

of central China.

Since 1995, China promulgated a series of laws and regulations to secure blood safety, and HIV testing has been adopted at blood stations across the nation.

Ma asked local health authorities to increase regular checks of blood collection and supply agencies to prevent illegal operations from reoccurring.

MNA/Xinhua



Two boys in a shopping mall seen in Singapore on 24 March, 2005.

INTERNET

## CPC leader calls for increased export of Chinese publications

**GUANGZHOU, 26 March** — A senior Chinese leader has called for increasing exports of Chinese publications, including newspapers, books and audio and video products to promote foreigners' understanding of China.

"We should push the Chinese culture to the world and make it a positive factor in deepening understanding, friendship and cooperation with the rest of the world," said Li Changchun, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, during his visit to south China's Guangdong Province from Monday to Wednesday.

Li asked the Press and publication sectors to "firmly adhere to the correct orientation", saying "Sound social influence should always be the number one consideration".

MNA/Xinhua

## High oil price not to dampen Singapore's eco growth forecast

**SINGAPORE, 26 March** — The current surge of oil price is unlikely to affect Singapore's economic growth forecast for this year, *Channel News Asia* quoted economist as saying on Thursday.

Singapore's gross domestic product (GDP) will maintain an increase rate of 3 to 5 per cent, as the government has targeted as long as the oil price remains at the present 56 US dollars per barrel.

However, economists are looking at the lower end of that range.

They believed that businesses, which have become much more fuel efficient, can absorb the higher costs, and the oil

price hike will have limited impact on inflation since the country's economic growth will slow down this year.

Though Singapore's economy has developed stronger to stand oil price

fluctuations, economists said, crude oil prices at or above 70 to 80 US dollars per barrel will be disastrous.

Currently, every increase of 10 US dollars in oil price over a one year period may shave about

0.6 percentage point off GDP, according to the report.

One expert even expects the oil price to hit as high as 100 dollars per barrel in the next five years. — MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesia, Malaysia to continue talks on border issues in May

**JAKARTA, 26 March** — Indonesia and Malaysia will continue their talks on the disputed border in the Sulawesi Sea in May, as an ongoing two-day technical meeting in the Bali Island has not produced any decision yet, Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hassan Wirajuda said on Wednesday.

"I ensured that the ongoing meeting won't settle the problem today and it will be another meeting to be held in Malaysia," said Wirajuda.

Regular meetings are needed to settle the problem, based on his previous meeting with his Malaysian counterpart Syed Ahmad Albar, he said.

The minister stressed that Indonesia still insists on its stand that Ambalat Block be included in Indonesian territory.

"We are now building a light house (in the territory) and we will continue it," Wirajuda added.

Tensions rose between the two countries since Malaysia's state oil company Petronas granted energy giant Shell a concession in the area, known as Block XYZ by the Malaysians or Ambalat Block by the Indonesians, on 16 February.

MNA/Xinhua

## UAE Central Bank raises interest rates

**ABU DHABI, 26 March** — The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced here Wednesday a hike in interest rates on Certificates of Deposit, the official WAM news agency reported.

The rise was in line with the new level of interbank interest rates on US dollar deposits in international financial markets, the bank's statement said.

US Federal Reserve policy-makers announced Tuesday a widely expected quarter-point hike in US interest rates, said the statement.

Certificates of Deposit, which the Central Bank issues to banks operating in the UAE, are the mechanism through which interest rates on UAE Dirham are changed in the banking system.

Banks also use it as an indicator for accepting deposits as well as for extending loans to customers, according to the bank statement. — MNA/Xinhua



A general view from the bank of the Yangtze River on 27 March, 2005.

INTERNET

## Three US troops killed in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 26 March** — A car bomb struck a US military patrol Saturday in the Iraqi capital, killing two US soldiers and injuring two others, and a Marine died in action in a restive central province, the military said.

The names of the US troops slain on Saturday were not immediately released, and no other details were given on the car bombing.

The military also announced Saturday that a Marine was killed a day earlier in strife-torn Anbar province, a heavily Sunni Arab region west of Baghdad that contains the flashpoint cities of Fallujah and Ramadi.

No further details were given of the death of the Marine, assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

As of Friday, at least 1,524 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count.

Internet

## Dutch Govt grants \$22m for Indonesia's clean water project

**JAKARTA, 26 March** — The Dutch Government has provided some 22 million US dollars in grant to support the Indonesian Government's clean water project. "The grant is aimed at supporting the Indonesian Government to provide clean water and sanitation facilities for more people," Dutch Ambassador to Indonesia Ruud Treffers was quoted as saying on Thursday by the Detik Online. The facilities will be prioritized for poor people, he added.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman uses the Internet at a computer store in Beijing recently.—INTERNET

## Putin backs proposal not to investigate privatizations

**Moscow, 26 March** — Russian President Vladimir Putin, seeking to mend fences with big business, backed a proposal on Thursday not to investigate privatizations which took place more than three years ago.

Putin was speaking at a meeting with top Russian businessmen—many of whom acquired vast fortunes in the 1990s through privatizations which were widely criticized for lacking transparency.

"I think it is possible to support shortening the

statute of limitations on privatization deals from 10 years to three years," Putin said. "I hope this will bring calm to the business community."

Business confidence has been shaken by the state's break-up of oil major YUKOS and trial of its ex-CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky on fraud charges linked to the 1994 privatization of a fertilizer company.

Confidence has also been hit by a major report into past privatizations by the head of Russia's Audit Chamber, Sergei

Stepashin, publication of which has been delayed several times but which is due to be reviewed soon by Parliament.

Putin said he was not happy about the pace of Russian economic growth, which has slowed since he won election for a second four-year term a year ago.

"The pace of growth has slowed in the last two months," Putin said. "The structure of this growth and the state of the economy cannot satisfy us."

MNA/Reuters

## World govts urged to do more to improve security in Afghanistan

**UNITED NATIONS, 26 March** — The Security Council pressed world governments on Thursday to do more to improve security in Afghanistan ahead of parliamentary and provincial elections set for September.

The international community should also provide more aid to boost efforts to end the Afghan economy's reliance on illegal narcotics, the Council said in unanimously adopting a resolution extending the mandate of the UN assistance mission in the Central Asian nation for an additional year.

UN member nations could provide more troops to an international force in Afghanistan as well as equipment and financial aid to help the government conduct free and fair elections following a successful presidential ballot last year, the resolution said.

Afghans chose Hamid Karzai as their president in an October 9 election that took place in a relatively calm atmosphere and with few serious irregularities.

Nearly 8,500 peace-

keepers are now part in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, while US-led forces there number around 18,000.

The cultivation of poppies, used to make opium and heroin, dominates Afghanistan's economy, accounting for 60 per cent of its gross domestic product and 87 per cent of the world's

supply. A US State Department report released this month described Afghan heroin production as an "enormous threat to world stability".

Encouraged by the Western powers, Karzai has vowed to wage war on the drug trade to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a narco-state just three years after US

and Afghan resistance forces drove the Taleban from power.

MNA/Reuters

## Germany releases secret files on Kohl

**BERLIN, 26 March** — Germany released some of East Germany's secret files on ex-Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Thursday but the newspaper clippings, a 1983 speech

and business trip details would disappoint those hoping for juicy revelations.

The material shed more light on the practices of Communist East Germany's Stasi secret police than on the life of the former chancellor, according to Marianne Birthler, head of the Stasi archive centre.

East Germany's notorious surveillance service, known as the Stasi, compiled 7,000 pages on Kohl, the man who reunited Germany and whose reputation was later tarnished by a party funding scandal.

However, only 1,071 pages were released to a handful of experts, according to a spokesman for Kohl, who authorized lim-

ited access to some files late on Wednesday.

The documents reveal no personal details about the man who governed West Germany and then a reunified Germany for 16 years before losing to Gerhard Schroeder in 1998. The bulk of the newly accessible information was already available elsewhere, Kohl's office said in a statement.

German news agency DPA, one of the few to be granted access to the files on Thursday, said they contained a speech Kohl made to the government in 1983 and details of his 1979 trip to the East German cities of Leipzig and Dresden as State Premier of Rheinland Pfalz.

Kohl, 74, was a prime target for the Stasi, who not only tailed East Germany's own citizens but operated extensively in West Germany through a massive network of spies and informants.

Kohl's lengthy legal battle to block the release of his files had whetted appetites they could contain lurid secrets about the scandal which embroiled his Christian Democrat party or titillating details about his private life. The former chancellor admitted in 1999 that he took one million US dollars in illegal campaign donations. But Kohl's office said on Thursday: "It is still the case that all information relating to Helmut Kohl's privacy, or obtained through espionage remains confidential." —MNA/Reuters

## Syria to submit precise timetable for withdrawing troops from Lebanon

**PARIS, 26 March** — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he believed Syria would in the next week submit a precise timetable for withdrawing its forces from Lebanon, according to an interview to be published on Friday.

