Prime Minister addresses meeting for holding Fourth World Buddhist Summit

YANGON, 13 March — A work coordination meeting was held for holding the Fourth World Buddhist Summit, at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Mayangon Township this morning, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the mayor of Yangon, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the proctor of the university, and members of the Leading Committee, work committees and subcommittees for the summit.

In his address, the Prime Minister said that Myanmar has held coordination meeting several times to successfully host the summit on a grand scale. Leading Committees and sub-committees were formed for successful holding of the summit and a lot of preparations have been made and progress can also be seen. Specified and detailed measures are to be taken beforehand in accordance with the essence of Theravada Buddhism. Secretary of the Leading Committee Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung reported on progress of work carried out by respective committees and subcommittees and future tasks for the summit. Secretary of the Work Committee Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko reported on tasks to be carried out and conditions in taking measures for the summit. Next, chairmen of the subcommittees and officials reported on work being done, followed by a general round of discussions. After that, the Prime Minister evaluated the reports. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For flourishing of Union Spirit

Since its assumption of the responsibilities of the State, the Tatmadaw has been striving for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation after laying down the 12 political, economic and social objectives upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

National unity is sine qua non for building a modern nation. The Tatmadaw has been able to build national unity which has not been achieved in the successive governments. As a result 17 armed groups, after realizing the goodwill of the Tatmadaw, have returned to the legal fold and have been taking part in regional development tasks hand in hand with the Tatmadaw and the people. As from 1989, the Tatmadaw Government has been building necessary infrastructures for border area development after forming the Border Area and National Races Development Central Committee.

Nowadays, basic education schools, hospitals and clinics, dams and reservoirs, roads and bridges have emerged in border areas. Towns such as Kawthaung, Myawady, Muse, Tamu, Laukkai and Chinsawhaw which were a little bit bigger than a hamlet in the past have now flourished with modern buildings. From 1989 to the end of 2003, a large sum of money that is equivalent to 50,245.75 million kyat was spent on border areas and national races development projects.

Stability is the basic needs for national development. It is necessary for the people to pursue their education, to conduct their business and to practise their religious faiths with peace of mind.

In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, stability has been achieved throughout the country. When the Tatmadaw took the duty of the State, the condition of the nation got deteriorated due to uprising in the country. Facing various difficulties and overcoming many barriers, the Government has been striving for national development.

Economic infrastructures have been established and social foundations laid across the country through the united efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw. It is safe to say that the development is the result of national reconsolidation. The Tatmadaw, which is equipped with military capability, organizational capability and administrative capability, have safeguarded the nation.

We believe that the Tatmadawmen, serving the interests of the State, will be able to further promote the flourishing of Union Spirit throughout the country.

Ambassadors, diplomatics and military attaches visit Gems Emporium

YANGON, 13 March—The ambassadors, diplomatics and military attaches of foreign missions here and officials of UN agencies viewed items on display at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium being held at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here from 9 am to 5 pm today.

They were welcomed and conducted round the gems emporium by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Mines. — MNA

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”.

Press conference on holding of 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium held

YANGON, 13 March—The press conference on the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium for 2004, organized by the Central Committee for Organizing the Myanmar Gems Emporium, was held at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

Present were members of Public Relations and Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General U Khin Maung Hay of Myanmar Radio and Television, Managing Director Col Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Director (News) U Hla Tun, Correspondent U Sein Win of Kyodo News Agency, Patron of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Hla Hway and members, Mr Jen of Bangkok-based APTN news agency and correspondents.

Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Secretary Managing Director U Khin Oo of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and members welcomed the journalists and explained preparations for sales of finished jade and gems goods, ornaments and jade figures at fixed prices produced by MGE, private jewellery shops and gem-entrusted painting shops on the ground floor, uncut jade stones in the compound of the market and display of jewellery and pearl lots to be sold through competitive bidding system on the third floor.

Next, the press conference on the Myanmar Gems Emporium was held at the hall of the mart. Deputy Minister U Myint Thein said that quantity and quality jade, gems and pearl lots will be sold at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium.

Invitations were sent to 501 companies from 26 countries, over 260 gems merchants of 97 countries of 12 countries will attend the emporium it is learnt.

And, gems merchants from abroad are expected to come to the emporium.

Arrangements have been made for selling finished jade products worth euro 0.11 million at a fixed price in addition to 1,284 lots of jade worth euro 13.25 million at a reserve price at the emporium. Altogether 146 jade lots worth euro 2.37 million at a reserve price will be displayed by joint venture companies.

130 lots of jade worth euro 1.3 million at a reserve price by Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd, 972 lots of jade worth euro 9.58 million at a reserve price by companies and private entrepreneurs. So, there will be 1,284 lots of jade worth euro 13.25 million at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium.

In addition, 1,054 lots of uncut jade stones worth euro 2.93 million will be sold through tender system. Single lots of uncut jade stone worth euro 10,000 each and above will be sold through competitive bidding. There will be 206 lots of uncut jade stones worth euro 10.32 million.

There are 38 lots of uncut jade stones valued at euro 50,000 and above each at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium.

Lots of uncut jade have been formed according to quality, weight and reserve price.

Altogether 318 lots of gems with a floor price and lots 89 lots will be put on sale at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium—90 lots of gems with a floor price of euro 8.7 million will be put on sale through competitive bidding, 89 lots of gems with a floor price of euro 180.555 by tender system and 139 lots of gems will be put on sale at fixed price of euro 345.

Altogether 318 lots of gems with a floor price of euro 8.9 million and 76 lots of Yangon uncut gems with a floor price of euro 8.3 million will be put on sale at the emporium.

A total of 1,207 items of jewellery valued at euro 950,884 will also be put on sale at the emporium.

Over 0.17 million pieces of pearls were jointly cultured in 2003-2004 financial year. Of them, over 0.11 million pieces of pearl were cultured by Myanmar Taikshi Company. Pearls of the company were formed into lots separately. Altogether 216 lots of pearl with a floor price of euro 1.46 million were formed.

In addition, new pearls cultured by the department and other joint ventured enterprises were formed into lots, mungling with them old pearls. Altogether 73 lots of pearls with fixed price of euro 343,300 were formed.

Therefore, a total of 289 lots of pearls with a floor price of euro 1.8 million will be put on sale at the emporium.

Next, member of Public Relations and Information Committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein made a speech.

After that, Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Secretary Managing Director of MGE U Khin Oo and Managing Director of Myanmar Pears Enterprise U Maung Toe replied to queries raised by the foreign and local journalists.

The press conference ended with the concluding remarks by Deputy Minister U Myint Thein. — MNA

479 gem merchants arrive

YANGON, 13 March—Altogether 479 gem merchants—253 from 94 countries of six continents and 226 from 79 local companies have already arrived to attend the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium being held at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here.

The merchants viewed items on display at the gems emporium from 9 am to 5 pm today.

Secretary of the Central Committee for Organizing the Gems Emporium Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Khin Oo and the Secretary of the Jade, Gems and Pearl Sub-Committee welcomed and conducted them round the emporium.

Most of the foreign gem merchants arrived here via Hong Kong and more gem merchants will continue to arrive here via Thailand and Kunming.— MNA
**Iraqi lawyer says US undermining Saddam evidence**

**Baghdad, 13 March** — A top Iraqi lawyer coordinating preparations for Saddam Hussein’s trial accused the US military on Friday of hampering efforts to gather evidence by releasing detainees linked to the toppled leader.

"The US military just releases detainees without consulting us. They are releasing people with valuable information on Saddam. They are undermining the process of putting him on trial," Salem Chalabi told Reuters.

