Protect all the interest of the State

Our Tatmadaw will have to protect all the interest of the State. Throughout the successive eras of history, the Tatmadaw has safeguarded the national political course. Only if we continue to maintain the tradition, will the nation be able to develop and prosper on the right track despite the changes in the era.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address at the graduation parade of the 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy)

Economic development must for building up a developed nation

General Thura Shwe Mann meets with officials and national entrepreneurs in Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 19 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, together with members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thitha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, held a meeting with local authorities, departmental heads, vice-presidents of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the presidents of Myanmar Fisheries Federation, the chairman of Taninthayi Division Fisheries Federation and entrepreneurs.

On the occasion, the General delivered an address. In his address, the General said that Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe had toured Taninthayi Division recently. General Thura Shwe Mann quoted the Senior General on the tour of the

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative special features on pages 7, 8 and 9.

Vice Premier of the State Council of PRC to visit Myanmar

YANGON, 20 March — At the invitation of the Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar His Excellency Lt-Gen Soe Win, Vice Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China Her Excellency Madam Wu Yi will pay an official visit to the Union of Myanmar in the near future. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For development of ICT sector

Nowadays, science and technology sector is developing with momentum with information and communication technologies in the leading role and there is the process of globalization all over the world.

At such a time, the State is making necessary arrangements for gaining ICT technologies with the pace of time in order not to be left behind in development.

On 16 February, Chairman of Myanmar Computer Science Development Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the meeting on Electronic Transactions Law (draft) held at the MICT Park in Hlaine Township and gave instructions to officials.

At the meeting, Chairman of the e-National Task Force Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on progress in drawing the Electronic Transactions Law (draft) in cooperation with ministries; Attorney-General U Aye Maung on prescriptions of the law (draft) and Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin and those present made discussions on the law (draft).

Those present at the discussed meeting matters relating to Myanmar character code set, e-Procurement Project, Smart Card Based Vehicle Registration Project, Budget P.C Project and progress in carrying out ICT tasks.

In his address, the Prime Minister said that with combination of originally high intelligence of Myanmar nationals, modern ICT equipment and technologies, success can be made as expected, and that experts, scholars and industrialists engaged in the ICT field, on their part, are to carry out their tasks in an active manner catching up with international ICT developments and to present reports to responsible persons on requirements to be rendered by the State in time.

ICT sector in Myanmar is making progress with a great momentum thanks to the encouragement of the government and efforts of counter scientists.

In this regard, officials concerned are urged to make collective efforts to maintain and speed up the already-achieved momentum in the ICT sector.

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’

Efficient use of fuel

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US$ 5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Gems Empo sells 13,703,451-euro worth of jade, gems

YANGON, 19 March — The 41st Myanma Gems Emporium sold 13,703,451-euro worth of jade and gem lots during its four-day sales. Today, the emporium sold 24 lots of gems valued at 3,230,018 euro through tender system and competitive bidding.

Merchants bought 503 lots of jade valued at 10,473,434 euro during the period from 16 to 18 March. Yesterday alone, 54 jade lots were sold at 2,388,016 euro. The Emporium sold 33 jade lots at 1,301,904 euro through competitive bidding from 5 pm to 11 pm yesterday. Patrons of the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint visited the emporium, which is being held at Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Book Fair

Sarpay Beikman

# 378,384 Upper Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Yangon (former PPE head office)
19 to 28 March 2004 (from 9 am to 5 pm)

Sales of gems through competitive bidding at the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium.

* Do not be softened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Book Fair opened in honour of Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 19 March — As a gesture of honouring the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information held a book fair at the former PPE building on Bo Aung Kyaw Road in Kyauktada Township here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials, the chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, the vice-chairmen, publishers, and bookworms.

On the occasion, PPE Managing Director U Myint Thein formally opened the book fair. Later, the deputy ministers and officials viewed the book fair.

