Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets with officials to discuss upgrading of Kandawgyi Gardens and Yangon Zoological Gardens. — MNA

All-round upgrading of Kandawgyi and Yangon Zoological Gardens coordinated

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected the tasks for upgrading of the Kandawgyi and gave instructions. — MNA

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

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

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets with officials to discuss upgrading of Kandawgyi Gardens and Yangon Zoological Gardens. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects tasks for upgrading of Kandawgyi Gardens. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

— To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State’s seven-point policy programme
— To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people’s militia strategy
— To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people
— To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold “Our Three Main National Causes”

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 9 March — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming.

Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. — MNA

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint views the condition of patient Daw Saw Ma Ma who has undergone kidney transplant. — HEALTH

Doctors successfully conduct kidney transplant on patients

YANGON, 9 March — Both the patient and the donor are in good health after a successful kidney transplant conducted on Daw Saw Ma Ma at Mandalay General Hospital on 7 March.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint visited the donor, the patient’s elder brother U Hla Myint, at the hospital in the evening, and the patient, Daw Saw Ma Ma, the next morning.

The surgical team, led by Director-General of Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) Dr Paing Soe, explained the improving condition of the patient.

Other members of the team were Dr Khin Maung Htay, Dr Thant Aye, Dr Sau Lan Maung, Dr Toe Lwin and other physicians.

Another patient, Ko Win Thura Latt, and donor, his younger sister, Ma Win Rupa Latt, are also in good health after undergoing surgical operation.

Today, doctors are conducting kidney transplant on Daw Aye Aye. The donor is her elder sister Daw Ni Nl. — MNA

MGS signboard unveiled

YANGON, 9 March — A ceremony to open office and unveil the signboard of the Myanmar Geosciences Society (MGS) was held at the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy at No 78/80 Myay Kyawswa Road, Lanmadaw Township here at 9 am today. MGS President Dr Maung Thein formally unveiled the signboard. — MNA

The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

Armed Forces Day Book Fair to be held

YANGON, 9 March — Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2004, a book fair sponsored by Sarpay Beikman of Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information will be held at 379-383, PPE (former Head Office) on Bo Aung Pyae Road, Lanmadaw Township from 19-3-2004 to 28-3-2004.

The book fair will be open from 9 am to 5 pm and books will be sold to the public.

Bookshops wishing to participate in the fair may contact Chief Editor of Sarpay Beikman at 529-531, Merchant Street (phone 252560), Deputy Chief Editor (240048) or Manager (Sales) (381448/249031) not later than 15-3-2004. — MNA

Tourists arrive by M S Europa

YANGON, 9 March — Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels & Tourism, with assistance of the Ministry of Transport and under the arrangements of Dethravel Travel Ltd Myanmar, Cruiseliner M S Europa with 170 passengers on board arrived Thilawa International Port in Kyauktada Township here early this morning. The tourists in groups were scheduled to visit Yangon downtown, Bago and Hagan. The vessel will leave on 11 March morning. — MNA

Improve socio-economic life through agricultural development

The Union of Myanmar is an agro-based country and therefore the government is trying for the nation to become an industrialized one through development of agriculture. Moreover, it is encouraging the establishment of such basic industries as mining and energy sectors and taking systematic measures for region-wise development.

It goes without saying that agriculture is the main industry that can ensure self-sufficiency and strong national economic life for an agricultural country like Myanmar. It is a sector that can guarantee food sufficiency of each and every region across the Union, regional economic growth and higher living standard for local people.

This being the case, the government is giving top priority to fulfilling all the requirements for the development of the agricultural sector, especially for increasing sown acreage and boosting agricultural production. The construction of the recently-completed Shwe Hlay sluice gate was a step taken in that direction.

The opening of the Shwe Hlay sluice gate in Kawa Township in Bago Division was held on 28 February and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony and delivered a speech. The Prime Minister, in his address on the occasion, urged the local people to try as hard as they could to improve their socio-economic life by making effective use of advantages offered by the sluice gate.

Bago Division is mountainous, has a lot of creeks and is contiguous to the sea. As there is a vast area of wetlands between the Bago river and the Sittoung river, the government is building sluice gates to turn those wetlands into arable land.

The construction of sluice gates including the recently-opened Shwe Hlay sluice gate is to prevent floods in the rainy season and the inflow of sea water in summer, thus enabling the farmers to grow paddy and other crops on more than one hundred thousand of acres of farmland all the year round.

We would like to call upon all the local people including the farmers to put their energies into their work to improve the socio-economic life by making effective use of the assistance rendered by the State.
552 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 March—As of Monday, 8 March, 552 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense. Of those, 379 died as a result of hostile action and 173 died of non-hostile causes, the department said. The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Thailand, two; Denmark, Ukraine, Estonia and Poland have reported one each. Since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 414 US soldiers have died — 264 as a result of hostile action and 150 of non-hostile causes, according to the military. Since the start of military operations, 2,744 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s figures on Monday. Non-hostile injured numbered 423.

Mubarak says US reform ideas could promote violence

PARD, 9 March—US plans for political reform in the Arab world could encourage violence and cannot succeed without an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in remarks published on Monday. “That is the danger they (the Americans) do not seem to understand,” he told the Paris newspaper Le Figaro. “An initiative imposed from abroad would be rejected by the peoples concerned and would lead to anarchy in the whole region, from Morocco to Pakistan,” he said in an interview. “That would play into the hands of terrorism, which will not be confined to the Middle East but will reach Europe and the United States. If the extremists win, you can forget democracy,” Mubarak added.

Qantas to operate direct flights from Sydney to Mumbai

SYDNEY, 9 March— Airline major Qantas will operate direct services linking Sydney to western Indian metropolis of Mumbai beginning September this year in view of a double-digit spurt in the number of tourist arrivals from India. Qantas will fly direct services between Mumbai and Sydney, three times per week and the Mumbai services would operate in two-class Boeing 747-300 aircraft. The services would commence from 1 September, 2004, Executive General Manager of Qantas Air lines John Borghetti said. “India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and the burgeoning trade relationship between Australia and India has increased demand for business travel between our two countries, Borghetti said.

NPC deputies say 7% eco growth a pragmatic goal

BEIJING, 9 March—Deputies to China’s top legislature laud the 7-per-cent economic growth rate for 2004 as a “scientific and pragmatic” goal. The growth target, the same as that for 2003, has been set by Premier Wen Jiabao in his report to the legislature Friday and led to heated discussions among 2,900-plus deputies from all walks of life. “It is a realistic and pragmatic goal and will help maintain the continuity of China’s macro-economic policies,” said Qin Chijiang, a deputy to the ongoing Second Session of the 10th National People’s Congress (NPC), and deputy secretary-general of China Finance Association. The goal, if materialized, will bring China the gross domestic product (GDP) totalling some 12 trillion yuan (1.45 trillion US dollars) in 2004, laying a solid foundation for implementation of the 10th Five-Year Plan (2001-2005) and construction of a well-off society in an all-round way, according to Qin.