"Why should we bother?" Brigadier-General Mark Kimmitt, deputy director of operations for the US Army in Iraq, said the release of detainees from American custody did not preclude the Iraqi authorities from taking action against them.

Chalabi said frustrations over the releases were growing in the US-appointed Governing Council, with some members discussing putting on hold the special tribunal expected to try Saddam and his top aides if they were not consulted.

"There is a feeling that it is a pointless exercise. Important figures are being released and we are not even consulted. These people are leaving the country," Chalabi said.

He expressed his concerns to a high-level US Justice Department team that visited Iraq this week to assemble evidence for war crimes cases against Saddam.

"They said they would relay our concerns," he said, adding that a much larger American team of 50 would return in about five weeks.

Although many Iraqis believe Saddam is guilty of widespread crimes against humanity, proving it in a court may not be easy in some cases.

Chalabi said prosecutors would seek to establish a chain of command that proved Saddam ordered atrocities such as a chemical attack on the Kurds in 1988 and the crushing of a 1991 Shi'ite uprising that allegedly sent thousands to mass graves.

The US-educated attorney, whose uncle Ahmad Chalabi is a member of the Governing Council, said there were about 100 Iraqi detainees with ties to Saddam who could provide hard evidence against him.

**Good, bad and ugly is same in brains of holders**

**Washington, 13 March** — Beauty may be in the eye of the beholder, but what is good, bad and ugly to one person is pretty much good, bad and ugly to another, Israeli scientists reported on Thursday.

A brain imaging study showed people’s brains reacted in a surprisingly similar manner as they watched the classic Clint Eastwood Western "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly".

"Such responses imply that a large extent of the human cortex is stereotypically responsive to naturalistic audiovisual stimuli," they wrote.

Just to test, they also scanned the volunteers as they lay quietly, and their brain patterns barely matched.

But movie fans do not have to worry that their own enjoyment may not be unique, pointed out psychologist Luiz Pessoa of Brown University in Rhode Island.

"Each region of the cortex reacted in different ways in each viewer," he wrote in a commentary. "Thus there might be, after all, ample cortex for you and I to experience "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" in a unique way," Pessoa wrote.

**US Senator says report on Iraq intelligence ‘damning’**

**Washington, 13 March** — A US Senate Intelligence Committee report about prewar intelligence on Iraq will be “tough and damning” and spread the blame around, a senior Republican senator said on Friday.

“It will be damning of some of the intelligence. I think it’s going to be highly critical, it will be critical of a lot of sources, programmes and people,” said Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona, third-ranking in the Senate Republican leadership.

The blame spreads over Democratic and Republican administrations, intelligence agencies and Congress, he said. “Nobody is without blame.”

The report is expected to be issued this spring, possibly in April.

Kyl’s comments came in a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations aimed at countering harsh criticism of the Republican administration by Sen Edward Kennedy a Massachusetts Democrat, a week earlier to the same group.

Kennedy’s case that the Bush administration misrepresented intelligence to Congress and the public to go to war against Iraq was “long on innuendo and very short on facts,” Kyl said.

Administration officials had based their comments about Iraq on intelligence assessments, he said. “They did not... distort, mislead, or misrepresent what the intelligence community said.”

US intelligence reports before the war said Iraq had biological and chemical weapons and was developing a nuclear weapon, but since the US-led invasion last year no such banned weapons have been found.—Internet

**Bomb blast kills two US soldiers in Iraq**

**Baghdad, 13 March** — Two American soldiers were killed when their Humvee struck a roadside bomb, the military said Friday. US officials also warned that Iraqi police — not impostors in their uniforms — may have been behind the shooting deaths of two coalition staffers and their translator.

The two soldiers died Thursday when the Humvee they were riding in hit a homemade bomb northeast of Habbiniyah in the Sunni Triangle, the heartland of the anti-US insurgency.

A third soldier was wounded in the blast. The soldiers were part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team of Task Force All American, part of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Their deaths bring to 556 the number of US service members who have died since the United States launched the Iraq war in March. Most have died since President Bush declared an end to active combat 1 May.

In Baghdad, a prominent supporter of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr was shot and killed in Baghdad’s al-Shawafa district, movement spokesman Ahdan al-Safei said Friday.

Thursday’s shooting of Kazim al-Sayed Musa al-Ghoriebi came hours after a Sunni Muslim cleric was wounded in what he claimed was an assassination attempt. His son and son-in-law were killed.

Naeem Khalaf, a cleric at the Rahman mosque in Abu Dhseer, a suburb in southwestern Baghdad, said assailants drove up next to his car and opened fire.

In central Baghdad, thousands of Shiites rallied against the US presence in Iraq, chanting “Kill America! Kill America!” and “Yes, yes to Islam!”

Protesters hurled stones at a passing pair of armored civilian SUVs, of the type often used by coalition workers or plain-clothes security officials, forcing the vehicles to back away. There were no injuries.

**A US Army Blackhawk helicopter door gunner keeps watch over Iraqi fields near Ramadi during its patrol on 11 March, 2004.—Internet**

**A US Army Blackhawk helicopter door gunner keeps watch over Iraqi fields near Ramadi during its patrol on 11 March, 2004.—INTERNET**
Poll shows Arab-Americans dissatisfied with Bush

WASHINGTON, 13 March — Arab-Americans in four battleground states have “deep dissatisfaction” with George W. Bush’s policies and low support for the President’s re-election, a poll showed on Friday.

This is a shift from the 2000 presidential campaign, when Arab-Americans in Michigan, Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania — all expected to be closely contested this year — strongly favoured Bush, a Republican, over Democrat Al Gore.

“This community’s vote is decisively moving in a direction that is not in favour of Bush’s re-election,” said James Zogby of the Washington-based Arab American Institute, which commissioned the tracking poll.

The poll found Arab-Americans rated Bush lowest for his handling of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, one of three issues of greatest importance to this group of voters. The others were civil liberties, which Arab-Americans have seen as being under pressure since the September 11, 2001 attacks, and the war in Iraq.

On these issues as well, the poll gave Bush low marks.

The four states are among the top 10 states in terms of Arab-American population, and represent a total of 510,000 likely voters.

All have seen rapid growth in the size of their Arab-American communities in the last decade.

Voter turnout among members of this community is slightly higher than in the US population as a whole.

The poll showed 32 per cent of Arab-Americans across the four states rated Bush excellent or good for his overall job performance — down from 38 per cent in January — and only 28 per cent said he deserves to be re-elected. Sixty-five per cent said it was time to elect “someone new.”

In 2000, 46 per cent said they voted for Bush, compared with 29 per cent for Gore, while this year, 27 per cent favoured Bush and 43 per cent John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate.

Latin Americans commit to population control

SANTAGO (Chile), 13 March — Latin American and Caribbean nations agreed on Thursday to intensify their efforts to prevent the spread of AIDS.

The United States, a major financial backer for regional family planning programmes, was the only one of 38 delegations that withheld support for the declaration.

Latin America has made progress on reproductive health in the last 10 years but poor people and teenagers lack access to family planning, according to an assessment presented at the meeting organized by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

“This year’s meeting emphasizes the importance of strengthening programmes directed at adolescents, increasing access to services and information,” Elena Zuniga, Secretary General of Mexico’s National Population Council, told Reuters.

She said that although Mexico has brought down its birth rate, 80 per cent of adolescents failed to take precautions against pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases when they lost their virginity.

The US delegation expressed reservations about providing confidential birth control services to adolescents, saying parents should be involved.

