Lt-Gen Ye Myint visits Sayadaws in Mandalay, inspects Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Project

Yangon, 10 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, together with Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, arrived at Mandalay General Hospital yesterday.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party presented offerings to State Ovadacariya Sayawad of Phayagyitaik Naya Monastery in Chaungthazy Township, Mandalay, Agga Maha Pandita Abdihada Maha Rattha Guru Abdihada Agga Maha Suddhammapoktha Bhaddanta Mediyyabhivamsa who is receiving medical treatment, and asked after the health of the Sayawad.

They also presented offerings to Sayawad of Kyaypyan Pika Monastery of Taungpyin Htilintaik in Chaungthazy Township Agga Maha Suddhamma Jotihaddha Bhaddanta Panhavamsa, who is temporarily residing at the Kyawngtaik.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Project on Mandalay bank, where they were welcomed by Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Secretary Lt-Col Maung Pu and officials. At the project, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Htay Myint reported on arrangements for construction of a railroad under the approach road. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to the officials. Afterwards, he met with departmental personnel in TadaU Township Peace and Development Council. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave a speech, calling on local residents to cooperate with the government in taking charge of the undertakings for regional development. He added that the Prime Minister, in his inspection tour, had already fulfilled the requirements of the region.

In this regard, local people and departments are to make combined efforts in harmony, he urged. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented a computer set to TadaU Basic Education High School through the headmaster. Lt-Gen Ye Myint arrived back here by air in the afternoon.

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

Commander attends work coord meeting of Bago Division Police Force

Yangon, 10 March — Bago Division Police Force held its work coordination meeting in Toungoo on 8 March, with an address by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko. Division Police Commander Col Thein Kyi explained the accomplishments and future programmes of the Divisional Police Force. Also present at the work coordination meeting were local authorities, departmental officials and police officers.
PERSPECTIVES
Thursday, 11 March, 2004

Let’s work in concert under the leadership of the government

The State Peace and Development Council has been building all the infrastructures needed for all-round development of the Union and higher living standard of the national people. The government, on its part, has been fulfilling sector-wise requirements in all regions throughout the nation and so the people, on their part, should put their energies into the development work for their townships, districts and states or divisions.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on 29 February went on an inspection tour of Taungup township, Rakhine State, and fulfilled the requirements for development work in the township besides upgrading two high schools (branch) and two middle schools (branch), and a 25-bed hospital in An township was also upgraded to a 50-bed facility. In his meeting with members of Taungup Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel and members of social organizations, the Prime Minister said that as we have laid down the seven-point future policy programme for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed discipline-flourishing democracy, it is necessary for the people to work in concert under the leadership of the government so that our national goal is realized. For the development of Rakhine State, the government is building education, health, social and economic infrastructures. The Yangon-Sittway highway is the tangible result of the government’s efforts for improving transport in Rakhine State. Eight hundred and ninety-four miles of road including 537 miles of tarred road have been built in the state. In addition to new roads, a total of twenty-seven bridges has also been constructed.

Now that the transport in Rakhine State has improved, one can travel from Sittway to Yangon through the Sittway-Mrauk-U-An-Minbu-Magway highway or the Sittway-An-Taungup-Padaung-Pay highway or the Sittway-An-Taungup-Thandwe-Gwama-Ngathaingchaung highway. To open educational opportunities to the national people in the state, basic education schools are being upgraded and new ones built. Moreover, for the youth to be able to pursue higher education easily, Sittway University, Government Technological College and Government Computer College have been opened in Sittway. Not only that, public health care services can be carried out on a wider scale in the state as new 100-bed and 200-bed hospitals have been opened.

We would like to call upon the entire national people to work together in all the national endeavours under the leadership of the government for all-round development of the Union and for the successful realization of the future policy programme.

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”

People’s Desire
* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views against the country
* 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

Deputy Minister meets service personnel of IPRD in Monghsat

Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein inspects Mongtong TV relay station. — MNA

Rural road opened
YANGON, 10 March — A ceremony to open Pavukon-Zwekaik rural road in Kawo Township was held this morning. Director-General of Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Myo Myint and Deputy Director-General U Win Htay formally opened the road by cutting the ribbon. The gravel road is 4.5 miles long and was built at a cost of 8 million kyats.

Afterwards, Col Myo Myint and party went to Mockanein village monastery and inspected the sinking of tubewell. They also inspected the construction of 13-mile Kyai-padaung-Tawa-Paingkyun-Phalay road linking Bago, Thanapin and Kawo townships. — MNA

Cash donated for Children Hospital
YANGON, 10 March — A ceremony to donate cash for the funds of Yangon Children Hospital was held today at the hospital. Wellwisher Mr Vellutini Jacques Frangois of France donated K 1 million towards the hospital fund. Medical Superintendent Dr Mya Thein accepted the cash and spoke words of thanks. — MNA

Deputy Director-General U Khin Zaw explains measures for utilizing water most beneficially in meeting with farmers. — aki

Seminar on utilizing water held
YANGON, 10 March — Under the Myanmar-Japan technical cooperation programme, a seminar on utilizing water most beneficially was held at Irrigation Technical Development Centre in Hlegu recently. Deputy Director-General U Khin Zaw and directors of the Irrigation Department, technicians of JICA, departmental personnel and farmers were present on the occasion. — MNA

Respect paying ceremony of Pyuntaza BEHS 4 April
YANGON, 10 March — A ceremony to pay respect to the retired teachers of Basic Education High School, Pyuntaza, Bago Division, will be held on 4 April morning.

The teachers and those wishing to raise the fund for the teachers are to contact Daw Khin Saw Mu (Tel: 663179), U San Maung (Tel: 02-23591), U Tin Oo (Tel: 56) and Dr Khin Maung Aye (Tel: 40). — MNA

The opening of the rural road in progress. — PRABASIN

Mr Vellutini Jacques Frangois of France donates K 1 million to hospital fund. MNA
Former UN inspector Blix says Australia bowed to US on Iraq war

SYDNEY, 10 March — Former UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix has accused Australia of caving in to US pressure to join the Iraq war and called on Canberra to be more independent of Washington in an interview published here.

Blix told the Sydney Morning Herald that he believed Australia should have displayed more independence over its support for the US-led invasion of Iraq, although he believed it was difficult for Canberra to stand up to Washington.

“It may not be easy to be independent of a US-led war because the US are so tremendously powerful, but (Australia) ought to,” he said in an interview to published here.

Blix said sovereign nations needed to display independence on questions of war and peace, and it would be improper for any country to bow to US pressure to join a war in return for favourable treatment in other areas.

“The US might well go to some small country and say ‘look, you don’t have interest in Iraq but you have one big interest in the world and that is to be friendly to us, so are you going to vote for your interest or not?’,” he said.

A spokesman for Prime Minister John Howard dismissed the criticism and said Australia had been right to join the Iraq invasion.

“I reject the criticism that Australia bowed to US pressure,” the spokesman said. “It was right for Australia to be involved in the coalition.

“Understandably, as leader of it, John Blix had wanted the UN weapons inspection process to continue.”

Australia was one of Washington’s strongest supporters in the lead-up to last year’s Iraq war and one of only a handful of members of the so-called “coalition of the willing” to contribute troops on the ground.

Howard and Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said this month that maintaining a strong alliance with the United States was an important factor in the decision to commit 2,000 troops to the Iraq campaign.

The relationship would have been “very substantially” weakened had Australia not done so, they said.

Australia has long battled perceptions that it acts as Washington’s “deputy sheriff” in the Asia-Pacific region and last week urged the United States to take a more active role in providing financial and training support in counter-terrorism efforts in Southeast Asia.

An Iraqi doctor treats a patience after he was injured when police and US troops repulsed an attack by guerrillas on late Monday.

553 US service members killed since the beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 March — As of Tuesday, March 9, 553 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 379 died as a result of hostile action and 174 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

Since the start of military operations, 2,753 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Department of Defence’s figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 424.

