

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects progress of Htigyaing-Katha section of Sagaing-Katha-Myitkyina No 3 district-to-district road

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, inspected the Township Hospital in Htigyaing on 11 March morning.

Next, they viewed the physic nut nursery in Titaw Village on Htigyaing-Kyaunggon section of Sagaing-Katha-Myitkyina No 3 district-to-district road. Afterwards, he looked into nurturing of 6,000 physic nut saplings in Ward 5.

At the office of Htigyaing Township PDC, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met departmental person-



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects construction of Htigyaing-Katha road section. — MNA

nel and local people and heard reports on regional development by officials. Next, he said in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, No 3 district-to-district Sagaing - Katha - Myitkyina
(See page 8)

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects development tasks in Mongla

Personnel to organize local national races to take part in nation-building tasks of the government

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Shan State (East) PDC Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and officials, met Shan State (East) Special Region-4 national race leader U Sai Lin and party at Oriental Hotel in Mongla yesterday morning.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions on regional development, uplift of living standard of local people and cultivation of rubber on commercial scale. Next, he presented gifts to U Sai Lin and party.

They inspected Mongla Hospital (50-bed) and gave gifts to patients.

At Border Area Youth Technical School in Mongla, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on facts about the school and training courses by officials, and cordially greeted trainees at the workshop.

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of Ministry of Defence meeting with U Sai Lin of Shan State (East) Special Region (4) and local national races in Mongla. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 15 March, 2007

Road-and-bridge construction for regional development

The development of rural areas is interrelated with that of urban areas. With smooth transport, villages, townships and districts are enjoying cumulative development in the trade, economic and social sectors.

Now, the government is building more and more transportation facilities such as village-to-village, township-to-township and district-to-district roads along with bridges of various forms and sizes that serve as a basic foundation for regional development.

District-to-district road No 3 of Sagaing Division that is under construction consists of road sections in Wetlet, Shwebo, KhinU and Kanbalu Townships. The government has placed emphasis on construction of roads and bridges as district-to-district roads contribute much towards regional development.

The Meza Creek (Doebin Village) Bridge on district-to-district road No 3 in Htigyaing Township, Katha District, Sagaing Division, was put into service on 10 March. The 260-foot-long facility is of bailey type with steel beams.

That facility is an important part of the district-to-district road linking Shwebo District and Katha District. Thanks to the facility, local people in Doebin and Migyaungthaik Villages, and Chundaung, Nyaungbintha, Phette, Marathein, Tawma and Sinbyuseik village-tracts are enjoying the taste of smooth transport.

Today, the government is trying to complete a network of roads and bridges that covers the entire nation. As a result, local people are enjoying better transport and swift commodity flow, thus raising the economic and social development of the entire nation especially rural areas.

Two innocent villagers wounded by terrorist mine

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — A terrorist-planted mine blew off the right foot of a 40-year-old man from ankle on 10 March in Htantabin Township.

The mine victim, U Pu, son of U Thein, of Kyaukkyipauk Village, was hit by the mine while searching firewood together with Aung Moe, his 27-year-old cousin, in the forest near his village at about 2 pm.

U Pu was immediately sent to Htantabin Township People's Hospital. Later, he was transferred to Toungoo Township People's Hospital.

Another 20-year-old villager was wounded by terrorist-planted mine in Thandaung Township at about 8.30 am on 11 March while making a firebreak at two plantations. Saw El Htoo, son of U Saw Doe Wa, of Letmelay village in the township, was wounded in his left foot. He is being warded at Thandaunggyi People's Hospital.

Assistance is being provided to both victims.

Local authorities and people are striving to expose and crush terrorist insurgents who are committing various kinds of destructive acts to undermine stability of the State, community peace and the rule of law and to kill and frighten innocent people. — 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

Minister inspects construction of road, bridge

YANGON, 14 March — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun together with Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint inspected the construction tasks carried out along Lashio-Mehan-Mongrai-Kehsi road section on 12 March.

The minister inspected construction tasks of Namhpaung Bridge near Namhpaung Village, being built by Lashio District Public Works.

At the briefing hall of Namhpaung bridge construction site, the officials reported to the minister and party on the construction tasks of the bridge and future plans. Lashio District Senior Engineer U Thein Hsaing gave a supplementary report to the minister. Next the minister left instructions.

Afterwards, the minister inspected 120 feet long Namma Bridge at mile post 23/2 and gave instructions on maintenance of the bridge for its durability.

MNA

Minister for Health meets delegates to Country Coordination Body for Three Disease Fund

YANGON, 14 March — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint met delegates to the Country Coordination Body for Three Disease Fund at the Health Department on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon.

The minister said the government is undertaking control measures on three major diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS after laying down eradication projects. He urged the organizations concerned to cooperate with Three Disease Fund, UN agencies and international and local social organizations for successful implementation of the projects.

Chairman of Country Coordination Body for Three Disease Fund Mr Andrew Jacobs reported on contribution by the donors and implementation of the tasks.

Those present agreed to implement the project in accord with the national health plan on disease control laid down by the government. — MNA

Development tasks in Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Thongwa and Kayan inspected

YANGON, 14 March — Director-General U Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department inspected rural and urban development tasks in Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Thongwa and Kayan Townships yesterday.

The director-general viewed progress of Maggin Road built with laterite measuring 975 feet by 12 feet and repaved Banyadala Road measuring 300 feet by 12 feet in Thanlyin Township. He also inspected Kyaunggon-Seikkyi tarred road constructed by the Township Development Affairs Committee.

The director-general looked into the lake and the pump station in Kyauktan. Next, he in-



U Myo Myint of DAD inspects Maggin road constructed by Thanlyin Township DAC. — DAD

spected construction of roads.

In Thongwa, he viewed progress of water supply facilities for the urban area and Hmawwun Marlar Park.

In Kayan, the director-general and officials inspected the water supply facilities and repaving of Sanay Road measuring 300 feet by 16 feet. — MNA

2,064 jade lots sold through tender

YANGON, 14 March — The sale of jade at the 44th Myanmar Gems Emporium for 2007 continued for the second day today at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township this morning.

The remaining Jade lots were sold through tender from 4 pm to 9.15 pm yesterday and 406 lots of which were purchased by merchants.

Number of jade lots sold yesterday totalled 1,066. The remaining jade lots were sold through tender system from 9 am to 4 pm yesterday and 998 jade lots were sold at the emporium. The sale of jade lots continued in the evening.

A total of 3,386 merchants—2,043 from 13 foreign countries and 1,343 at home—attended the emporium.

The remaining Jade lots will be sold at the emporium for the third day tomorrow. — MNA



Local and foreign gem merchants observe jade lots at Myanmar Convention Centre. — MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

British government member quits in nuclear arms protest

LONDON, 13 March— A member of the government resigned on Monday in protest against plans to renew Britain's nuclear arsenal and Prime Minister Tony Blair fought to quell a growing rebellion in his party over the issue.

"I am confirming that I have resigned from the government with a heavy heart but a clear conscience," Nigel Griffiths, deputy leader of the Lower House of Parliament, told BBC News 24 television after handing in his

resignation letter.

Several ministerial aides may join Griffiths in quitting over plans to replace Britain's Trident nuclear-armed submarines with a new system costing up to 20 billion pounds (39 billion US dollars), according to British newspapers.

Parliament is set to vote on the plan on Wednesday and the rebellion in the ruling Labour Party is such that Blair will have to rely on support from the opposition Conservatives

to push through the proposal.

Blair, due to step down in a few months after a decade in office, firmly asserts the need for Britain to retain nuclear weapons, arguing that new threats from Iran, North Korea or nuclear terrorists make it dangerous to abandon the deterrent. But a deep hostility to nuclear weapons runs through the Labour Party, which espoused unilateral nuclear disarmament until the late 1980s.—MNA/Reuters

Police say BBC correspondent kidnapped in Gaza

GAZA, 13 March—A BBC correspondent was kidnapped in the Gaza Strip on Monday by unknown assailants, Palestinian security officials said.

Police identified the journalist as Alan Johnston, who has been the BBC's correspondent in Gaza for three years. Officials said his rental car was found abandoned in Gaza City and that a search was under way for the British national.

Rushdi Abualouf, a senior BBC producer in Gaza, said no other staff were with Johnston when he was driving home from the BBC office in the coastal strip. "We lost contact with him at 1530 (1330 GMT) and we have a reason to believe he was kidnapped," Abualouf told Reuters.

"We have no information about the

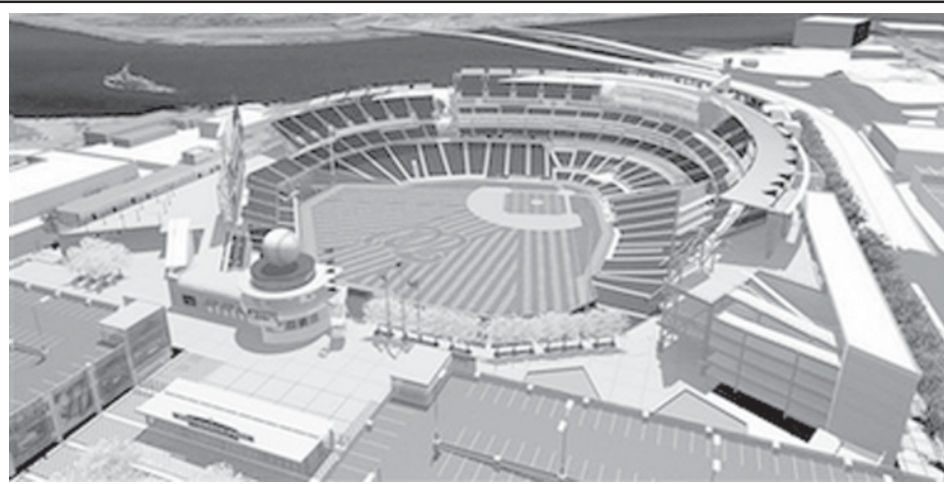
conditions of his captivity and we received no claim of responsibility by any group and we do not know the motives."

Johnston is believed to be the only Western journalist still based full time in the Gaza Strip. Most other journalists moved out of the impoverished territory last

year as fighting between rival Hamas and Fatah factions intensified.

"(We) are concerned for his safety," the BBC said earlier in a statement.