Under the Bush Administration the US has concentrated much of its international AIDS-prevention and birth control funding in campaigns, often jointly with religious groups, that promote abstinence.

Delegates said Latin America, despite being largely Catholic, took a different approach: “Mexico respects those who believe that abstinence is the best method, but as a government we are obliged to offer teenagers all the existing options that are safe and people can make decisions based on their convictions,” Zuniga said.

US soldier, two women amongst four killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 March — Four people including one American soldier, two Iraqi women working for American company were killed in attack by unidentified attackers.

One US soldier was killed and two officials wounded in landmine blast in Baquba. Two Iraqi women, employed by a unit of US oilfield services company Halliburton, were shot dead in the southern city of Basra on their way from work.

One Iraqi was killed and two others were wounded when a bomb meant for a US military convoy exploded in the flashpoint town of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, police said.

Pentagon finance chief critical of Halliburton

WASHINGTON, 13 March — The Pentagon’s outgoing chief financial officer criticized US Vice President Dick Cheney’s old company Halliburton on Thursday, citing significant problems with its cost estimates for work in Iraq.

Halliburton unit Kellogg Brown and Root is the US military’s biggest contractor in Iraq, holding contracts that could eventually total nearly 18 billion US dollars.

It also has become a lightning rod of Democratic criticism during this presidential election year because of its former ties to Cheney, who ran the company from 1995-2000.

“DCAA (military auditors) has identified significant deficiencies in KBR’s estimating practices related to the award of subcontract costs,” said Pentagon Comptroller Doug Zakheim, referring to the Defence Contract Audit Agency.

In testimony to the House of Representatives Government Reform Committee, Zakheim said on January 13 — three days before the company was given a new 1.2 billion US dollar contract in Iraq to repair its southern oil fields — auditors told the Army to inform them before the negotiation of any future contract awards.

“I don’t think it should be the job of the Administration to give Halliburton the benefit of the doubt in every case,” said California Representative Henry Waxman, one of the fiercest Democratic critics of Halliburton and its work in Iraq.

But Zakheim stressed no conclusions had been reached. “An investigation is simply that. It does not mean someone is guilty.”

The US Army Corps of Engineers was pressed on whether it had considered the auditors’ request to be contacted about future work before the second oil repair contract was given.

“It was considered and reviewed and (the second contract) found to be an appropriate outcome,” said Major-General Carl Strock, director of civil works for the Army Corps.

Citizens hold a banner reading, ‘The bombs dropped in Iraq explode in Madrid’ during a protest march through central Barcelona, on 12 March, 2004. Millions of Spaniards packed the major thoroughfares of Madrid and other cities nationwide on Friday, chanting ‘killers’ and ‘cowards’ in a mass condemnation of train bombs that killed at least 192 people in Spain. — Inquirer

Paper says ministers put off Arab League reform

CAIRO, 13 March — Arab foreign ministers will advise their leaders to put off any decisions on reforming the Arab League until at least 2005, according to a document published in the London-based newspaper al-Hayat on Monday.

The document, entitled the “Charter of Covenant between the Leaders of the Arab States”, incorporates many of the proposals Arab governments submitted to an inconclusive meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo about 10 days ago. But it does not specify any of the new institutions which Arab League Secretary-General Ahmad Moussa has been advocating — such as an Arab security council, court and Parliament. The Arab League said in a statement later on Thursday that the text of the Al-Hayat was an early draft and some amendments had been made since it was written. But the statement did not dispute any specific details in the published version. Al-Hayat said the document would be presented to Arab leaders at a summit meeting in Tunis on 29 March and 30. The document recommended the leaders ask the ministers to draft the reforms and present them to the subsequent summit, scheduled to take place in Algiers in March 2005. — MNA/Reuters

11th Wisconsin soldier dies in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 March — An Army Reservist from Ellsworth in northwestern Wisconsin has died when an improvised explosive device hit his convoy in Iraq.

Spc Bert Hoyer, 23, was assigned to the 652nd Engineer Company based in Ellsworth and was killed in the explosion Wednesday. His parents, Larry and Peggy Hoyer, said they last talked to their son by telephone Sunday.

Larry Hoyer said the conversation was brief because his son was running a bit late, with his unit packing up and on the move, but “everything seemed OK, given the circumstances.”

A military officer came to the family home Thursday afternoon to inform them of the death. Bert Hoyer was a 1999 graduate of Ellsworth High School. He had decided to enlist in the Reserves when he enrolled at Vermillion Community College in Ely, Minn. He was a semester away from graduation when his unit reported to Fort McCoy near Sparta in February 2003.

Hoyer is the 11th person from Wisconsin to die serving in Iraq. — Internet

652nd Engineer Company
Iraqi police suspected of killing US civilians

BAGHDAD, 13 March — Four Iraqi police were being held on suspicion of killing two American civilians and an Iraqi translator, all of whom worked for the US-led administration, in an attack this week, a military spokesman said on Friday.

“Six persons were detained as part of the investigation. Four of those persons were carrying current and we believe valid Iraqi police service identification,” Brigadier-General Mark Kimmitt, deputy director of operations for the US Army in Iraq, told a news conference. The three were killed late Tuesday on a road between Kerbala and Hilla, south of Baghdad. Their car was found later by Polish troops in charge of security in the area, with the bodies of the victims in the trunk. US occupation troops have been hunting and training Iraqi police in the hope that they would eventually take over the security of Iraq.

The two American civilians were Department of Defence employees working for the US-led administration in Iraq. One of them was working on women’s rights issues and the other was involved in developing the Iraqi media. It was the first time since the start of the war that US civilians working for the administration were killed.

China, India discuss means to sustain growth of bilateral trade

BEIJING, 13 March — With bilateral trade set to touch a record 10 billion US dollars this year, India and China reviewed the current state of trade relations and discussed ways to sustain the rapid growth witnessed in recent years, official sources said here Thursday.

The two sides reviewed the current trends in bilateral trade ties and discussed ways and means to sustain the ongoing rapid growth of such trade when Indian Ambassador Naïn Sathe called on the new Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai Wednesday, the sources said.

Both sides agreed that the bilateral trade relationship between India and China was “very promising” and this is the right time to push forward, the sources said. Bo and Sathe discussed the forthcoming first meeting of the Joint Study Group established during the visit of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to China in June last year.

Both sides attach importance to the work of this group whose mandate is clearly stipulated in the declaration whose mandate is clearly stipulated in the declaration that the two countries signed. It talks about airspace, and NATO air surveillance, after a dispute with Moscow in which Tallinn accused Russian fighter planes of violating Estonia’s airspace last autumn to test its radar system. The NATO chief tried to calm the tiny Baltic state when he arrived in Tallinn on Thursday.

“There are no Grade A terrorists,” he said, “with the military taking part in the talks. Both sides are interested in the negotiations. The talks are advancing and the two parties are working in a positive and constructive manner.” — THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

NATO Chief assures Baltics of air space patrols

Riga/Tallinn, 13 March — NATO said on Thursday it would patrol the air space of Baltic members joining next month despite Russian worries, saying the alliance believed Moscow would understand.

“Will there be no Baltic airspace? — it will be a NATO air space, and NATO air space will be policed,” the alliance’s Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer told a news conference during a visit to Latvia.

“Russia understands this very well, because NATO has always behaved like that,” NATO is working on a plan to give the Baltic region — which lacks fighter jets — air protection after the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia join in April, along with Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Russia has softened its long-standing criticism of NATO enlargement east of the old “Iron Curtain” but remains uneasy that NATO forces could be based on its borders, especially in the ex-Soviet Baltic republics. Local media reported on Thursday that alliance member Denmark might station four F-16 fighter jets and 100 soldiers in Lithuania. Western diplomats said NATO had yet to decide.