The latest death reported by US Central Command:—A US Marine was killed in an automobile accident Friday in Kuwait.

A handout photo released on March 10, 2004 shows US soldiers injured in a roadside explosion outside Baghdad.

An Iraqi marine is treated at Camp Victory, Baghdad.

Spanish base in Diwaniya attacked

MADRID, 10 March.—The Spanish army base in Diwaniya was attacked on Monday night with three mortars, without personal or material damage, according to the Ministry of Defence (today), while a bomb killed a US soldier north of the Iraqi capital.

The Spanish Ministry stated that the mortars hit the outer security perimeter of the base, but security patrols were unable to find the authors of the attack.

“The Brigade explosives’ team has initiated investiga- tions into finding the location of the firing and the armaments used,” read a Ministry communiqué posted on its web page.

In February, five Spanish soldiers were wounded in Iraq in a bombing when they were returning to a Plus Ultra Brigade base in Diwaniya. An Iraqi interpreter accompanying them was also injured.
Iraq's Kirkuk pipeline needs millions of dollars worth of repairs

KIRKUK, 10 March—Millions of dollars are needed to repair Iraq's northern oil pipeline before it can resume prewar level of crude oil exports, an official at the state Northern Oil Company said.

"A number of pumping and production stations linked to the pipeline were either damaged during the war or looted in the aftermath of the war," company expert Ghazi al-Talabani told Dow Jones Newswires on Monday.

"They need to be repaired before we can resume normal levels of export that we used to do before the war," he said.

The 1,049-kilometre (655-mile) Kirkuk-Yumurtalkil pipeline to Turkey used to transport 500,000 barrels a day, but pumping was shut down by the government of Saddam Hussein.

The pipeline has a capacity of 1.6 million barrels a day. But its second pumping station near Mosul was bombed and destroyed during the 1991 Gulf War, reducing its export capacity to almost half.

A spate of acts of sabotage in the aftermath of the US invasion of Iraq last year has hampered Iraq's efforts to resume oil exports through the pipeline.

"AI-Ajeel pumping station near Tikrit, 300 kilometres (124 miles) north of Baghdad, for example, has sustained 100 percent destruction," he said.

Last year Iraq resumed pumping oil through the pipeline at a capacity of 400,000 barrels a day, well below prewar levels.

On Monday, Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organization issued a tender for lifting 6 million barrels of Kirkuk crude oil from the Turkish export port of Ceyhan between March 12-19.

It is not known yet, however, if Iraq can sustain that level of exports from the north or not, taking into consideration possible acts of sabotage.

"We need millions of dollars to get these stations working again," al-Talabani said. Neither he nor other NOC officials would comment on the reimportation of oil pumping through the pipeline.

Explosion at government building in Iraq

MOSSUL, 10 March—Seven people were injured Tuesday day after a grenade was tossed in a building housing a local governing council, police said.

Police said the attack may have been aimed at several US soldiers who had been in the building earlier, but left before the grenade was thrown. Seven people, including three policemen and four Iraqis were hurt in the blast in the Abu al-Toub local council building. No attackers were caught.

On Monday, attackers opened fire on a car carrying two local council members, killing one and wounding the other, police said. Insurgents also attacked a police checkpoint Monday night, injuring four policemen. Three of the attackers were killed, said Police Lt Khalid Abdelkarim.

Support for Bush falls on economy and Iraq

WASHINGTON, 10 March—President Bush, the target of months of criticism during the Democratic primary season, has seen public support fall to the lowest level of his presidency for his performance on the economy and the situation in Iraq, a new Washington Post-ABC News poll has found.

A majority of Americans — 57 percent — say they want their next president to steer the country away from the course set by Bush, according to the survey. Bush's standing hit new lows in crucial areas such as the economy (39 percent support him), Iraq (46 percent) and the budget deficit (30 percent).

Bush's overall support, 50 percent, was unchanged from February and equal to the lowest of his presidency; only the war on terrorism continues to garner him the support of more than six in 10 Americans.

Roadside bomb kills US soldier in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 March—One US soldier was killed and another injured by a roadside bomb north of the Iraqi capital on Tuesday, a military spokeswoman said.

The soldiers were driving in a four vehicle convoy southeast of the town of Baqubah, 40 miles north of Baghdad, when the bomb exploded at around 9.30 am.

The wounded soldier was in a stable condition. The death brought to 380 the number of US soldiers killed in action in Iraq since the start of the US-led war.

A US Army personnel from the 4th Infantry Division, 1-22 battalion secures the area during a night raid in the city of Tikrit, 110 miles north of Baghdad, on 9 March, 2004.

Ford in deal to use Toyota hybrid system technology

TOKYO, 10 March—Toyota Motor Corp said on Tuesday that it had concluded licensing agreements with Ford Motor Co covering the use of its hybrid system and emissions purification technology.

Under the agreements, Toyota's hybrid system control technology, among other technologies patented by the company as a result of its development of hybrid systems, can be used in Ford's own hybrid system, which is still being developed.

"We have said that environmentally friendly technologies should not be owned by a single company," a Toyota spokesman said.

Toyota signed a similar licensing agreement with Nissan Motor Co in September 2002.

More Vietnamese people suffer from dengue fever

Hanoi, 10 March—Up to 3,326 Vietnamese people were found to suffer from dengue fever in the first two months of this year, up 150 per cent over the same period last year.

Of the patients, five died in the period, local newspaper Vietnam News Agency quoted sources from Vietnam's Hygiene and Epidemiology Institute as saying.

Most of the dengue fever sufferers live in southern localities such as Ho Chi Minh City, Ninh Binh and Nghe An.

Dong Thap Province, whose weather is favourable for the development of mosquitoes that are the main transmitter of the disease, is reported to face a new strain of dengue fever-causing virus which is more dangerous than common viruses, the paper said.

The country reported 35,073 cases of dengue fever infections, including 58 fatalities last year, year-on-year rises of 45 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively.

To curb the spread of the disease, prevention centres nationwide have continually called for local people to use mosquito nets and intensify mosquito killing activities.

Romanian creates gas shutdown device in case of quake

BUCAREST, 10 March—A Romanian scientific researcher has created a system to protect natural gas networks against earthquakes, the Romanian news agency Rompres reported on Monday.

The system, which is called the "device for rapid valve shutdown in case of seismic shock," is aimed at towns running a high seismic risk and it meets the world standards.

It was created by a researcher from the Seismological Observatory in Timisoara, western Romania.

The device costs 350 euros apiece and the technology and materials needed for its manufacture are easily available.

The moment a seismic shock occurs, the device starts automatically and the valve shuts down within fractions of a second.

Scientists get a computerized grip on ear prints

LONDON, 10 March—Criminals are using to try avoiding leaving fingerprints at a crime scene. But now British scientists have developed a computerized system that allows them to identify ear prints just as easily.

Criminals often wear gloves but are less likely to cover their ears and hence would be less likely to be bungled through a door knocker or try to pry open a window they might press their ear against the glass to hear if anyone is home.

Ear prints had been used in the early Twentieth Century. They came back into use in the 1940s but unlike fingerprints they were never organized in a computerized system. Basically we have brought it up to speed and modernized things considerably.

We've produced a computerized system for identifying ear prints along the lines of the fingerprint system," said Professor Guy Rutty, head of the forensic pathology unit at the University of Leeds in England.

Instead of manually sorting through ear prints and images, Rutty's system allows investigators to systematically search an ear print database.

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As a result of these doubts, Bush narrowly trails likely Democratic presidential nominee John F Kerry by 4 percentage points, 48 to 44 percent, among registered voters in a hypothetical presidential matchup. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader, an independent, claims 3 percent. Of a dozen policy areas, Kerry leads Bush in eight, including the economy, education and health care, while Bush leads only in the war on terrorism. The two candidates are virtually tied in the other three: Iraq, same-sex marriage and civil liberties.