"We're trying to gather as much information as possible. Alan is a highly experienced and respected reporter," the statement added.—MNA/Reuters



This artist rendering provided by the Washington Nationals, shows an aerial view of the Nationals ballpark now being built in Washington, with Cherry Blossom trees beyond the outfield fences. —INTERNET

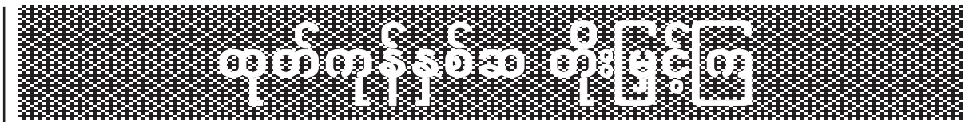
Beijing considers ban on smoking in Olympic venues

BEIJING, 13 March— Beijing is considering a ban on smoking in venues for Olympic Games, said the city's Vice-Mayor Liu Jingmin, in a response to a political adviser's concern about unbridled smoking behaviour in public places.

"The Beijing

Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) is discussing with the Health Ministry to set aside special smoking areas in the game venues so as to ensure most part of these venues free of tobacco smog," Liu said. Zi Huajun, a member

of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said in a proposal that some Beijing residents smoke wantonly, regardless of where they are or what occasion they are facing.—MNA/Xinhua



In Zhengzhou, Henan Province, it's fashionable to send one's friends a newspaper published on the day he/she was born as a birthday present. It takes at least 200 yuan (25.8 US dollars) to buy such a present, but most citizens believe it is worth the price.

INTERNET

TB is the No 1 killer infectious disease

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 March— Tuberculosis is the nation's number one killer among infectious diseases, with an estimated 16,000 new cases a year.

Despite the government's efforts, Malaysia is now listed at the "intermediate" level by the World Health Organization.

The country has an incidence rate of 25 to 100 cases per 100,000 population.

Last year alone, 16,665 new cases were registered out of which more than 60 per cent, or 10,274 cases, were infectious. Since 2000, the number of Malaysians infected with TB has been steadily rising, with more than 900 deaths reported annually.

Dr Pieter van Maaren, regional

adviser for the Stop TB programme at the WHO's regional office for Western Pacific, said countries in the Western Pacific region, including Malaysia, had made good progress in the fight against TB. But, the battle was far from over.

"As a region, we have achieved the global targets set for 2005. We now face the challenge of making an even greater impact on the TB burden by meeting the regional targets for 2010," he said.

Representatives of health ministries from eight countries and TB experts are attending a three-day meeting, which ends today, in Kuching to review the progress made by individual countries as well as the region as a whole.

Internet

Canadian soldier charged for shooting comrade dead

OTTAWA, 13 March— A Canadian soldier has been charged Monday for shooting a comrade dead in Afghanistan last August, the Canadian Forces National Investigation Service (CFNIS) announced Monday.

CFNIS on Monday charged Master Robbie Fraser of the 2nd Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Shilo, Manitoba, with one count of manslaughter and one count of negligent performance of duty, the agency said in a release.

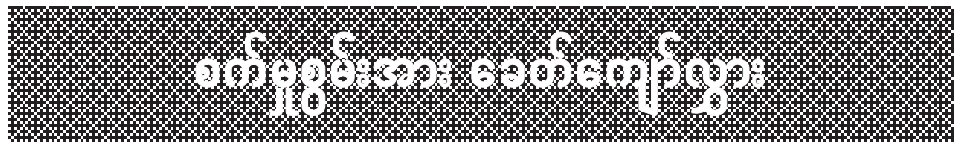
Fraser was alleged to be responsible for the death of Master Jeffrey Scott Walsh, also from the Shilo battalion, who was shot during a routine patrol outside Kandahar on 9 August, 2006. —MNA/Xinhua

An elephant paints a picture at Mae Sa elephant camp to mark Thailand's National Elephant Day in Chiang Mai Province, about 700 km (435 miles) north of Bangkok on 13 March, 2007. — XINHUA





Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (R) meets Iraqi Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi in Teheran on 12 March, 2007. —INTERNET



High-ranking Kosovo officials arrested for graft

PRISTINA (Serbia), 13 March — Police in Serbia’s breakaway Kosovo Province arrested two men for money laundering on Monday, with local media saying charges related to fundraising for former prime minister Ramush

Haradinaj, now on trial for war crimes.

Police did not officially identify the men, saying only that two suspects were arrested and their houses and offices were being searched by police, including those from the United Nations which administers the province.

A police source told *Reuters* the men were ethnic Albanians, an adviser to current Kosovo Prime Minister Agim Ceku and the director of a local bank.

Haradinaj, a former commander in the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army, is on trial at the UN tribunal in The Hague for murder, rape and torture alleged to have been committed by soldiers under his command in the war against Serbian forces in 1998-99.

The fund for his defence collects money through a telephone hotline and is said to total over 7.5 million euros (10 million US dollars) so far.

MNA/Reuters

Passengers elated after landing safely



An All Nippon Airways (ANA) passenger plane with 60 people on board sits on the ground after an emergency landing, sliding along the runway on its nose after its front wheels failed to open at Kochi airport on the southern Japanese island of Shikoku. Japan on Tuesday ordered its airlines to inspect all Bombardier DHC-8 aircraft after a passenger jet screeched down the runway on its nose in a dramatic emergency landing. —INTERNET

TOKYO, 14 March—Passengers aboard All Nippon Airways Flight 1603 burst into applause after the troubled *Bombardier DHC8-Q400* aircraft managed to land safely at Kochi Airport on Tuesday despite the front landing gear not being deployed.

While circling the airport for two hours trying to get the landing gear to work, the decision was made to attempt a landing to avoid potential disaster.

Fire engines flanked the runway, ready to tackle a potential inferno.

Passengers and airport personnel had feared the aircraft would break up on landing, and were relieved when the ordeal ended safely.

One of the passengers even kept a timeline of the incident on a business card.

Flight attendants told passengers: “Please cross your arms and rest your head against the seat in front of you. Keep your feet steady on the floor. Remove your ties.”

Internet

Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway construction to start this year

BEIJING, 13 March — Construction of the high-speed railway between Beijing and Shanghai, currently awaiting green light from the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), will start this year, a Chinese lawmaker said here Monday.

“The NDRC is reviewing the feasibility report of the project... It will get approved sooner or later this year,” Lang Guoping, deputy head of the preparation team with the Beijing-Shanghai passenger line company, said on the sidelines of the fifth session of the National People’s Congress (NPC).

Once completed, trains on the express railway will reach speeds exceeding 350 kilometres per hour, shortening the nine-hour trip to five hours.

Lang, an NPC deputy, said the railway is designed to serve 100 years and the construction “has no technological problems”. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Germany’s Schroeder slams US missile shield plans

DRESDEN, 13 March — US plans to build a high-tech missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic are dangerous and absurd, former German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said on Sunday.

“The missile defence

system planned by the United States and which is to be installed in eastern Europe is politically extremely dangerous,” Schroeder said in a speech in Dresden.

“It is viewed, rightly, in Russia, and not only

there, as an attempt to establish an absurd encirclement policy, a policy which is everything but in the interest of Europe,” he said.

The United States wants to set up a radar system in the Czech

Republic and a missile battery in Poland as part of a shield that would counter missiles fired by what Washington calls “rogue states” such as Iran and North Korea.

Moscow sees the system as an encroachment on its former sphere of influence and an attempt to shift the post-Cold War balance of power. Germany has criticized the project’s planners for failing to discuss it sufficiently with Russia. — *MNA/Reuters*



Tigers at the Siberian Tiger Park in the northern Chinese city of Harbin. Groups monitoring trade in endangered species on Tuesday urged China to resist pressures to ease its ban on commerce in tiger parts, saying its tough restrictions had helped the great feline to survive. — INTERNET

Nail artist Nangaji Bhati, 45, uses his four-inch long nail to paint on a canvas during a painting exhibition in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad on 12 March, 2007.

INTERNET



Myanmar Government exerting all-out efforts to promote fundamental human rights, the right to development, of the entire national people

Security of life and property

- * Armed conflicts were common in border areas of Myanmar in 1988-90.
- * Local national races fell into the miserable hardships due to fighting of light infantry division level battles with supporting fires from air and artillery forces.
- * Peace negotiations were conducted for establishment of peace regions without fighting.
- * Peace and stability and prevalence of law and order were restored in the inner regions.
- * A total of 17 national race armed groups and small groups which had been holding weapons in the times of successive government made peace with the government.
- * There are 100,000 members of the peace groups who are joining hands with the government in development tasks.
- * The border areas and national races development plan was laid down and is being implemented in the peace regions to gain development infrastructures.
- * The government has spent K 97,699 million on development of border areas and national races.
- * The Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was established to undertake rural development tasks.
- * In addition, the plan on eradication of drug cultivation and production is being implemented.
- * In the military operations for drug eradication from 1988 to 1998, a total of 259 Tatmadawmen sacrificed their lives for the country and 937 were wounded.
- * As Myanmar had laid down and is implementing the 15-year drugs eradication plan since 1991, remarkable decline of poppy production can be witnessed.
- * Myanmar has been spending K 33,588.14 million and US\$ 150 million on implementation of the plan.
- * Shan State (East) Special Region-4 Mongla, Shan State (North) Special Region-1 Kokang and Shan State (North) Special Region-2 Wa region were declared as poppy free zones.
- * According to the conducting of poppy cultivation survey for 10 times together with the US, the government could declare officially that cultivation of poppy declined 80 per cent and production of opium 89 per cent during the period from 1993 to 2004.
- * Furthermore, the government officially stated that cultivation of poppy declined 59 per cent and production of opium 61 per cent during the period from 2002 to 2005 in accordance with the conducting of poppy survey together with UNODC.
- * Production of stimulant tablets manufactured by international narcotic drug gangs and insurgents could be exposed and culprits arrested.
- * Seized narcotic drugs were incinerated for 39 times from 1988 to 2006.
- * The government safeguards lives and property of the local people in almost all the border areas by wiping out drug trafficking market and smuggling of weapons.

Food sufficiency and surplus

- * A total of 653 million baskets of paddy yielded in 1988. At that time, there were about 42 million of population.
- * As population is rising 2.2 per cent annually, the government is making efforts for development of the agricultural sector for increasing population.
- * About 200 new dams, 300 river water pumping projects and about 1,000 small-scale dams were built in the nation.
- * The net sown acreage increased up to 29.3 million acres from 19.9 million acres. A total of 19 per cent

of them was the irrigated acreage.

- * Although there were 23.8 million acres of sown acreage in the past, the number of sown acreage increased to 46.9 million acres at present.
- * There were 119.6 per cent of crop cultivation capacity in 1988. At present, the cultivation capacity rose to 157.3 per cent.
- * As a result, 1,360 million baskets of paddy yielded in 2005-06. Likewise, production of other crops increased.
- * So far, 40,429 villages of 52,000 have been supplied with portable water in the entire nation.
- * A total of 70 per cent of population are living in the rural regions, and they are doing agriculture as the main business.
- * The government is giving encouragement for the increase of net sown acreage and supply of water for the agricultural purpose. As a result, Myanmar is will be able to stand atop at the table of rice exporter countries in coming four or five years.