Singapore begins month-long anti-drug campaign

SINGAPORE, 9 March—Singapore on Sunday launched a month-long anti-drug campaign as part of its efforts to deal with synthetic drug abuse in the island state. According to local Press reports, the campaign, kicked off by Singapore’s National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA), will target youths aged 15 to 30 years old because they form a relatively larger group of synthetic drug abusers arrested in recent years. Anti-drug creations, to be featured on TV, cinemas, outdoor posters, newspapers, magazines, Internet as well as radio, will inform young Singaporeans of the need to stay drug-free or risk losing their social credibility otherwise. Last year, Singapore narcotics officers busted 30 syndicates in 56 major drug raids, and the number of drug abusers arrested in the country declined sharply by 47 per cent compared to the year before.
South Korea lodges complaint against US military in Iraq

Baghdad, 9 March—The brief detention of three South Korean journalists Saturday by Baghdad’s Palestine Hotel after soldiers they thought detected explosive traces on their luggage has triggered a formal protest against the US military.

The South Korean embassy in Baghdad has demanded an official apology from US forces on Sunday over their treatment of the journalists, South Korea’s foreign ministry announced.

The ministry said US forces in Iraq were asked to clarify the incident and promise the prevention of its recurrence.

Three Gorges region becomes China’s largest geological park

Wuhan, 9 March — The Three Gorges on the Yangtze River has become the largest geological park in China with an area of 25,000 square kilometers.

The park, added to the list of national geological parks last month, covers both banks of the mainstream of the Three Gorges from the Fengjie County, Chongqing Municipality, to Yichang City, Hubei Province.

The region was accepted on the list because of its rich geological phenomena, said Yan Daoping, a researcher at Yichang Geological and Mineral Research Institute under the Ministry of Land and Resources.

Yan said the region boasted southern China’s oldest metamorphic rock base, formed 3.2 billion years ago, the world’s oldest glacial sediment dating back 700 million years, and a complete stratum layer from the Proterozoic Era.

It also has several thousand varieties of animal and plant fossils and rich phenomena recording geological disasters, and the evolution of rivers and karst.

Chinese cenotaphs says eat meat and live longer

Beijing, 9 March — Meat meals are the secret of Chinese cenotaphs, according to a retired dustman with 103 years behind him, news agency Xinhua said on Sunday.

“The Beijing cenotaph says if he has no meat for just a day, he feels ‘unhappy’, ” the official news agency said.

The idea may appeal to fans of low-carb diets gaining popularity in the United States, but China has only one-twelfth of the world’s centenarians, despite being home to about one-fifth of its population.

Or maybe the key to longevity is more mundane. A study of about one-fifth of Beijing’s 257 centenarians showed many ate and drank in moderation, took regular exercise, were cheerful and had “harmonious” family lives, Xinhua said.

It quoted Wu Cangping, chairman of the China Senior Citizens Society, as saying the country had just 17,000 of the global total of 120,000 centenarians. Xinhua did not explain the low ratio of centenarians, but the vast majority of China’s people live in the countryside, where poverty is widespread and health care is rudimentary.

About 10 per cent of the population of 1.3 billion was over the age of 60, Wu said. — Xinhua

Back from Iraq, soldier dies in NJ car crash

Baghdad, 9 March—Army Reservist Rosendo Ricketts returned home Thursday from more than a year of combat duty in Iraq and rushed into his wife’s arms carrying a necklace with her name written on it in Arabic.

“He was so happy to see me pushed people down to get to me,” Wanda Ricketts said through tears Sunday.

Ricketts was killed in a car accident early Monday at Fort Dix in New Jersey. The vehicle slid off the road on West Main Street in Wightstown, where the army base is located, and smashed into a house.

Ricketts apparently was alone in his car when he lost control shortly after 3 a.m., according to base officials.

The vehicle slid off the road on West Main Street in Wightstown, where the army base is located, and smashed into a house. The incident happened, officials said, in a heavy rain that was mixed with snow. — Internet

Jordan to hold second Iraq rebuilding exhibition

Amman, 9 March — The Amman World Trade Centre and the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan would jointly hold the second Iraq rebuilding exhibition, Jordan Times reported Sunday.

The exhibition, which includes a conference, would be held during March 17-22 at the Amman International Motor Show.

The participants of the exhibition would get information of the contracts from the Iraqi Programme Management Office and opportunities of sharing the contracts, the report said.

Businessmen from 22 countries, such as the United States, Jordan and Iraq, are expected to attend the exhibition.

The first Iraq rebuilding exhibition, organized by the Killman Group of Waldwick, a US-based exhibition management firm with more than 40 years of international trade show experience, was held in last December in Amman. About 300 manufacturers from 21 countries displayed their latest products and special services during the fair.

WMO says developing nations vulnerable to natural disasters

New Delhi, 9 March — About 95 per cent of the total number of deaths due to natural disasters occur in developing countries and the main reason for the “vulnerability” of such nations is their economic situation, World Meteorological Organization reports say in a report.

The report says one of the most significant factors for developing countries being more vulnerable is their economic situation. Government and most people in developing countries cannot afford to prepare for natural hazards, it says, and adds, lack of technology and education, both of which are associated with economic hardship, are the other obstacles. It says mitigating the effects of natural disasters in developing countries requires a different perspective than in developed countries.

Pointing out that world is also facing the emerging threats related to climate change, the report says global warming, not only produces stronger storms and sea-level rise, but may also trigger rapid environmental change. — MNA/PTI

An Iraqi picks up the pieces from a truck after it was damaged by a roadside bomb, apparently intended for US military convoys, in Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday, 9 March, 2004. The truck driver was killed. — Internet

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“While there are remarkable developments in scientific and engineering techniques in the 20th century, scientists have not yet succeeded in preventing natural hazards nor insulating humans from their effects. On the contrary, as population increases and more land is utilized, more people are at risk from natural hazards. Between 1970s and 1990s, deaths from natural disasters fell from two million a decade to less than 800,000. Yet the number of people affected tripled to 200 million. Economic losses multiplied five times to some 629,000 million dollars in the 1990s, it says.”