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A US Army personnel from the 4th Infantry Division, 1-22 battalion secures the area during a night raid in the city of Tikrit, 110 miles north of Baghdad, on 9 March, 2004.
US AND ALLIES CONFRONT CONTINUING RESISTANCE IN IRAQ

US troops patrol a street of central Baghdad on 9 March.

A US fighting vehicle passes by a truck which was damaged by a roadside bomb, apparently intended for US military convoys, in Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday, 9 March, 2004. — Internet

US troops guard the police station in Mosul on late Monday, 8 March, 2004 in Iraq after it was attacked by guerrillas injuring four policemen. — Internet

A US soldier thoroughly checks a dump truck loaded with rocks after sniffer dogs found traces of explosives at a checkpoint near the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq where many foreign journalists and contract workers are staying on Sunday, 7 March, 2004. — Internet

US Army soldiers arrest two Iraqi suspects engaged in anti-Coalition activities during a night raid in Tikrit recently. — Internet

US military inspectors examine and photograph the remains of failed rockets, which were left behind after several were fired the night before into the heavily-fortified area known as the ‘Green Zone,’ a base for Coalition forces and civilian personnel located a few hundred metres away, on Monday, 8 March, 2004, in Baghdad, Iraq. — Internet
Mortar attack on Baghdad police wounds 5

BAGHDAD, 10 March — Guerillas fired mortars at a Baghdad police station on Monday, wounding two policemen and three civilians, police said, in an attack that coincided with a signing ceremony for Iraq’s interim Constitution.

A projectile also hit a nearby house, smashing windows and blowing a hole in a wall but causing no casualties, witnesses said. Another loud blast after the signing ceremony was a controlled explosion by the US military, the Army said.

Security forces have been on high alert for possible guerrilla attacks aimed at disrupting the signing ceremony.

MNA/Reuters

Japan, Sweden agree to cooperate in Iraq’s reconstruction

TOYO, 10 March — Japanese and Swedish leaders agreed Monday to carry out cooperation in Iraq’s reconstruction.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told his Swedish counterpart Goran Persson that the two countries should cooperate in the reconstruction. Kyodo/News quoted Japanese officials as saying.

Persson, who arrived in Tokyo on Monday for a two-day visit, said the difference on the Iraq war “is behind us.” Sweden opposes the US-led invasion in Iraq, while Japan is a strong supporter of its long-standing ally.

Persson expressed his full support for Japan’s dispatch of Self-Defence Force to Iraq for humanitarian assistance.

The two leaders also discussed the nuclear standoff on the Korean Peninsula.

MNA/Xinhua

Guatemala not to send troops to Iraq

MEXICO CITY, 10 March — Guatemalan President Oscar Berger said Monday that his country will not send troops to Iraq due to the lack of fund, reports reaching here from the Guatemalan capital of Guatemala City said.

At a Press conference in the Guatemalan City, Berger said the government decided not to participate in the Spain-led Plus Ultra Brigades, a stabilizing force in Iraq. “We do not have resources to send the troops,” he said.

Berger had announced his decision of dispatching troops to Iraq last Friday when holding a joint Press conference with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar in the Spanish capital of Madrid. — MNA/Xinhua

Hubble shows ultra-deep vision of cosmic infancy

BALTIMORE, 10 March — Scientists unveiled a monster baby picture of the universe on Tuesday, in an image snapped by the Hubble Space Telescope that looks deep into the cosmos, back 13 billion years to just 700 million years after the Big Bang.

Hubble has looked back 1.1 billion galaxies were forming, a time of great interest to astronomers because it marks a transition point from a cosmic dark age.

“This is the deepest view of the visible ever taken,” said Rodger Thompson, one of a team of astronomers who put the image together with two of Hubble’s sophisticated instruments. “It’s an amazing time to be an astrophysicist.”

Thompson and other scientists emphasized the importance of looking at the earliest times of cosmic development, which can be more dramatic and sweeping than the evolution of galaxies as they age.

This composite photo by the Hubble Space Telescope, released on 9 March, 2004 by NASA, a long-duration exposure, is the deepest-ever view of the universe, looks back to the edge of the big bang, and shows a chaotic scramble of odd galaxies smashing into each other and re-forming in bizarre shapes.—INTEREST

US study shows unique quality of primate brains

WASHINGTON, 10 March — A study of the brains of primates ranging from tiny bush babies to humans and apes shows that size really may matter, researchers said on Monday.

All primates have an unusually large frontal cortex, a part of the brain used by humans for higher thought and reasoning, they found. From lemurs to chimpanzees, that part of the brain is especially large compared with overall brain size, the California Institute of Technology team found.

“In primates, having a bigger brain means you have a disproportionately large frontal cortex,” said Elliot Bush, a PhD candidate at Caltech who worked on the study.

While the study does not offer any deep insight into what separates humans from other mammals, it does show that much of what makes people and our cousins the apes different may lie in our primate heritage.

A comparison to carnivores — the order that includes lions, tigers and dogs — shows they do not have the same disproportionately large frontal cortex.

This may explain why a 5-pound house cat is every bit as intelligent as a 100-pound lion.

Bush said the finding, published in this week’s issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, disputed theories that suggested human behaviour could be traced in part to a disproportionately large frontal cortex compared to the rest of the brain.

It turns out that smaller brains such as lemurs and bush babies actually devote a larger proportion of their brains to the frontal cortex. But because they are small overall, this area is small.

Humans and apes are big and have big brains, so while the proportion is not as big, the frontal cortex ends up being huge, comparatively.

This could explain some behavioral differences that make humans, apes and monkeys — the large primates — unique.

“Primates are able to understand abstractions — maybe understanding those two monkeys over there are a mother and a daughter, whereas maybe other mammals don’t have that ability,” Bush said in a telephone interview.

“In humans, the frontal cortex is involved in a lot of interesting things such as social relationships. I think that quite possibly is what it is about.” For their study, Bush and his professor, John Allman, compared 43 mammals, including 25 primates and 15 carnivores. — MNA/Reuters

Three US soldiers injured in Afghanistan

KABUL, 10 March — As the United States-led war on terrorism is going on in Afghan-istan, another three American soldiers were wounded during the week end in the war-plagued coun-try. US military spokesman said here Saturday evening, west of Ghazni, a coalition vehicle was dam-aged by a landmine or improvised device. Three sol-diers were slightly injured in the incident, "Lieutenant-Colonel Bryan Hillferty told newsmen here. "The soldier-s were from the US 10th Mountain Division," he added.

Coalition forces in re-taliation, Hillferty said, had put three suspects under cus-tody and initiated an inves-tigation to identify the cul-prits.

The incident took place just one day after the killing of nine suspected Taleban members in neighbouring Pakika Province on Friday. MNA/Reuters

Judge bans Saudis from watching US TV channel

RIYADH, 10 March — A prominent Saudi judge has forbidden people to watch or contribute to the US-backed satellite channel Alhurra, saying it promotes Washing-ton’s global hegemony, al-Hayat newspaper said on Monday.

Sheikh Ibrahim bin Nasser al-Khodeiri declared that watching Alhurra, working for it, advertising on it or even writing to it were all harm (forbidden) because it was "a channel that causes corruption", the Saudi-owned newspaper said.

"People working for it are considered American agents," he told al-Hayat.

"Its goal is to facilitate American hegemony over the religious, political and social spheres in the world.”

MNA/Reuters

Donate blood
Kayin State with many splendours

Moe Hnin Myint (Dala)


During the tour, he gave guidance to personnel concerned, saying, “Unlike the past, Kayin State including Hpa-an has been achieving unprecedented progress at present.”

The Government has been spending a large amount of financial power to build infrastructures including roads and bridges in Kayin State to enable it to catch up with other states and divisions in terms of development.

Kayin State has already built many schools and colleges and upgraded the Hpa-an Degree College into a university to upgrade the Hpa-an University, paving the way for the transition to a university in 2003.