Achieving more job opportunities

- * New factories and workshops have been extended for development of industrial sector based on agriculture one.
- * The government is giving encouragement to the private sector by setting up 18 industrial zones.
- * There are, over 42,000 industries including 6,610 factories and workshops in the nation.
- * Due to increasing job opportunities, there are over 34.7 million employees in the country. It was twice the number of that of 1988.
- * The country has over 22.3 million of agricultural workers, 4.8 million of industrial workers and 7.5 million of service workers.
- * The job opportunities rose two times in agricultural sector, 2 and a half times in industrial sector and two times in service sector.
- * Arrangements are being made for overseas employment.
- * As special economic zones will be set up soon, everybody can imagine the emergence of an industrialized country with good prospects.

Rising power consumption

- * The government is supplying more electricity to demand of power consumption for uplift of living standard of the people and development of the industrial sector.
- * The people consumed 678 megawatt in 1988. At present, 1,726 megawatt is being generated for power supply.
- * In the process of rural development tasks, 2,493 villages enjoy fruits of power supply tasks through various methods.
- * Completion of 20 hydel power projects under implementation, people of the whole nation will have the opportunity to consume 5,863 megawatt.

Increase of education opportunities

- * The government is upgrading education sector with the aim of ensuring uplift of education standards of the entire nation.
- * Arrangements are being made for equitable development of education sector in the entire nation including rural and border areas.
- * The number of BEPS increased up to 35,893 schools from 31,329 in 1988.
- * There were 1,696 BEMSs in 1988, and at present, over 2,600 BEMSs have so far been opened.
- * BEHS number rose up to 2,045 from 722 in 1988.
- * Furthermore, BEMS branches and BEHS branches were also opened.
- * A total of 41,816 basic education schools have been

opened in the entire nation. Hence, five villages get three schools. Likewise, there is a school at 1.5 miles distance.

- * There were 32 universities and colleges in the entire nation in 1988. Majority of education institutions were in Yangon and Mandalay where the limited number of students only could attend.
- * Nowadays, over 160 universities and colleges can be seen in the whole nation.
- * One arts and science university, one technological university and one computer university each have been set up in 24 special development regions of States and Divisions.
- * The number of students at higher education sector increased up to 428,000 from 36,000 in 1988.
- * The number of graduate also rose up to 1.22 million from 458,000 in the past.
- * Unprecedented development of technological skills and services of Myanmar human resources can be seen within coming four or five years, and they will take part in the building of the modern and developed nation with concerted efforts.

Health and fitness of the entire nation

- * Public health care services are being undertaken nationwide for longevity of the people.
- * In 1988 there were 631 hospitals and now there are 832 hospitals.
- * There were 67 specialist hospitals and now there are 94.
- * At least one 200-bed hospital was opened in 24 special regions. Hospitals, dispensaries and rural health care centers were opened.
- * Leprosy, a public health problem, has been eradicated.
- * Myanmar became a polio-free nation.
- * Risk prevention against avian flu is being carried out.
- * Myanmar is now in the position to be iodine deficiency-free nation.
- * Control of three major diseases—AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is being undertaken in cooperation with local and external organizations.
- * Drugs eradication programmes are being carried.
- * Life expectancy of the people has increased.

Freedom of religion

- * There is freedom of religion in Myanmar.
- * There are 2,873,945 Christian faiths. There are 6,318 churches and there is a church for every 455.
- * There are 191,933 Islamic faiths. There are 2,751 mosques and there is a mosque for every 698.
- * There are 365,410 Hindus. There are 787 Hindu temples and there is a temple for every 464.
- * There are 46,623,541 Buddhists. There are 63,297 monasteries and there is one monastery for 737.

Social welfare services

- * Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was formed for development of Myanmar women. Seven objectives were laid down and are being implemented.
- * MAAF and the ministries concerned are launching anti-human trafficking programmes.
- * A committee to prevent recruitment of minors was formed and tasks are being carried out under the procedures.
- * Maternal and Child Welfare Association was formed nationwide for the care of mother and children.
- * Social organizations and wellwishers are providing material and mental assistance to prisoners.
- * The government is serving the national interest fairly in every sector.

MNA

Report details rights violations in US United States has a flagrant record of violating the Geneva Convention in systematically abusing prisoners during the Iraqi War and the War in Afghanistan Even in the United States, people's life, property and personal security are not duly protected

US' mode of democracy is in essence one in which money talks

YANGON, 14 March— China issued on 8-3-2007 (Thursday) the Human Rights Record of the United States in 2006 in response to the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006 issued by the US Department of State on 6-3-2007.

Released by the Information Office of China's State Council, the Chinese report lists a multitude of cases to show the human rights situation in the United States and its violation of human rights in other countries.

"As in previous years, the State Department pointed the finger at human rights conditions in more than 190 countries and regions, including China, but avoided touching on the human rights situation in the United States," the document says.

By publishing the Human Rights Record of the United States in 2006, the document says it aims to "help people have a better understanding of the situation in the United States and promote the international cause of human rights".

Relying on its strong military power, the United States has trespassed on the sovereignty of other countries and violated human rights in other countries, the document says.

A survey of Bloomberg School of Public Health under John Hopkins University estimated that more than 555,000 Iraqis have died in Iraq since war started in March 2003, which means about 500 unexpected violent deaths per day throughout the country, The Washington Post reported on October 11, 2006.

On November 19, 2005, a US marine unit searched an Iraqi community door-to-door and slaughtered 24 Iraqi civilians after a marine was killed by a roadside bomb in Haditha.

Those who were killed included a 76-year-old disabled man, a three-year-old child, and seven women, according to the BBC News on November 19, 2006.

The document says the United States has a flagrant record of violating the Geneva Convention in systematically abusing prisoners during the Iraqi War and the War in Afghanistan.

On February 15, 2006, Australia's SAS TV aired more than 10 pictures and video clips taken at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison. The images included a man with throat cut off, left forearm of a man with burns and shrapnel wounds, a blood-stained interrogation room, and a seemingly insane man covered with his own feces.

Even in the United States, people's life, property and personal security are not duly protected, the document says. The document quotes a report by the US Justice Department on September 10, 2006 as saying that there were 5.2 million violent crimes in the United States in 2005, up 2.5 per cent from the previous year, the highest rate in 15 years.

Statistics released by the department in 2006 showed that in 2005 American residents age 12 or above experienced 23 million crimes; for every 1,000 persons age 12 or older, there occurred one rape or sexual assault, one assault with injury, and three robberies.

In the United States, human rights violations committed by law enforcement and judicial departments

are also common.

Following the September 11 attacks in 2001, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other government agencies have referred 6,472 individuals to prosecutors on terrorism-related charges.

The Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University says nearly three-quarters of terrorism suspects seized by the United States in the five years following the September 11 attacks have not even made it to trial due to lack of evidence.

In 64 percent of the cases, federal prosecutors decided that they were not worth prosecuting, while an additional nine percent were either dismissed by judges or the individuals were found not guilty, according to a report by the AFP on September 4, 2006.

In recent years, American citizens have suffered increasing civil rights infringements, as the US government has put average Americans under intense surveillance as part of terrorism investigations since the September 11 attacks.

According to a survey released in December 2006, two-thirds of Americans believe that the FBI and other federal agencies are intruding on their privacy rights, according to a Washington Post report on December 13, 2006.

The Chinese document also criticizes America's self-touted democracy in election, saying that the country's mode of democracy is in essence one in which money talks.

In 2004, candidates for the House of Representatives who raised less than one million US dollars had almost no chance of winning, the USA TODAY quoted a spokesman for the Center for Responsive Politics as saying in a report on October 29, 2006.

The average successful Senate campaign cost 7 million dollars, the USA TODAY says. In 2006, all state campaigns in the United States were predicted to cost about 2.4 billion dollars.

Seventy-four percent of respondents to a New Opinion Research poll say the US Congress is generally out of touch with average Americans, as CNN reported on October 18, 2006, and 79 percent of the surveyed say they feel big business does have too much influence over the administration's decisions.

The Chinese document also slams the United States for its lack of proper guarantee for people's economic, social and cultural rights.

A report released by the US Census Bureau on August 29, 2006 says there were 37 million people living in poverty in 2005, accounting for 12.6 percent of total US population. The report also says there were 7.7 million families in poverty and one out of eight Americans was living in poverty in 2005.

"The ethnic minorities are at the bottom of American society," the Chinese report says.

Statistics released by the US Census Bureau in November 2006 indicated that according to the 2005 data, the average yearly household income was 50,622 US dollars for whites, compared with 36,278 for Hispanics and 30,940 for blacks. White people's income was 64 percent more than the blacks and 40 percent more than the Hispanics.

Racial discrimination is also deep-rooted in America's law enforcement and judicial systems.

According to statistics of the National Urban League, of the sentences issued in 12 crime categories in the State Courts, sentences for black males were longer than white males in all of them.

The human rights situation of women, children, the elderly and the disabled in the United States is also worrisome, says the Chinese report.

American women and men are not equally paid for the same work, and the income of women has always been lower than that of men.

Statistics released by the US Census Bureau in 2006 says the median earnings of women and men were about 32,000 and 42,000 US dollars, respectively. The female-to-male earnings ratio was 76 percent.

According to figures released by the US Census Bureau in August 2006, 12.9 million children under 18 lived below the poverty line by the end of 2005, accounting for 17.6 percent of the population of this age group and 35.2 percent of the 37 million people in poverty in the United States.

Other statistics released by US Census Bureau in 2006 showed that the number for seniors aged above 65 in poverty increased from 3.5 million in 2004 to 3.6 million in 2005, with the poverty rate reaching 10.1 percent.

A survey conducted in Los Angeles County showed that 49 percent of the 88,345 homeless people in the county had a physical or mental disability, The New York Times reported on January 15, 2006.

The Chinese document says America's international image has been greatly hurt by its government's violation of human rights flaunting the banner of "safeguarding human rights". A poll by the BBC World Service released on January 23, 2007 showed that some 73 percent of the 26,381 people questioned in 25 countries disapproved of the US government's handling of the military campaign in Iraq, with 49 percent of respondents saying Washington was playing a mainly negative role internationally.

Though the poll did not directly address their reasons, the AFP quoted experts as saying that the negative views appeared to be driven by US intervention in the Middle East and the "disconnect" between its declared values and actions, such as in Guantanamo Bay.