Myint Thein explained the purpose of holding the book fair. Next, Brig-Gen Aung Thein formally opened the book fair. The book fair was opened by book shops at the fair. Various kinds of books are on sale there at reasonable prices.
**Baghdad car bomb kills at least 17, scores injured**

Baghdad, 19 March—A powerful car bomb destroyed a five-story hotel housing foreigners in central Baghdad on Wednesday night, killing 17 people and leaving a jagged crater just days before the anniversary of the start of the Iraq war.

US soldiers and Iraqi rescuers stopped searching for survivors yester-

day in the wreckage of a five-story hotel and surrounding buildings after a massive suicide bombing. The US mili-
tary had said 27 people died, but later revised the toll downward to 17.

US Army Colonel Jill Morgenthaler confirmed the attack was a suicide bombing, but said the destroyed Mount Lebanon Hotel may not have been the intended target because the vehicle loaded with explosives was in the mid-
dle of the street, and not parked in front of the hotel.

Flames and heavy smoke shot sky-

ward, igniting trees and nearby build-
ings as rescuers pulled bodies from the rubble and searched for other victims.

Dazed and wounded people stumbled from adjacent buildings. A father cra-
died his young daughter, who was limp in his arms. Coated in dust, some rescu-
ers dug with bare hands as ambulance workers stood by with orange stretch-
ers.

The bomb, containing an estimated 1,000 pounds of explosives, also wounded 45 people at the Mount Leba-
on Hotel, said US Army Colonel Ralph Baker.

Americans, Britons, Egyptians as well as other foreigners were staying at the hotel, said Baghdad resident Falak Kalhan. Many casualties were in adja-
cent buildings.

The blast set afire at least eight cars, one of which was burned into a store.

Some vehicles were little more than mangled piles of metal. The explosion blew bricks, air conditioners, furniture and other debris hundreds of yards from the hotel.

“It was huge boom followed by complete darkness and then the red glow of a fire,” said 16-year-old Walid Mohammed Abdel-Maguid, who lives near the hotel. A two-story complex of offices and shops was also badly dam-
aged.

The Mount Lebanon was a so-called soft target because it did not have concrete blast barriers and other security measures of the kind that protect offices of the US-led coalition and other buildings where Westerners live and work. —Internet

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**Roadside bomb hits Iraqi security force convoy**

Mosul (Iraq), 19 March — A roadside bomb exploded near an Iraqi security force convoy in the northern city of Mosul on Wednesday, killing three civilians, witnesses said.

Members of the US-trained Iraqi Civil Defence Corps (ICDC) sealed off the scene of the blast, in an industrial area in the west of Mosul, and detained three suspects.

The witnesses said they believed one ICDC member had been killed and two wounded in the explosion, which was the latest of a spate of attacks in Mosul in the last few days.

On Monday, guerrillas fired on a car carrying US civilians in Mosul. Three were killed instantly and a fourth died in hospital. The Southern Baptist International Mission Board, based in Virginia, said the victims were missionaries.— MNA/Reuters

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**No need to make amendments to Russia’s foreign policy**

Moscow, 19 March — Russia’s new Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Wednesday that there is no need for making amendments to the concept of the country’s foreign policy.

“There should be continuity since good results have been achieved over the past four years,” said Lavrov, who served as Russia’s envoy to the United Nations for nearly ten years and was appointed the new Foreign Minister a week ago.

“We shall seek to guarantee Russia’s national interests without sliding to aggressive methods or confrontations,” the minister said during his first Press conference since his appointment.

“Russia will display flexibility in its efforts to protect national interests and will strive for compromises,” he added, adding that Russia would continue making efforts to create “favourable outside conditions” in ensuring security of the country and its citizens, developing economy and improving Russians’ living standards.

He reiterated Russia’s determination to continue the fight against international terrorism without “any compromise.” Lavrov also urged to speed up the process of political settlement of the Israeli issue.

“The sooner all agree with the UN central role in restor-
ing the country, the better it will be both for Iraq and for the entire region,” said Lavrov, stressing that “this will be possible only after the end of the occupation”.