The name, Kay-in-Seikyi, is a combination of the names of two different places: Seikyi, lying on the Attaran River bank and Kay-in, a village about two miles from Seikyi. Lying at the foot of a mountain range, the town is mainly rearing farming business. The town grows lemon, orange and citrus fruit.

The Yomalin River flows through the town with its main hall in commemorative postcard. There are many schools and colleges in the state in terms of developments.

Kayin State is achieving development in all aspects at present. The State has extended all the transport, educational and health infrastructures. It is also rendering assistance for the development of economic, agricultural, live-stock breeding and industrial sectors. All in all, the Government has been endeavouring for the marked development of socio-economy of the people.

Kayin State, the capital, is a busy town located on the road to Thailand and enjoys a better climate. The future is bright for the students of the Kayin State of the World’s Bird.”

Frequently asked questions:

Q: What does the report cited the destruction of natural bird habitats through modern intensive agriculture as the single biggest threat to the future of birds worldwide?

A: The report cited the destruction of natural bird habitats through modern intensive agriculture as the single biggest threat to the future of birds worldwide.

Q: According to the report, birds are sending human beings some important messages that should not be ignored, highlighting the role of birds as indicators for the environment.

A: According to the report, birds are sending human beings some important messages that should not be ignored, highlighting the role of birds as indicators for the environment.

Q: What is the main hall in commemorative postcard?

A: The main hall in commemorative postcard is the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.
Cash donated to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association

YANGON, 10 March — A ceremony to donate cash to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at the multi-purpose building of the association at the corner of Thanlyin and Paramu Roads in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Commander inspects agricultural and regional development

YANGON, 10 March — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and officials paid obeisance to Buddha images in Thatana Aye Kyantaik in Lashio on 8 March.

Cornerstone laid for construction of Buddha Image in Taunggyi

YANGON, 10 March — The laying of cornerstone for construction of Buddha Image of Aungthabye Swedaw Monastery in Taunggyi Township of Taunggyi Township, Shan State, was held in conjunction with the 277th Kyathating offering ceremony at the monastery on 5 March morning.

Winners in Military Code of Conduct, Extempore Talks Contests announced

YANGON, 10 March — Winners in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commission Military Code of Conduct and Extempore Talks Contests were announced today.

Military Code of Conduct Contest

The first prize went to 2nd-Lt Min Thu of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the second prize to Capt Daw Phyu Phyu Phwe Myint of Yangon Command and the third to Pvt Nyunt Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) in the officer level contest.

Pvt Nyunt Win of Yangon Command won the first prize, WO Kyaw Aye of the Camp Commander’s Office of the Ministry of Defence the second and Pvt Phyo Than Htwe of Yangon Command the third in the Pvt level contest.

Extempore Talks Contest

In the officer level contest, Capt Lin Thu of South-West Command won the first prize, Capt Daw Khin Hnin Myint of Yangon Command the second and 2nd-Lt Thein Zaw Oo of Coastal Region Command the third.

In the Pvt level contest, the first prize went to Air Navigator I-Aung Zaw Tun of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) the second and Pvt Nyunt Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) the third.

Commander inspects Kawlin-KhinU-Monywa railroad section

YANGON, 10 March — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspected sanitation and development of Kawlin-KhinU-Monywa railroad on 3 March and went to the water supply project site of the Town.

Commander inspected Kawlin-KhinU-Monywa railroad section

Gita Nandawun music concert to be held

YANGON, 10 March — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Gita Nandawun music concert, sponsored by the Myanmar National Development Company Group Ltd and organized by Bogalay Tint Aung and Gita Lin Maung Ko Ko will be staged at National Theatre on Myoma Kyang Street here on 20 and 21 March.

33.7 acres of illegal poppy fields destroyed

YANGON, 10 March — A combined team comprising Tatmadaw members of the local battalion, members of Military Intelligence Unit, members of Myanmar Police Force, departmental personnel and local people destroyed 33.7 acres of opium poppy plantations in the surrounding areas of Padumone and Nanpok Creek in Hkamti Township on 19 and 20 February. The teams are destroying the illegal poppy cultivation season for 2003-2004.

Soccer tune-up, 11 March

YANGON, 10 March — The tentatively selected Myanmar footballers are undergoing training for Myanmar-China friendly soccer match to be held in the People’s Republic of China.

The soccer tune-up between the white team and the red team of the tentatively selected Myanmar team will start at 4 pm tomorrow at Aung San Stadium. The admission fee is K 500 for grandstand and K 200 for ordinary class.
Li-Gen Ye Myint meets with local authorities and departmental personnel at TadaU Township. (News on page 1) — MNA

Study finds Obesity could erase US health care gains

WASHINGTON, 10 March — The continuing epidemic of obesity in America could wipe out many of the recent improvements in health within the next 20 years, according to a new US analysis released on Tuesday.

If Americans continue to get fatter at current rates, by 2020 about one in five high-health-care dollars spent on people aged 50 to 69 could be due to obesity — 50 per cent more than now, the Rand Corporation study found.

In 2000, 14 per cent of money spent on health care for US men aged 50 to 69 went to obesity-related complications including diabetes and heart disease. In 2020, that could rise to 21 per cent, the researchers said.

“Improvements in medical care, public health and other health behaviours have dramatically reduced disability among older Americans in the past,” said Roland Sturm, a Rand Health senior economist who led the study, said in a statement.

“But the continuing increase in unhealthy weight has the potential to undo many of these health advances.”

Obesity is defined as having a body mass index — a ratio of weight to height — of more than 30. That usually means being 15 kilograms overweight for a woman and 20 kilograms overweight for a man of average height.

More than 30 per cent of US adults are obese, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That translates to 59 million people.

Serious health implications, such as heart disease and diabetes risk, kick in at BMIs of 30 and above.

“Obesity is particularly troubling given that obesity is associated with increased chronic physical illnesses and mortality; its negative consequences may even exceed those of smoking or problem drinking,” Rums and colleagues wrote in the journal Health Affairs, which published the study.

“If the obesity trend were to continue through 2020, without other changes in behaviour or medical care technology, the proportion reporting fair or poor health would increase by 11.7 per cent for men and 14.1 per cent for women compared to 2000,” they wrote. — MNA/Reuters

African nations meet in Uganda on sharing Nile water

KAMPALA, 10 March — Experts from 10 African countries that use the waters of the Nile River have begun a week-long workshop in Uganda to work out how nations can share the benefits of the huge natural resource.

The closed-door talks, which started on Thursday in Entebbe, 40 kilometres south of the Ugandan capital Kampala, are being held under the auspices of the Nile Basin Initiative, which was formed in 1999 to study how to manage the river for power generation, irrigation and transport.

The experts are planning to write a proposal on how to develop the resources of the Nile Basin. The meeting will also discuss a treaty drawn up in 1929 between British colonialists and Egypt that gives preferential treatment to the north African country.

Ugandan Minister of State for Environment Lieutenant-General Jeje Odong was quoted Tuesday by local media as saying that increased desertification and pollution levels of water resources were catastrophic if not handled with care.

Opening the Nile Basin Water Resources Management Project capacity-building workshop, Odong urged countries in the Great Lakes region and the Nile Basin to use their water resources carefully if they are to avoid a catastrophe.

The project aims to monitor the River Nile water levels and generate data for forecasting weather patterns in the region.

It also aims to monitor and control pollution levels in the river and the lakes that feed it.

The workshop, funded by the Italian Government and supervised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, drew participants from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, the Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The Nile, which begins from Lake Victoria, is joined in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, by the Blue Nile, which draws water from western Ethiopia highlands. The combined river flows through the northern part of the Sudan and Egypt until it empties into the Mediterranean Sea.

The Nile Basin supplies water to about 300 million people. — MNA/Xinhua

Norwegian women take one-third of public sector positions

STOCKHOLM, 10 March — Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik said Monday that female accounts for 34 per cent among the 9,000 leading posts in the public sector across the country.

The Norwegian Government has set the goal that women take up 40 per cent of the posts in government agencies by June 1, 2006, the Prime Minister said at a meeting with three women’s organizations of cooperative parties with the government.