De Hoop Scheffer declined to comment on the reports but said he would go to Moscow this month to try to allay Russian suspicions about NATO’s plans in the Baltics.

“Today, NATO enlargement is proceeding smoothly, and neither NATO nor Russia lose much sleep over it,” he said.

“Indeed, what is most remarkable about the whole process is that it is so unremarkable,” Estonia is especially concerned about airspace surveillance, after a dispute with Moscow in which Tallinn accused Russian fighter planes of violating Estonia’s airspace last autumn to test its radar system.

The NATO chief tried to calm the tiny Baltic state when he arrived in Tallinn on Thursday.

“There are no Grade A and Grade B members in NATO,” he said, and added that the alliance would ensure Estonia’s security both in the skies and on land after Estonia becomes a NATO member.

NATO Chief assures Baltics of air space patrols.

NATO/Reuters

Green spans says trade barriers not answer to job loss

WASHINGTON, 13 March — US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Thursday that erecting protective trade barriers was not the answer to current US worries about job loss to foreign competition.

The anxiety in the United States over the loss of US jobs to low-wage countries was understandable, but a new round of protectionist steps, which is being proposed, “would make matters worse rather than better”, said Greenspan in his testimony to the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

“They would do little to create jobs, and if foreigners were to retaliate, we would surely lose jobs,” he said. The extended period of job losses has heightened fears that US workers are losing out to foreign competitors and spurred a number of proposals to erect protectionist trade barriers, Greenspan said.

“We can erect walls to foreign trade and even dis-

Green spans says trade barriers not answer to job loss.

Reuters

Death toll of terror blasts rises to 192

in Madrid

MADRID, 13 March — The death toll of simultaneous bomb attacks, which ripped through four commuter trains here on Thursday, has risen to 192, the authorities said.

Of the dead, mostly work- ers and students, 181 were found on the blast scene and nine died in hospitals. The explosions occurred between 7:15 and 7:55 am local time, tearing apart cars of trains that had just arrived or were about to arrive at stations on the railway line between Madrid and Guadalajara, east of the capital.

One explosion hit a train arriving at Madrid’s busy Atocha Station, causing it to derail. Two wagons were destroyed and the roof of one of them was tossed into the air.—— MNA/Xinhua

ASEP 3 to be held in Vietnam

HANOI, 13 March— Ten Asian and 15 European countries will discuss political and socioeconomic issues at the third Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP 3) slated March 25-26.

Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly of Viet- nam, Vo Mau, made the statement at a Press briefing on Friday.


“By hosting ASEP 3, the National Assembly of Vietnam hopes to gather ef- forts of legislative institu- tions to promote the partner- ship with the European Uni- on (EU),” Mau said. Around 100 parliamentaryarians from seven members of the Asean Parliamentarians network (ASEAN) will attend ASEP 3, he said. ASEP is an inter-parliamentary dialo- gue under the framework of ASEM project, acting as a forum for parliamentarians from the two continents to participate in the Asia-Eu- rope cooperation process, and promote their external activities. — MNA/Xinhua

The New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 14 March, 2004 5

Former US chief weapons inspector in Iraq, Hans Blix, is seen during a news conference about his new book ‘Mission Iraq’ in Berlin on 11 March, 2004. Blix reported his time as weapons inspector in Iraq. — Internet

Thousands of people march down a main street of the northern Basque city of Bilbao, on 12 March, 2004, during a demonstration to protest the numerous bomb attacks on trains in the Spanish capital Thursday that killed nearly 200 people and injured another 1,400.

Internet

The anxiety in the United States over the loss of US jobs to low-wage countries was understandable, but a new round of protectionist steps, which is being proposed, “would make matters worse rather than better”, said Greenspan in his testimony to the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

“They would do little to create jobs, and if foreigners were to retaliate, we would surely lose jobs,” he said. The extended period of job losses has heightened fears that US workers are losing out to foreign competitors and spurred a number of proposals to erect protectionist trade barriers, Greenspan said.

“We can erect walls to foreign trade and even dis-
Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion
Cost for rebuilding Iraq

It is estimated that rebuilding of Iraq will cost at least US$ 100,000 million. The earnings from sale of oil will not be sufficient to cover the reconstruction cost.

The US was criticized for taking control on Iraq, a country with second largest oil deposit in the world. During the war against Iraq, many oil facilities were bombed, and as a result, reconstruction for Iraq’s economy has faced many difficulties.

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<th>Estimated cost for Iraq reconstruction under UN up to 2007</th>
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<td>Local administration and civil society</td>
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<td>Health, education, employment</td>
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<th>Estimated cost for Iraq reconstruction under US and allies up to 2007</th>
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<td>Security and police</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Local administration and civil society $313m
Health, education, employment $7,190m
Infrastructure $24,204m
Agriculture, water resources $3,027m
Other $855m
Total $35,589m

An Iraqi boy
looks at the
scene of a rocket
attack in a private house in Iraqi capital Baghdad on March 8, 2004. Guerrillas fired mortars at a Baghdad police station, wounding two policemen and three civilians.

An Iraqi woman stands next to the remains of rockets, which were fired on 7 March 2004 into the heavily-fortified area known as the ‘Green Zone’ in Baghdad.

Flames and smoke rise from a burning oil pipeline near the Iraqi town of Samarra, Iraq on 26 Feb 2004.

Iraqi men gathered near a destroyed building following an explosion in Baqouba, 34 miles northwest of Baghdad, Iraq on March 10, 2004.
Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Nation-building tasks jointly carried out by the Tatmadaw and the people

Roads built by Tatmadaw members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>State/Division</th>
<th>Railroad</th>
<th>Motorway</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yangon Division</td>
<td>Toegyaunggalay-Okposu</td>
<td>Taikkyi-Phaygyi-Phaunggyi</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Danyingon-Okposu</td>
<td>Yangon-Bago six-lane road</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shan State</td>
<td>Shwenyaung-Yaksawk</td>
<td>Tarkaw-Mongpyin-Kengtung</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Kengtung-Tachilek</td>
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<td>Yaksawk-Kyaukgyu</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Ayeyawady Division</td>
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<td>Maubin-Hsamalan</td>
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<td>Myitkyna-Sumpabum-Putao</td>
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<td>Tanai-Nanyun</td>
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<td>Pasawng-Khemaphyu-Hluhsa-Sawhta</td>
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<td>Waboda-Kamamaung</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Papon-Kamamaung</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The opening of the Banyin-Phamon Railroad Section in progress in Hsihseng Township, Shan State (South), which was constructed by Tatmadaw members.

Tatmadaw members seen participating in the Hsiakkhaung-Namhsan Railroad Project in Shan State (South).

Tatmadawmen contribute towards No 4 Highway Project linking Yangon and Hmawby.

Transport facilities constructed across the nation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gravel road (mile)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Railroad (mile)</td>
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<td>3906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Airport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Airport (jet)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tatmadaw which can endure hardship
The Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) in perpetual service of the people

Myint Wai Hlaing


Tatmadawmen who are born of the people

As there rose internal insurgencies following the independence in Myanmar, the Tatmadaw had to safeguard the national independence and sovereignty. The crush of the Tatmadaw curbed the momentum of internal insurgency. At that time, Nationalist Chinese KMT troops intruded into Myanmar. At the end of 1949, KMT troops in the southern part of Yunnan Province of China ran in disarray and invaded Myanmar.