He rejected the US accusations of possible sales of Russian weapons to Iraq.

“The Americans themselves have repeatedly admitted that Russian weapons could have reached Iraq from a lot of countries. Until facts on this account are laid on the table, there is nothing to talk about,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Bangladesh launches $14m CDMP**

Dhaka, 19 March—Bangladesh launches a 14-million-US dollar Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) on Wednesday, reported the official Bangladesh News Agency.

The five-year programme was formally launched on Wednesday by Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf here, and it is being carried out with the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department for International Development of Britain.

The major objective of the CDMP is to strengthen the capacity of disaster management system in the country to reduce unacceptable risks and to improve the effectiveness of response and recovery activities.

The strategic focus of the programme is to reorient the country’s disaster management programming efforts from a relief response paradigm to a comprehensive risk mini-

mization culture. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the government has initiated the programme to reduce risk and vulnerability of the people caused by natural calamities in the country every year.

He said as a disaster prone country, Bangladesh spent some 83.3 million dollars annually in relief purpose, adding this relief culture had to be changed through strengthening capacity building among all stakeholders to face natural disasters.

Terror the disaster preparedness and mitigation as a complex issue in a country like Bangladesh, Resident Representative of the UNDP Jorgen Lissner said raising awareness among people by involving community leaders should be the prime objective to face natural disaster and reduce sufferings of the people.

Bangladesh has faced 179 large-scale natural disasters during the last 30 years including flood, cyclone, tidal surge, drought and riverbank erosion that caused huge loss of lives and properties. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Worst Iraq suicide attacks since war began**

Baghdad, 19 March—Some of the worst suicide bombings in Iraq since the war began last March 20.

—March 2: At least four suicide bombers carried out coordinated attacks on Shiite Muslim shrines in the southern city of Karbala and in Baghdad. The Iraq Gov-
erning Council said 271 peo-
ple were killed, US officials put the death toll at 181.

—Feb 11: A suicide at-
tacker blows up a car packed with explosives in a crowd of Iraqis waiting outside an army recruiting center in Baghdad, killing 47 people.

—Feb 10: A suicide bomber attacks a police station in the northern city of Irbil.

—Jan 18: Suicide car bomber attacks a neighborhood in Baghdad killing at least 31 people.

—Nov 12: Suicide truck bomber attacks a government building in central Baghdad, killing 11 people.

—Oct 27: Four suicide bom-
bings target internation-
al Red Cross headquar-
ers and four Iraqi police sta-
tions in Baghdad, killing 40 people, mostly Iraqis.

—Aug 19: Truck bomber strikes UN head-
quarters in Baghdad, kill-
ing 22, including top UN envoy to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

—Aug 7: Car bomb ex-
plodes outside Jordanian Embassy, killing 19, includ-
ing two children.

—March 29: Suicide bomber pretends to be a taxi driver needing help kills four US soldiers.— Internet

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**Ali Saud, 24, is treated in a Baghdad hospital on 17 March, 2004, after being wounded in an explosion in a crowded residential area of Baghdad on late Tuesday, 16 March, 2004.—Internet**
US troops kill Iraqi Arabiya cameraman

BAGHDAD, 19 March — US troops shot dead an Iraqi working for Dubai-based Arab satellite television channel Al Arabiya on Thursday and critically wounded one of its cameramen.

Al Arabiya employees said the Iraqis were driving in central Baghdad when another car drove through a US checkpoint. They said US troops then opened fire on both cars.

“I stopped in front of the checkpoint and then I saw another US car coming fast towards it and I thought it was going to explode,” said Ahmed Abdul Amiya, the driver of the Al Arabiya car.

“I tried to race away...and then the Americans started firing at random. They hit the first car and then they started shooting at our car.”

Arabiya identified the dead colleague as cameraman Ali Abdelaziz and said its correspondent Ali al-Khhatib was seriously wounded and was in critical condition.