Bondevik said the number of women leaders has increased by 6 per cent in the past two years, emphasizing “this is a fine development.”

He added that women make up 42 per cent of the workforce in the central government, and account for 45.7 per cent in the board of directors in enterprises.

Bondevik also said the focus of government work on women will be to achieve equal employment with equal pay for women, and to reform the retirement system.

For years, the Northern European region has the highest proportion of women participating in politics in the world, with the 10 highest rate of female parliamentarians in Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Norway worldwide. — MNA/Xinhua

South African Airways gets new “Airbus”

JOHANNESBURG, 10 March — South African Airways (SAA) got its first Airbus A340-300E jumbo jet Tuesday, the first of six to be delivered between now and 2005.

The 295-seat aircraft features several enhancements, including a higher thrust-generating version of the CFM56 engine, which burns less fuel and is ideally suited for the hot-and-high conditions at airports such as Johannesburg International Airport.

Tuesday’s delivery sees national carrier SAA move into the second phase of its fleet modernization programme which involves the acquisition of 41 new Airbus aircraft, including nine A340-600s and six A340-300Es for ultra-long and long haul flights. — MNA/Xinhua

PRC delegation arrives

YANKON, 10 March — A four-member writers’ delegation of the People’s Republic of China led by member of the panel of chairmen of PRC Writers Association Mr Wang Chongli arrived here by air this evening.

The visit of the PRC delegation is to promote understanding between the writers of the two countries and enhance friendship of the two peoples.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Chief Editor of Sarpay Beikman Press of Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information U Maung Hlaing (Maung Swe Ngai) and officials and Cultural Counsellor of the PRC Embassy Mr Pan Feng and Embassy staff. — MNA

Garuda Indonesia to open new routes to Singapore

JAKARTA, 10 March — Beginning March 28, national flag carrier Garuda Indonesia will open three new routes linking two cities in Sumatra and two cities in Java to Singapore, a company spokesman has said.

Garuda Indonesia corporate communications vice-president Pujolbroto said the new routes were the result of the company’s focus on market expansion.

“They (the new routes) are part of this year’s programme, which is to expand our network in the regional market,” Pujolbroto was quoted Tuesday by The Jakarta Post as saying.

The first route will connect Pekanbaru in Riau Province and Padang in West Sumatra with Singapore. The second route will link Semarang in Central Java with Singapore, and the last new route will provide direct flights from Yogyakarta, also in Central Java, to the island republic.

The Padang-Pekanbaru-Singapore route will operate four times a week, the Semarang-Singapore route also four times a week and the Yogyakarta-Singapore route three times a week.

All flights will be served by 110-seat Boeing 737-300 aircraft, which include 16 business-class seats and 94 economy class.

Pujolbroto said there were currently no direct flights from the three cities to Singapore, the top destination in Southeast Asia, forcing travellers from the three cities to transit in Denpasar before continuing on to Singapore.

“Demand in the three cities is growing, which led us to the decision to open the new routes,” he said.

He added that the airline would keep a close eye on the performance of the new routes.

“If the demand from those cities stay stable, or even increase, we will probably add more flights,” he said.

On February 21, Garuda Indonesia also launched a direct flight from Yogyakarta to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. — MNA/Xinhua
Vietnam to embark on biggest railway project

HANOI, 10 March — Vietnam plans to pour a record amount of money into constructing a railway which will allow trains to run at a speed of up to 120 kilometres per hour, a local newspaper reported Tuesday.

Construction of the route, which runs from Hanoi to northern Quang Ninh Province, will begin in 2004 and complete in 2008, with total investment of more than 3.2 trillion Vietnamese dong (205.1 million US dollars).

The planned route is expected to facilitate transport of passengers and goods between the Red River Delta and the Northeastern region where a lot of coal, ores, steel and goods are exported to and imported from China.

The route will have three sections: from Yen Vien in Hanoi to Pha Lai in northern Hai Duong Province, from Pha Lai to Ha Long in Quang Ninh, and from Ha Long to Cu Lan in Quang Ninh. It is scheduled to be connected to railways in bordering localities.

Iran says it has not violated nuclear commitments

TEHERAN, 10 March — Iran’s Foreign Minister said on Tuesday that Teheran had not violated its commitments under nuclear non-proliferation safeguards and any shortcomings in its cooperation with the UN atomic watchdog were in the past.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei criticized Iran on Monday for failing to declare all nuclear activities and equipment that should be used to make atomic bombs.

But Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said the IAEA’s Board of Governors, meeting in Vienna to discuss Iran’s cooperation, should not conclude that Teheran was in violation of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as Washington has suggested. “It is a mistake to say that Iran has violated its commitments and Teheran will definitely not accept it,” Kharrazi told the official IRNA news agency.

Kharrazi said it was wrong to compare Iran with Libya, which recently agreed to scrap a nuclear programme it had hidden from inspectors. “Comparing Iran and Libya is incorrect,” he said. “Libya has officially announced that it was pursuing nuclear weapons and this is a violation of the NPT. But Iran has not been pursuing nuclear weapons and not violated the NPT.”

He noted the IAEA’s report on Iran mentioned shortcomings in Iran’s declaration about its nuclear activities: “Shortcomings, which could have taken place in many countries, all belong to the past and most of them have been solved,” Kharrazi said. He was confident IAEA inspections in Iran would prove that “all the issues related to nuclear energy in Iran are transparent and are for peaceful purposes”.

NAM e-secretariat portal launched in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 March — Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar on Tuesday launched the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) e-secretariat portal in an effort to promote the movement.

Speaking at the launching ceremony in Putrajaya near here, Syed Hamid described the portal as Malaysia’s modest effort in bringing NAM into the information and communications highway.

“We hope that this effort will be the beginning of many more concrete actions that could be taken by NAM to bring member states fully into the technological and electronic age which is so vital for our sustained development and modernization,” he said.

Syed Hamid invited NAM members to assist Malaysia in enriching the database by providing updated information about themselves and correcting inaccurate data or information.

The portal will be managed by Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its Information and Communications Technology Division.

NAM was established in 1961 to signal the neutrality during the Cold War era. Today, with a membership of 114 nations, NAM plays a significant role in the post-Cold War world as custodian of interests of south countries.

The 13th NAM Summit was held here in February last year and Malaysia has assumed the current chairmanship of NAM since then.

Vietnam hard hit by drought

HA NOI, 10 — March Drought, caused by little rainfall during the dry season, is threatening the livelihood of Vietnamese farmers and their winter-spring rice crops, the Vietnam News reported Tuesday.

Some 1,000 families in the northern Son La Province now have no clean water for daily use, whereas 1,600 hectares of rice and maize in central highlands Gia Lai Province are withering due to drought.

The drought, which is forecast to last to the end of next month, has also posed great threat to forests.

Thousands of hectares of cashew trees in several southern provinces are in risks of being on fire.

The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

Volume 2 No 23 of Shoe Naing-Ngan Journal. — MNA

Delagation leaves for ROK

YANGON, 10 March — At the invitation of KOTRA, the 8-member delegation of MWEA (Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association) headed by MWEA President Daw Khin Myint Myint left here by air yesterday evening to attend Preview in Daegu International Textile Fair from 10 to 15 March in Daegu, Republic of Korea.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by MWEA Advisor Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint, Vice-Presidents Daw Thet Yi and Daw Nu Nu Yi and Central Executive Committee members.

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MWJA Vice-Chairman U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) and party view round books exhibited on the occasion. — MWJA

Flfifth Anniversary of Kaung Thant Literary House held

YANGON, 10 March — The 5th Anniversary of Kaung Thant Literary House founded by 1999 National Literary Award winner U Khin Maung Kywe (Kaung Thant) was held at Lawkanat Hall on Pansodan Street this morning.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) formally opened the book exhibition.

Also present were Secretary of MWJA U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay), CEC members, invited writers and guests. The exhibition will be kept open from 10 am to 5 pm daily up to 15 March.