"Within a week from now, I think that a precise timetable will be given to the UN (United Nations)," he told the French newspaper Le Figaro, according to an advance copy of the interview.

A UN Security Council resolution passed in September called for a full

withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon.

Syria completed the first phase of a troop withdrawal last week, removing at least 4,000 troops, and Lebanese and Syrian officials will meet in early April to decide on the withdrawal of

up to 10,000 Syrian soldiers who remain in eastern Lebanon.

Asked if recent bombings risked destabilizing Lebanon, Mubarak said: "I don't think that one or two explosions can lead to a new civil war."

MNA/Reuters

## British Govt comes under renewed fire over Iraq

**LONDON, 26 March** — The British Government came under renewed fire over Iraq on Thursday as its opponents sensed a chance to embarrass Prime Minister Tony Blair just weeks before an expected election.

Opposition leaders and members of Blair's own Labour Party demanded the government explain why its top lawyer apparently changed his mind over the legality of the 2003 war to topple Saddam Hussein.

Encouraged by polls which suggest trust is an area where Blair is vulnerable, the opposition Conservative Party accused the Premier of being "extremely selective with the truth". Shadow Attorney General Dominic Grieve, the Conservatives' top lawyer, urged the government to "come clean" over the

sequence of events which led up to the invasion.

"Does the Foreign Secretary not realize how corrosive this entire episode now is to trust in government," Grieve told Parliament after Foreign Secretary Jack Straw tried once again to explain how the government reached its decision to go to war.

The latest assault on Blair's credibility was triggered by a few key lines from a resignation letter written by the Foreign Office's former deputy legal adviser Elizabeth Wilmshurst.

She quit her job just days before the war, saying she believed there was no legal

basis for an invasion.

The Foreign Office published her letter on Wednesday but blacked out several lines of it. However, Britain's Channel 4 News obtained the missing lines within hours and broadcast them in its nightly news bulletin.

The lines suggest the government's top lawyer, Attorney General Lord Goldsmith, changed his mind over the legality of the war sometime between 7 March and 18 March, 2003 — days before British and US troops invaded Iraq.—MNA/Reuters



A customer selects a pack of meat at a Tokyo department store on 27 March, 2005.—INTERNET

# US politicians using oil-for-food scandal as weapon against UN

ROME, 26 March — Right-wing American politicians are using the oil-for-food scandal as a weapon against the United Nations and Secretary-General Kofi Annan should not step down over it, his predecessor Boutros Boutros-Ghali said.

Boutros-Ghali, head of the United Nations from 1991 to 1996, shrugged off criticism of the world body over the 67 billion US dollars programme, which allowed Iraq to sell oil to buy civilian goods to ease the impact of 1990 UN sanctions on ordinary Iraqis.

"The American right has seized this scandal as a weapon against the United Nations. It's a scandal created ad hoc. It's not me asserting this, it's clear to everyone," he was quoted as saying in Italy's *La Repubblica* newspaper on Thursday.

The former programme director, Benon Sevan, was accused of steering an Iraq oil allocation to a cousin of Boutros-Ghali. The cousin, who owned a small trading company, earned 1.5 million US dollars from the transaction.

Asked if he would testify in the inquiry into the scandal commissioned by Annan, Boutros-Ghali said: "Yes. I've prepared a

defence document. I also want to dispel any doubt: It has nothing to do with me.

"The programme was approved on 5 December, (1996). On 22 December, I had left the (post as UN secretary-general)," he said. The accusations extend to Annan, whose son worked in West Africa for a firm that won a multimillion-dollar contract from the oil-for-food programme.

Annan and his son have both denied any wrongdoing, after being accused of a conflict of interest. Asked whether he thought Annan should step down, Boutros-Ghali said: "He should stay in his post."

Several Republican congressmen have called for Annan's resignation in connection with the oil-for-food scandal, but the White House and the State Department have expressed confidence in him, as have the European Union and many national

leaders.

Boutros-Ghali said he had faith in the UN's independent inquiry led by former US Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker, who is expected to issue a report dealing with the accusations involving Annan next week.

"We'll see if there is really anything illicit. Volcker is a man of integrity and I place a lot of trust in him," he said.

An interim report by Volcker's team last month found lax UN controls, a shortage of audit staff and political favouritism when the programme was put in place in 1996. It found no pilfering of money from the UN administration of the programme.

The best-documented figures to date show Saddam Hussein's government earned close to two billion US dollars from illicit trade and surcharges through the programme, according to CIA adviser Charles Duelfer last September. — *MNA/Reuters*

## မြို့ကြီးရွေးတာ ထိန်းပါလေလွင့် ထုတ်တုန်းမြင့်

### Nepal's foreign employment dips

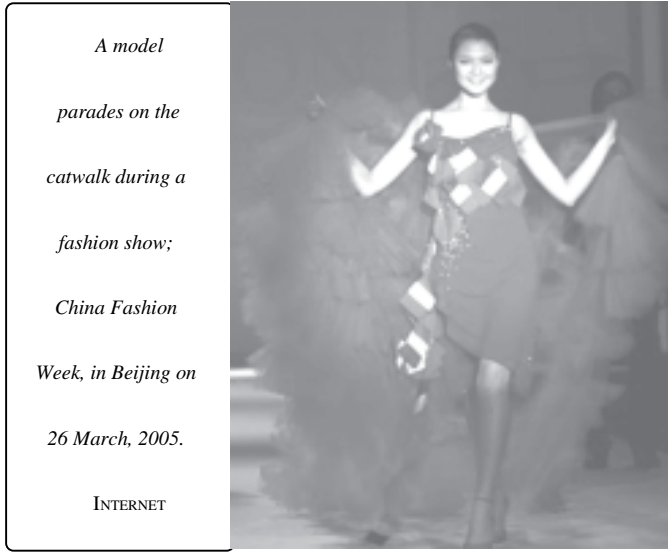
KATHMANDU, 26 March — Following Malaysia's temporary decision to ban import of foreign workers of 12 countries, including Nepal, the total number of labourers leaving Nepal witnessed a sharp decline of about 33 per cent last month.

According to monthly report of Department of Labour and Employment Promotion, the total number of outgoing workers dropped to 8,142 in the fiscal month of mid-February/mid-March from that of 12,195 of mid-January/mid-February.

"Malaysia absorbs around 50 per cent of the total workforce leaving Nepal for overseas employment and any fluctuation in the export of Nepali labourers to the country has its direct impact on the overall foreign employ-

ment sector," a government official told reporters here on Thursday on condition of anonymity.

The government record also revealed that the number of outgoing workers to Malaysia has declined by around 44 per cent during the period from that of 6,725 to 3,771 of the last month, the official noted. The official, however expressed hope that the Malaysian Government's latest decision to open the country for Nepali workers will help the country recuperate the loss. — *MNA/Xinhua*



### 23 killed, 500 injured in thundershowers in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 26 March — Severe northwestern winds coupled with thundershowers lashed various parts of Bangladesh on Tuesday night and Wednesday, killing at least 23 people and injuring over 500.

According to the *Bangladesh Observer* on Thursday, the northwestern winds accompanied by torrential rains has paralyzed normal life in many areas, including capital Dhaka and its adjacent area.

Most of the 23 victims lost their lives in lightning and house collapse, when the storm brought down thatched houses as well as electricity poles, uproot trees, and damaged the standing crops.

### Two boys killed by train in N England

LONDON, 26 March— Two teenagers were killed by a train on Friday near Darlington, northern England, British Transport Police said.

The 15-year-old boys were struck at about 8:45 pm by a train travelling between Manchester and Newcastle.

The accident triggered the closure of the main East Coast railway line until 10:15 pm causing severe disruption to passengers travelling over the Easter bank holiday weekend.

Police refused to speculate on media reports the two youths had been part of a bigger group of teenagers playing "chicken" on the line. — *MNA/Reuters*

### India, Britain conduct peacekeeping exercise

NEW DELHI, 26 March — India and Britain have broken new ground in their military cooperation by conducting their largest military exercise in many years to enhance collaboration in peacekeeping operations.

Over 100 British Armed Forces personnel, including some 50

headquarters staff officers, joined "Exercise Emerald Mercury", which ended in Hyderabad Wednesday.

The nine-day exercise marked the biggest land deployment of British military personnel in India in many years.

The British personnel worked alongside a similar number of In-

dian officers to practise "combined campaign planning and procedures within a peace support operations scenario," said a statement from the British high commission here.