The commander of KMT troops was General Limi. In the first week of June in 1950, the Tatmadaw gave KMT troops an ultimatum demanding them to surrender or leave the country. However, KMT troops replied that they would not surrender and they were prepared to retaliate if the Tatmadaw attacked them. Later, they occupied an area from milepost-81 on Kengtung-Tachileik Road up to Tachileik. In the second week of June in 1950, the Tatmadaw launched offensives on KMT troops. The Tatmadaw defeated the KMT troops along Kengtung-Tachileik road on 21 July and captured Tachileik the same day. The Tatmadaw's victory over the KMT troops while crushing the surge of multi-coloured insurgents at home can be accounted for its nationalism and patriotism. It is one of the credits the Tatmadaw earned.

Withdrawing from Kengtung-Tachileik road, the KMT troops gathered at Monghsat. In April 1951, the strength of the KMT troops reached about 4,000. Leaving some 1,000 troops at Monghsat, the KMT marched to Kokang and Monglin regions and opened the headquarters at Mongmaw. Furthermore, they also established another headquarters at Mongyan, north of Kengtung region, with a total strength of 1,500 who were stationed there.

In the first week of May in 1951, the KMT troops with their stronghold in the territory of Myanmar attacked Yunnan province and Sissapana in the south. However, they had to retreat from there suffering heavy losses as they encountered the attacks launched by Chinese People's Army. The act of the Tatmadaw military regions in 1953 were: some 4,000 troops at Mongshu and Panay at No 1 military region on the eastern bank of Thanlwin river; some 3,000 troops at Mongshan, Nantham and Muse at No 2 military region of north-east region; some 4,000 troops at Monghsat, Mongton and Mongpan of No 3 military region; and some 1,000 troops at Mawchi, Hlaingbwe and Karuppi, totalling 12,000.

On 1 March 1953, the Government of Myanmar decided to lodge a complaint with the United Nations Organization over the issue of the invasion of KMT troops. It was on 25 March that the issue was officially submitted to UN.

In April 1953, the issue was put to vote at UN. Of 60 nations, there were 59 votes for the motion demanding the withdrawal of KMT troops from Myanmar soil and one abstention. There was no vote against the motion. However, the KMT did not follow the resolution because of the interference of the United States.

The interference of the US-formed CIA in Myanmar created a situation in which Myanmar might lose its independence and sovereignty. Although Myanmar Government submitted the issue of the invasion of KMT troops to the UN, the US gave fake help for the issue. What the US wanted actually was to allow the KMT troops to take a stronghold in the hilly regions of Shan State. They had known it that only when the hilly regions in Shan State separated from their control would they be able to control the government of Myanmar. The Tatmadaw also launched 'Operation Maha' in the first week of March in 1953 and crushed the KMT troops, who later withdrew across Thanlwin river and suffering heavy losses.

At a time when the Tatmadaw was quelling the rise of internal insurgencies, it also faced with the invasion of KMT troops at the same time. Since the perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of Myanmar is the goal of the Tatmadaw, the Tatmadaw braved every hardship without taking into consideration even their lives so as to reach the goal.
A casual look at the background history will show that the Myanmar Tatmadaw after the time of the regaining of independence had to fight on two fronts at the same time — internal insurgency and foreign intrusion. The Tatmadaw had thus to launch many battles and sacrifice a large number of lives of its members for perpetuation of the independence and sovereignty of the country.

The Tatmadaw drove the intruders out of Kengtung and Tachileik in June 1950; out of Monye, Naunglin, Kengtung, Nantmon, Panglong and Pangyan from February until October 1951 through Frost, Maw and Panlon operations. The Tatmadaw drove the KMT troops in respective regions. During the time, the KMT troops resorted to combined military operations in Myanmar’s internal affairs with evidence.

A bridge destroyed by the KMT troops in 1961.
The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

**Raising of Myanmar football ...**

(selection of the players and training for them and infrastructures were established, he said)

He spoke on providing daily consumption of calories, protein, fats and carbohydrate needed, nutritious food to the players in accord with the suggestions of the doctors, medical experts and health care services such as keeping medical reports for individual player and assigning duties separately to doctors for each team.

He said the government is paying attention to nurturing of the players to be strong mentally and physically. He said MFF was reconstituted and officials on football were appointed. It is obvious that the government has provided necessary assistance for raising of Myanmar football standard, he added.

Every nation of the world is now making efforts for raising of football standard assuming that football is the national sport. Football plays an important role in uplift of national prestige and integrity and uplift of dignity of the nation through sports, he pointed out.

He said the government is making endeavours for raising of its sport standard with the lofty aim of Myanmar sports the world to conquer. He said continued efforts are to be made with full diligence for realization of the aim.

Like ours, other countries are making efforts for uplift of the sport standard and sports efficiency of Myanmar and other nations has improved. Strenuous efforts are to be made for gaining victory in international matches after realizing that fact. He spoke of the need to study the developments such as improvement of sport standard of rival countries, progress in techniques and encouragement of the State and the people.

At a time when the government is providing facilities for improvement of Myanmar football standard such as training, formation, accommodation and food, it is necessary for all the players to apply their best ability in sports.

He called for making endeavours for raising of the standard of Myanmar football.

Next, the Prime Minister inspected track suits and sport equipment. He went to Youth Training Camp in Thuwunna and inspected hostels and renovation of mess hall and food. The Prime Minister also inspected construction of new training grounds in Kyaukkasan Grounds. — MNA

**Sanitation tasks carried out to hail 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day**

(YANGON, 13 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin visited Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, staff of the YCDC, social organizations and people carrying out sanitation tasks to hail the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Yangon municipal area this morning.

The commander and the mayor inspected weeding and dredging the drains along U Wisara Road and Zagaawa Street in Dagon Township, Yangon West District.

Next, they inspected laying concrete alleys along Kwingyaung, Settwin and Theikpan streets in Ahlon Township. They also looked into the unblocking and dredging of drains and Aung Chan Tha main drain Sangyoung Street near Padonna Sports Ground in Sangyoung Township, and gave instructions on preventive measures against flooding in wards and roads in the rainy season.

Afterwards, they proceeded to the People’s Square in Dagon Township, and inspected sanitation work carried out by Tatmadaw members who will participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade, in the precinct of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

The commander and the mayor inspected sanitation work and dredging of drains in Kyaukkasan Grounds in Tamway Township, Yangon East District. They gave instructions to the officials on ensuring systematic work in carrying out tasks for beautifying Yangon municipal area, preventive measures against flooding in the rainy season, proper drainage, and prohibition of burning rubbish to avoid air pollution.

Similar tasks were carried out in South Okkalapa, Kamayut, Pabedan, Mayangon, Hline, Latha, Lanmadaw, Kyauktada, Kyimyindaing, Seikkan and Bahan townships in the same day. — MNA
Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 13 March—The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry of 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.

The 200 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, the Deputy Director-General, the Director (Engineering), the Director (Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee), the Director (Mawgyaw Division Development Affairs Committee) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee). — MNA

The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

Jakarta, 13 March—An Indonesian district court sentenced Joseph Ndaba, 35, a citizen of Lesotho in southern Africa on Thursday to life imprisonment and fined him 50 million rupiah (5,882 US dollars) for possession of 250 grammes of heroin. The judge panel in Tangerang, some 20 kilometres west of Jakarta, also handed down a 15-year sentence to Melani Tania Soetiyani, 31, an Indonesian, reported The Jakarta Post newspaper Friday.

The defendants said they would allow their lawyers Siti Siharani and Restu Widayasta, to decide whether to appeal. Judge Storos said two mitigating factors that lowered the sentences for them (the maximum is death) were that they had apologized to all Indonesian citizens for their transgressions and that they had no previous police record.