The document says "to name and shame" other countries in annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices is a strategy of the US government to wage the Cold War in the second half of the last century and typical of the Cold War mentality.

"The United States has lorded it over other countries by condemning other countries' human rights practices while ignoring its own problems, which exposes its double standard and hegemonism on the human rights issue."

"We urge the US government to acknowledge its own human rights problems and stop interfering in other countries' internal affairs under the pretext of human rights," the document says. This is the eighth consecutive year that China has issued human rights record of the United States in answer to the US State Department annual report.

MNA/Xinhua

US trying to use multilateral tools including Human Rights...

(from page 16)

The government gave true clarifications to the public regarding the false accusations of the US. Local and foreign journalists were briefed at the press conference and were conducted round the trips. News, photos and articles were reported in the papers and telecast.

Accusations on violation of human rights by the US administration were based on data sent by anti-government organizations and remnant armed groups. The people, NGOs, friendly nations and neighbouring nations have realized that the accusations are false.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar totally rejected the biased assessment on the human rights situation in Myanmar contained in the US Department of State's 2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices on 9-3-2007.

At a press conference on 6 March, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Mr Barry Lowenkron said he would try to form an investigation team after holding a special meeting at the Human Rights Council in April. He made it clear the objective of the US. The statement was aimed at putting more pressure on Myanmar, he said.

According to the procedures of the Human Rights Council, a special meeting could be held if there were severe violations of human rights. Anyway, it was found that Myanmar issue is not a matter of holding a special meeting.

The attempt of the US was not for promotion of human rights but for putting political pressure on Myanmar. The intention of the US was obvious when Mr Barry Lowenkron replied to a question by a journalist.

A correspondent said that he learnt the US was holding

an informal meeting to sponsor a special meeting in the United Nations Security Council in April as regards the Myanmar situation for forming an inquiry commission. He asked if Mr Barry Lowenkron thought it would be possible as the US attempt to adopt a resolution on the Myanmar affairs in the UNSC had been defeated.

Mr Barry Lowenkron said that last year the US Secretary of State said that doing like that would not work, and he wanted to apply all-round means to ensure fundamental changes in Myanmar and the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, have her demands fulfilled, and hold a dialogue; that consequently the Myanmar issue was submitted to the UNSC; and that the attempt was abortive due to the double veto of the Russian Federation and China; and that it would again apply various ways and means including putting pressure on Myanmar.

So, it is apparent that the US is attempting to use the Security Council and the Human Rights Council to ensure a dialogue to fulfil the wishes of the NLD and its cohorts in order that it can install a puppet government in Myanmar.

It is undeniable that since its assumption of State duties, the Tatmadaw Government has been making efforts with might and main for ensuring the development rights of the entire national people. To achieve that goal, the government is striving for all-round development of the entire nation including border areas, the majority of whose populations are national races. Now, the entire people are enjoying the taste of better living standard and good foundations in the social and economic sectors.

Myanmar expressed its support for the establishment of Human Rights Council as a department of the UN General Assembly. It expected that the council would

guarantee globalization, objective assessment and being free from unilateral acts in approaching human rights violations along with practice of double standard policy and use of political means in other affairs.

Myanmar firmly believed that the international community would be able to implement the objectives of the council through objective and reliable news and assessments.

Nonetheless, the declaration of the US government that it will use the Human Rights Council to put pressure on Myanmar has harmed the expectations and efforts to ensure fundamental rights of the nations including Myanmar.

The good objectives of the Human Rights Commission deviated from their trend due to the exercise of double standard policy and unilateral acts of certain countries. The Human Rights Commission was dissolved and the Human Rights Council was formed with 47 member countries. Myanmar people on the side of justice do not need to be worried about the issue because of the fact that the attempt of the US ignoring the achievements resulting from the harmonious endeavours of the government and the people, to put Myanmar affairs on the Human Rights Council through slanderous accusations is incorrect and unjust.

The government is making the nation's prevailing situations known more to the members of the Human Rights Council and Non-Aligned Movement that want justice through diplomatic means. So, with the access to Myanmar's prevailing situations, these member countries are understanding all the more the fact that the US is resorting to various means to put unjust pressure on Myanmar.

MNA

Noisy demonstration staged by Htin Kyaw (a) Kyaw Htin, some...

(from page 16)

dispersed at the corner of 32nd and Maha Bandoola streets in Kyauktada Township at 3.55 pm when the police of Yangon City Development Committee tried to stop them.

The act of the 18 persons including Htin Kyaw (a) Kyaw Htin who caused public alarm and disturbance, formed a body against the existing laws with the intention of opposing the government, took part in an illegal demonstration, and staged an unruly procession. Such act amount to creating a melee. Moreover, their act of holding placards and shouting slogans to agitate the public also amount to disgracing the government and inspiring the people to hate and disrespect the government. Hence, authorities called in Htin Kyaw (a) Kyaw Htin and other 15 persons for questioning.

Htin Kyaw (a) Kyaw Htin used to be a ward/village committee chairman of NLD in North Okkalapa Township. He in collusion with the late NLD researcher Maung Maung Nyo formed the so-called MDC with 12 members to stir up the public alarm under the pretext of rising commodity prices. Then, they staged an illegal demonstration in Yangon.

Daw San San Myint, a former executive of the abolished Democracy and Peace Party, provided K 30,000 to make placards. She participated in the illegal demonstration together with her daughter Kyu Kyu Hsan.

NLD members Ohn Than, Myo Oo, Hla Thein, Hla Aye Myint and Myint Shwe and former members of the abolished Democracy and Peace Party Aye Kyi, Win Aung and Daw May Win also were the participants of the illegal demonstration.

The two demonstrators, Ohn Than and Tun Tun, faced legal punishment as they had participated in the former instigative demonstrations that occurred in some places of Yangon. Tun Tun, who received treatment in a psychiatric hospital, has connections with U Nyunt Hlaing, NLD representative-elect of Aunglan Township constituency-1. He met with U Nyunt Hlaing at his home on the day the said demonstration took place. He participated in the demonstration after receiving information about the public agitation plot from U Nyunt Hlaing.

The illegal demonstrators including Ohn Than, Tun

Tun, Daw San San Myint, Daw May Win and Kyu Kyu Hsan took part together in the so-called prayers sponsored and organized by the so-called '88' generation students group. After the demonstrators were called in for necessary questioning, authorities explained that they could face up to five years imprisonment for forming an illegal organization, as they had violated the law concerning the formation of organizations; that they could face two years imprisonment and a fine in accord with section 147 of the Law for trying to create a melee in a crowded place; that if action would be taken against them under section 124 (a) of the Law they could be punishable by life imprisonment and a fine as their act amounted to publicly disgracing the government and making the people to hate and disrespect the government; and that they could face imprisonment and fine for breaching the Yangon Police Act. The demonstrators signed the document pledging that they would never take part in or stage any similar demonstration again.

While the demonstration was taking place, the so-called '88' generation students group sponsored a talk at the American Centre. The MCs were Daw Kyi Kyi Tha of Information Department of the US Embassy and Pandeik Tun of the so-called '88' generation students group. Instructor Ms Kim of American Centre gave the introductory speech.

The talk was attended by Khun Myint Tun, NLD representative-elect of Thaton Township constituency-1, about 55 NLD members and about 20 of the so-called '88' generation students group.

Comedian Zagana in his instigative talk said that political opposition should be staged to the level of relating it with unrest and violence. Some participants also joined in the talks. Zakana even said that he saw the authorities arresting the demonstrators while on his way to the talk. At the end of the talk, Daw Kyi Kyi Tha told the participants that they should tell inquirers (if they were called in for questioning) that the talk was just on Zoology.

But the people who are constantly watching the said events have their own view.

The agitative demonstration participated by some NLD members was timed to coincide with the agitative talk sponsored by NLD members and members of the so-called '88' generation students group at American Centre. It is

obvious that the coincidence is insincere.

Some ordinary people noticed that some NLD members, some members of the so-called '88' generation students group and Naw Ohn Hla and party were watching the instigative demonstration staged by Htin Kyaw (a) Kyaw Htin and group. The so-called '88' generation students group issued a letter demanding the release of nine persons including Htin Kyaw (a) Kyaw Htin on 26-2-2007 while the latter were being questioned by authorities.

A public opinion also shows that the demonstrators and the participants of the talk were realizing their plot to collectively stage the demonstration and the talk at two different places in Yangon with the intention of creating an unrest.

The government issued Order No (2/88) on 18-9-1988 in order to ensure that there was no harm in the rule of law, community peace and tranquillity and public transport due to the illegal and destructive acts of agitators.

The Order clearly stated that there must not be any assembly of five or more than five on the road, walking along, in procession, giving talks, shouting aloud or inciting unrest with the intention of inciting violence or committing a crime. Those who want to incite public unrest should know the fact that nowadays, the government is building sound infrastructures in order to shape a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In other words, now is the transitional period when the country is in the process of being built a democratic one.

Even in existing democratic nations, those who want to speak out against their governments have to follow some obligations such as submitting the reason and purpose of protest, number of protesters, the place and time of demonstration and assuring no instigation to authorities concerned. Only when they get permission, can they hold demonstrations. A demonstration held on 22-2-2007 and an agitative talk given at the US Centre were indeed under the pretext of democracy to incite public violence.

All in all, if a democracy is to flourish in the country, undisciplined and illegal acts should be avoided. There has been a widespread public comment that it is important to commit no destructive acts under democracy pretext and that the people desirous of democracy will guard against destructive elements. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects progress of...

(from page 1)

road is being constructed along with Ayeyawady River. The road will contribute to better transport of the region and uplift of living standard of the local people. Hence, departmental personnel are to emphasize on regional development tasks.

At mile post 161/3 on the road, they viewed thriving crops plantation near Ayeyawady River. In Zigon

Village of Kyaukhmaw Village-tract, they presented exercise books to students and sports gear to local youth.

At Mehin Model Village of Katha Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged local people to maintain the district-to-district road for its durability. While in Katha Township, he presented exercise books for students through officials.

On Htigyaing-Katha

section of the district-to-district road, they viewed the junction, thriving seasonal crop and sugarcane plantations. Htigyaing-Katha section is 36.3 miles long. In the past, local people use 63-mile Htigyaing-Kyaunggon-Naba-Katha road. The new road will be 26.5 miles shorter than the old road. Furthermore, the new road will contribute to better transport and flow of commodity for 36 villages. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects...

(from page 1)

The Technical School was opened on 8 July 2006. Subjects on basic structure, the electrical and welding and mechanical were conducted to 34 trainees in the course No 1 from 19 June to 1 December 2006. At present 41 trainees are attending the course No 2 that commenced on 5 March. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party went to the Rubber Factory in Mongla and viewed production process of the factory.