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This image taken by the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit’s navigation camera shows the rocky landscape lying due east of the rover, with boulders as large as 1.6 feet dotting the terrain. The east hills, over 1.3 miles away, can be seen to the far right. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 7 March, 2004

Back from Iraq, soldier dies in NJ car crash

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IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

US troops comb an area near the UN headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday, 8 March, 2004, following an attack by guerrillas at a passing US military convoy. —INTERNET

An Iraqi boy looks at the scene of a rocket attack in a private house in Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 8 March, 2004. —INTERNET

Iraqis gather next to the debris at the former Foreign Ministry in Baghdad, on Monday, 8 March, 2004 after rockets were fired overnight. The rockets were apparently fired from an SUV, which was then torched, the culprits fleeing the scene. —INTERNET

A US soldier stands next to demonstrating Iraqi women in the centre of the Iraqi capital Baghdad on 8 March, 2004. Several hundred women demanded more rights in a demonstration, marking International Women’s Day. —INTERNET

US soldiers stand guard at the scene of the rocket attacks in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on 7 March, 2004. —INTERNET
Guard unit preparing to go home delayed in Iraq

SPEAKMAN, 9 March—A South Dakota National Guard unit that was preparing to go home after serving nearly a year in Iraq won’t be leaving the Middle East after all—at least not now.

Members of the Guard’s 740th Transportation Company had transferred to Kuwait where they were loaded into their weapons, gave their vehicles to replacement troops and shipped most of their personal belongings back to the states. Then they got word that they would be sent back to Iraq, minus some of their military vehicles.

“It’s heart-wrenching for everyone,” said Maj Harold Walker, public information officer for the South Dakota Army National Guard. “By simple math, this unit will reach 365 days ‘boots on ground’ on 19 April. It may have appeared they might go (home) a bit early, but there’s still work to do.”

South Dakota Army National Guard Lt Col Steven Dunn said the delay was “kind of typical” of military operations. But he said the equipment substitution was unusual and of concern. More than 2,500 South Dakota guardsmen and reservists were mobilized for duty in 2003. Most of the soldiers are in Iraq and beginning this spring, many of the units will reach one year of service overseas.

“We haven’t heard about any problems with the rotations, and we have no indications that rotations will push beyond 365 days ‘boots on ground,’” Walker said. “As tough as it may sound, guard members know that you don’t know when you’re leaving until you’re on the plane.”

The 740th Transportation Company is based out of Brookings and Milbank and has 140 members.

The delay has received attention from members of South Dakota’s congressional delegation.

“I have heard from many soldiers and families regarding the 740th Transportation Company currently serving in Kuwait,” said Senator Tom Daschle, D-SD. “I am particularly disturbed by reports that these soldiers lack basic equipment to perform their duties safely.” A spokesman for Senator Tim Johnson, D-SD, said he, too, was looking into the matter.

First ever Indo-Pakistan theatre festival begins in Lahore

ISLAMABAD, 9 March—The first ever Indo-Pakistan theatre festival, ‘Jaanii’, began in Lahore Sunday with 66 Indian artists arriving in the city to perform along with their Pakistani counterparts.

Organized by a Pakistani progressive artists group ‘Ajoka Theatre’ to mark its 20th anniversary, the festival will feature more than 18 plays focusing on women, playwright and Ajoka co-ordinator, Shahid Nadeem told PTI from Lahore.

The week-long extravaganza is attended by 66 Indian artists from five theatre groups.

An attraction of the festival would be a performance by the veteran Sehgal sisters. Ninety-three-year-old Indian theatre personality Zohra Sehgal would feature along with her sister from Pakistan, 87-year-old Uzra Butt. The duo would perform Nadeem’s play ‘Aik Thaee Naani’.

Both Zohra and Uzra started their theatre career in 1930s’ Mumbai but were separated for over four decades after partition.

The Indian theatre groups taking part in the festival includes Rangoli and Munch Ramanchan from Amritsar, Ranga Karmee from Kolkata and Kitchen Katha from Chandigarh.

Nadeem, praising the governments of India and Pakistan for their support to the event, said it is a “historic break-through” for cultural relations between the two nations.

India’s High Commissioner to Pakistan, Shishankar Menon, took part in the opening ceremony. — MNA/PTI

One dead, three missing in Maryland boat accident

BALTIMORE, 9 March—Fire department and Coast Guard teams searched on Sunday for the bodies of three people believed to have died after a water taxi capsized in the Patapsco River.

One person was confirmed dead and three were missing and presumed dead, after wind whipped over the 36-foot boat during a “microburst” thunderstorm on Baltimore’s Inner Harbor on Saturday, city officials said.

Twelve people were pulled from the cold water and plucked off the hull of the overturned boat by Naval reservists, who were credited with preventing more deaths.

Two people, one of them a child, suffered cardiac arrest and were taken to the hospital. The child was resuscitated, but a woman in her 60s died, Fire Department officials said.

US swimming in debt

WASHINGTON, 9 March—United States is richer by 13 days dreams but at the same time swimming in debt, the latest figures released by the US Federal Reserve show.

Rising house and stock prices have pushed the total net worth of US households to a record 44.41 trillion US dollars at the end of 2003.

However, the nation’s debt also grew at a rapid pace in 2003. It increased by some 1.7 trillion US dollars to touch 22.4 trillion US dollars, the figures said.

Creditors abroad financed about a third of the year’s borrowing, roughly 5 per cent of the nation’s total output of products and services.

Such heavy indebtedness, says Allen Sinai of Decision Economics, a consulting firm, “is a time-bomb issue. There are potential adverse consequences, but we don’t know when”.

Debt can hobble the economy, said Sinai, author of a recent study on the dangers of ballooning budget deficits along with Robert E. Rubin, former Treasury Secretary, and Peter Orszag, a Brookings Institution economist.

Sinai said that the household balance sheet seems sound only because the price of household assets, like homes and stocks, are high and interest rates are low.

Federal Reserve chair- man Alan Greenspan declared himself at a loss to explain how a corrective could be applied. He asked, without providing an an- swer: “Can market forces incrementally defuse a worrisome buildup in a nation’s current account defi- cit and net external debt before a crisis more abruptly does so?”

North China province posts record premium growth

SHIJIAZHUANG, 9 March—The insurance sector in north China’s Hebei Province chalked up a record high growth of 48.26 per cent in premiums last year, according to the local industry regulatory commission.

The annual growth rate was 21.16 percentage points higher than the national average of 27.1 per cent, the second highest in China, the industry watchdog says.

In 2003, the province’s income amounted to 2.01 billion US dollars, an increase of 655.3 million US dollars over the previous year, statistics from the commission shows.