“I don’t know the exact circumstances but I know that they (Americans) shot at random,” Salah Najim, Arabiya’s director of news, told Reuters in Dubai. “We are still trying to clarify the information.”

Doctors initially said both Al Arabiya employees had been killed but later said one of them was critically wounded with a gunshot wound to the head.

A US military spokeswoman said she had no immediate information on the incident.

Two US soldiers killed in separate Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, 19 March — Two US soldiers have been killed in separate mortar attacks in Iraq. The US military said on Thursday, bringing to 391 the number of American troops killed in action since the start of the war a year ago.

In an attack on Wednesday afternoon, one US soldier was killed and seven wounded by mortar fire at a base near Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

A spokesman said a Marine was killed on Wednesday evening in a mortar attack in Qusaya, in western Iraq on the Syrian border.

Pentagon withholds 15% of Halliburton bills

WASHINGTON, 19 March — The Pentagon said on Wednesday it would withhold payment on 15 per cent of meal bills from Texas firm Halliburton under a logistics contract in Iraq that is under military auditor’s scrutiny.

A Pentagon spokeswoman said the withholding would amount to about 300 million US dollars this month not paid to Halliburton, the oil services company once run by Vice-President Dick Cheney that is the US military’s biggest contractor in Iraq.

The Pentagon plans to cover meals provided by Halliburton unit Kellogg Brown and Root to troops in Kuwait and Iraq. If 300 million US dollars were withheld, the total expected to be billed by Halliburton for meals would be about two billion US dollars.

Military auditors and Halliburton have been at loggerheads for months over pricing for meals and whether billing should be based on estimates or the actual number of soldiers at the dining table on any given day.

The company agreed earlier this year to withhold 176.5 million US dollars in billing for food while KBR prepared a response to issues reported by the Defence Contract Audit Agency. “This shows that the system is working,” said Pentagon comptroller Dov Zakheim of the decision to partially withhold payment while auditors examined pricing.

Military auditors are looking into whether KBR overcharged for some of its services in Iraq and Kuwait, where its contracts cover tasks from serving hot meals and doing laundry to delivering mail and building bases for US troops.

A Pentagon spokeswoman said “a 15 per cent withholding will be taken on all claims for reimbursement until such time as the final prices are negotiated”.

She said the contracting officer involved with KBR had asked the company to present a rebuttal to the DCMA’s recommendation, adding that the officer said the 15 per cent would be withheld at the end of this month.

The 15 per cent compensation for 300 million US dollars, the spokeswoman said. Last week, military auditors said Halliburton had shown “systemic deficiencies” in its cost estimates for billions of dollars of work in Iraq.

Two Iraqis killed in Fallujah battle

FALLOUJAH, Iraq, 19 March — Attackers firing mortars in the Iraqi town of Fallujah wounded eight US soldiers on Thursday, the US Army said, and witnesses said two Iraqis, including a child, were killed in a firefight that followed.

Brigadier-General Mark Kimmitt, deputy director of operations for the US Army in Iraq, told a news conference the battle emerged as US soldiers were meeting local administrators in municipal offices in the flashpoint town, 32 miles west of Baghdad.

US troops were stationed on the roof of buildings around the area. He said attackers fired several mortar rounds, one of which struck the roof of one of the buildings, wounding seven US soldiers and a Marine.

Their wounds were not life-threatening, Kimmitt said.

Rockets hit Baghdad hotels, no casualties reported

BAGHDAD, 19 March — Two Baghdad hotels used by foreign contractors, businessmen and media organizations were shaken by explosions on Thursday evening but US soldiers at the scene said there did not appear to be serious injuries.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Jones of the US 1st Armoured Division said two rockets hit the Baytuna and Hayat Hotel in central Baghdad but nobody was wounded. Two holes were blown in the side of the hotel.

Witnesses said the rocket of the nearby Rimal Hotel was also hit by a blast but there was no major damage. Jones said the rockets were probably aimed at the headquarters of the US-led administration on the west bank of the Tigris River.

Warning sirens sounded briefly at the US compound after the blasts rang out across Baghdad.