At the office of Shan State (East) Special Region-4 in Mongla, Lt-

Gen Kyaw Win met with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people. He said that people faced various transport difficulties on their journey to Mongla in the past. At present, anyone can go to Mongla from Kengtung within two hours only due to better transport. Hence, departmental personnel and local people are to make concerted efforts for development of the region. And, departmental personnel are to organize the local national races to take part in nation-building tasks of the

government.

Afterwards, they posed for documentary photo at 218-mile Tarlawt Gate of Myanmar border.

While in Mongla, they paid homage to Dwe Nagara Shwe Pagoda and donated cash to the fund of the pagoda.

They viewed thriving rubber plantations of Shan State Special Region-4 from the platform of the pagoda. Next, they also viewed thriving seasonal and perennial crops along Kengtung-Mongla Road, and spent the night in Kengtung. — MNA

MMCWA donates cash and medicines to mothers



President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win donates medicine and cash assistance to a pregnant woman.— MCWA

YANGON, 14 March — President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win and Secretary Daw Wai Wai Tha met with members of the Delivery Rooms Supervisory Committee at Township MCWA Office in Tatkon on 7 March morning.

Next, they presented cash assistance and gifts to mothers who have given birth. At Kyaukse Town-

ship MCWA Office, they met with delivery rooms supervisory committee members and executives. President Daw Khin Khin Win explained tasks of the association and delivery rooms. Next, she presented equipment of fly-proof latrines, MCWA uniforms and cash donation to the chairperson of township MCWA and the medical superintendent.

Secretary Daw

Wai Wai Tha and responsible persons presented pamphlets, clean delivery kits and others to Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Win May.

They visited the delivery room and provided medicines and necessary assistance to the patients.

At Shwephoneshin Delivery Room in Mahaangmye Township, they gave nutritious refreshment to the patients. — MNA



MWAF personnel hold round table discussion to improve knowledge of WAO members in Thantlang.— MNA

Accusations totally wrong, external...

(from page 16)

Chin State and to know the measures taken by Chin State Women's Affairs Organization.

She said the MWAF was formed on 20 December 2003. It is a non-governmental organization and women's organizations at different levels were formed nationwide. The main aims of the MWAF is to safeguard the life security of women and to develop women's sector.

Now there are over three million members in the MWAF and in Chin State there are over 30,000 members. The federation was formed with six departments and 16 working groups.

Nine future tasks were

laid down at the annual meeting in 2007, she said.

Regarding the development of women's life, member of nationalities affairs working group of MWAF Daw Helen Lun Pon explained efforts for development of education, health and economic sectors in cooperation with departments and NGOs.

Next, deputy leader Daw Thein Thein Nyunt of organizing department reported on MWAF's measures for development of women.

She also explained in detail about the tasks for violence against women, prevention against trafficking in persons and security of their life with the assistance of the government.

Member of nationalities affairs working group of MWAF Dr Daw Aye Aye Ngun reported on efforts for national solidarity and consolidation of the Union spirit among the national races.

She pointed out that some powerful nations interfered in the internal affairs in collaboration with external anti-government organizations accusing Myanmar government of suppressing and bullying the national people. They also created false reports with the aim of undermining the national solidarity and tarnishing dignity of Myanmar in international community.

MWAF officials made field trip to the respective

regions to see if their accusations in the report were true or not. According to the investigation, it was found that the accusations were totally wrong and external women's organizations do not represent the entire women in Myanmar.

Mr Benedict Rogers, an Advocacy Officer for South Asia, wrote and reported on a human rights violation report on religion entitled "Carrying the Cross" based on groundless data of anti-government organizations. The government revealed its endeavours for national unity, development and religious affairs. Religious organizations in the country announced their protests.

Daw Nang Zhang Mang, a Chin national, took part in the discussions. She said there is no suppression of religion in Chin State.

She said the MWAF and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association are two women's organizations that carry out the tasks for development of the women. However hard they tried to make instigations among the national races, they could never break up national solidarity, she said.

In her discussions, preachers Daw Ngan Khaung Nyan and Daw Chazee, he said the government is striving to develop the country with the cooperation of the people. In Chin State, Christian faiths can go to church freely and authorities concerned allowed them to hold their religious ceremonies. The Ministry of Religious Affairs does not ban the construction of religious buildings. There are over 100 churches of 18 Christian councils and there are

50,000 Christian faithful in Haka and 400,000 in the whole Chin State. Women in Chin State found the accusations of CSW were unacceptable.

Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin expressed thanks for their participation in the discussions.

Member of the Secretariat of MWAF Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin and party discussed implementation of future tasks of the association and exchanged views on social, religious and cultural customs in Thantlang and Falam on 7 and 8 March.

MWAF personnel presented K 360,000 to Christian Churches in Chin State. They also presented cash and kind to domestic training school, monasteries and Parahita Geha and development training schools.

MNA



MWAF personnel hold round table discussion to improve knowledge of WAO members in Falam.— MNA

Kachin State sees no religious suppression nor discrimination

Women's organizations in exile making groundless accusations without knowing prevailing situations

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Kachin State Women's Affairs Organization on 8 March held a meeting at the city hall in Myitkyina, Kachin State to coordinate measures to implement the work programmes of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation.

It was attended by Patron of Kachin State WAO Daw Nu Nu Swe, wife of Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Chairperson Daw Tin Tin Ohn, members of Kachin State, district, township, ward and village WAOs and Maternal and Child Welfare Associations, social and religious organizations, departmental officials and



Secretariat Member of MWAFF Daw Htoo Raw discusses implementation of MWAFF tasks.— MNA



Working Group of Nationalities Affairs Dr La Htan Khun, on measures for development and unity of national races.

Daw Rwe Ja of Philun Ward in Myitkyina took part in the discussions, saying that in Kachin State

worked for the development of Kachin State, she said.

Daw Kay Htu Aung of Ayeya Ward in Myitkyina said that she is a member of the women's affairs organization. She is participating in national and regional development tasks

are over 1,200 Churches and a Christian population of over five million with no religious discrimination. CSW's accusations are slanderous and unacceptable to the mass of women of Kachin State, she added.

U Gaw Lu Sai Aung of Baythala Church in Myitkyina said that the building of the Church was launched in 2000 and the project was prohibited at first due to the failure to be in conformity with the procedures. When the project was submitted in line with the procedures, the authorities granted permission. In Kachin

State, there has not been any problems like the accusations made by certain nations.

Daw Soe Soe Tun of Thida Ward in Myitkyina said that she is a Mon national Buddhist. Myanmar has a lovely tradition that in any regions, people live in amity without racial discrimination. Whenever invited to the festivals of any religions, she takes part in rites happily.

On 9 March, the meeting of Bhamo District and Township WAOs and the MWAFF took place in Bahmo. Daw Htoo Raw reported on work

programmes and follow-up programmes of the MWAFF; Daw L Khun Yi, on measures for the development of women; Daw Khin Myo Myint, on steps for ensuring secure life of women; and Dr La Htan Khun, on measures for development and unity of national races. Personnel of the MWAFF and Kachin State WAO held frank talks with local women.

Daw Htoo Raw and party together with Daw Nu Nu Swe donated cash to Bahmo and Dawt-phon-yan Christian Councils and gifts to the training centres. MNA



MWAFF members, Kachin State WAO members hold round table discussions with local women.— MNA

townselders totalling more than 850.

Chairperson of the meeting MWAFF secretariat member Daw Htoo Raw reported on arrangements for implementation of the work programmes, secretary Daw L Khun Yi of MWAFF Working Group of Nationalities Affairs, on steps for the development of women, deputy leader of the Working Group of Protection and Rehabilitation Daw Khin Myo Myint, on MWAFF's drive to ensure secure life of women, and member of

there is no religious oppression nor religious discrimination. All her family members believe in Christianity and have never been oppressed by those of different religious faiths. The women's organizations in exile are making groundless accusations without knowing the prevailing situations to undermine the unity of national races. The women's organization in exile has no relations with any of the women's organizations in Kachin State and it has never

being implemented by the government. National solidarity is essential for regional development. The accusations that Kachin State is seeing religious suppression and discrimination against Christians are totally baseless. Buddhist monks and Kachin Christians live in amity. The Ministry of Religious Affairs has never prohibited construction of Churches. Myitkyina has a Christian population of more than 100,000 with more than 160 Churches, and in Kachin State, there

Myitkyina has a Christian population of more than 100,000 with more than 160 Churches, and in Kachin State, there are over 1,200 Churches and a Christian population of over five million with no religious discrimination.



MWAFF Secretariat Member Daw Htoo Raw presents cash donations to Christian Churches.— MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than supervises regional development tasks in Thabaung

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung had a meeting with departmental officials, members of local social organizations and townsenders in Thabaung, Ayeyawady Division on 12 March morning.

Chairman of Township PDC U Khing Maung Aye reported on administrative, economic, agricultural, livestock breeding, education, health and social sectors of the township and measures for regional development.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that Ayeyawady Division is the granary of the nation. So, responsible persons and farmers should work hard to help the division achieve targeted sown acreage and targeted per acre yields of crops. He called for extensive cultivation of the ten major crops, pepper, cashew, and rubber. In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, physic nut is to be grown as scheduled to fulfil the fuel requirement of the nation, he said calling for extensive breeding of domestic species of chicken and fish to earn better income. He stressed the need for townsenders and local people to cooperate harmoniously with departmental officials for regional development.

They inspected the progress of Thabaung. He also inspected the pulp factories (Thabaung) of the Myanma Paper and Chemicals Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1. Factory manager U Thein Win reported on functions of the factories and requirements of raw materials.

He instructed the officials to make combined efforts to achieve the production target and create more job opportunities for local people. The 50-ton factory project is nearing completion and it will soon start its

production of copier paper, art paper and other types of quality paper.

In meeting with servicemen of local regiment in Thabaung Township, he called for small-scale agriculture and livestock breeding, and cooperation with local people for regional development.

He inspected the three-acre rubber farm near Thalatkhwa Village.

He also inspected the rubber farm of local regiments and units of Pathein Station in Seintaung Region. The commander and officials reported on the farm. He called for extensive growing of rubber.

The local regiments and units have grown 1700 acres of rubber in the area of South-West Command.

Next, they looked into the 200-acre rubber farm of Shwe Wah Myay Agricultural Ltd near Ngwehsaung.

MNA

USDA Secretariat Member on tour of ChaungU Township, Gangaw District

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained regional development to local people of villages and wards at Basic Education High School in ChaungU Township on 9 March.