More efforts will be exerted to perfect the provincial insurance market this year. Measures will in- clude the establishment of more joint-stock insurance intermediate institutions to help standardize the per- formance of the local mar- ket.

China registered 46.75 billion US dollars in insur- ance premiums in 2003, up 27.1 per cent over the previous year.

MNA/Xinhua
My defective heart — myocardial Infarct — that needs treatment abroad

Myat Tun Oo

(Continued from yesterday)

Currently, there are many new and modern equipment and machines in the Cardiac Medical Unit and also at the Cardiac Surgical Unit. Coronary artery bypass surgery was done with procedural coronary angangiogram. When the result of the study came out, I was heartily upset and also depressed. One of the arteries coming from the aorta was blocked in two places (L A D, LAD). At one place it was blocked for (99) per cent and at the other place, it was blocked for (93) per cent.

I thought that “I feel fine,” but the result of the angangiogram dissuaded me. “You are terribly ill.”

Further more, a remark was clearly written, “The artery was not selected out of any difficult heart cases”.

One could easily suggest that “Go abroad”, since the case was Myocardialinfarct that needs to take treatment abroad. How much will it cost for the treatment abroad?

No substantial and concrete answer was received from my friends as they had their own different experiences in the cases of treatment abroad, and thus, I could not calculate how much it might cost.

On 17 November 2003, it was learnt that foreign expert — Professor and Head of Cardiac Surgery of the Yangon General Hospital, was coming to my bed and said that “I am going to take you to Yangon General Hospital for necessary treatment abroad.”

I was reading the instruction of the hospital discharge certificate. It is written on the hospital discharge certificate —

* Do not Smoke.
* Do not stay near a person who is smoking.
* Do not consume animal fats (fats derived from beef, pork, sheep, goat), butter, milk cream, and coconut milk, egg yolks.
* Any item that taste sweet on the tongue. (This for Diabetic Patient)
* Eat vegetables and as much as fish
* Be sure to take regular medication
* Be regular to visit hospital.
* Take appropriate exercise regularly. Take walking exercise for about 20 minutes.
* For consultation on heart check up, please contact first at Emergency Unit of the Yangon General Hospital.

My defective heart — myocardial infarct — that needs treatment abroad has been treated successfully at the Yangon General Hospital.

Guangdong Province targets for basic modernization by 2020

Guangdong, with one-third of China’s land territory and a quarter of its population, produces 10% of the country’s GDP. It is the country’s second largest province.

Guangdong’s GDP has been beefed up with an average annual growth rate of 13.4 per cent a year over the past 25 years since 1979 and reached 1,345 billion yuan in 2003, or 11.5 per cent of the national total. The southern economic powerhouse plans to raise its per-capita GDP to 3,100 US dollars by 2010, the governor noted.

Huang also warned that the accomplishment of the ambitious plan of his province might be affected by such factors as an imbalanced economic growth, an ever widening gap between rural and urban areas, an economic growth mode seeking large investment, high energy consumption and the ensuing grave pollution, and numerous structural constraints.

The provincial government also noted that legislative means and other measures have been taken by this province for protecting the lawful rights of the rural farmers and having their wages and salaries paid timely and in full.

At present, there are 30 million rural farmers in Guangdong, with one-third of them migrated from other provinces or autonomous regions. They have been impoverishing tremendously to the province’s economic growth and it is crucial to maintaining local economic prosperity and social stability and their lawful rights from infringement should be protected well,” said Huang.

The governor vowed a strict and meticulous in- spection of industries and businesses which employ a large rural workforce so as to ensure rural labours are paid adequately and timely. And he also warned of a severe penalty on payroll defaults.

The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

Guangdong Province targets for basic modernization by 2020

Efficient use of electricity

* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.
18 killed as cyclone hits Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO, 9 March — Eighteen people were killed and at least 50,000 were left homeless after a tropical cyclone hit the giant Indian Ocean island of Madagascar, in what was likely to be the country’s worst storm in 10 years.

Radio Madagascar said on Monday two people were killed by a falling tree, another person was electrocuted and 10 others drowned as the cyclone swept across the island at the weekend.

Five died in the northern town of Maroantsetra which was still under water after cyclone-related flooding, it said.

“There is very little information on the extent of the damage, but it’s predicted to be the most serious cyclone for 10 years,” said Roy Probert, Africa spokesman for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva.

12 acres of poppy plantations in Shan State (East) destroyed

YANGON, 9 March — Poppy plantations are being destroyed during the 2003-2004 poppy cultivation season. A combined team comprising members of local Tatmadawmen, local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force, Shan State (East) Special Region-4 and local people destroyed 12 acres of poppy plantations illegally grown on Pansali mountain range east-north-east of Wunshman Village, Shan State (East) on 28 February, putting the total number of the already destroyed acres of poppy plantations illegally grown in the region as far as 28 February 2004 to 6618.476.

IAF to hold largest-ever firepower display

NEW DELHI, 9 March — Indian Air Force (IAF) will undertake its largest ever firepower display at Chandan air ground range in Pokhran, west India’s Rajasthan Pradesh, on March 14.

All the fighter aircraft in the inventory of the IAF included the just inducted SU-30MKI and mid-air refuellers would display their precision strikes.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) Monday quoted an IAF spokesman as saying that it would be for the first time that the force would put up a firepower display in a phased manner to showcase its capability in the air defence, battlefield interdiction and close air support.

The firepower demonstration to be held for the first time since 1999 would be climaxed by an acrobatic display by the IAF Surya Kiran team.

NZ eco growth expected to slow in next two years

WELLINGTON, 9 March — The economy of New Zealand has grown faster than expected but the growth rate is likely to fall off earlier than expected, the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) said here Tuesday.

The institute’s March quarter forecasts are an annual growth rate of 3.3 per cent in the year to March 2004, up from a forecast of 2.7 per cent for the period made in December.

The institute also upped its forecast for the March 2005 year to 2.5 per cent from the 2.3 per cent it forecast in December.

But the growth rate is now expected to slip to a trough of 1.9 per cent in the March 2006 year, instead of the previously forecast 2.5 per cent.

NZIER senior economist Doug Steel said the delayed effects of the strong NZ dollar will filter into domestic spending by 2006 when house building is also expected to be softer than previously thought.

Despite the expected growth slowdown, Mr. Steel still thought the Reserve Bank would raise the official cash rate on Thursdays.

Minister visits Armed Forces Day booth

YANGON, 9 March — Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected the booth for the 59th Armed Forces Day of the ministry at the Defence Services Museum here today. The minister was conducted round the booth by heads of department and officials of the ministry.