The prosecutor charged them with violating the law on drugs and the criminal code on organized crimes. Both carry a maximum penalty of death.

Since 2000, the court has handed down 24 death sentences to drug smugglers, however, none of them have been executed, and at least four have had their sentences reduced to life by the Supreme Court.

Ndaba was arrested by the police at her house in Jakarta on June 11, 2003. The police seized 250 grammes of heroin from her.

She later admitted that the drugs belonged to Ndaba. Police searched for Ndaba and later arrested him at a restaurant in Central Jakarta on June 12.

Ndaba, who claimed he was a student in Lesotho, and in Indonesia as a tourist, arranged the drug transactions with the customers by himself, while Melani was his courier.

She took the heroin from Ndaba and gave it to her regular customers, who had already placed orders. — MNA/Xinhua

IAEA helps Greece face any nuke threat at Olympics

VIENNA, 13 March — The UN’s nuclear agency will help protect this summer’s Athens Olympics against any nuclear threat, such as a “dirty bomb” attack.

A document obtained by Reuters said the United States was helping to upgrade security at nuclear research installations in Greece, and France was involved in reviewing “incident response arrangements”.

An IAEA spokesman declined to comment on the document titled “Nuclear Security — Measures to Protect Against Nuclear Terrorism”.

Western intelligence sources say they do not believe groups like al-Qaeda have access to nuclear weapons but that militants probably do have the capacity to build a crude “dirty bomb”.

Using radioactive material packed around conventional explosives, such a device would contaminate the area of the blast and trigger mass panic, even if it did not kill large numbers of people.

Attacks using chemical, biological or radiological weapons are among the ultimate threats faced by security planners for the Athens Olympics in August, the first summer Games since the September 11 attacks on the United States in 2001. — MNA/Reuters

Singapore’s jobs fall by over 12,000 last year

SINGAPORE, 13 March—Employment in Singapore decreased by 12,919 last year, only about half of that in 2002, which registered a loss of 22,857 jobs, according to a statement by the Ministry of Manpower on Friday.

The ministry said that the bulk of the losses last year were concentrated on construction and manufacturing.

After a difficult first half of 2003 brought about by uncertainties due to severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the labour market in the island state started to pick up in the second half of the year following improvements in the economy.

The employment increased strongly by 16,233 in the fourth quarter, after reporting a slight gain of 900 in the preceding quarter.

The bulk of the increase came from service industries, boosted by hiring to deal with post-SARS recovery and year-end festivities.

The annual unemployment rate stood at 4.7 per cent last year, higher than the corresponding 4.4 per cent in 2002. — MNA/Xinhua
Nine foreign suppliers to bid for Vietnam’s first satellite

Ha Noi, 13 March—Nine companies from the United States, Japan and Europe will bid for the construction and launch of Vietnam’s first satellite which is scheduled to become operational late 2005.

The bid valued at 250 million US dollars will mainly comprise launching the communication satellite, building a ground control centre, transferring technology and buying insurance, according to local newspaper Tuoi Roth on Thursday.

The satellite named Vinasat will provide telephone, radio and television services to all corners of Vietnam without topographical interference. It weighs 2.2 tons and has a life-span of 15-20 years.

The medium-sized satellite will span its coverage over Vietnam, Southeast Asian countries, and some Eastern Asian countries including Japan and South Korea.

Vietnam has registered for the satellite to operate at 135-degree east Longitude, and on the 120 kilometres square-equatorial plane, the paper said.

The country now has to hire satellite services of foreign companies from Thailand, Indonesia and Russia, paying them some 10 million US dollars annually.

Vinasat will be Vietnam’s second space conquest. Former fighter pilot Pham Tuan became the country’s first astronaut when he took part in a Soviet space mission in 1985.

China’s life insurance premiums to reach $100bn in 2008

Beijing, 13 March—The China branch of the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), a leading international business strategy consultancy, released a research report which predicts that China’s insurance market will develop into the world’s biggest in the next 20 years.

If the life insurance business can secure a compound annual growth rate of around 20 per cent over the next four years, total premiums will reach about 830 billion yuan (about 100 billion US dollars) by 2008, says the report.

Giles Brennand, BCG’s vice-president, who is also the author of the report, explained that the strong growth of China’s life insurance business should be attributed to the expansion of Chinese urban residents’ financial assets.

Though the life insurance’s 2.5 per cent penetration rate, the percentage ratio between the total premium of life insurance and GDP, is still much lower than the world average of 5 per cent, China’s life insurance sector has witnessed rocketing growth from 0.5 per cent in the late 1990s to 2.3 per cent now, according to the report.

It also suggests the huge potential of China’s insurance market, Brennand said.

China’s group life insurance business, a lucrative arena for insurance practice, will open to foreign insurance companies at the end of 2004.

“In a long run, the winners, both domestic and foreign, will be those players that best manage increasing customer demands, the evolving regulatory environment and their own internal capabilities and resources,” said Brennand.

He said the ability to offer superior, trustworthy and reliable service to consumers, and cultivate the most profitable customers, will be critical to success.

Two killed in building collapse caused by strong winds in Beijing

Beijing, 13 March—Two people were reported killed and four more injured after a building set up for temporary use was pulled down by strong winds sweeping Beijing on Wednesday, according to the Beijing Evening News.

Details of the accident that occurred at about 3:00 a.m. Wednesday were not given.

In another development, the strong winds with an average force of seven swept down a big advertisement board on a street at about 8:00 a.m. the same day, injuring a 30-year-old passenger.

The strong winds began battering Beijing at 2:00 a.m. on Wednesday, blunting the visibility to four kilometres and leading to the first ever dusty weather in Beijing this year, said Guo Hu, head of the Beijing meteorological station.

The dusty weather was approaching the capital’s population, are living in poverty, according to a Senate’s inquiry report released Thursday.

The report said more than 20 per cent of the population cannot even afford medicines for their children.

Figures cited in the report showed the number of those who live on less than 400 Australian dollars (300 US dollars) a week rose from 11.3 per cent in 1990 to 13 percent in 2000.

Inquiry committee chairman Steve Hutchins said one of the most disturbing trends found during the 12-month inquiry is that 700,000 children lived in homes with no parent who is in full-time work.

Hutchins called for action to prevent children and youth from becoming disadvantaged.

Prime Minister John Howard re- said the report, saying “It’s fair to say that the rich have got richer but the poor are getting no poorer.”
Japanese car makers to infuse $330m in Philippines

MANILA, 13 March—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said Thursday Japanese automakers plan to infuse some 330 million US dollars of new investments to expand plants in the Philippines.

“Next week I will be back in Laguna (in the northern Philippines) to bring in 330 million dollars in investments,” she said in a speech to local women at an industrial park.

In a Presidential Palace statement, Arroyo identified the Japanese auto makers that have decided to infuse fresh capital as Mitsubishi, Nissan, Toyota, Honda, and Isuzu, but did not discuss specific plans by any of them.

She suggested that the planned investments would be for export markets.

Aside from the Japanese investors, Arroyo said American car makers, like Ford, will also put in new investments amounting to 50 million dollars.

The assemblers sell less than 100,000 units to the domestic market every year, but Arroyo said some of the assemblers are planning export facilities for the Asian as well as European markets.

Vehicle sales in the Philippines rose 7.73 per cent year-on-year in 2003 to 90,535 units.

China to stage 1st International Gallery Exposure

BEIJING, 13 March—The first Chinese International Gallery Exhibition will be held in Beijing from 22 April to 26.