Annan tells Iraq UN will help with polls, government

NEW YORK, 19 March — Secretary-General Kofi Annan has told Iraqi UN experts will return to the country as soon as possible to help prepare for elections and a new government set to take power in three months.

Capping months of debate over the UN role in Iraq, where the transitional government is scheduled to end June 30, Annan sent a letter pledging UN help after receiving a request from the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

The move carries risk for the United Nations, which has had no permanent role in Iraq since Annan pulled his staff out in October following a devastating attack on its Baghdad offices in which 22 people died.

The United States has been coy about how large a role it is willing to give the world body in Iraq but turned to Annan for help after Iraq’s leading Shiite Muslim cleric rejected US plans for the power handover on June 30.

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who wields powerful influence over the nation’s 60 per cent Shiite majority, had originally called for direct elections to take place before the handover.

The United States said those elections were impossible. That view was supported by Lakhdar Brahimi, a respected Arab diplomat who concluded after a fact-finding mission to Iraq that credible elections could not be organised in time.

Brahimi will lead a team to return to Iraq soon, along with election experts who will try to organise national polls by the end of January 2005, the date fixed by the governing council, Annan said.

“The United Nations remains committed to doing everything within its capacity to assist the people of Iraq when and as they request,” the UN chief said in a letter, which was obtained by AFP.

“I have therefore asked my special adviser Lakhdar Brahimi and his team, as well as the electoral assistance team, to return to Iraq as soon as possible in order to lend the advice and assistance you have requested.”

Annan received the letter in a visitor earlier Thursday along with a parallel request from Paul Bremer, the US overseer in Iraq.

Residents check a part of a rocket on 17 March, 2004, after it landed in a crowded residential area of Baghdad late Tuesday. One died and several others were wounded in the blast. — INTERNET

Indonesian minister optimistic over textile industry

JAKARTA, 19 March — The Indonesian Trade and Industry Ministry said here Wednesday she is optimistic over the prospect of textile industry despite its low competitive price against products from Vietnam and China.

“We see the textile industry will keep growing and it can compete with (foreign products) as long as we use polyester as the raw material,” Rini Suwandi told reporters.

Australia to boost funding of intelligence

CANBERRA, 19 March — Australian Prime Minister John Howard has promised an additional 400 million Australian dollars (about 300 million US dollars) in this year’s budget for the intelligence services to better counter the terrorist threat. Howard told SBS radio station in Adelaide, South Australia, Wednesday that security remains his government’s top budget priority.

A huge bomb destroyed a five-story hotel in central Baghdad, on 17 March, 2004, Wednesday night, killing at least 10 people, Iraqi police and US soldiers said. — Reuters
Democrats tally “misleading” Iraq statements

WASHINGTON, 19 March — US President George W Bush and four top advisers made a combined 237 misleading public statements on the threat posed by Iraq, Democrats charged in a congressional report released on Tuesday.

The report compiled by Democratic staff of the House Government Reform Committee examined assertions made by Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and National Security Adviser Conodellia Rice.

The report was requested by California Representative Henry Waxman, the most senior Democrat on the committee and a tacitious critic of some of the contracts awarded to businesses to rebuild Iraq.

“Prior to the war in Iraq, the President and his advisers repeatedly claimed that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction that jeopardized the security of the United States. The failure to discover these weapons after the war has led to questions about whether the President and his advisers were candid in describing Iraq’s threat,” the report said.

Most of the statements were misleading because they expressed certainty where none existed or failed to acknowledge the doubts of intelligence officials, according to the report. Ten statements were false, it said.

In a separate statement, Waxman said the report demonstrated a “systematic distortion of the intelligence on Iraq,” which he said urgently needs investigation.

“Most of the misleading statements about Iraq — 161 statements — were made prior to the start of the war in Iraq. But 76 misleading statements were made by the five administration officials after the start of the war to justify the decision to go to war,” the report said.