Construction of the route, which runs from Hanoi to northern Quang Ninh Province, will begin in 2004 and complete in 2008, with total investment of more than 3.2 trillion Vietnamese dong (205.1 million US dollars).

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Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 10 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.
**“Return of the King” comes to video home in May**

LOS ANGELES, 10 March — The home-video release of the Oscar winner “The Lord of the Rings: the Return of the King” is due May, its producer New Line Cinema announced in a statement on Tuesday. The announcement comes three months quicker than the first one and two of the fantasy trilogy, both of which hit video in late summer. “That is significant and valuable and adds to the imprimatur of pedigree of the trilogy, but the announcement is especially arrived at high levels of acknowledgment and acceptance,” said Stephen Eiseinbush, president of New Line Home Entertainment. “I do not think it materially affects the demand for the films.”

Also from New Line, the home video releases of “The Fellowship of the Ring” and “The Two Towers” the last two years to feed into anticipation for the theatrical release of the new J.R.R. Tolkien’s epic. With the trilogy concluded, New Line decided to roll the conclusion out earlier on home video. New Line also plans an extended version of “The Return of the King” on home video around the holidays, similar to the longer cuts of the first two films. The three extended versions will push the saga’s running time to more than 11 hours. The initial home video release will include the three-hour, 29-minute theatrical version, plus a range of behind-the-scenes material and trailers and TV spots for the trilogy. — MNA/Xinhua

**Hollywood actor Pastorelli found dead at home**

LOS ANGELES, 10 March — Hollywood actor Robert Pastorelli, who played the eccentric house painter on the CBS TV series “Murphy Brown,” was found dead in his Hollywood Hills home in Los Angeles, US authorities said Tuesday.

The body of the 49-year-old actor was discovered in the bathroom of his residence in the 2700 block of Hollywood Drive early Monday afternoon by his personal assistant, said Ed Witter of the coroner’s office.

Drug paraphernalia was found at the site, and there was no sign of trauma to the body, Winter said. An autopsy was pending, and the cause of death probably will be listed as “deferred pending the results of toxicological tests,” Winter said.

Los Angeles police Officer Sandra Escalante said no foul play was suspected in the death.


**Russian President names new Cabinet members**

MOSCOW, 10 March — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday revealed the names of ministers making up his new Cabinet four days after the State Duma (Lower House of Parliament) overwhelmingly voted to appeal to Mikhail Fradkov, nominated by Putin, as Russia’s new Prime Minister, Interfax news agency reported.

Alexander Zhukov, co-leader of the pro-Putin United Russia Party and deputy speaker of the State Duma, was appointed Deputy Prime Minister.

Sergei Lavrov, Russia’s envoy to the United Nations, was named as new Foreign Minister, replacing Igor Ivanov, who was recently appointed as Council Secretary.

Former Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref and former Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin retained on their Cabinet posts.

Also from the former Cabinet members, Sergei Ivanov, Sergei Shoigu, Alexei Goreyev and Yuri Chukmak retained their positions as Defence Minister, Emergency Situations Minister, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister and Justice Minister respectively.

Putin appointed Rashid Nurgaliyev Interior Minister, Victor Khristenko Industry and Energy Minister, Yuri Luzhkov Moscow mayor, Mikhail Zurabov Health and Social Development Minister, Andrei Fursenko Education and Science Minister, Alexander Sokolov Culture and Information Minister, Yury Truney Natural Resources Minister and Igor Levitin Transport and Communications Minister.

Dmitri Kosak was appointed chief of the government staff with the rank of minister.

Putin, who made the announcement during a meeting with the leaders of the Kremlin Administration and several acting Cabinet members, said the new government will comprise 17 instead of 30 ministries.

The appointments came five days ahead of the country’s presidential poll, which is widely expected to result in a landslide victory for Putin. — MNA/Xinhua

**Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells**

YANGON, 10 March — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce. 100 two feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000, one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000 and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000. Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director General (Tel: 01-245420 & 325888), the Deputy Director General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Director (Sagay Division Development Affairs Committees) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Mawgaw Division Development Affairs Committees) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committees) (Tel: 02-54657).

**Animal welfare groups urge world to stop whaling**

OSLO, 10 March — Saying that harpoons mean unacceptable cruelty in slaughtering whales, animal welfare groups launched a global campaign on Tuesday to outlaw hunts of the mammals around the planet.

“There is no humane way to kill a whale,” said Peter Davies, director-general of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), among leaders of a coalition of 200 groups in a new animal welfare development Minister, Andrei Fursenko Education and Science Minister, Alexander Sokolov Culture and Information Minister, Yury Truney Natural Resources Minister and Igor Levitin Transport and Communications Minister.

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On grounds of animal welfare alone... all whaling operations should be halted,” it said, adding that about 250,000 whales had been found by an International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium took effect in 1986. Another 1,400 would die in 2004.

Whaling nations say that stocks of some whales, especially the small minke whale, have rebounded and are plentiful enough for traditional catches. They say modern harpoons mean cetaceans die with no undue suffering. But British naturalist Sir David Attenborough wrote in an introduction to the report: “There is nothing in the body of a whale, which is of use to us, for which we cannot find equivalents elsewhere.”

“They are the largest animals that have ever existed, far larger than any dinosaur,” he wrote, arguing that whales were “highly evolved animals with all the sensibilities that statement implies.” The blue whale is the largest.

“In every other food production business there are rules. For whaling there are none,” Davies of the London-based WSPA told Reuters. He said farm animals like pigs or cows faced a more humane death in a slaughterhouse.

Norway says whaling should be compared to hunting — like elk or foxes — rather than to methods in a slaughterhouse. The report said the IWC lacked rules on the number of hunts, whale’s age and whether it can be fired at a whale, maximum pursuit times, upper limits on the acceptable time to death and laid down no reliable method for judging when a whale was dead.

It said Japan and Norway used similar hunting methods, for instance, but that Oslo said that 80.7 per cent of whales in 2002 were killed instantaneously while Japan recorded only 40.2 per cent as instantaneous kills in the Antarctic in 2002-03. — MNA/Reuters

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Uganda earns more from exports

KAMPALA, 10 March — Uganda earned $279.5 million US dollars in the first half of fiscal year 2003/04, 49.5 million US dollars more than the 230 million US dollars in the same period of fiscal year 2002/03.

The increase is attributed to good performance in non-coffee exports in terms of both higher prices and increased volumes of shipments, according to a report from the Bank of Uganda.

Uganda earned 279.5 million US dollars from exports for the first half of 2003/04, up from 230 million US dollars in 2002/03.

Tea exports improved by 58.1 per cent from 13.6 million US dollars to 21.5 million US dollars while flower exports increased from seven million US dollars to 10.9 million US dollars.

Maize exports also grew tremendously during the first half of 2003/04 bringing in a total of 8.44 million US dollars compared to 4.06 million US dollars in the first half of 2002/03.

Zambia launches trade web site

LUSAKA, 10 March — The Export Board of Zambia has launched an interactive trade information web site known as TradeMap Zambia, in a bid to help local companies target export markets, independent newspaper The Post said Tuesday.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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Reg. No. 1030/1970 in respect of "motor vehicles and parts thereof; accessories therefor"

AGILA

Reg. No. 1291/1999 in respect of "motor vehicles and parts thereof"

Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L, for Adam Opel AG.

P.O. Box 60, Yangon.


TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE

NIPPON PAINT KABUSHIKI KAISHA (NIPPON PAINT CO., Ltd) a company organized under the laws of JAPAN, carrying on business as manufacturer and having its principal office at 2-1-2, Oyodo-ita, Kita-ku, Osaka, Japan, is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trade Marks:-

Reg. No. 4172/1991 PYLOX

Reg. No. 4174/1991 VINILEX

Reg. No. 4595/1991 BODELAC

Reg. No. 4563/2000 PYLAC

Used in respect of:- paints, varnishes, lacquers and putty (Int'l Class - 2) Adsorbent refrigents, imitation or unauthorised use of the above marks will be dealt with according to law.


TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE

The Union of Myanmar Forest Products Joint Venture Corporation Limited Price Quotation No. (06/2003-2004) F.P.J.V.C Ltd Quotation Sale will be held as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Quantity (about Tons)</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Teak Logs</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>- South Dagon Depot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Teak Squares &amp; Conversions</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>- Hpnedawtwe Estate (Mandalay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Hardwood Logs &amp; Squares</td>
<td>877</td>
<td>- Hpnedawtwe Estate (Mandalay)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 1974

Closing Date: (18.3.2004) Thursday (12:00) Noon.

Please Contact F.P.J.V.C Ltd. No. 422-426, Corner of Botataung Pagoda Road and Strand Road for further details.

Tel: 202060, 202101 (ext)-127.

TRADE MARKS:-

Reg. No. 1031/1970 in respect of "motor vehicles and parts thereof, accessories therefor"

Don’t smoke

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 11 March, 2004

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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Fujitsu-Hitachi joint venture to build new plasma display plant

Tokyo, 10 March—Fujitsu Hitachi Plasma Display Ltd. said Monday it will build a new plant for plasma display panels to increase monthly production by 150,000 panels. The plant will be built on a site next to an existing plant in southern Miyazaki Prefecture, with the start of construction set for early 2005, the company said in a Press release.

The company, set up by Fujitsu Ltd. and Hitachi Ltd. in a fifty-fifty way, will invest 75 billion yen (669 million US dollars) in the project. The new plant will start production at an initial pace of 50,000 units a month at the end of 2005 and raise maximum monthly output to 150,000 units in 2007.

Monthly manufacturing capacity at the existing plant will be doubled to 100,000 units by January 2005 from 50,000 units, the company said.

Global demand for plasma display panels is expected to grow to 10 million units in 2007 from 1.4 million units in 2003 because of the expansion of service areas for terrestrial digital broadcasting in Japan, as well as the growing popularity of high-definition TVs in North America, the company said.

Scientists say driving, pollution may cause lung cancer

Shanghai, 10 March—Driving, prolonged exposure to gasoline, vehicle exhaust and kitchen smoke, as well as an unhealthy diet, may all cause lung cancer, Chinese scientists have warned.

A group of researchers, headed by Professor He Mengya, director of the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, reached the conclusion after a five-year survey of 2,276 lung cancer patients. Of 343 patients aged 50 or below, 98, or 28.6 per cent, were full-time drivers, the research team found.

“The percentage is even higher among the younger group of patients,” said He.

“As 33.3 per cent of those under 40 years old had been driving for ten years or more before they were diagnosed with lung cancer.”

The professor warned lung cancer occurred equally in men and women, as the male-to-female ratio was almost 1:1 for patients aged under 50, counter to the traditional assumption that male suffers normally outnumbered females. Smoking remained the biggest cause of lung cancer in men, but not for women, he said.

About 70 per cent of the male lung cancer patients are smokers, but only 18 per cent of the women suffered secondary smoking or were smokers themselves,” he said.

Scientists may have spotted British “Beagle” probe

London, 10 March—Beagle 2, the British space probe which disappeared as it descended towards Mars, may have been detected on the surface of the Red Planet, scientists said on Monday.

So signal has been received from the craft since it was due to land on Christmas Day last year, despite various attempts by Mars orbiters and telescopes on Earth to make contact.

But photographic images of the area where Beagle 2 was to have come down show four bright spots, dubbed “strings of pearls” by scientists, which may be the remains of the probe.

“It could be thelander with its airbags and parachute,” said Lutz Richter from the German Aerospace Center, who helped plan the mission.

“But...it is nothing conclusive whatsoever,” Professor Colin Pillinger, the British scientist in charge of the Beagle 2 project, told a conference at the Royal Society in London, he doubted the image was in fact the probe and was more likely to be “system noise” —an error on the image.

The conference, which was called to discuss the lessons learnt from the Beagle 2 mission, also heard that eight to 13 per cent of the probe’s suspected landing area was littered with craters and hills, making a safe landing difficult.

But Pillinger defended the decision to land the craft there.

“We chose the best landing space we could within the constraints put on us. Scientifically it gave us the best chance,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

CPPCC member urges enaction of anti-drug law

Beijing, 10 March—China should enact a law so as to beef up anti-drug drive as soon as possible, said a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Consultative Conference (CPPCC) on the ongoing CPPCC session here Tuesday. He warned the growing number of young drug abusers against greater troubles and urged them to abandon drug addiction.

Last year, people under the age of 35 make up 72.2 per cent of China’s 1.03 million registered drug addicts and the number keeps increasing rapidly, said a member of the CPPCC National Committee, said more than 70 per cent of the money used to buy drugs come from illegal sources, leading many young addicts to committing crimes such as robbery, theft and prostitution to finance their addiction.

Meanwhile, drug addiction proved to be a major cause of HIV infection. In 2003, 63 per cent of HIV infections in China was caused by drug addiction, and many of the infected victims are young-sters.

In some Chinese reform-through-labour centres, drug abusers under 25 account for over 60 per cent of the total number of detainees with the youngest abuser being only eight years old, said Huang. A dearth of social experience and a lack of education were among other factors, which led to the rapidly increasing figure of young drug abusers.

The CPPCC member also attributed the grave situation of adolescent drug abuse to the drug-smuggling activities in the country. In 2003, Chinese police cracked some 90,000 drug-related crime cases and captured more than 60,000 drug dealers. Some 9.5 tons of heroine, nearly 1,000 kilograms of opium, 5.8 tons of “ice” or methamphetamine hydrochloride, and 72 tons of drug-making chemicals were seized.

Many drug dealers em-ployed youngsters to transfer and sell drugs, victimizing the youth and initiating them to victimize others, warned Huang, who called for arousing all the possible forces to inform the young people of the dangers of drugs and to step up anti-drug efforts.

In addition, the Chinese society should take a more tolerant and caring attitude toward young drug abusers and even those involved in crimes by lessening their penalties and helping them rehabilitate both mentally and physically.

Huang also called for faster pace to tabling an administrative regulation on management of drug-making chemicals.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

Mount Everest, where China is planning to build the world’s highest weather station.
Leicester manager offered to resign

LEICESTER (England), 10 March — Leicester City manager Micky Adams said on Monday he felt let down by some of his players and had offered to resign after nine of them were arrested last week on allegations of sexual assault in Spain.

Five of the players were released pending further investigations, one was released and faces no further action and three have been detained by Spanish police after the allegations made during a training camp at La Manga.

Adams, speaking at a news conference after returning from Spain, said: "If I feel let down about anything it's the fact that it was a trip arranged to do specific work... if they've let themselves down, a small minority of them, it's for drinking to a certain amount of excess in the early hours in the morning."

Asked if he was convinced of the innocence of the trio detained in Spain, he replied: "Absolutely."

Adams also said: "Of the nine people that were arrested, some of them were not there."

—MNA/Reuters

Roberto Carlos loses appeal against two-game ban

MADRID, 10 March — Real Madrid defender Roberto Carlos has lost his appeal against a two-match ban from UEFA and will miss Wednesday’s Champions League game against Bayern Munich, the Spanish club said on Monday.

The Brazil full-back was handed the suspension last week for "improper conduct" after retaliating to a foul by Bayern Munich defender Martin Demichelis in the 1-1 draw in Munich in the tie’s first leg.

Roberto Carlos gave evidence at a hearing in Nyon on Monday but Real Madrid said on their web site that his attempt to have the ban reduced or wiped out had not been successful.

He will miss the second leg of the first knockout round tie at the Bernabeu on Wednesday as well as the first leg of the quarterfinal should Real make it through.

That leaves Real without both their Brazilian internationals for the match against Bayern after Ronaldo suffered a thigh injury in a league game at the weekend.

Spanish international striker Raul is also in danger of missing out as he looks to recover from an ankle injury.