Minister receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 9 March — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received Ms Ellen Yonghi Han, Project Director of China National Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Corporation, and party at his office at 2.30 pm today. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises. — MNA

Brazil, Portugal agree on migration, trade

BRASILIA, 9 March — Brazil and Portugal decided to conclude this year the process of mutual regularization of illegal migrants and further boost their trade, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Monday. Lula made the remarks after meeting here with visiting Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of Portugal, the only country with which Brazil holds regular meetings at the presidential level.

Lula thanked the Portuguese Government for the measures it has taken to deal with the situation of Brazilian immigrants and promised to facilitate the control of illegal Portuguese immigrants in Brazil before the end of this year. — MNA/Reuters

Pakistan, UAE sign three agreements

ISLAMABAD, 9 March — Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) here Monday signed three agreements including an extradition treaty, according to the official Associated Press of Pakistan.

The agreements, signed during the one-day visit of UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to Pakistan, are related to extradition of criminals, the recognition and enforcement of judgment in civil and commercial matters as well as protocols on media and cultural cooperation.

The two sides also inched six loan agreements totalling 265 million US dollars to finance vital hydro power and water projects in Pakistan with emphasis that the construction should commence as soon as possible.

Minister receives Industry-1 booth

Aung U Aung Thaung receives Ms Ellen Yonghi Han and party. — Industry-1

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo visits the booth of the Ministry of Cooperatives. — Cooperatives

The combined team destroying the 12-acre poppy plantation on Pansali Mountain Range in Shan State (East) on 28-2-2004. — MNA

The combined team members destroy the poppy plantation on Pansali Mountain Range in Shan State (East) on 28-2-2004. — MNA
Chinese offshore oil giant aims at 7% output rise

BEIJING, 9 March— China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC) aims to increase its domestic oil and gas production to 40 million cubic metres of oil equivalent by 2008, said Fu Chengyu, chairman of the CNOOC, quoted by Tuesday’s China Daily.

In 2008 the company’s turnover is expected to exceed 20 billion US dollars and the profit (the amount of oil it can get from joint production with foreign partners) of both domestic and overseas production to rise to 220 million barrels of oil equivalent from 130 million last year.

Overseas production will make up 30 per cent of the company’s total in 2008, he said.

Other than an output rise, downstream business, including petrochemical complexes, refineries and fertilizers, is another focus

WHO says millions of Pacific kids not immunized

WELLINGTON, 9 March—Millions of children in the Pacific region are not immunized against potentially deadly diseases such as Hepatitis B and measles, said speakers at a UNICEF-World Health Organization (WHO) conference, which opened in Auckland on Monday.

The conference, which was jointly organized by the United Nations Children’s Fund and WHO, attracted delegates from 18 Pacific countries, many of which are grappling with low immunization rates among children, according to the Domion Post Tuesday. The paper quoted WHO regional adviser on immunization Yang Baoping as saying that seven million children in the western Pacific region were not immunized.

Poor measles immunization rates have been a leading cause of death in the region, particularly in Papua New Guinea where 17 children died of measles in the 2001-2002 financial year, he said.

And more than half of the world’s deaths from Hepatitis B are in the western Pacific area. WHO aims to have a 95-per-cent measles immunization rate in the region as soon as possible.

At present it is about 80 per cent.

Chinese, Scottish scientists to cooperate

BRISBANE, 9 March— Chinese and Scottish scientists exchanged ideas for cooperation on Monday at a symposium titled “Sino-Scottish Science — Sharing Ideas” organized by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE).

An official from the CAS Bureau of International Cooperation said the event was a platform for future academic cooperation between Chinese and Scottish scientists.

The conference was attended by 200 scientists from China and Scotland. Among them were 30 Chinese scientists who hope to carry out substantive cooperation in research, the official said.

The scientists, 10 Chinese and 10 Scottish, are scheduled to focus on botany and genetics, nanotechnology, optoelectronics and public understanding of sciences.

The Scottish scientists are from the University of Glasgow, the University of Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt University and the University of Dundee.

Zimbabwe seizes US plane, “mercenaries”

HARARE, 9 March— Zimbabwe has seized a US-registered cargo plane with 64 suspected mercenaries of various nationalities and a cargo of “military material”, Home Affairs (Interior) Minister Kembo Mohadi said on Monday.

“A United States of America-registered Boeing 727-100 cargo plane was detained last night at about 1930 hours (1730 GMT) at Harare International Airport after its owners had made a false declaration of its cargo and crew,” Mohadi said in a statement.

“The plane was actually carrying 64 suspected mercenaries of various nationalities,” he said, adding that an investigation had also revealed “military material” in the cargo. Mohadi said fuller investigations were under way to establish the identity of the men and the nature of their mission.

There was no word on where the airplane arrived from, or the identity of the men and the nature of their mission.
California university apologizes for body parts scandal

LOS ANGELES, 9 March — Officials at one of California’s most prestigious universities on Monday apologized for a widening scandal over the sale of body parts from donated cadavers but declined to shut down the beleaguered programme. Meanwhile, families of donors to the Willed Body Programme University of California at Los Angeles said they will sue the university, claiming that officials there must have condoned the sale of their relatives’ remains.

Two people, including the programme administrator, were arrested over the weekend and accused of selling body parts from the university’s body freezer to medical research laboratories.

Ernest Nelson, 46, said he bought parts from more than 800 cadavers over the past six years with the consent of programme administrator, but he later suggested that the programme was running smoothly under Reid.

That lawsuit, filed in 1996 by relatives of donors, accused the UCLA programme of cremating thousands of donated bodies along with the remains of animals used in laboratory experiments.

Reid, 54, a licensed embalmer, was hired to keep the building that lawyers say the Willed Body Programme, the nation’s oldest, will not shut down even temporarily during the investigation. — MNA/Reuters

7 still missing in Xinjiang coal mine flooding

HAMI (Xinjiang), 9 March — Two miners were confirmed dead in the coal mine flooding accident in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, while 7 are still missing.

Bodies of two miners were found at 9 am and 9:30 am respectively on Monday, said Tran Guangxiong, an official with Xinjiang coal mine security supervision bureau.

Another 7 miners were still missing, Tran said, and the possibility of their survival was small. The accident happened in the No 2 Mine owned by a drilling company of Xinjiang Hami Coal Corporation at 8:50 am Sunday when 49 miners were working below ground.

Twenty-five miners managed to escape, and another 15 were rescued at 3:35 am, Monday. — MNA/Xinhua

Putin praises women

NOVO-Ogaryovo (Russia), 9 March — President Vladimir Putin, sure to win re-election in six days, on Monday lauded the traditional homemakers’ role on Women’s Day — the occasion for effusive praise of Russia’s long-suffering women.