The exhibition, co-sponsored by the China Audio & Video Publishing House and Beijing Chinese Art Exhibitions’ Media Co Ltd will showcase contemporary Western art and modern Asian art with the participation of 40 overseas and 30 domestic galleries.

The Gallery Association of South Korea has organized a group of 21 Korean galleries to display the works of famous Korean artists like Kim/Wang, Park/Soo-Byeoung, Park/Soh and Suh Se-Ok in a Korean Modern Fine Art Exhibition held during the exhibition.

Japanese artist Takashi Murakami’s work has impressed the world fashion circle in the past few years.

Indonesia to issue law against illegal logging

JAKARTA, 13 March—The Indonesian Government will issue a new regulation in lieu of law to deal with illegal logging in an emergency measure to stop the rapid destruction of the nation’s forests, a minister has said.

The new regulation will become a special law on illegal logging outside the current criminal law, Minister of Forestry Mohammad Prakosa said after a Cabinet meeting on Thursday.

“Illegal logging has become an acute problem. Efforts to stop illegal logging have been hampered by inadequate laws that do not provide a fast solution or proper punishment to the culprits,” said Prakosa, who was quoted by The Jakarta Post Friday.

The law will enable law enforcement officials to try illegal loggers immediately after they are arrested, and will allow authorities to confiscate materials used in the crime, including any vehicles or boats used to transport illegally cut logs.

The regulation will also contain severe punishments for those involved in illegal logging.

Changes in gene may make people prone to diabetes

WASHINGTON, 13 March—A gene that helps control pancreatic and liver cells may also make certain people prone to type 2 diabetes, US and Finnish researchers said Thursday.

They found four changes in the gene’s code—called single nucleotide polymorphisms or “snips”—that were much more common in people with type 2 or adult-onset diabetes.

The team looked at two groups — Finns and Ashkenazi Jews — and studied the gene for genetic research because of their relative genetic purity.

“Using the April issue of the journal Diabetes, the team said all four of the variations were found in a gene called hepatocyte nuclear factor 4 alpha or HNF4A. This gene acts as a master switch to regulate hundreds of other genes.

In the beta cells of the pancreas, it helps control the secretion of insulin in response to glucose. Diabetes is marked by a malfunction of these cells — in type 1 or juvenile diabetes, they are destroyed.

But in type 2 diabetes, the body gradually loses its ability to respond properly to insulin. The researchers believe a person’s genetics may predispose them to this condition, which can kick in with the help of outside factors such as overeating or a lack of exercise.

They believe the gene is an important regulator of cells that make insulin.”

New gene linked with cancer found

WASHINGTON, 13 March—US scientists said Thursday they had tracked down another gene involved in several different cancers, which seems to become active just before a tumour begins to spread.

They hope the gene, called PIK3CA, might be a good “marker” for diagnosing cancer, or a target for new cancer drugs.

The gene was found by a team that included some of the country’s leading experts in the genetics of cancer at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

And the cancer genes have been found, from the PIK3CA gene in 74 of 234 colon cancer patients, to 2 per cent of those with melanoma, 2.5 per cent of stomach cancer patients and 8 per cent of breast cancer patients.

They found 92 mutations in all.

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The assemblers sell less than 100,000 units to the domestic market every year, but Arroyo said some of the assemblers are planning export facilities for the Asian as well as European markets.

Vehicle sales in the Philippines rose 7.73 per cent year-on-year in 2003 to 90,535 units.

China to stage 1st International Gallery Exposure

BEIJING, 13 March—The first Chinese International Gallery Exhibition will be held in Beijing from 22 April to 26.

The exhibition, co-sponsored by the China Audio & Video Publishing House and Beijing Chinese Art Exhibitions’ Media Co Ltd will showcase contemporary Western art and modern Asian art with the participation of 40 overseas and 30 domestic galleries.

The Gallery Association of South Korea has organized a group of 21 Korean galleries to display the works of famous Korean artists like Kim/Chang-yed, Park/Soo-Byeoung, Park/Soh and Suh Se-Ok in a Korean Modern Fine Art Exhibition held during the exhibition.

Japanese car makers to infuse $330m in Philippines

MANILA, 13 March—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said Thursday Japanese automakers plan to infuse some 330 million US dollars of new investments to expand plants in the Philippines.

“Next week I will be back in Laguna (in the northern Philippines) to bring in 330 million dollars in investments,” she said in a speech to local women at an industrial park.

In a Presidential Palace statement, Arroyo identified the Japanese auto makers that have decided to infuse fresh capital as Mitsubishi, Nissan, Toyota, Honda, and Isuzu, but did not discuss specific plans by any of them.

She suggested that the planned investments would be for export markets.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Skin blemish
2 Open insults
3 Mountain range
4 Loss of memory
5 Monetary unit of Japan
6 Disguised
10 Aerated-water bottle
13 Inflammation of kidneys
16 Unpleasant quality
17 I Esparzo (anag.)
18 Stitches
20 Proverb
22 Life’s hectic routine scramble (3,4)
23 Concise
25 Mistrusts
26 Move by slow degrees

DOWN
1 Very tired
2 Dis incarcerate
3 European country
4 Italian wine
5 Revised at cards
6 Unpleasant quality
7 Disincumber
8 Sweet
9 Inflamation of kidneys
12 Bum by arousing respect
13 Very short time
18 Waist-band
20 Poet of the United States
21 Observe closely
24 Possess

Newcastle hit back to crush Mallorca 4-1

LIVERPOOL, 13 March—Newcastle United produced a superb comeback to thrash Real Mallorca 4-1 in the first leg of their UEFA Cup fourth-round tie at St James’s Park on Thursday.

Craig Bellamy, Alan Shearer, Laurent Robert and Titus Bramble scored for the team tying fourth in the Premier League after Fernando Correa had given the Spanish side a 58th-minute lead.

“They scored when we were at our best because we had raised the tempo,” manager Bobby Robson told reporters.

“They would have expected a goal and that still counts for something so we will have to play to our maximum when we go to Mallorca on March 25. The tie is far from finished...and we will certainly not be complacent.”

Followata a minute’s silence for the victims of the Madrid bombings. Mallorca striker Samuel Eto’o skied a clear chance to score a second after only three minutes of a poor first half.

The Cameroon striker inspired Mallorca’s breakthrough, though, exchanging passes with Aleandro Campano before slamming a shot against the crossbar for Correa to head home the rebound.

Mallorca had looked lacklustre until then but suddenly came to life and equalised after 67 minutes with a low finish by Welsh international Bellamy.

Shearer headed in a Robert corner four minutes later and three minutes after that the French winger made it 3-1 with a low, driven free kick that Mallorca goalkeeper Leo Franco badly misjudged.

Mallorca’s Edu Moya was sent off for a second yellow card and Bramble immediately volleyed Newcastle’s fourth from another Robert free kick.—MNA/Reuters

Malaysia to bid for 2010 Asian Games

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 March—Malaysia will bid for the 2010 Asian Games after losing out to Qatar for 2006, a top official said on Thursday.

Siew Kok Chi, secretary of the Olympic Council of Malaysia’s (OCM) said the official bid document would be submitted to the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) on March 30, one day before the deadline.

Against possible candidates of Guangzhou, Seoul and Amman, Siew hoped Malaysia would win the right for the 16th Asian, saying that it was ‘Southeast Asia’s turn to host in 2010 as West Asia and Central Asian countries had decided not to.

Zhang declined to comment on any link to the financial woes of the boxer, but it had not yet been approved by the Beijing sports authorities.

“We don’t have any agreement yet. It’s just a kind of intention,” Zhang said. “It should be no problem to get approval from the authorities because we have been working on it for several years. The only thing we are paying close attention to is funding.”