After giving instructions on regional development, the Secretariat Member presented K 300,000 for construction of the new school building and desks to the headmistress.

On 10 March, the Secretariat Member inspected construction of the rural dispensary in Mintaingbin

Model Village. Afterwards, he viewed progress of Kandaunt rural earth dam being undertaken by local authorities and USDA. The dam will irrigate 200 acres of farmland.

The Secretariat Member attended the opening ceremony of Alinyaung Library in Aingma Village of Htilin Township. At Thiri Mingala Monastery in the village, the Secretariat Member met with over 900 local people of surrounding villages. At the meeting, he said that progress of the nation can be witnessed during 18 years. The Secretariat Member explained



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects construction of rural health care centre at Mintaingbin Model Village.— MNA

progress of agriculture, transport and education sectors of the region. He said that a Government Technological College will be opened in Gangaw soon. In addition, Gangaw hospital will be upgraded to the 100-bed facility. As a result, local people will have an easy access to learning of engineering subject in the region and receive health care service. With a view to ensuring wide scope of knowledge of the local people and students, self-reliant village libraries have been opened in all villages.

As the government has constructed almost all the infrastructures for development of the nation, it

is sure that the nation will enjoy fruitful results of the development in the near future. The Secretariat Member urged all to join hands with the government, the Tatmadaw and the USDA to guard against the danger of the destructive elements.

The Secretariat Member accepted 350 USDA membership applications. Next, he presented TV sets and equipment for

Aingma Village, 125 sets of various textbooks and 50 dozens of exercise books for schools in the village-tract, and magazines, journals and books for the village library to officials. School textbooks will be given to needy students, and the committees of schools are to supervise use of the textbooks to hand down them to new students year by year commencing 2007-

08 academic year.

In Kyaw Village, the Secretariat Member met with departmental personnel and local people. He inspected digging of canal and the site for construction of the self-reliant turbine near Kyaw-Yemyetni railroad. The self-reliant hydel power station will be installed with one 40-kilowatt generator to supply power to 300 houses. — MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents cash to schoolhead of BEHS in ChaungU.— MNA

As the government has constructed almost all the infrastructures for development of the nation, it is sure that the nation will enjoy fruitful results of the development in the near future.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo looks into development works in Taninthayi Division

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, during his tour of Dawei, Taninthayi Division, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division PDC Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, officials of the SPDC Office and departmental heads went on an inspection tour of Myitta in Dawei District on 12 March.

First, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party looked into Myitta Police Station. Upon arrival at Myitta Basic Education High School, schoolhead U Kyi Swan briefed Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party on



Lt-Gen Maung Bo of Ministry of Defence inspects removing sand from Painshaung Creek with machinery in Longlon Township.— MNA



matters related to the school. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met one teacher after another and discussed educational functions with them.

During the discussions with the teachers, Lt-

Gen Maung Bo called on the officials to train school-age children to cultivate patriotic spirit starting from the primary level, open culture courses, promote passing rate and give lectures on

respective subjects.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to Myitta Station Hospital and inspected patients wards, a medical store. Afterwards, Deputy Director-General Dr Tin Min of Department of Health and Medical Superintendent Dr Than Win and officials conducted Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party around the hospital.

After raising queries about the hospital, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met health staff and instructed them to carry out health care services earnestly. Upon arrival at Myitta Town General Administration Department, Lt-Gen

Maung Bo met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and the locals people. Next, officials concerned briefed Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party on sector-wise report. Commander Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo presented cash donations for the hospital and the school through Medical Superintendent Dr Than Win and schoolhead U Kyi Swan.

Next, townselders reported to Lt-Gen Maung Bo on regional development works. After hearing

reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo made a speech during the discussions.

Myitta Township has already cultivated 10,412 acres of monsoon paddy, 3 acres of summer paddy, 3,768 acres of rubber, 438 acres of pepper and 598 acres of physic nut plants.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party met with local peasants and departmental officials and held discussions with them in Longlon Township. A total of 1,600 acres of oil palm has been cultivated in Longlon and 4,390 acres in Pugawzun oil palm plantation. Longlon oil palm factory produces 470 tons.

MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo of Ministry of Defence visits Myitta Station Hospital.— MNA

Chindwin Association (Yangon) to hold annual meeting

YANGON, 14 March — Chindwin Association (Yangon) will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with a respect paying ceremony and prize presentation ceremony at Hanthawady Kamahtana Monastery on Barwana Street in Sangyoung Township on 17 March.

Those wishing to donate cash for education funds may contact chairman U Zaw Win (Tel-252044), vice-chairman U Hla Myaing (Tel-534764), Col P Kyaw Han (Retd) (Tel-

578291), Daw May San Tin (Tel-246231) and U Win Ngwe (Tel-524385). All members have been invited to attend the annual meeting.

MNA

Chairman of Board of Directors Dr Sai Hsam Tun speaks at opening of Alpine Purified drinking water factory.— MNA

New Alpine drinking water container launched

YANGON, 14 March — A press conference on a new factory of Alpine purified drinking water that is installed with automatic machines opened in the compound of Alpine Purified drinking water factory in Mingaladon Township

during March was held today.

Chairman of Lwehein Company and Board of Directors Dr Sai Hsam Tun explained the production process of the purified drinking water to catch up with the international standard and

replied to the queries raised by media persons.

The factory can produce a total of 200,000 containers per day. According to the market

demand, the factory will produce a total of 400,000 containers per day. The factory will export purified drinking water containers. — MNA

Pakokku U Ohn Pe-provided stipends for students

YANGON, 14 March — Pakokku U Ohn Pe-provided stipends, K 10,000 for each student, were presented to 52 scholars of universities and colleges in Pakokku on 11 March.

Donor U Ohn Pe and Secretary of Scholarship Management Board Township Education Officer U Thaug Swe made speeches at the ceremony held at No 3 Basic Education High School in the town.

Secretary of Pakokku District Peace and Development Council U Aye Pe presented the stipends to a final year Geology major student of Pakokku University, who accepted the cash totalling K 52,000 on behalf of all students.

MNA



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Win Mu Tin
 M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
 for **SCHERING CORPORATION**
 P. O. Box 60, Yangon
 Dated: 15 March 2007

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U Than Maung, Advocate
 For **TORRIGIANI JAPAN CO., LTD.**
 C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.
 Unit 701-702, Traders Hotel
 Sule Pagoda Road
 Yangon, Union of Myanmar
 utm.kcy@mptmail.com.mm
 Dated 15 March 2007

YANGON GOLF CLUB NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Yangon Golf Club will be held on Saturday, 31st March, 2007 at Club House Premises at 10:00 hours.

Managing Member
 Yangon Golf Club

Iran, Turkey agree to promote agricultural cooperation

TEHERAN, 13 March—Iran and Turkey agreed here on Sunday on promotion of agricultural cooperation between them, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.

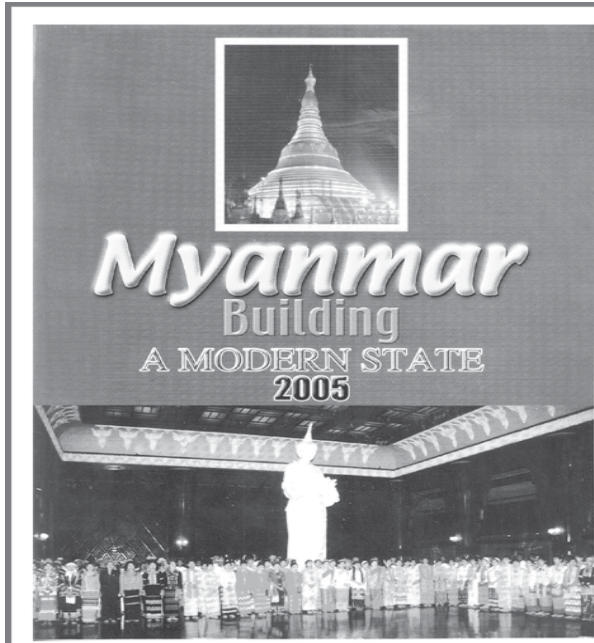
Iranian Minister of Agriculture Jihad Mohammad-Reza Eskandari and visiting Turkish Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Mehmet Mehdi Eker reached the agreement in a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by them.

The document underlines expansion of mutual cooperation in many items, including protection of plants, animal husbandry, healthy environment for animals, investments in agricultural sectors, management for control of drought and transfer of technological know-how in the sector.

During the signing ceremony, the Iranian minister expressed the hope that the MoU would lead to further expansion of executive cooperation in the agricultural sector.

"Fortunately the two sides are committed to help promote mutual cooperation in the sector," Eskandari said.

For his part, Eker said that the visit of Turkish officials to Iran would help the two sides adopt much closer ties in agricultural sector and the prospects for mutual relations were very bright. — *MNA/Xinhua*



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Reg.No.4/2031/97
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U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B, DBL
 Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)
 MYINT.Advocate@mptmail.netmm
 Ph :371 990 15.Mar.2007

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Tin Ohnmar Tun
 B.A.(LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)
 P.O.Box 109, Ph: 723043
 (For. Mark-i Inc., Japan)
 Dated. 15 March 2007

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Thein Aung B.Sc,R.L,D.B.L Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
 E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
 Tel:254037 G.P.O Box:666
 Yangon. 15th March 2007

China tightens controls on prescription drugs

BEIJING, 13 March — China's Health Ministry plans to tighten control over the varieties of the same drug hospitals can offer to patients, who have often been tricked into buying more expensive medications.

The new regulation, which will take effect on 1 May, allows hospitals to offer patients the same type of drug from only two pharmaceutical companies. Drugs producers have been accused of changing the name of their drugs and re-pricing them to escape price controls set by China's National Development and Reform Commission.

MNA/Xinhua

Tanzania hosts international investors forum

ARUSHA (Tanzania), 13 March—Some 30 chief executives from around the world gathered here on Monday to offer expertise and insight on how Tanzania can best benefit from foreign investment to boost the country's development.

Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete chaired the one-day international investor's round-table, organized by the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC).

The meeting attracted the CEOs from seven local companies so that they could compare notes with their foreign counterparts, according to TNBC Executive Secretary Dunstan Mrutu. It was the sixth such meeting since 2002 and this year's theme was "investment for growth and prosperity."

The council has extended invitations to some 40 world renowned business executives who were expected to shed light on ways through which investment can be best used to assist Tanzania to move from underdevelopment to an East African economic tiger.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Don't smoke

သစ်တောသစ်ပင်
 ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး၊
 သစ်ပင်ကို
 နှစ်စဉ်စိုက်
 ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုး။

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပွားတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Exercise makes you not only stronger, but smarter

BEIJING, 14 March — Exercise boosts brainpower by building new brain cells in a region linked with memory and memory loss, US researchers reported on Monday.