During the exercise, the two sides formed a combined joint task force headquarters staffed jointly by Indian and British officers and practised the integration of other government departments and NGOs for a peacekeeping mission. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A cable TV technician works on dish antennas set on the rooftop of a building in Calcutta, India, on 27 March, 2005. INTERNET

ပန်းမန်သစ်ပင် လေသန့်စင်၍၊  
ဥယျာဉ်တောတန်း စိတ်ရွှင်လန်း၏။

**Plenary session of National Convention continues...**

(from page 16)

Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South),

exchanged arms for peace, and representative of other organizations.

Before the plenary meeting, NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and



NC Plenary Session in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall, Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby Township. — MNA



Chairman and panel of chairmen seen at the NC Plenary Session. — MNA

Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State Service Personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, other invited delegates, delegates of 17 national groups who

officials of the sub-committees, representatives of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel and other invited delegates signed the attendance registers at the Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation hall for the National Convention delegates.

U Kyi Tint of the delegate group of peasants presided over the meeting along with Member of the NCCWC U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Hsam of the delegate group of political parties, U Law Hsin Kwan of the delegate group of representatives-elect, U

Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Ral of the delegate group of national races, U Bo Thein of the delegate group of workers, Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha) of the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia, Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin of the delegate group of State service personnel and Dr Ma Nan Tu Ja of the delegate group of other invited persons. Director (Meeting) of the office of the National Convention Convening Work Committee U Than Aung acted as MC and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-MC.

First, the MC announced the validity of the meeting as 1,071 out of the 1,081 delegates attended the meeting,

accounting for 99.07 per cent.

At the plenary

included in the drawing of the State Constitution.

The plenary session

of the National Convention continues at 9 am tomorrow.— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein signs the attendance register book. —MNA

session, U Tun Aye Han, U Min Thu and U Aung Thein Tun of the delegate group of peasants and U Aung Kyi, U Sein Aye and U Zaw Win of the delegate group of workers read proposal papers of their parties concerning the detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of executive and judicial powers to be



Director (Meeting) U Than Aung emcees together with Assistant Director U Aung Kyi. — MNA

**Panel of Alternative Chairmen of Plenary Meeting and National Convention Convening Work Committee meet**

YANGON, 28 March — The coordination meeting of the Panel of Alternative Chairmen of the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention and the National Convention Convening Work Committee was held at the Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division at 4 pm today.

It was attended by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thaung Nyunt, members of the Work Committee and alternative chairmen of the plenary

meeting.

Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe presided over the meeting with Joint-Secretary-1 U Khin Maung Myint as master of ceremonies.

First, Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe made a speech and Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung and Secretary U Thaung Nyunt presented other salient points.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe.—MNA

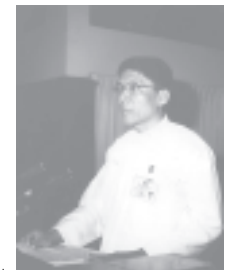


U Min Thu of delegate group of peasants reads out proposal.

MNA



U Tun Aye Han of delegate group of peasants reads out proposal. — MNA



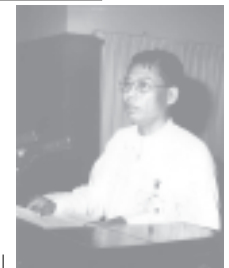
U Aung Thein Tun of delegate group of peasants reads out proposal. — MNA



U Aung Kyi of delegate group of workers reads out proposal. — MNA



U Sein Aye of delegate group of workers reads out proposal. — MNA



U Zaw Win of delegate group of workers reads out proposal. — MNA

# Tatmadaw for the people



**Union Spirit, to fertilize their justified ambitions, hopes and wishes until the seven-point Road Map had met with full success.**

It is true that the Tatmadaw has never neglected the interests of the national people throughout the course of history. Instead, it has always stood steadfast before the people and

**consolidation of national unity with firm conviction, and the making of efforts to bring a total end to armed conflicts designed to devastating public life and property, and to restore internal peace.**

The Tatmadaw has always been in the vanguard of the people and protected them

to being lost in the period around 1958, 1959 and 1960 as a result of the possible bloodshed stemming from armed conflicts following the collapse of the AFPFL, which was then in power. Thirdly, independence was nearly lost in the period of 1961-62 in which the Union was likely to disintegrate and fall into the hands of the

## Tatmadaw that is building a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation in concert with the people

Now is the time when measures are being taken to transform the country into a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

It is not that these

ity in the country.

Democracy will endure and thrive only in a human society where discipline flourishes alongside the prevalence of peace and the rule of law.

tion Convening Commission Chairman and State Peace and Development Council Secretary-I Lt-Gen Thein Sein, in his opening speech delivered at the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention

shielded them from possible dangers.

The Tatmadaw is the national Tatmadaw that has brilliantly carried out national political duties such as the anti-colonialist struggle, the

*Tekkatho Myat Thu*

whenever the country was in danger in the post-independence era. It was four times that the

colonialists as a result of federal movement and the incapability of the then government (Pa-ha-



National Convention delegates sign the attendance book.



National Convention delegates sign the attendance book.

measures are being taken by a certain person or a certain organization. These measures are being taken in harmony by over 100 national races, workers, peasants, intelligentsia, intellectuals, a national political forces, the Tatmadaw, peace groups of national races, State service personnel, and over 54 million people residing in rural and urban areas of Myanmar.

In a sense, the Tatmadaw government is taking systematic steps to ensure a smooth process of transition to democracy as desired by the national people, for there have prevailed stability, peace, unity and prosper-

With the support of the people, the Tatmadaw government is now holding the National Convention in line with the seven-point Road Map that will pave the way for the establishment of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democracy. Now, the National Convention has laid down detailed basic principles for the sharing of power in the legislative sector. After holding group discussions for adopting detailed basic principles for the executive and judicial sectors, the delegate groups are submitting their proposals to the plenary session.

National Conven-

held at Union Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 17 February 2005, said that **the Tatmadaw would never turn a blind eye to the interests of the national people throughout the course of history and that it**

**The Tatmadaw has a fine tradition of carrying out national politics free from sectarianism and personal cult, for instance, the restoration of independence, the protection of territorial integrity and sovereignty by repelling all acts of aggression, repeatedly safeguarding the country from disintegration, the consolidation of national unity with firm conviction, and the making of efforts to bring a total end to armed conflicts designed to devastating public life and property, and to restore internal peace.**

had pledged to continue making strenuous efforts hand in hand with the national people possessing patriotism and

anti-fascist struggle and the national independence struggle.

**The Tatmadaw has a fine tradition of carrying out national politics free from sectarianism and personal cult, for instance, the restoration of independence, the protection of territorial**

integrity and sovereignty by repelling all acts of aggression, repeatedly safeguarding the country from disintegration, the

Tatmadaw and the people hand in hand had to protect the country from the imminent loss of its independence and prevent the danger of Union disintegration. Firstly, independence was close to being lost during the period around 1948, 1949 and 1950 as a result of

growing conflicts over dogmatism and sectarianism stemming from power struggle. Secondly, independence was close

sa) to bring the commotion under control. And fourthly, national sovereignty was put into danger during the period of 1988 when anarchy reigned the country in the absence of community peace and the rule of law as a result of provocative acts committed by leftists and rightists, both underground and above ground, and internal and external saboteurs. These incidents have been put on record in Myanmar history.

**It is the national Tatmadaw alone that shouldered the national responsibility dutifully in response to the historical call each time**

(See page 9)



# Tatmadaw that is building a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation in concert with the people

(from page 8)  
**a danger cast a dark cloud over the country and the people.**

In other words, the Tatmadaw carried out or has carried out its duties loyally at risk to many lives as well as much blood and sweat of its

as a strong national force holding in high esteem our three main national causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty.