He presented medals and flowers to women who had distinguished themselves in the past year, including a policeman, a businesswoman and a museum manager, who sat beaming under the weight of their neat bouquets.

“March 8 is undoubtedly a day to celebrate women: their kindness, their beauty and their wisdom,” Putin said at his country house in a forest outside Moscow.

“That lawsuit, filed in 1996 by relatives of donors, accused the UCLA programme of cremating thousands of donated bodies along with the remains of animals used in laboratory experiments.”

said university officials had no reason to suspect any of the anatomical specimens were used for anything but anatomical research. — MNA/Reuters

Putin praised women for their daily work and comfort,” a smiling Putin said before offering his respects to the traditional homemakers who had distinguished themselves in the past year.

In particular, direct investment by foreign investors, which would play a key role in boosting the economic growth, had begun to gain momentum, he disclosed.

Chakramon said he believed the outbreak of bird flu in the country would reduce the annual economic growth by only 0.4 per cent.

But he conceded the avian influenza outbreak, which continued into early this year, would have an effect on some sections of the economy in the first half, but the impact would ease in the second quarter.

He said the national think tank targeted to see the export growth 17 per cent, with a total value of around 7.65 billion US dollars a month, and the import expand 19 per cent this year on the assumption that the economy would enjoy an 8 per cent growth.

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Validity & Reliability

Introduction to Plant Biotechnology

The applications of Schroedinger Equation (a) The Potential barrier
(b) The Potential Step

Advanced Logic

The Structure of DNA

The Skin and Four Major Function

Systematic Position and External Features of Mystus Seenghala (Nga-gyaung)

Digestive System of Rana tigrina

Migration of Fish

An Introduction to Educational Psychology

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Key Functions of Management

The Home

General Methodology

Economics (1)

Poetry

Poetry

Conditional/IF Patterns Physics
Uganda to set up village health teams countrywide

KAMPALA. 9 March — Village health teams (VHTs) will be set up in every village of Uganda to strengthen health services at grassroots level, the Ministry of Health announced on Sunday.

Richard Okwir, senior official from the ministry was quoted on Monday by local media as saying that the move aimed at boosting health primary care at village levels is the first component of a wide health sector strategic plan by the ministry.

Speaking at a closing ceremony of a training workshop of 10 VHTs, Okwir said the strategy would fill the long awaited gap that has existed between the ministry and the communities at grassroots.

Coordinator of the training programme Kettinge Bagambica said the VHTs were responsible for overseeing health situations in their respective villages.

She said if people are to get quality services, they themselves needed to be fully involved in health projects and thus, was the basis of the VHTs.

She said the number of medical personnel in the country was still far too small to reach everyone in need of health services and thus often caused portioning of blame among health officials.

“We want services to get closer to people, but for a long time we have not been able to achieve this due to the limited number of medical personnel available for the exercise.

With implementation of the VHTs, we believe we can get as close to all our people, who are the best health officials,” she added.

Nigerians appealed to cooperate in fighting eco crimes

ABUJA. 9 March — The Nigerian Federal Government on Sunday appealed to Nigerians to support and cooperate with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to crack down on economic and financial crimes.

Speaking at a news conference in the capital Abuja, Nuhu Ribadu, executive chairman of the EFCC, said the Nigerian government was serious about combating economic crime.

He also urged the public to support the government’s efforts.

Ribadu said the government was committed to fighting economic crimes and would not tolerate any form of financial malfeasance.

He appealed to Nigerians to cooperate with the government in the fight against economic crimes.

“Without the support of the public, we will not be able to achieve our goals,” he said.

Ribadu also assured Nigerians that the EFCC would work hard to ensure that the country’s economy is protected from economic crimes.

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Rising waters and uprooted Queensland and New South Wales' eastern states of Australia and Sydney are expected to experience severe flooding. A boy drowned and hundreds more were injured when heavy rains, gale winds and flooding hit Australia's eastern states of Queensland and New South Wales since Friday night.

Roads have been cut by rising waters and uprooted trees while power was cut to thousands of houses, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio reported Saturday.

A 10-year-old boy died when he was swept to a flooded creek in northern New South Wales. His body was found Saturday morning.

“A few hours after putting it under control by Sunday morning, a government department and some media offices were damaged in the fire, the Prime Minister’s spokesperson Dimitar Tsonov said.

“Now can you explain, for example, in a country of 130 million people with a record like ours in terms of corruption and no individual is serving jail term for corruption or smuggling,”” he asked.

Ribadu likened Nigeria to a jungle where there were no laws, saying: “We don’t have any law and order culture and that’s why so many institutions are not working.

He said that no amount of blackmail would stop the commission from carrying out its constitutional task, promising that members of the commission would do their job with all honesty.

He said that the majority of Nigerians were tired of the level of corruption and other economic crimes in the country and that the lack of accountability was the reason.

He said that the government would do its job to ensure that the country’s economy is protected from economic crimes.

He also urged the public to support the government’s efforts in the fight against economic crimes.

“A few months ago, it was spending so much without any visible change.

“We want Nigerians to come on board and join the commission in making the country free of all crimes,” he said.

The EFCC set up eight months ago, is charged with the responsibility of eliminating various crimes, including smuggling, fraud, oil pipeline vandalism and other financial crimes.

“The government has set up the commission to fight economic crimes and has given it all the necessary support to do its job.

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Study finds inhaled steroids do not harm foetal growth

WASHINGTON, 9 March — Pregnant women with asthma can use inhaled steroids without worrying that they will affect growth of their babies, according to a study released on Monday.

Babies are more endangered by getting too little oxygen from an asthmatic mother than they are by the drugs, the researchers found.

The research team, led by Michael Schatz from Kaiser-Permanente Medical Centre in San Diego, found inhaled steroids given to 396 pregnant women did not have an effect on the growth of the foetus or impact the baby’s birth weight.

The study shows that inhaled steroids are safer in pregnancy than steroid pills, Schatz said.

Oral steroids are also used to treat asthma, but have been shown to slow the growth of the foetus.

“Now, women don’t have to make a choice between their health and the health of the baby,” Schatz said in a telephone interview. “They don’t have to think that making that choice is going to somehow harm the baby,” he said.

The study was published in the March Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

Inhaled steroids are given to some women with persistent asthma during pregnancy. Previous research indicated that 7 per cent of women with asthma were delivering babies with low birth weight or infant death.