Tests on mice showed they grew new



Exercise boosts brainpower by building new brain cells in a region linked with memory and memory loss, US researchers reported on Monday.—INTERNET

brain cells in a region called the dentate gyrus, a part of the hippocampus that is known to be affected in the age-related memory decline that begins around age 30 for most humans.

The researchers used magnetic resonance imaging scans to help document the process in mice and then used MRIs to look at the brains of people before and after exercise. They found the same

patterns, which suggests that people also grow new brain cells when they exercise. "No previous research has systematically examined the different regions of the hippocampus and identified which region is most affected by exercise," Scott Small, a neurologist at Columbia University Medical Centre in New York who led the study, said in a statement.

Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the researchers said they first tested mice.

Brain expert Fred Gage, of the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California, had shown that exercise can cause the development of new brain cells in the mouse equivalent of the dentate gyrus. The teams worked together to find a way to measure this using MRI, by tracking cerebral blood volume.

"Once these findings were established in mice,

we were interested in determining how exercise affects the hippocampal cerebral blood volume maps of humans," they wrote. They of course could not dissect the brains of people to see if new neurons grew, but they could use MRI to have a peek.—INTERNET



A sperm whale struggles as fishermen try to rescue it at a bay in Uwajima, about 800 km (500 miles) southwest of Tokyo on 13 March, 2007. A fisherman drowned on Tuesday after a sperm whale went on the rampage in the bay, capsizing his small fishing boat, a coastguard official said.—INTERNET

Vietnam to buy more electricity from China

HANOI, 13 March — Vietnam will import more electricity from China this year to serve its border provinces, according to

local newspaper *Vietnam Economic Times* on Monday.

The Power Company No. 1 under the state-

owned Electricity of Vietnam (EVN), the country's biggest electricity producer and sole distributor, will, in the

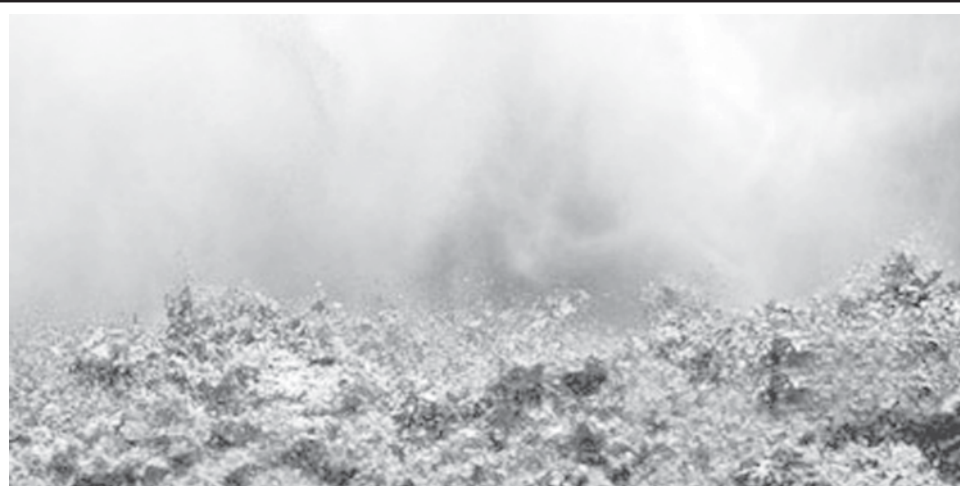
coming days, sign a new contract with the Yunnan Electric Power Group Co, Ltd under the China Southern Power Grid. In the short term, some 50 million kwh of electricity will be bought via transmission lines in Vietnam's northern Lai Chau Province to deal with the country's power shortage in the ongoing dry season.

Now, the EVN is purchasing electricity from China via the three northern provinces of Lao Cai, Ha Giang and Quang Ninh with annual output of 200 million kwh, or 2 per cent of Vietnam's total electricity output, at a price of 4.5 US cents per kwh, said the newspaper.

In April 2004, Vietnam bought electricity from China for the first time. Under a three-year contract inked at that time by the Power Company No 1 and the Yunnan Electric Power Group Co, Ltd, the Chinese firm was to supply Vietnam with electricity via 110-kilovolts transmission lines with capacity of 40 megawatts and annual output of 180-200 million kwh till the end of 2006.

Vietnam's electricity demand is forecast to annually grow 15-16 per cent until 2010, according to the country's Industry Ministry.

MNA/Xinhua



The tidewater of Yellow River's Hukou waterfall looks like rains of peach flowers.—INTERNET

Zimbabwean "IT" firm opens branch in Zambia

HARARE, 13 March— Zimbabwe's information technology firm Bolbec Zimbabwe, which specializes in computer hardware and software, has successfully established a foothold in Zambia and has now set its sight on penetrating the Mozambican and Malawian market, according to the *Sunday Mail*.

Since its formation in 1999, the company has realized tremendous growth strides and has managed to muscle in on the local market to claim a significant market share, the newspaper said. Currently Bolbec Zimbabwe supplies its products to 40 per cent of the companies listed on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) and a number of non-governmental organizations, including unlisted corporate entities.

It has also established itself as almost an exclusive supplier to the local financial service providers.

The company's regional expansion will enable it to spread risk and generate foreign currency that is needed to insulate and cushion the business from the hyperinflationary environment obtaining in the country.

Bolbec Zimbabwe sales and marketing team leader Benjamin Bhunu said the company was targeting Mozambique and Malawi as part of its regional growth strategy. — MNA/Xinhua

Expert says China to have own jumbo aircraft by 2020

BEIJING, 13 March — China's dream to have self-developed jumbo aircraft is expected to come true by 2020 if everything goes well, said an expert on Monday.

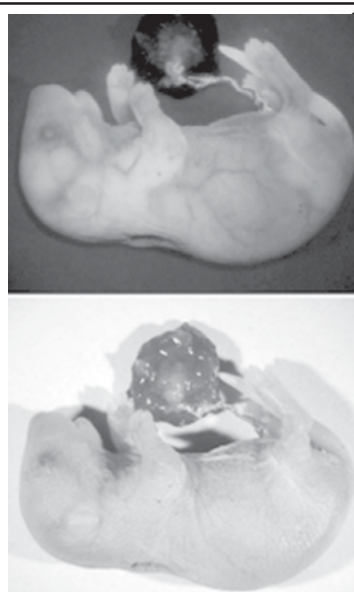
"We are now fairly well conditioned for making large aircraft with the sound support from growing national economic strength, technological development and experience in manufacturing," said Liu Daxiang, deputy head of the Department of Science and Technology Development under China Aviation Industry Corporation I (AVIC I).

The preparation work has been going well, said Liu, also a deputy to the ongoing Parliament session. He added the government should work out regulations on the

development of large civil aircraft "as soon as possible" to ensure the project progresses smoothly. "A home-made large

aircraft may inspire the nation like the country's manned spacecraft programme," said Liu.

MNA/Xinhua



Embryonic stem cells of a mouse under natural lighting (bottom) and under fluorescent lighting (top). Japanese scientists have succeeded in cloning mouse embryos from unfertilised eggs, a breakthrough that could help resolve the passionate ethical debate about stem cell research.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Prague to bid for summer Olympics in 2016, 2020

PRAGUE, 14 March — Prague city leaders announced Tuesday the Czech capital will bid to host the summer Olympic Games in 2016 and 2020.

The announcement was made by Mayor Pavel Bem, who added that some of the events would be held in outlying parts of the country: "It will not just be the candidacy of Prague, but the whole Czech Republic."

Bem cautioned that it would be difficult for Prague to clinch the Olympics in 2016 because another European country, London, would already have staged the preceding event in 2012.

MNA/Xinhua



Manchester United beat a star-studded Europe side 4-3 in a fundraising match to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome and the Red Devils' half century of play in European soccer on Tuesday.—INTERNET

Wenger blames France for Henry injury woes

LONDON, 14 March— Thierry Henry's below-par form and injury problems this season have been blamed by his club manager Arsene Wenger on the number of games he has played for the French national team.

The striker has missed a number of games for Arsenal through various injuries, but has played in every international match for France since 16 August.

Wenger feels this has not given his captain the chance to rest adequately after a tough 2006 in which he led Arsenal to the Champions League final and helped France to the World Cup final in Germany.

Domestically, Henry has been ruled out for the rest of the season with groin and stomach problems. Arsenal are out of all cup competitions and are set to go without a trophy for the second campaign in a row.

But Wenger refused to take responsibility, saying: "I feel Thierry has been badly managed by the French national team.

"The World Cup final was on 9 July and I gave him a holiday until 4 August. Then he came back and we prepared him. I left him out of the Champions League qualifier against Dinamo Zagreb.

"They called him up for a game against Bosnia on 16 August - less than 14 days after he came back - and they played him for 90 minutes. After the World Cup final, why did they need to do that? "Then we played him for a whole game against Aston Villa on August 19 because we were desperate to win the first game at the Emirates Stadium.— MNAReuters

Beckenbauer calls for anti-violence

BERLIN, 14 March — German World Cup Organizing Committee President Franz Beckenbauer on Tuesday urged football and political officials to combat violence.

Beckenbauer made the remarks at the informal meeting of European Union sport ministers, which began on Monday in the German city of Stuttgart to discuss sports and economics and anti-doping issues.

"We have to stick together otherwise the fundamental values of sport are in danger," Beckenbauer said at the beginning of the meeting.

"It is hard to say to stop the violence inside stadiums and then (players) start attacking each other on the field," he said. Beckenbauer is to outline the German organization's concept for the successful FIFA World Cup in the summer of 2006.

German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schaueble, who opened the meeting under Germany's EU presidency, said: "Sport has a huge social impact and represents values. Together we want to strengthen the role of sport in Europe and resolutely fight threats such as violence and doping."— MNA/Xinhua



New York Rangers winger Jaromir Jagr (L) is checked off the puck by Ottawa Senators defenceman Chris Phillips in the third period of their NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York on 13 March, 2007. The Senators won 3-2.—INTERNET

Champion Zou to show up at King's Cup Boxing Tournament

BANGKOK, 14 March — Big names, including Asian Games gold-medallist Zou Shiming of China, will participate in the 29th King's Cup Boxing Tournament in Bangkok from 5 to 10 April.

Light flyweight Zou, who beat Thai hopeful Suban Pannon through RSC in the final round in the Doha Games, will be one of China's medal prospects in the six-day tournament, of which the countries will take the advantage to assess their boxers before the World Championships in Moscow in September.