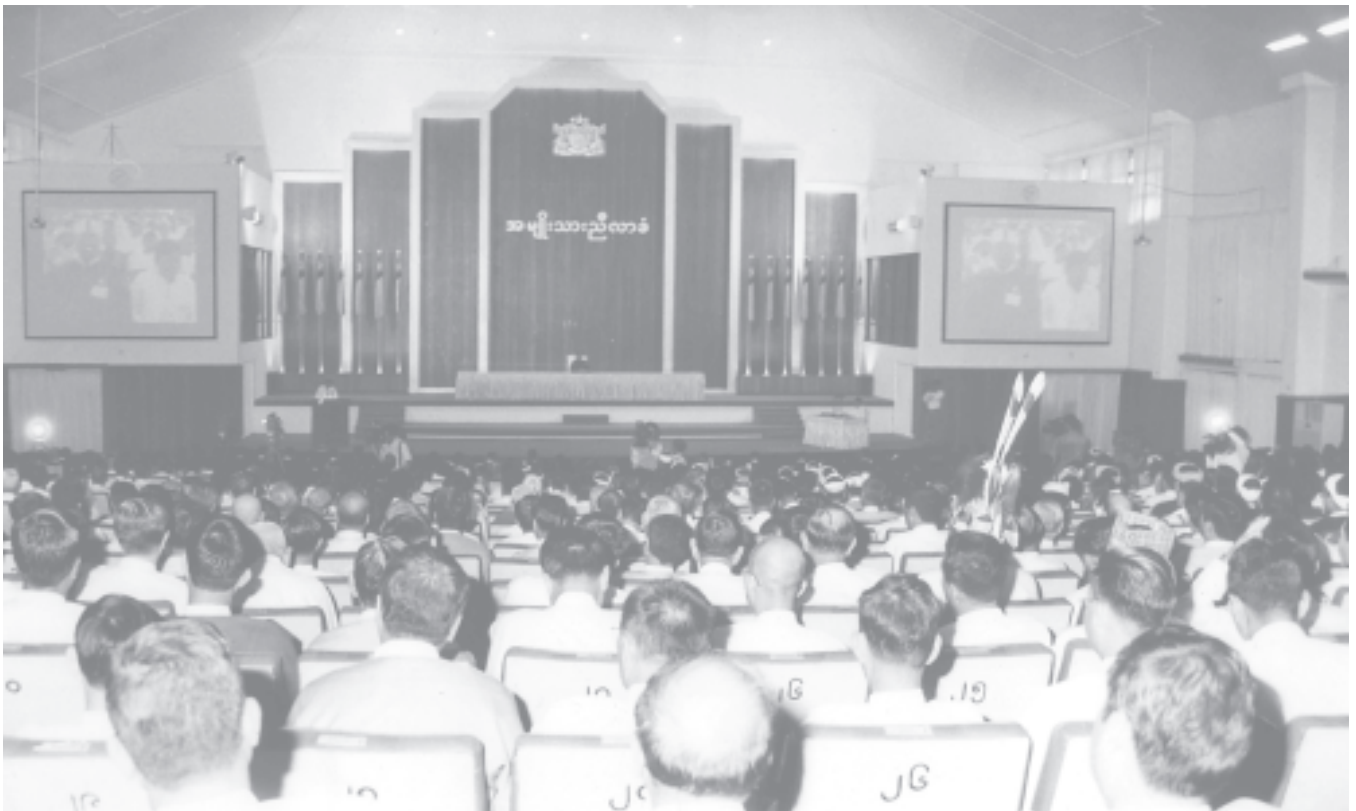
To put it simply, the Tatmadaw, as a purely

cal incidents reveals that successive governments failed to carry out nation-building tasks. The Tatmadaw, on its part, had to help solve and safeguard the territorial integrity and sovereignty from time to time whenever the need arose.

fronts. A glance at the history makes it clear that the Tatmadaw alone had to safeguard and defend the country at the failure of the respective governments in power and political parties to stabilize it. Judging by the histori-

versa. Myanmar Tatmadaw was born of the national people as an answer to the call of Myanmar independence struggle. Myanmar Tatmadaw is not a mercenary army constituted for national defence and military aggression. The

participation of the Tatmadaw in the leadership role of national politics is aimed to deter the recurrence of the incidents like previous ones that can be detrimental to our three main national causes and to take preventive measures against them.



The plenary session of the National Convention in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township.

members for the country and the people in its national political course from the pre-independ-

national political force free from party politics, protected and is protecting the interests of the

Nowadays, the Tatmadaw is carrying out nation-building tasks in cooperation with the na-

cal lessons, the participation of the Tatmadaw in the leading role of the future national politics of the state is vital.

**None but the Tatmadaw, as a national political force capable of protecting national interest and ensuring that the country does not deviate from its national political course, will be able to shape the future of the country.**

In short, the history of Myanmar and that of the Tatmadaw is inseparable. It is therefore safe to assume that the history of Myanmar is that of the Tatmadaw, and vice

Tatmadaw and the people came together to restore the independence and safeguard it. Standing steadfast before the people in times of trouble, the Tatmadaw shielded them. Throughout successive eras in which the country was in a fix, the then governments were incapable of keeping the country in order. Whenever such occasions arose, the Tatmadaw had to always assume the leadership role in the course of national politics to shoulder the responsibility of the State and to put the country on the right track. A conclusion can be drawn that the

This being the case, the Tatmadaw will always stand as a national political force to serve and protect the national interest. At the present time in which efforts are being made to establish a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation based on the lessons drawn from historical lessons and the current developments, the Tatmadaw will also shoulder its future national responsibilities above and beyond the call of duty in conjunction with the national people.

**Translation: KTY**



NC delegates attending plenary session of the National Convention.

ence struggle to the present era including 1988 unrest.

Historical lessons indicate that the Tatmadaw has stood firm

country and the people apart from taking measures for national security and defence through the consolidated strength.

A study of histori-

tional people for our three main national causes, which are national concern, after laying down 12 objectives in political, economic and social



Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win cordially greets representative of UNHCR office Mr Rajiv Kapur at Zeyathiri Beikman, Kommyinthta. (News on page 1) MNA

## Foreign military attaches visit Armed Forces Day Exhibition

YANGON, 28 March — Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe this morning extended greetings to military attachés of foreign embassies in Yangon who were visiting the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road.

First, senior military officers and their wives welcomed the military attachés and their

wives led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Military Attaché of Lao People's Democratic Republic Col Onechanh Phetsalat on their arrival at the museum.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe extended greetings and Deputy Director Lt-Col Zaw Win of Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute explained the history

of the Tatmadaw and facts about the booths being displayed at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition.

Next, Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party posed for a documentary photo together with Col Onechanh Phetsalat and the military attachés. Later they viewed the booths around the exhibition.

MNA

Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Laotian Military Attache Col Onechanh Phetsalat and foreign military attaches observe at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road. — MNA

### Entrance exams for MRCP Part-1, MRCPCH Part-1, MRCOG Part-1

YANGON, 28 March — Medical Science Department has invited applications to entrance exams for MRCP Part-1, MRCPCH Part-1 and MRCOG Part-1 which will be held in September 2005.

Entrance exams will be held on 11 and 12 May at Yangon Institute of Medicine-1 in Lanmadaw Township, and application forms should be sent not later than 28 April. Contact Ph No 01-242855 or 241783 at extensions 135, 136 and 155. — MNA



## Minister inspects Kanbawzathadi Palace



Culture Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung looks into maintenance of Kanbawzathadi Palace in Bago on 28 March. — CULTURE

YANGON, 28 March — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung visited Kanbawzathadi Palace of King Bayintnaung in Bago Township this morning.

Officials explained landscaping of the compound of the palace.

During the inspection tour of the palace together with Director-General of Archaeology Department U Nyunt Han and Deputy Director-General U Tun Zaw, the minister spoke of the need to make arrangements for displaying the documentary photos of the palace re-building project. — MNA

## Literary & Arts Competition and Exhibition packed with visitors

YANGON, 28 March — Literary & Arts Competition and Exhibition in commemoration of the 60th Armed Forces Day continued for the third day today at Tatmadaw Hall on U Wisara Road from 9

am to 5 pm. The competition was packed with members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, students, monks and people. In the exhibition, Literary & Arts Competi-

tion and Exhibition Quiz was held daily and winners were presented prizes.

The competition and exhibition continue up to 4 April.

MNA

## Myanmar Karatedo Federation meets

YANGON, 28 March — Myanmar Karatedo Federation held a meeting at Aung San Stadium yesterday evening.

Honorary Patron of the Federation Police Col Khin Maung Tun (Retd) and MKF President Dr Win Zaw gave speeches.

The meeting reorganized the executive committee of the federation. The general secretary and the joint secretary explained in detail the future work programmes, followed by a general round of discussions.

The federation president thanked the par-

ticipants for their suggestions, saying that individual talent alone cannot win victory for the karatedo sports.

The president an-

nounced that the federation will present K 5 million for gold medalist of the XXIII Southeast Asia Games to be held in 2005.

MNA



Chairman of MKF Dr Win Zaw makes a speech at executive meeting No 1/2005 of MKF. — MKF

**Bhaddanta Nandasiri to be honoured**

YANGON, 28 March— A ceremony to honour Presiding Nayaka Sasanadhaja Dhammarcariya of the Committee for Construction of Theravada Buddha Missionary Myanmar Monastery in Paris, France, Bhaddanta Nandasiri who has been conferred Maha Kammathana Cariya Title on 4 January under the Notification No 1/2005 of the State Peace and Development Council, will be held at



the Abhidhammaratan-aghaya Abhidhammar Dhammabeikman near the Bahan Township on 3 April 2005, and anyone may attend it. MNA



Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win addresses the meeting to review work for organizing 60th Armed Forces Day. — (News on page 16)

**Shwepyitha Industrial Zone holds annual general meeting**

YANGON, 28 March—The first annual general meeting of the Shwepyitha Industrial Zone was held at the Kanaung Hall of the industrial zone in Shwepyitha Industrial Town on 23 March morning.