“The asthma is the most common potentially serious medical problem to complicate pregnancy,” Schatz said. “In fact, the risk of the uncontrolled asthma is greater than the risk of the inhaled steroids.” — MNA/Reuters

Annan says women bearing brunt of “AIDS” epidemic

UNITED NATIONS, 9 March — Women are now bearing the brunt of the AIDS epidemic, especially among young adults, in what UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday called a “terrifying pattern” in the galloping disease.

Opening a session to mark International Women’s Day, Annan said that women and girls accounted for more than half of the estimated five million newly-infected people with AIDS or HIV, the virus that causes the disease.

Moreover, among young people below 24 years of age, females make up nearly two thirds of those with HIV.

“Even a decade ago, statistics indicated that women were less affected,” Annan said. “But a terrifying pattern has since emerged. All over the world women are increasingly bearing the brunt of the epidemic.”

The global AIDS epidemic crossed a significant threshold in 2003 when for the first time, UN statistics showed nearly half of those living with HIV were women, up from 41 per cent six years ago. Many of the young women are married to older men, who had affairs and brought the disease home.

Some 40 million people are living with AIDS worldwide, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa by the end of 2003, of which 19 million were women.

Jordon’s Queen Noor told the meeting that in the Middle East a modest 600,000 people were thought to be living with HIV/AIDS and about 45,000 died last year.

But despite the seemingly low rates, 55 per cent of those infected were female as of 2002.

“Our strong sense of family and religious traditional may inhibit behaviour that spreads the virus, but at the same time those traditions may inhibit testing and reporting of those who may be infected,” she said.

Queen Noor, the widow of King Hussein, questioned the low rates because of the widespread stigma attached to the disease, saying many who carried the virus would simply rather die than be rejected by friends and family.

“HIV is not simply a public health crisis but a human rights issues and especially a women’s rights issue,” she said. “They bear the children but seldom control their own sexual lives. They hold communities together but are marginalized in the political life.” — MNA/Reuters

Chinese doctor to attempt 49-day fast for world record

CHENGDU, 9 March — A 50-year-old Chinese herbalist doctor announced Sunday that he will fast for 49 days to challenge the world record of 44 days set by US magician David Blaine in October in London.

A second-generation doctor of traditional Chinese medicine, Chen Jianmin will begin the life-challenging adventure on March 20.

“Chen will have no food, but he will drink water over the 49-day ordeal,” he said.

Chen, of Luzhou City, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, said his fast would “attest to the regimen of traditional Chinese medicine.”

The record attempt would take place in Bifengxia Valley, a mountain resort in northeastern Ya’an City, and be monitored by 50 witnesses invited from around the world.

Chen claims to have undergone long-term fasting on three previous occasions in 1987, 1994 and 1999. He says the longest lasted 81 days, during which he ate no food but only drank water, while going to work regularly.

Experts of Western medicine questioned Chen’s wisdom of fasting for such a long time.

An astrophysicist at Shanghai University, who declined to be named, said modern medical research showed the average person could survive only seven days without food or water, and he dismissed Chen’s claim of an 81-day fast as “definitely impossible.”

Chen said he would break the record through his medical research of “the magic of fasting”, which had been documented in ancient Chinese medicine documents or Buddhist scriptures.

Liang Chao, a gastroenterologist doctor with the Chengdu Chinese Medicine University, said “pigu shengong” resembled a legendary practice in the Hindu discipline of yoga, in which people were forced deep underground for long periods without suffering any harm, but this practice was questionable, Liang said. — MNA/Xinhua

Two bright comets near Earth in 2004

MUMBAI, 9 March — The astronomers have predicted a celestial delight for the sky gazers who would be able to see both the comets, appearing simultaneously in May 2004, the time when they also would be closest to the Earth.

This may be the first time that two comets are going to be visible (with naked eye or with binoculars) at the same time. Comet C/2002 Q4 (NEAT) — discovered three years ago — and C/2002 T7 (LINEAR) — discovered two years ago — will reappear closest to Earth on May 7 and May 19 respectively, Nehru Planetary scientists said here Sunday.

Along with this, another spectacle is likely when the observatory in Northern hemisphere of Earth could see in the western horizon after sunset the comet NEAT and four bright planets (Jupiter, Mars, Saturn, and Uranus) in all a line in a time during May 12-16. They said.

“The phenomenon is quite rare and offers a wonderful photo opportunities, but also graphically demonstrates the contrast,” the astronomers said.

Comet NEAT will be seen near the horizon just after sunset at a distance of 48 million kilometres while comet LINEAR will make its closest pass at 40 million kilomeeters.

NEAT is expected to be brighter, brightening to magnitude one or two in late April and May. This will make it visible even in polluted skies. From non-light-polluted, clear skies, comet NEAT may be visible by the naked eye from early April through late June, the scientists added.— MNA/PTI

China’s West-East gas pipeline to be in operation this year

BEIJING, 9 March — A 3,900-kilometre-long natural gas pipeline that spans across the breadth of the country is scheduled for completion and commercial operation by the end of this year, according to Vice-Minister Zhang Guohaus of the State Develop-

The mammoth project, which starts in the Tarim Basin of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China and ends in the east China coastal city of Shanghai, is part of the efforts of the country to make full utilization of the rich resources in the western part of the country and ease energy-hunger in the economically developed eastern part.

The eastern part of the pipeline, which runs through the western part of the country and ends in Shanghai, was completed by the end of last year and has begun to supply natural gas to Shanghai from January 1, 2004. Zhong told a Press conference as sidelines of the annual session of China’s top legislature.

“During the icy cold winter, Shanghai got a supply of 1.1 million cubic metres every day,” Zhong said.

Welding for the 2,400-kilometre western part of the project has been completed and the joints across the Yangtze and Yellow rivers have also been completed, encountering no problems that affect the schedule of the entire project, he noted.

“At the current progress, the whole pipeline can be put into test run by October this year and by November, the natural gas will flow from the Tarim Basin in Xinjiang to Shanghai and Zhejiang Province,” he said, adding that means the project is completed one year ahead of schedule, a speed that has never attained in the history of pipeline laying in the world. — MNA/Xinhua
Barcelona hold on to claim 7th straight win

MALLORCA, 9 March—Resurgent Barcelona survived a late bout of nerves to beat Real Mallorca 3-2 on Sunday and stretch their winning league run to seven matches.

Eye-catching goals from Luis Garcia, either side of a tap-in from Luis Enrique, set the top two teams when they were held 1-1 at home to fourth-placed Sochaux.

Barcelona's Luis Enrique, centre, and Ronalinho celebrate their victory against Sampdoria.

Milan march on with victory over Sampdoria

MILAN, 9 March—European champions AC Milan maintained their lead at the top of Serie A with an impressive 3-1 win over Sampdoria on Sunday.