Part of the deal, estimated to be worth three million US dollars, was for Tyson, 37, to tour China for 10 days in June for “exchanges” with Chinese boxers, charity events and sightseeing, said the website of the official People’s Daily, at www.people.com.cn.

“Tyson to tour China to ease bankruptcy,” read the headline. Tyson, widely considered a parody of the boxer he once was, would fight an unidentified Russian.

Tyson sweated profusely early on and looked, as he admitted himself, “out of shape”, but he appeared relaxed among his young students.

After sparring lightly with eight-year-old Sherif Younan, he told him in jest, “You’re a beast!”

A controversial figure inside and out of the ring, Tyson rejected the chance to talk about resurrecting his career, saying only that he wanted to get fit.
15-4-2004 (Sunday) (Programme Schedule) National Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)

9:00 Signature Tune  Greeting
9:07 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
9:06 Victory of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw “Industrial Sector”
9:10 Headline News
9:12 Illustrious handwork in Kyetee
9:15 National News
9:20 Resort for Rest and Recreation
9:25 San-Thit-Hla-Pa
9:30 Song “No Matter In Whichever Country you Are, Remember, You Are Myanmar”
9:41 Myanmar Teddy Palm “A Source of Rural Income”
9:45 National News
9:50 From Poppies to Luscious Fields and Enterprises (Part-II)
9:55 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”

14-4-2004 (Sunday) Regular Programmes for Viewers Aboard Evening Transmission (15:30 - 17:30)
15:30 Signature Tune Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
15:35 Victory of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw “Industrial Sector”
15:40 Headline News
15:42 National News
15:45 National News
15:50 Resort for Rest and Recreation
15:55 Myanmar Teddy Palm
16:00 National News
16:10 Song “Mighty Song In Whichever Country you Are”

11:25 am
3. Round-up of the week’s TV local news
11:40 am
4.  [Break]
12:30 pm
5. Weather report
12:40 pm
1:40 pm
7.  International news
1:50 pm
8.  [Break]
2:05 pm
9.  Myanma Teddy Palm “A Source of Rural Income”
2:40 pm
10. Song to uphold national spirit
3:40 pm
11.  “Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights”
7:05 pm
12. Weather report
7:30 pm
13.  [Break]
8:40 pm
14.  National news
9:10 pm
15.  Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”

15-3-2004 (Monday) Evening Transmission (23:30 - 1:30)
21:30 Signature Tune
21:35 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
23:10 Victory of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw “Industrial Sector”
23:40 Headline News
24:05 Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Saltwater in Kyetee
24:10 Songs on Screen “Welcome to Myanmar”
24:30 National News
24:40 How to Make Chili
24:45 National News
24:50 Myanmar Movie Impact “Given the gift of the gods”

15-3-2004 (Monday) Morning Transmission (03:30-07:30)
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03:35 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
03:45 National News
04:00 Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Saltwater in Kyetee
04:15 National News
04:30 Good Prospects for the whole country
04:40 How to Make Chili
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WEATHER

Saturday, 13 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (15°C) to (17°C) above normal in Shan, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeawady and Tanintharyi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was in Aunglwin Township.

Maximum temperature on 12-3-2004 was 38.5°C (101°F). Minimum temperature on 13-3-2004 was 19.7°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:00 hrs MST on 13-3-2004 was 70%. Total sun shine hours on 12-3-2004 was 0.59 hours approx. Rainfall on 13-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport. Kaba-Aye and central Myanmar recorded distinct 1-3-2004 (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 Southwest at 01:30 hours MST on 13-3-2004. Bay influence: Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast of 14-3-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State, weather will partly cloudy in the whole of Myanmar, with certainty of (40%).

Activities of the Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated rain in Southern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and surrounding areas for 14-3-2004: Possibility of Poppies for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-3-2004: Partly Cloudy.

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Prime Minister attends cash donation ceremony for building Thabbyinnyu Stupa

The 25th cash donation ceremony for building Thabbyinnyu Stupa was held at the stupa, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, here, at 4.30 pm today, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

First, the Prime Minister paid homage to Sithapahan Lacquer Buddha Image built by King Alaungsithu’s Bagan Thabbyinnyu Stupa. Out of three portions of the Stupa, the concrete works at lower part of the Stupa and Gandakuti Taik have already been completed. At present, concrete works of the pagoda portion were also completed.

Preparations are being made for offering gold foils to four walls and post of the Gandakuti Taik in which Buddha images are being kept. Construction of the Aparajita Throne on which Raja Maha Muni Sithapahan Buddha Image is taking residence magnificently has been completed with the decoration of gold plates.

Similarly, gold plates have been put on at the ceiling of Gandakuti Taik. Moreover, pilgrims can pay obeisance to Raja Maha Muni Buddha Image in most majestic appearance soon.

The preparatory tasks completed for building the bud atop the pagoda. The ground floor is being decorated with Myanmar handicraft of lacquerware and sculpture. And, three lifts were installed for the use of pilgrims to conveniently visit the Gandakuti Taik.

Chairman of the Finance Sub-committee Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin reported on availability of cash donation and expenditure.

Next, the commander, the ministers and officials accepted K 26,553,000 donated by wellwishers including K 5 million for construction of the stupa donated by families of military intelligence units; K 500,000 by Ministry of Transport; K 500,000 by Yangon City Development Committee; K 300,000 by Ministry of Industry-2; K 200,000 by Ministry of Industry-1; K 2.7 million by U Myaing Hin-Daw Nan Hoo; K 1.5 million by Maung Weik Co; K 1.5 million by Daw Aye Myat Nwe (Bagan Hotel); K 500,000 by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council; K 1 million each by Asia World Co and Hong Pac Construction Co; U Tint Han Dr Hla Hla Myaing; Shwe Thanlwin Co; U Mya Han Dawkhi Sabi Kyi; K 300,000 each by Myanmar Shipyards; Department of Civil Aviation; Yangon Airways; and Maritime Administration Department; K 500,000 by the Office of the Prime Minister; K 300,000 each by Myanmar Airways; Air Mandalay; Myanmar Airway International; Inland Water Transport; Myanmar Maritime University; Institute of Marine Technology; Myanmar Five Star Line; Myanmar Port Authority; and Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems; K 600,000 by U Maung Maung Lay-Daw Ohnma Khin; K 300,000 each by U Phone Myint Lu (CTT Co); and U Kyaw Myint Oo of Oscar Nalson Co; K 100,000 each by Myanmar Sugarcane Enterprise; and Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Traders Association; K 500,000 by U Kyi Aye-Daw Saw Mya Aye; K 500,000 by U Zeya Thura Mon-Daw Khang Khang Myint; K 270,000 by U Nyen-Daw Ohn Kyin; and K 150,000 by Daw San San and family; K 303,000 by U Kyaw Myint (DSA)-Daw San San Myint; K 300,000 by U Tin Maung; K 200,000 by U Aung Myat; K 300,000 by Myanmar Moe Khang Co; K 200,000 by U Hla Gyi; K 200,000 by U Kyaw Swa Moe; K 100,000 by Min Din-Daw Win Win Aye (a) Ma Gyi; and K 30,000 by U Ko Thurein-Daw Swa Swe Han.

Next, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects progress in construction of Thabbyinnyu Stupa.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt takes part in the discussions. He said the government is making arrangements for improvement of Myanmar football standard and for systematic development of football including construction of modern football grounds. He said the government is also providing facilities for physical and spiritual development of Myanmar football players. Necessary organizational set-ups were formed for systematic development (See page 10)