Director-General of Department for Human Settlement and Housing Development Col Aung Win and Chairman of Yangon North District In-

dustrial Zone Supervisory Committee Chairman of District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myat Min made speeches on the occasion.

Next, the annual report and financial reports were read out and approvals sought. And then, a 16-member management committee including U Min Than Htay as chairman and U Khine Myo Win Kyaw as secre-

tary was selected. Afterwards, cash donations for the industrial zone development and maintenance work followed. The donation included K 5.2 million by AMC Construction Co; K 500,000 by Myanma Ahman Automobile Factory; K 100,000 by AHK Product Co; K 100,000 by Paris Soap Factory totaling K 5.9 million. MNA



Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe together with Laotian Military Attaché Col Onechanh Phetsalat and military attaches of foreign embassies poses for documentary photo. —(News on page 10)

**Deputy Minister meets VoV official**

YANGON, 28 March —Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein met a delegation led by Head of Section of Radio the Voice of Vietnam (VoV) Mr Hoang Huu Khai, which is currently here under the cooperation

programme between Myanmar Radio and Television and VoV, at the Ministry of Information this evening.

Present were heads of departments under the Ministry of Information and Head of Office of the MOI.—MNA



Director-General of DHSHD Col Aung Win makes a speech at a meeting in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone. — MNA

**Armed Forces Day computer quiz being held**

YANGON, 28 March—The 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition is being staged at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon

Pagoda Road from 26 March to 4 April 2005.

At the booth on nation-building endeavours, a computer quiz is being conducted from noon to 2 pm daily and prizes are presented during the period of the exhibition. Over 3000 people and monks including foreigners visited the exhibition today.—MNA

NCCWC Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe addresses the coord meeting of panel of chairmen. (News on Page 7)— MNA



Enthusiasts observe displays of Literary & Arts Competition and Exhibition on U Wisara Road. (News on Page 10)— MNA



Students come to observe displays of Armed Forces Day Exhibition on U Wisara Road. — MNA

# ADVERTISEMENTS

## ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ် မတ်လ ၂၂ရက်

### ချိတ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက်ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဖေးချေဝယ်ယူရန် ချိတ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ ဖိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်။

(က) ဝိုင် ဖလ ခေမိတာ ၅၀၀၀ လုံး

(ခ) Gland Packing ၂၄၀ ဝိတာ

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၁၈-၄-၂၀၀၅ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီပြန်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်း တင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံတစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင် တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနမှတစ်ဆင့် ဝယ်ယူ နိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ် - ၂၀၂၃၃၀၊ ၂၄၀၁၁၂ (လိုင်းခွဲ) ၂၃၅၀၃၁၅ နှုန်းအတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

၃၃၅၆  
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

### MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (553)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (553) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.3.2005 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER  
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

## Former Nepali PM hospitalized

KATHMANDU, 27 March — Former Nepali Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa suddenly collapsed Thursday night and has been admitted to hospital, an informed source said Friday.

"Thapa suddenly collapsed at a party hosted by Indian Ambassador to Nepal at about 9.30 pm local time (1445GMT)," the source said on condition of anonymity. Thapa has been admitted to Norvic Hospital for emergent treatment, he said.

Thapa, 77, is experienced and founding

father of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party, who had been Prime Minister separately in 1965 and 1979 during the Panchayat period, and then became Prime Minister in a coalition government in 1997. He was also named as Prime Minister by King Gyanendra in June 2003.

He established a new political party named Rastriya Janashakti Party (National People's Power Party) on 13 March, which is led by himself and former minister Prakash Chandra Lohani as the co-president.

MNA/Xinhua

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Reg. No. 2267/1999 in respect of "Vehicles, parts and fittings thereof, outboard motors, generators, internal combustion engines and parts and fittings thereof".  
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for SUZUKI MOTOR CORPORATION  
P. O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 29 March 2005.

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(Reg. No. 044706/98)

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Hsian Lin Co (LLS) Advocate  
MYANMAR TRADE MARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM  
E-mail: mlps@mpmail.net.mm  
Tel: 254837 G.P.O. Box 895  
Yangon, 29 March 2005

### Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 1st April (Friday) 2005, being Bank holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

## Opposition to EU Constitution grows in France

PARIS, 27 March — Opposition to the European Union Constitution is growing in France despite political leaders' efforts to drum up support for the treaty, a poll released on Friday showed.

Fifty-five per cent of French voters who have decided how they will vote in a May 29 referendum on the Constitution plan to reject the text, according

to the poll for the weekly *Marianne* magazine, to be published on Saturday.

The poll was the third survey in less than two weeks to show a majority against a Constitution that is intended to make the EU work more smoothly.

The proportion opposed to the treaty has risen from 51 per cent and 52 per cent in the two previous polls — a trend which will dismay

France's main political parties, who have stepped up their campaign for the EU treaty in recent days.

President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said this week France risked losing influence in the EU if it rejected the Constitution and urged voters to judge the text on its own merits rather than linking it to other issues.

MNA/Reuters



An alligator rests on the banks of a lagoon behind the Hilton Head Preparatory School athletic field with a soccer ball, on Hilton Head Island recently.

INTERNET

## Four US soldiers killed by landmine in Afghanistan

KABUL, 27 March — Four US soldiers were killed on Saturday when their vehicle struck a landmine in southeast Afghanistan, the US military said.

The United States has lost more than 100 military personnel since deploying troops in Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban in late 2001, but most of the deaths have been accidents.

The latest marked the worst loss of life in a single day for the United States in Afghanistan since three US military personnel and three US civilians were killed in a plane crash last November.

The soldiers had been travelling with Afghan

troops in a three-vehicle patrol in Logar province, around 25 miles south of Kabul.

A Taleban spokesman, Mullah Dadullah, told *Reuters* via satellite telephone that Taleban fighters had planted the mine.

Taleban claims of responsibility are not always reliable, and Lieutenant Cindy Moore, a US military spokeswoman, said it was uncertain whether the mine was old or planted recently.

There has been little militant activity over the winter, but a pick-up in attacks is expected with the onset of spring. There have been several in-

cidents in the past few days.

Last week, one US soldier was killed and four were wounded when their vehicle struck a mine in the western province of Herat, and five Afghan civilians died when their truck hit a mine in the same area just hours later.

Mines and unexploded ordnance still litter Afghanistan from two decades of conflict going back to the 1979 Soviet invasion.

UN security officials issued a warning this month to beware of mines, as the spring thaw and recent heavy rains can cause "mine migration" due to soil movement.

MNA/Reuters

## Mexico protests CIA report on possible instability

MEXICO CITY, 17 March — Mexico has lodged a complaint with the US Government against a report of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) which warned about possible risks of instability in Mexico, Interior Minister Santiago Creel said Thursday.

A diplomatic note was sent to US Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff complaining about "each of the points" in the report, Creel told a Press

conference.

"The (Mexican) Government, Congress, the political parties and society are upset by the statements and the language used by some officials of the US Government," Creel told Chertoff.

"I complained about the use of the word 'backyard', which is considered an unacceptable term," Creel said, referring to CIA Director Porter Gross's remark on Mexico being the "backyard" of the

United States.

Gross also indicated that the lack of border security or a political destabilization in Mexico could threaten the national security of the United States.

Relations between the two North American neighbours, already strained because of disputes on immigration, trade and the Iraq War, worsened recently after Washington issued a series of reports criticizing Mexico's volatile political situation. — MNA/Xinhua

## Zimbabwe supports China's adoption of Anti-Secession Law

HARARE, 27 March — The Zimbabwean Government on Thursday voiced support for China's adoption of the Anti-Secession Law aimed to promote China's peaceful reunification.

The statement released by the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs said that the law, adopted on 14 March, would pave the way for the promotion of peace and stability and for a peaceful reunification of China.

"We in Zimbabwe fully support the decision to adopt the Anti-

Secession Law, which first upholds China's basic policy of peaceful reunification and regards the non-peaceful means only as the last resort to stop Taiwan's independence," the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

# Japan to install radar on remote southern island

**TOKYO, 28 March** — Japan is to install radar on a remote southern island to allow it to monitor shipping activity and wave action in the area, a leading newspaper said on Sunday, a move which may spark protests from China.