Samprdoria, the surprise that Cristiano Doni to slam home on the loose ball.

But Milan were unshaken and continued to press forward. Kaka forcing Francesco Antonio into action with a wickedly swerving long range effort.

Ten minutes before the break Milan restored their lead when Inzaghi rose superbly to meet a Giuseppe Pancaro cross with a perfectly angled glancing header at the near post.

Lebedeva leaps into triple-jump history

BUDAPEST, 9 March — Russia's Tatyana Lebedeva leapt into history on Saturday by equaling and then twice breaking the world record to win the women's world indoor triple jump title.

The 27-year-old, already a double world champion and seeking an unprecedented double in the long and triple jumps in Budapest, took just four of her six jumps, all of which would have been good enough for gold.

Yamile Aldana, once of Cuba and who switched to Sudan after failing to ensure British nationality in time for this year's Athens Olympics, took silver with a second-round effort of 14.90. Bronze went to Hrysnypyt Devertev of Guantanamo.

Lebedeva's achievement was reminiscent of Jonathan Edwards' performance in the 1995 world outdoor championship when the former British triple jumper broke the men's world record with his first two efforts in Gothenburg.

Extraordinarily Lebedeva, who interrupted her career in 2002 to have a baby, had been in action only hours earlier, qualifying for the long jump final with her first effort.

Penalty save keeps Tranmere's FA Cup hopes alive

LIVERPOOL, 9 March—Australia defender Kevin Muscat missed a penalty as First Division Millwall were held 0-0 at home by Second Division Tranmere Rovers in their FA Cup quarterfinal on Saturday.

Millwall's 65th minute spot kick was tipped over the bar by Tranmere's Dutch goalkeeper John Achterberg after a foul by defender Ryan Taylor on Australian midfielder Tim Cahill.

Millwall were dominant and their player-manager Dennis Wise brought a diving save from Achterberg with a free kick in the 15th minute, the first of a string of chances for the home side.

Ten minutes before halftime, Cahill had a point-blank header from Wise's corner brilliantly tipped away by Achterberg.

Millwall goalkeeper Andy Marshall made a good save at the other end from a volley by Tranmere's English midfielder Aimo Diana in the 24th minute.

After a sluggish start, the Coriscans opened the scoring after 22 minutes courtesy of a goal by Florian Maurice who headed home a Pascal Chimbonda cross.

Six minutes later, Alou Diarra made it two as he pushed the ball into the empty net after Fabien Barthez had failed to block an attempt from Barthez.

Five minutes after the interval, Choussy Ben Saada scored his team's third with a fine volley from inside the box. Ogbeche sealed the win with a powerful 16-metre drive.

Didier Drogba scored a consolation 10 minutes from time from the penalty spot.

On Saturday, Paris St. Germain let slip an opportunity to stay in touch with the top two teams when they were held 1-1 at home to fourth-placed Sochaux.
Wednesday, March 10

View today

9:00 am
1. Classical song

Wednesday, March 10

Tune in today

8:30 am
1. Classical song

WEATHER

Tuesday, March 3

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hrs MST:
During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in northern Shan and Chin States, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (°C) above normal in Kachin State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Rakhine State, (°C) below normal in eastern Shan State and about normal in the remaining areas. Maximum temperature on 8-3-2004 was 36.0°C (97°F). Minimum temperature on 9-3-2004 was 19.0°C (66°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 9-3-2004 was 54%. Total sun hours were 7.8 hours on 9-3-2004. Rainfall on 9-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southeast at (18:30) hrs MST on 8-3-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Bay of Bengal valid until evening of 10-3-2004. Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and isolated showers likely in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%)

State of the sea: Strongly easterly wind with (35) mph and moderate to rough seas are likely in the Bay of Bengal off of the Tet-Pi Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Seals will beripples to weather in Myanmar.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in lower Myanmar areas. Temperature forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-3-2004: Possible of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (20%)
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Taungyay Dam construction project in Kyaukpaduaung Township

YANGON, 9 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and officials, arrived at the junction of Pyintha Village on Meiktila-Thazi road where Meiktila bypass is being constructed by Hong Pang Co Ltd on 8 March morning.

At the junction, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on arrangements for construction of the bypass.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected arrangements being made for construction of the bypass and heard a report presented by officials of the company on surveying of the axis and future tasks.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the work.

After that, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at the border of Kyaukpaduaung where they were welcomed by Chairman of Kyaukpon Creek and canal to take water to Kyetmauktaung Dam.

Next, they inspected earth work for Taungyay Dam where Deputy Director of ID U Myo Tun reported on progress of earth work and work to be carried out to Lt-Gen Ye Myint who gave necessary instructions.

At the briefing hall, an official reported on progress in construction of Taungyay Dam, Kyantkada Dam, canal and diversion tunnel and future tasks.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the work.

Tax-free markets inspected in Yangon

YANGON, 9 March — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Li-Col Kyaw Tint and officials welcomed them.

The commander and party also went to the tax-free markets here and to 13,432 acres of farmlands in addition to 13,432 acres of farmlands being irrigated by Kyetmauktaung Dam.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected Taungyay Dam is situated near Tepinte Village in Kyaukpaduaung Township and it is of earthen type with 70 feet in height and 2950 feet in length. The catchment area of the dam is 23 sq-miles and 48 per cent of the project was completed. On completion, it can irrigate Kyetmauktaung Dam and other farmlands in addition to 13,432 acres of farmlands being irrigated by Kyetmauktaung Dam.

MNA

Commerce Minister meets importers and exporters

YANGON, 9 March — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone met wheat importers, coffee, pepper, mango, tea leaf and plum exporters at the meeting hall on the fifth floor of the ministry.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, directors-general, managing directors, guests, the general secretary and CEC members of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and exporters.

On the occasion, the minister spoke of the need of wheat importers to reduce the rate of their wheat import and to make arrangements for cultivation and production of wheat. He also urged exporters to promote the export rate and to award prizes to those who export most.

Those present on the occasion also took part in the discussions. Later, the minister gave instructions in response to reports.

MNA

Drug possessor gets prison term

YANGON, 9 March — Members of Zeyawady Police Force in Pyu Township, Bago Division, on 22 January 2004, searched the house of Zaw Lwin of 1st Aung Mingalar Street, Zeyawady and arrested him together with 1.07775 kilo of marijuana concealed in a basket.

Action was taken against Zaw Lwin, son of U Hla Myint of 1st Aung Mingalar Street, Zeyawady under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

He was sentenced to 15 years’ imprisonment under Section 19 (A) and 5 years’ imprisonment with hard labour under Section 15 by Taungoo District Court on 22 January 2004.