Referee Terje Hauge missed the incident and said he had been unable to see the Brazilian’s reaction to the foul because his view had been impeded by two players.

—MNA/Reuters

Arsenal draw Manchester United in FA Cup semifinal

LONDON, 10 March — Holders Arsenal will play league champions Manchester United and First Division Sunderland will meet either First Division Millwall or Second Division Tranmere Rovers in the semifinals of the FA Cup on April 4.

Monday’s draw gave Arsenal the hardest possible obstacle in their bid to become the first club since 1886 to win the FA Cup three years in succession and the first ever to reach four successive finals.

Sunderland were the last team from outside the top division to reach the final in 1992, while Millwall and Tranmere will replay next week in their bid to reach the last four.

The final will take place at Cardiff’s Millennium Stadium on May 22.

—MNA/Reuters

Deportivo, Porto knock Juve, Man United out

LONDON, 10 March — Porto and Deportivo Coruna scored the biggest Champions League upsets of the season on Tuesday when they knocked Manchester United and last season’s beaten finalists Juventus out of the competition.

Porto, last season’s UEFA Cup winners, scored a heart-stopping equalizer deep into stoppage time to deny Juve 1-1 at Old Trafford and beat Manches-ter United 3-2 on aggregate, while Deportivo became the first Spanish side to beat Juve at home for 42 years on a 1-0 win on aggregate.

That would have been enough to give them an away goals rule victory after losing the first leg 2-1 in Porto.

Scholes also had a close-range goal wrongly disallowed by a linesman’s flag just before half-time which would have put United 2-0 ahead.

That’s proved vital, the referee or the linesman didn’t do his job properly,” said disappointed coach Alex Ferguson afterwards.

Porto, who had lost all six of their previous European matches in England, equalized in the 90th minute after a free-kick by Benni McCarthy, who scored both Porto goals in the first leg, was patrolled by American goalkeeper Tim Howard straight into the path of Portuguese international midfielder Costinha.

Porto coach Jose Mourinho ran from his seat in the stands and more than 50 metres to embrace his players while most of the 67,000-plus fans inside the stadium were stunned into disbelief.

Mourinho was ecstatic afterwards: “To play like this and get a result here was fantastic, not just for Porto and our supporters but the whole of Portugal,” he said.

Deportivo became the first Spanish side to beat Real Madrid since Real Madrid won there in a European Cup quarter-final in 1962, when Uruguayan international Walter Pandiani struck after 12 minutes to earn a 2-0 aggregate win which put them into the quarter-finals for the third time.

—MNA/Reuters

Nemeth strike gives Middlesbrough win over Spurs

LONDON, March 10 — Middlebrough striker Szilard Nemeth gave the newly-crowned League Cup winners a narrow 1-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League on Tuesday.

The Slovaksian struck after 73 minutes as he evaded defender Dean Richards and took the ball around goalkeeper Kasey Keller before slotting home at the Riverside Stadium.

Nemeth’s goal spared the blushes of Massimo Maccaroni whose penalty kick on the hour was palmed around the post by Keller after Richards was adjudged to have brought down Joseph Job.

—MNA/Reuters

Enyimba asked to explain using unregistered player

Johannesburg, 10 March— African champions Enyimba have been asked to provide an explanation for using a player who belonged to another club during last year’s Champions League soccer match between Juventus and Deportivo La Coruna at the Delle Alpi Stadium in Turin, Italy, on 9 March, 2004.

From right, Deportivo La Coruna’s Lionel Scaloni of Uruguay, Jose’ Molina, Victor Sanchez, and Jorge Andrade of Portugal celebrate after they beat Juventus 1-0 at the end of the second leg, second round Champions League soccer match between Juventus and Deportivo La Coruna at the Delle Alpi Stadium in Turin, Italy, on 9 March, 2004. Deportivo La Coruna qualified for the quarterfinals. —INTERNET

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—INTERNET

Enyimba used Ahmed Garba as a substitute in the second leg of the final in Egypt in December.

The practice of borrowing players from other clubs has been common in Africa, particularly in smaller countries, and poor record keeping at CAF has exacerbated the problem.

—MNA/Reuters

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—MNA/Reuters
11.3-4 Thursday (Thayi, Myanmar) Morning Transmission 9:00-9:30 tunes

9:00 Signature Tune 9:05 Ornamental Jewellery
9:12 Pickled Herbal Tea 9:15 National News
9:20 Making of Traditional Lacquereware
9:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Songs “Come and See Myanmar”

11.3-4 Thursday (Thayi, Myanmar) Regular Programme

For Viewers from abroad

Programme Schedule (15:30-17:30)

15:10 Signature Tune 15:20 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Songs “Myanmar Pride & Glory”
15:25 Let’s Talk about Laos

15:40 Headline News 15:45 Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Saline Waters (III)
15:50 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Songs “Come and See Myanmar”

Tuesday, March 11, 2004

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Thursday, 11 March, 2004

WEATHER

Wednesday, 10 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded on 9:30-9:30 hours MST.

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State, upper Sajagyi; Magway, Mawlaun and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State and Tanintharyi Division, (5°C) below normal in eastern Shan State and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 9-3-2004 was 36.0°C (96°F). Minimum temperature on 10-3-2004 was 18.5°C (65°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-3-2004 was 69%. Total rainfall observed on 9-3-2004 was (0.5) hours above average and on 10-3-2004 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, nil at Kaba Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Kaba Aye was 12 mph from South Southwest at (13.30) hours on 10-3-2004.

Bay influence: Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast up to 11-3-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thunderstorms in Southern Myanmar areas. Forecast Movement of a northward-moving area for 11-3-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thunderstorms in the afternoon/ evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Manday and neighbouring area for 11-3-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (50%).

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Thursday, March 11

View today

7:00 am

1 ကြိုးနှံဖန်တီးခြင်း ကြိုးနှံဖန်တီးခြင်း
2 ကြိုးနှံဖန်တီးခြင်း ကြိုးနှံဖန်တီးခြင်း
3 ကြိုးနှံဖန်တီးခြင်း ကြိုးနှံဖန်တီးခြင်း
7:30 am

4 ကြိုးနှံဖန်တီးခြင်း ကြိုးနှံဖန်တီးခြင်း
7:40 am

5 ကြိုးနှံဖန်တီးခြင်း ကြိုးနှံဖန်တီးခြင်း
Commander inspects agricultural, regional development tasks in Thilawa Industrial Townships

YANGON, 10 March—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi and departmental officials, inspected agricultural and regional development tasks in Thilawa and Kyauktan Townships this morning.

On arrival at the construction site of the six-lane road project to link Yangon-Thilawa Industrial Bridge-2 and the road to Thilawa Industrial Zone, the commander and party were welcomed by Brig-Gen Myint Aung Hla, staff officers of the command, local authorities, departmental officials, Tatmadaw members and families of Mawlamyine Station and athletics and managers of 23 teams that took part in the matches.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects 200 acres of thriving Pandaiung high-yield strain of summer paddy at Naungsawing agricultural educative camp in Kyauktan Township. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects 200 acres of thriving Pandaiung high-yield strain of summer paddy at Naungsawing agricultural educative camp in Kyauktan Township. — MNA

Zong, 10 March—Final matches of Defence Services Commanders-in-Chief’s volleyball trophy, Army, Air Force volleyball tourney was held at the gymnasium of South-East Command on 4 March.

In the women’s match, Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) won the championship trophy, Yangon Command second prize, and Central Command third prize. In the men’s match, Yangon Command won the championship trophy, Central Command second prize, and South-West Command third prize.

Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung presented the championship trophies to the winning teams.

Also present were Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Myo Hla, staff officers of the command, local authorities, departmental officials, Tatmadaw members and families of Mawlamyine Station and athletics and managers of 23 teams that took part in the matches.

Parade columns practise drills

YANGON, 10 March—Chairman of Mawlamyine Station and athletics and managers of 23 teams that took part in the matches.

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