Japan claims Okinotori Island, some 1,700 kilometres (1,050 miles) from Tokyo, as its southernmost island. China refuses to recognize Japanese claims to an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around it, saying it is a rock not an island.

Sino-Japanese ties have been chilled by a series of disputes over territory and energy, as well as by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's annual visits to a Tokyo shrine viewed by critics at home and abroad as a

symbol of Japan's past militarism.

The daily *Yomiuri Shimbun* said the radar, which would be installed in June, would allow detailed surveillance of shipping activity within 20 kilometres of the island as well as of wave action.

Foreign Ministry officials were unavailable for comment. Japan protested to China last December after a Chinese research vessel carried out an unannounced survey in its self-declared EEZ near Okinotori.

It said at the time there had been 21 cases of such surveys during 2004 in Japan's EEZ — an area extending 200 nautical miles (370 kilometres) from the shore in which a country claims exclusive rights to resources, including fishing and mineral extraction.

The activities of Chinese survey ships have been a recurring issue between the East Asian neighbours, which agreed in 2001 to give each other prior notification of maritime scientific

research in waters between them.

The two nations are locked in a long-running territorial dispute over other small islands in the East China Sea, known as the Senkakus in Japan and the Diaoyu in China, as well as friction over natural gas exploration in the area.

MNA/Reuters

# Govt approves increases in Ukraine's-rail freight rates

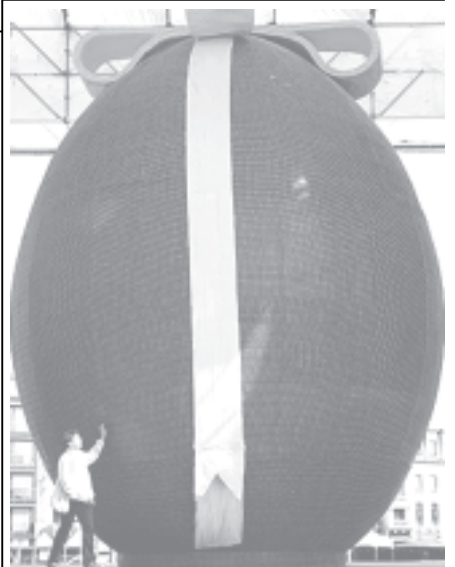
**KIEV, 27 March** — Ukraine's Government approved increases in rail freight rates by an average 50 per cent on Saturday, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said.

Tymoshenko, addressing reporters after a Cabinet meeting, said ministers had decided against even steeper threefold increases she said were undertaken in neighbouring Russia.

But increases were necessary to stem losses of the rail network. Future increases would be introduced gradually, she said, to guard against rapid rises in inflation.

No date for the increases was given. Tymoshenko said passenger fares were likely to remain unchanged except for the most expensive services.

MNA/Reuters



A man stands next to a giant Easter egg made by Belgian chocolate-maker Guylian in a bid to establish a new world record in Sint-Niklaas on 27 March, 2005.—INTERNET

# Russian prosecutors demand YUKOS chief to be jailed for life

**Moscow, 27 March** — Russian prosecutors demanded the former security chief of oil major YUKOS be jailed for life after a jury found him guilty of murder and attempted murder, his lawyer said on Friday.

Alexei Pichugin was found guilty on Thursday of murdering a married couple and attempting to kill a Moscow city official, and a lawyer for Pichugin said a sentence could be handed down within hours or days.

Pichugin, who pleaded innocent, was accused of carrying out the contract killing on behalf of Leonid Nevzlin, a top YUKOS executive wanted by Russia in connection with the case who is now in exile in Israel. Nevzlin denies any wrongdoing.

YUKOS has said Pichugin's trial, mostly closed to the media, was part of a Kremlin campaign to dismember the firm and punish its former main shareholder, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, for political activities.

MNA/Reuters

# UN survey says Afghanistan's poppy cultivation falling

**KABUL, 28 March** — Afghanistan has made strides in its war on narcotics according to a UN survey released on Sunday that showed poppy cultivation in most of the main growing areas down on last year's record levels.

The survey, conducted by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and Afghanistan's newly-formed Counter-Narcotics Ministry, comes after last year's crop showed a 64-per-cent increase in the area under poppy, the bright red flower that produces opium gum — the base product for heroin and morphine.

"The main finding of this survey is a falling trend in poppy cultivation in the majority of Afghanistan's 34 provinces," said Counter-Narcotics Minister Habibullah Qaderi.

"This is notably in the main poppy growing provinces... such as Nangarhar, Helmand and Uruzgan provinces," he said, referring to three that alone accounted for 52 per cent of last year's crop.

Last week, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan reported that an expected market tightening has driven raw opium prices to 180 US dollars per kilogramme (2.2 pounds) this month from 100 US dollars last October.

Qaderi's ministry was set up in December, when President Hamid Karzai formed a Cabinet

after his election victory in October. Karzai previously led an interim government set up after the Taleban regime was ousted in late 2001 for sheltering Osama bin Laden and other members of the al-Qaeda network responsible for the September 11 attacks on the United States.

Having seen off the Taleban, and sidelined several faction, Karzai now has to stop Afghanistan becoming a narco-mafia state that the US State Department said this month could become an "enormous threat to world stability."—MNA/Reuters



Chinese primary school students look at a chemical experiment at a rural school in Chengdu, in southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 27 March, 2005.—INTERNET

# British explorer to climb Mt Everest

**LONDON, 27 March** — Despite confessing to a fear of heights, intrepid British explorer Ranulph Fiennes is to set out to climb Mount Everest.

Fiennes, 61, hopes to raise money for the British Heart Foundation (BHF) charity, two years after he suffered a near fatal heart attack.

Leaving for Kathmandu on Saturday, Fiennes plans to acclimatise in the Himalayas over the next three weeks before beginning his ascent of Everest's difficult north face, a BHF spokesman told *Reuters*.

"I know first-hand the life-changing difference that research makes — my own heart bypass operation saved my life and has allowed me to carry on doing the things I love," Fiennes said in a statement.

"We've already raised over 200,000 pounds in

pledges without any publicity, should I reach the summit. Our target is at least 1.5 million pounds in support of the BHF."

He will be accompanied on the climb by long-time expedition partner Mike Stroud and Sibusiso Vilane, who became the first Black African to reach the top of Everest in 2003.

Fiennes became one of the first men to reach both poles on foot on his Trans-Globe Expedition in 1982 and 11 years later he and Stroud became the first men to cross the Antarctic unsupported on foot.

Just five months after suffering his heart attack, Fiennes ran seven marathons in seven days.

MNA/Reuters

Donate blood

## Portugal defeat Canada 4-1

BARCELOS (Portugal), 28 March— Midfielder Manuel Fernandes scored his first international goal to set Portugal on their way to a 4-1 win over Canada in a friendly warm-up on Saturday for their World Cup qualifier with Slovakia next week.

Slovakia pulled level with Portugal at the top of European Group Three on 13 points with a 2-1 away win over Estonia on Saturday.

Coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, whose side travel to Bratislava to play Slovakia on Wednesday, recalled Fernandes to replace the injured Armando Petit.

Portugal began impressively with two goals in four minutes, but as the game progressed they failed to convert a series of chances into goals until near the end. The 19-year-old Fernandes opened the scoring with a strike from outside the area after eight minutes.

Four minutes later, striker Pauleta doubled the lead tapping in a left cross from defender Nuno Valente. Substitute striker Helder Postiga added the third goal when he headed in a left cross by Luis Boa Morte after 82 minutes.—MNA/Reuters

## Podolski's goal gives Germany 1-0 victory over Slovenia

CELJE (Slovenia), 28 March— A first-half goal by striker Lukas Podolski gave World Cup 2006 hosts Germany a slender 1-0 victory over Slovenia in a friendly on Saturday.



German international striker Lukas Podolski, seen here in 2004, claims he has not agreed to join 18-time German champions Bayern Munich vowing to honour his contract at FC Cologne.—INTERNET

While most of Europe was engaged in World Cup qualifying matches Germany were struggling to beat a Slovenia side warming up for Wednesday's Group Five qualifier at home to Belarus.

"Not everything worked out the way we planned," said Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann. "It was a very physical match and we weren't able to get into any rhythm."

"We didn't get enough goal chances and at the end of the day we were a bit lucky to come away with a victory."

"We were fortunate to win," agreed captain Michael Ballack. "The match was chaotic, it wasn't good at all. Our defence wasn't well organized and that shouldn't happen. We should have gone ahead 2-0 and then things would have been easier."

Slovenia, third in their World Cup group two points behind leaders Italy and level on seven points with Norway before the Italians hosted Scotland on Saturday, were unfortunate to lose to Germany following an impressive display after the break.