China and powerhouses Russia are fielding six boxers while Mongolia are bringing in eight and the Netherlands three. Gen-

eral Taweep Juntararot, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of Thailand (Abat), said boxers from 27 countries have confirmed participation in the tournament. Taweep said Abat will field two teams with nine boxers each. Boxers in the A side will be those who had competed in the Asian Games led by the Olympic gold medallist and Asiad winner Manus Boonjumnong.

"Thailand B will consist of rising stars who had participated in the National Boxing Championships. If they fare better than those from the A side, they will get a chance to represent the Kingdom at the worlds," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Closure of Spanish doping probe provokes criticism

MADRID, 14 March — A Spanish judge's decision to close an investigation into a cycling doping ring without bringing any charges has been criticised by those involved in the sport. "We can't put our heads in the sand. The problem of doping will not be resolved by closing the case," Tour of Spain race director Victor Cordero was quoted as saying in the Spanish media on Tuesday.

"It continues to exist and we have to tackle it."

In a ruling released on Monday, judge Antonio Serrano said doping practices had occurred but there was insufficient evidence to prosecute for the offence of endangering public health.

Although new legislation was introduced in February to deal with those who supply and administer drugs in sport, doping itself was not punishable under Spanish law when the charges were brought in last May.

"It's a farce. No one can tell me that, for example, a growth hormone that increases the risk of cancer, isn't a danger to the public health," former rider Jesus Manzano told Spanish media.

Manzano said in 2004 that he was routinely given blood transfusions when he rode for the Kelme team.

British cyclist David Millar, who admitted to doping offences and returned from a ban in 2006, also expressed his dismay at the result of the inquiry.

"It's a shame the process has been handled so badly. If there was nothing concrete the judge shouldn't have allowed it to be opened," Millar told sports daily Marca.—MNA/Reuters



Sixteenth seed Ai Sugiyama of Japan returns to second-seed Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia during their match at the Pacific Life Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, Calif on 13 March, 2007. Kuznetsova won 6-2, 6-2.—INTERNET

Five-month kidnap of AC Milan striker Oliveira's sister ends

ROME, 14 March — The sister of AC Milan's Brazilian striker Ricardo Oliveira, who had been kidnapped for five months, was found "alive and well", the Italian club said on its Web site on Tuesday.

Maria de Lourdes Silva de Oliveira was taken from her home in Sao Paulo on 4 October last year.

At the time of the kidnap, police sources said at least two armed men broke into the victim's home in the early hours. She was taken while her husband and eight-year-old son were tied up. The kidnapping was the latest involving the relatives of footballers in the state of Sao Paulo. —MNA/Xinhua



Guillermo Salas (R) from Alianza Lima of Peru fights for the ball with Rodolfo Moya from Audax Italiano of Chile during their Copa Libertadores soccer match in Lima on 13 March, 2007.—INTERNET

Kuala Lumpur Airport wins World's Best Airport award

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 March — Malaysia's flagship airport, Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), has once again won the World's Best Airport award presented by the Airport Council International (ACI), local media reported on Tuesday.

KLIA ranked as the World's Best Airport in the 15-25 million passengers per annum category for the ACI's Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards 2006. The award presentation ceremony was held Monday night in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, in conjunction with the two-day ACI Airport Business and Trinity Forum

which kicked off Tuesday there, Malaysian national news agency *Bernama* reported.

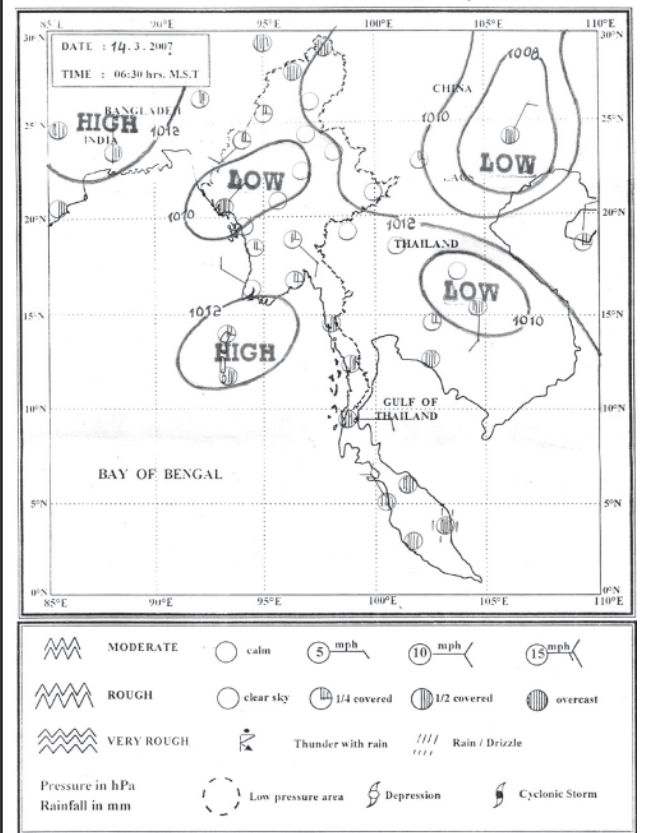
San Diego Airport in the United States and Zurich Airport in Switzerland were placed second and third respectively in the category.

A total of 81 airports worldwide participated in the ASQ Survey 2006 which evaluates airport performances in terms of service quality, facilities and passengers feedback in several categories.

KLIA first participated in the survey in 2002 and has won the award for the same category since 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 14 March, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas.

Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Nay Pyi Taw, Minbu, Hmawbi and Kaba-Aye (40°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 13-3-2007 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 14-3-2007 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 14-3-2007 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 13-3-2007 was (9.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 14-3-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from South at (13:35) hours MST on 13-3-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 15-3-2007: Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. 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 slight increase of day temperature in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 15-3-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 15-3-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 15-3-2007: Fair weather.



In this photo courtesy of Belga, a rough diamond is displayed at the Antwerp World Diamond Centre in 2006. A couple of eight-year-old twin boys have found a 2.50 carat raw diamond that could be worth thousands of dollars, according to the director of a state park in the southern US state of Arkansas. — INTERNET



Thursday, 15 March
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:45 am
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
- 5. Dance of national races
- 8:00 am
- 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am
- 7. Dance variety
- 8:20 am
- 8. (၆၂) နှစ်မြောက်တစ်မတော်နေ့ ရုတ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am
- 9. International news

- 8:45 am
- 10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm
- 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm
- 5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရူပဗေဒ)
- 5:15 pm
- 6. Cute little dancers
- 5:25 pm
- 7. "သတိနဲ့ယှဉ် အသိနဲ့ပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၂) (ဝါးခယ်မရဲမောင်၊ ဘုန်းလျာန်၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်၊ ရတနာခင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ နီနီရွှေရည်၊ ဆောင်းနင်းဝေ၊ ဝိုင်းစုခိုင်သိန်း၊ အိုင်းရစ်လေပြေဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
- 5:35 pm
- 8. တစ်မတော်နေ့ရုတ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ်)

- 5:45 pm
- 9. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲရင်ခုန်သံ
- 6:00 pm
- 10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 12. သီရိဇောဟာ
- 7:00 pm
- 13. Discovery
- 7:10 pm
- 14. (၆၂)နှစ်မြောက်တစ်မတော်နေ့ ရုတ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 7:20 pm
- 15. စွမ်းရည်တိုးမြှင့် Online Banking စနစ် (မြန်မာ့ကြယ်ငါးပွင့် သင်္ဘောလုပ်ငန်း)
- 7:35 pm
- 16. "တို့တစ်ရွာလုံး ချမ်းသာပြီ" (ဆန်းထွန်း၊ သူသူဟံသာ၊ အကယ်ဒမီ ဇော်ဦး၊ မိုးဒီ၊ ငွေတောင်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝမ်းပုံ) ဒါရိုက်တာ- တင်အောင်ရွှေ (သူတေသီ)
- 8:00 pm
- 17. News
- 18. International news
- 19. Weather report
- 20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အကြင်နာနေဦး" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)
- 21. The next day's programme



Thursday, 15 March
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Life is good
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Angel
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: - It must have been love
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Love rendezvous
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music: -Willow -Make it through
- 9:00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Pourri
- 9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers - Honey come back -Superstar
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

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**US trying to use multilateral tools including Human Rights Council
US ignoring achievements resulting from harmonious
endeavours of government and people**

US on pretext of human rights focuses on government-NLD dialogue

**Myanmar people on the side of justice do not need to be worried about the
issue due to fact that attempt of US incorrect and unjust**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — The United States would continue to use multilateral tools to put political pressure on Myanmar employing all possible ways including the Human Rights Council, said Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Mr Barry Lowenkron, at a press conference at the State Department in Washington on 6 March.

His statement came after the draft resolution submitted to the UNSC on 12-1-2007 by the US

administration that tried to interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar was rejected. It was another attempt to use the UN Human Rights Council for putting pressure on Myanmar as an enemy in all possible ways.

Similarly, on 7 March 2007, the US State Department released a report on human rights situation of over 190 countries including Myanmar for 2006. Like the previous years, it also levelled groundless accusa-

tions at Myanmar concerning human rights.

In the report, the US accused that there were human rights violations such as unlawful killings, deaths in the prisons, disappearance, rape, torture, arrests, forced relocation of villages, recruitment of child soldiers, forced labour, increased attacks on ethnic minority by the Tatmadaw, detention of political prisoners and press freedom, religion and movement.

(See page 7)

**Noisy demonstration staged by Htin Kyaw (a) Kyaw Htin, some
NLDs, some former Peace and Democracy Party members on Maha
Bandoola Street, Yangon, an instigation violating the existing laws**

The group warned to observe existing laws

Members of the group pledge not to stage protests again

**Now is the transitional period when the country is
in gradual process of building a democratic one**

People desirous of democracy will guard against destructive elements

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Eighteen persons including Htin Kyaw (a) Kyaw Htin of the illegally-formed so-called Myanmar Development Committee-

MDC staged a noisy demonstration along Maha Bandoola Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon, beginning 3.30 pm on 22 February 2007. The demonstra-

tion caused panic among shoppers and shopkeepers and other people in the area. The demonstrators

(See page 7)

**Accusations totally wrong, external women's organizations
do not represent entire women in Myanmar**

In Chin State, Christians can attend church freely



Secretariat member of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin addresses implementation of tasks of MAAF in Haka. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — A meeting on implementation of the tasks of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was held at the town hall in Haka in Chin State on 6 March.

Secretariat Member of MAAF Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin presided over the meeting and spoke on the occasion. She said she came to Chin State to meet women in (See page 8)