But the Germans were the better side in a scrappy first half and Podolski put them ahead after 27 minutes when he scored from close range after Oliver Neuville's powerful shot from the edge of the area bounced off defender Matej Mavric to set him up.

The home side got off to a flying start after the interval, though, and Germany keeper Oliver Kahn just kept out halftime substitute Sebastjan Cimirotic who was unmarked in the area and immediately afterwards a Fabijan Cipot header hit the bar. Germany responded three minutes into the half when Ballack's powerful strike from 20 metres was turned over the bar by Slovenia goalkeeper Samir Handanovic.—MNA/Reuters

## Chile hold to 1-1 draw with Uruguay

SANTIAGO, 28 March— Midfielder Milovan Mirosevic made up for one of the misses of the year by scoring Chile's equalizer in a 1-1 draw with Uruguay in a World Cup qualifier on Saturday.

Mario Regueiro pounced on a blunder by defender Pablo Contreras to fire Uruguay ahead in the fourth minute of a fiercely competitive match played at a breathtaking pace. Argentine-based Mirosevic equalized two minutes into the second half, atoning for an astonishing miss midway through the first period.

Mauricio Pinilla pulled the ball across from the byline and the Racing Club player, under no pressure and needing only to tap the ball in from one metre, somehow shot wide.

Uruguay, who have made a steady recovery after a poor run earlier this year, stayed fifth in the 10-nation South American qualifying group with 15 points from 12 games, one ahead of their opponents.

The visitors made the perfect start when

Villarreal striker Diego Forlan broke down the left and crossed into the penalty area. Contreras miskicked his clearance and the ball landed at the feet of Regueiro, who converted from 10 metres.

Uruguay missed two good chances to increase their lead while Regueiro had a 30-metre drive tipped over by Nelson Tapia. Chile also created chances. Luis Fuentes headed wide and Uruguay goalkeeper Sebastian Viera struggled to turn around an awkward shot from Mark Gonzalez.

Chile, who have won only one match at home, equalized almost immediately after the restart when Jorge Valdivia played a one-two with Marcelo Salas and found Mirosevic, who made no mistake from six metres.—MNA/Reuters

## Argentina comes from behind to beat Bolivia 2-1

LA PAZ, 28 March— Striker Luciano Galletti atoned for a string of first-half misses to score the winner as Argentina came from behind to beat Bolivia 2-1 at high altitude in a World Cup qualifier on Saturday.

Bolivia, with Ovidio Mesa making his debut as their third coach of the South American qualifying campaign, went ahead with a Jose Castillo header early in the second half.

But Argentina, who fielded a second-string team for the match at 3,600 metres above sea level, hit back with two goals in five minutes from Luciano Figueroa and then Galletti to record their first win in La Paz since 1973.

The result kept Argentina top and Bolivia bottom of the 10-nation South American group. Argentina, who survived a penalty appeal with the score at 1-1, have 25 points from 12 games while Bolivia have 10.

Argentina coach Jose Pekerman looked as though he might rue his decision to rest his top players ahead of Wednesday's match at home to Colombia when Bolivia went ahead in the 50th minute. Veteran Bolivia playmaker Erwin Sanchez floated a cross in from

the right and Castillo escaped his marker to head into the far corner.

Argentina hit back with an almost identical goal eight minutes later.

Maxi Rodriguez sent a long free kick into the penalty area and Bolivia's attempted offside trap failed as Carmelo Angulo lingered and Figueroa was left unmarked to head home past Leo Fernandez.

Five minutes later, Galletti latched on to a long ball and slotted in his second between Fernandez and the near post.

Argentina had a lucky escape when Leandro Cufre appeared to punch away a cross in the penalty area but referee Jorge Larrióna waved play on.

Galletti had missed several chances to give Argentina a lead in the first half.

He wasted the first when he dallied over his shot, had a 25-metre blast tipped on to the crossbar by Fernandez and was wide with another attempt from a similar position.—MNA/Reuters

## Spain beat China 3-0 in friendly

SALAMANCA (Spain), 28 March— Spain warmed up for next week's World Cup qualifier against Serbia & Montenegro with a comfortable 3-0 win over China in a rain-soaked friendly on Saturday.

Luis Aragones's side turned in a confident display in their first match against China but will need to show more of a killer instinct in front of goal if they are to overturn the Group Seven leaders in Belgrade on Wednesday.

"The Serbia game will be much tougher than this one," midfielder Albert Luque told Radio Marca after the game. "But if we build on the attitude we showed today, we should do well and come away with a result."

The home team made a flying start when striker Fernando Torres netted a third-minute penalty after defender Du Wei was rather harshly adjudged to have pulled back Luque as he raced into the area to try and connect with a pass from Joaquin. Confidently spraying the ball around the midfield, Spain had a great

chance to extend their lead five minutes later, but Ivan de la Pena sliced wide.

They then had a goal ruled out for offside after defender Pablo Ibanez bounced a header over keeper Lui Yunfei.

However, Spain were rewarded for their sustained pressure 10 minutes later when China's only European-based player Shao Jiayi diverted a Xavi free kick into his own net as he tried to head the ball clear of the area.

Aragones made a raft of changes at the start of the second half, giving 18-year-old Sevilla defender Sergio Ramos, Valencia striker Mista and Liverpool's Luis Garcia their debuts.

His team's two best players, De la Pena and Joaquin then combined to create the home side's third goal eight minutes after the break.—MNA/Reuters

## Goalkeeper saves to earn Colombia 0-0 draw with Venezuela

MARACAIBO (Venezuela), 28 March— Colombia goalkeeper Miguel Calero produced a breathtaking late save to earn his team a 0-0 draw with Venezuela in their World Cup qualifier on Saturday.

Venezuela defender Alejandro Cichero's powerful downward header appeared to be on its way into the net in the 81st minute until Mexican-based Calero contrived to turn it around the post.

Calero also saved Colombia in injury time when he denied Hector Gonzalez.

Colombia's third successive goalless draw away from home in the competition kept the two teams level on 14 points from 12 games in the 10-nation South American qualifying group.

The better goal difference belongs to Colombia although Venezuela would finish above them on a head-to-head record after winning 1-0 in Barranquilla last year.

Venezuela had a double let-off late in the first half when Colombia hit the woodwork twice in quick succession.

Colombia forward Edixon Perea broke down the right and fired against the post, then David Ferreira struck the rebound against the crossbar with goalkeeper Rafael Dudamel still scrambling to pick himself up.—MNA/Reuters



Colombia's goalkeeper Miguel Calero catches a ball during a training session at Pachencho Romero Stadium in western Maracaibo, Venezuela, on 25 March, 2005.

INTERNET

## Health of Monaco's Prince stabilizes

MONACO, 28 March— The health of Europe's longest-reigning monarch, Prince Rainier of Monaco, stabilized on Sunday while citizens prayed for him at an Easter mass in the tiny Mediterranean principality.

However, doctors warned that the condition of the 81-year-old Rainier, widower of Hollywood film star Grace Kelly, was "still worrying" and said they remained extremely cautious about his prospects of survival. Rainier is in intensive care in a Monaco hospital where he was taken suffering from a lung infection, complicated by cardiac and kidney problems.

A health bulletin issued by his palace on Sunday said the Prince was conscious though under sedation, while the

deterioration of his vital functions had been halted.

"The state of health of his Most Serene Highness Prince Rainier III still remains worrying," said the bulletin, signed by the Prince's three doctors.

"His cardiac, lung and kidney functions that were continuing to deteriorate have stabilized," it added. "The sovereign is conscious but under sedation, which allows him to tolerate absolutely indispensable respiratory assistance."

MNA/Reuters

## Czech tractor driver dies under 8 tons of manure

PRAGUE, 28 March— A Czech tractor driver died under eight tons of manure in a bizarre accident that has baffled his employers, local media reported.

The 34-year old man, identified only as Martin T, suffocated after the load fell on him while he was dumping it in a field near the western Czech city of Karlovy Vary, news web site www.novinky.cz reported on Sunday.

"It absolutely beats me how this could happen," said Vladimir Erps, chief of the company em-

ploying the victim.

"The truck is operated from the tractor cabin, using hydraulics. There was nothing for him to do under the truck, but it's tough to blame him now that he is dead," the news site quoted him as saying.

Police are investigating the death as a work-related accident.

MNA/Reuters

## New chemical compound may provide end to cat allergies

WASHINGTON, 28 March— A new chemical compound, part-cat and part-human, may provide an end to misery-making cat allergies, US researchers reported on Sunday.

And they said their approach in creating the compound may work against more dangerous allergies, such as deadly peanut allergies.

The compound, tested in mice bred to be allergic to cats, virtually shut down the histamine reaction that causes the uncomfortable symptoms of cat allergies such as runny eyes, sneezing and itching, Dr. Andrew Saxon of the University of California Los Angeles School of Medicine and colleagues reported.

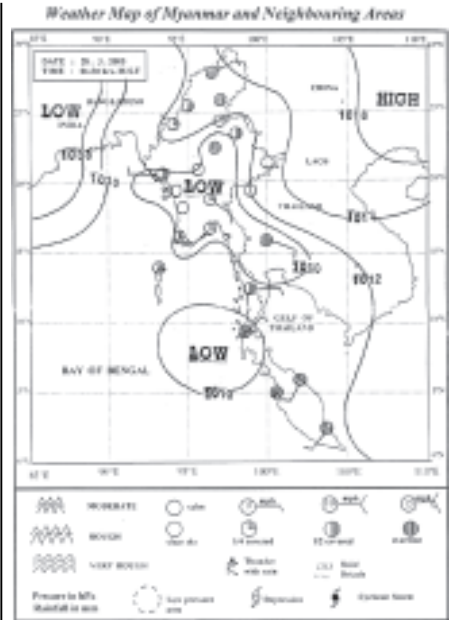
Writing in the April issue of *Nature Medicine*, they said their compound also worked in human cells grown in lab dishes.

"This novel approach to treating cat allergies is encouraging news for millions of cat-allergic Americans. Moreover, these results provide proof-of-concept for using this approach to develop therapies to prevent deadly food allergy reactions as well," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which paid for the study. Allergies are caused when the immune system mistakenly reacts

to allergens — pieces of protein found in food, on animals or produced by plants. One response is the production of histamine, which brings on allergy symptoms such as sneezing, wheezing, itching, watery eyes and sometimes asthma.

The compound stops this process. It uses pieces of an allergy-provoking protein found in cat saliva or dander called Fel d1, tied to a piece of human antibody called IgG Fcγ1. The UCLA team named it GFD, or gamma Feline domesticus.

The cat allergen part attaches to antibodies on the surface of the immune system cells that produce histamine, while the human bit stops the cell from getting started. "We measured more than 90 percent less histamine in the (human cell) cultures with GFD," Saxon said. "Those results suggested that GFD successfully prevented the immune cells from reacting to cat allergen.—MNA/Reuters



### WEATHER

Monday, 28 March, 2005

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (8°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division, (5°C) below normal in Kachin State, (3°C) below normal in Chin and northern Shan States, (3°C) above normal in Kayin State, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (40°C) each in Hmawbi, Minbu and Hpa-an.

Maximum temperature on 27-3-2005 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 28-3-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 28-3-2005 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 27-3-2005 was (10.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 28-3-2005 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 (8) mph from West at (19:45) hours MST on 27-3-2005.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 29-3-2005:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair 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:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-3-2005:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-3-2005:** Generally fair.



### Tuesday, 29 March Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: -Exposed to love
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: -Hungry heart
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: -Have you ever seen the rare?
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music: -Tell me how to make you smile
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music
- Where you are?
- Am I the only one
- Can you hear me
- How could I let you go
- 9.00 pm Talk: Tatmadaw upholding noble traditions
- 9.15 pm Article/music
- 9.25 pm Weekly sports reel
- 9.35 pm Music for your listening pleasure
- Careless whisper
- Anything for you
- Complicated heart
- Take me home
- 9.45 pm country road
- News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL

**Tuesday, 29 March**

**View on today:**

<p><b>7:00 am</b></p> <p>1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p><b>7:15 am</b></p> <p>2. တိပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မဘူတဂါရိဏာအဂ္ဂ မဟာပဏ္ဍိတာ တက္ကသိုလ်မှူးဘိဝံသ (ဓမ္မာဓာရတော်) ဓမ္မာကြားတော် မူဆင်သာ ဥပုသ်သန့်တော်</p> <p><b>7:25 am</b></p> <p>3. To be healthy exercise</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <p>4. Morning news</p> <p><b>7:40 am</b></p> <p>5. Nice and sweet song</p> <p><b>7:55 am</b></p> <p>6. တရားနိဗ္ဗာန်ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်</p> <p><b>8:05 am</b></p> <p>7. အတီးမြိုင်ပွဲ</p>	<p><b>8:15 am</b></p> <p>8. Song of yesteryears</p> <p><b>8:25 am</b></p> <p>9. လမ္ပာတံတား</p> <p><b>8:30 am</b></p> <p>10. International news</p> <p><b>8:45 am</b></p> <p>11. Let's Go</p> <p><b>4:00 pm</b></p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p><b>4:15 pm</b></p> <p>2. Songs to uphold National Spirit</p> <p><b>4:30 pm</b></p> <p>3. အဆောင်းတက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ချီးမြှင့်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (အထူးပြုအားလုံး) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)</p> <p><b>4:45 pm</b></p> <p>4. Dance of national races</p> <p><b>5:00 pm</b></p> <p>5. ခံစားနားဆင်စားစာတီဝင်</p> <p><b>5:15 pm</b></p> <p>6. Sing and Enjoy</p> <p><b>6:10 pm</b></p> <p>7. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းစာတီလမ်းတို့</p>
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**“ဆုတောင်းပွဲစဉ်” (အပိုင်း-၈၀)**

**6:30 pm**

8. Evening news

**7:00 pm**

9. Weather report

**7:05 pm**

10. ဆဌမအကြိမ်မြောက် နိုင်ငံတကာ သတင်းအချက်အလက်နည်းပညာအဖွဲ့ အစည်း ချင်းပညာပြပွဲ (၂၀၀၅)

**7:15 pm**

11. လိုင်းစစ်မှန်စောင့်ရှောက် လက်ထပ် ဝိုင်ဆိုင်ထားသူများသတိပြုရမည်

**7:30 pm**

12. ဘိုးဒါး၊ ဟင်းဆီး၊ ဟင်းရွက် စိုက်ပျိုးရေးအထူးစနစ်

**7:45 pm**

13. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံတိုက်ပြိုင်စား

**8:00 pm**

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတီလမ်းတို့ “ယောစာနိဗ္ဗာန်စာတီလမ်းတို့” (အပိုင်း-၄)

18. The next day's programme

Plenary session of National Convention continues



The plenary session of the National Convention in progress. — MNA

YANGON, 28 March — The plenary session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Delegate groups read out their proposal papers concerning the detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution.

Present at the plenary session were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Sec-

retary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen of subcommittees and officials, representatives of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin

League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization and independent representatives, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, (See page 7)

Sugar mill, winery, sauce factory commissioned into service in Shan State (South) Special Region 6

YANGON, 28 March — A sugar mill was commissioned into service in Taungche village in Nyaungshwe Township in Shan State (South) Special Region 6 on 26 March hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. Member of the

State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence unveiled the signboard of the mill built by Ruby Dragon Company .

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander

of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thauang, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Chairman of the Special Region 6 Agga Maha Thirithudhamma Manijota U Aung Kham

Hti and Chairman of the company U Nay Win Tun formally opened the mill.

The mill can crush 200 tons of sugarcane to produce 10 tons of sugar daily.

Accompanied by officials, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attended the opening of

Ruby Winery at Shwelaphone village in the township and unveiled the signboard. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister U Aung Thauang, Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, U Aung Kham Hti and U Nay Win Tun for-

mally opened the mill.

The winery can produce 500,000 bottles of standard wine annually. Up to 2004, the company had planted 50,000 vineyards against the target of 200,000. The winery will earn foreign exchange and create job opportunities.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party attended the ceremony to open a tomato sauce factory of Myanmar Inlay Foodstuff Company, a joint-venture of the Ruby Dragon Company and the Union Solidarity and Development Association, in Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi Township. The factory can produce 0.7 ton of sauce daily.

MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and U Aung Kham Hti unveils the signboard of the sugar mill built by Ruby Dragon Company. — MNA

Leading Committee for Observance of Armed Forces Day meets

YANGON, 28 March —The Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day held its work review meeting at the Yangon Command this evening, with an address by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win.

Also present were Chairman of Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Chairman of Parade Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Vice Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, the deputy ministers, senior military officers of

the Ministry of Defence, officials of Myanmar Police Force and departments, members of Management Committee and Work Committee, Parade Commander, column commanders, commanding officers, company commanders and guests.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said ceremonies including the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade were successfully held with full essence due to the cooperation of the leading committee, management committee, work committee, Tatmadaw members, MPF members and fire brigade and red cross brigade and participation of the people and wellwishers.

He called on those present at the meeting to review weak and strong points for Armed Forces Day to be observed.

Chairman of Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe reported on measures taken by the Management Committee.

Next, various work committees and officials of MPF, Fire Services Department, Myanmar Red Cross Society took part in the discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Lt-Gen Kyaw Win.

MNA