According to the report, the misleading statements began at least a year before the start of the war in Iraq, when Cheney stated on March 17, 2002: “We know they have biological and chemical weapons.”

A White House spokesman said he had not yet seen the document and could not comment specifically on its contents. He said his advisers spoke clearly to the American people and the world and their statements accurately reflected the intelligence that was available to them, the spokesman said.

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Among those attending the event will be IT directors, CEOs, CIOs, HR managers and all those with an interest in the growth of E-government in the Middle East.

The presence of foreign experts, including those from Europe, will enable the participants to measure their progress against developed countries.

The case studies presented by the speakers will provide direction for some of the region’s E-governments and pinpoint their drawbacks.

The summit will discuss crucial topics related to E-governance, such as the future of E-government in the Middle East, business integration in E-government, better return on IT in E-governments operations, public

Bulgaria says cannot increase troops in Iraq

SOFIA, 19 March — Bulgaria will not increase the number of its peacekeepers in Iraq if it manages to make a decision to withdraw Spanish troops, a top military officer said on Wednesday.

Spain’s incoming socialist leader Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has pledged to withdraw his country’s 1,300 troops from Iraq by July if the United Nations does not take charge then.

“We are not ready to deploy more troops in Iraq,” Bulgarian chief of staff Nikola Kolev told reporters.

“I can say that the President and his advisers spoke clearly to the American people and the world and their statements accurately reflected the intelligence that was available to them,” the spokesman said.

MNA/Reuters

UAE to host first Middle East E-government summit in April

ABU DHABI, 19 March — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the first Middle East E-government summit in Dubai on April 26-27, according to a Press release issued here on Tuesday. The summit will bring together senior decision-makers from the region’s governments, and organizations from across the region and the globe.

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Singapore hit by heaviest March rains on record

SINGAPORE, 19 March — Thirteen houses were hit by the heaviest March rainstorm in Singapore’s history, and more rains have been forecast for the near future.

The storm hit the central business district, causing widespread flooding and traffic jams.

A woman was hospitalised after being caught in the torrent of rainwater that flooded her car.

The storm was caused by a low pressure system moving in from the south, bringing heavy rainfall to the city.

A total of 254 millimetres (10 inches) of rain fell in the city, breaking the record for the month.

The storm caused damage to several buildings and displaced thousands of people.

Anti-War Assembly to hold demonstration against Iraq occupation

BEIRUT, 19 March — The Anti-War Assembly has called for a demonstration against the occupation of Iraq.

The demonstration will take place on Saturday, 20 March, at 3 p.m., in front of the US embassy in Beirut.

The assembly called on the international community to support the people of Iraq in their struggle for freedom and against occupation.

The demonstration is one of many planned worldwide to mark the second anniversary of the start of the Iraq war.

A leading environmental group on 16 March, 2004 warned that the exotic Sumatran tiger was bound for extinction if the endangered species. The WWF said only around one million people all over the world protested the then imminent invasion of Iraq by the US-led coalition.

An announcement posted on the Internet by the World Social Forum estimates that the staunchest march will come in Pakistan in April, with the participation of

Rainfall up to March 14 to March 20, 2004, will exceed the expectations of meteorologists, the spokesman said.

According to the report, the misleading statements began at least a year before the start of the war in Iraq, when Cheney stated on March 17, 2002: “We know they have biological and chemical weapons.”

Salem Al Shair, director of the Meteorology Agency’s Meteorological Services division said.

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Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion
Iraqi deaths following the US invasion of Iraq

US and allies invaded Iraq on 20 March 2003 and today is the first anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. During the past year, Iraqi people had to face many hardships and difficulties under US control. Many civilians died for various reasons from the explosion of cluster bomb to indiscriminate shooting of US and allies troops. The photos on this page show the sufferings of Iraqi people.

A youth runs past the victims and burning debris caused by bomb attack which broke out recently in Karbala, Iraq.

A building in Sumawah, Iraq, was destroyed by US launcher attack on 14 February.

Iraqi deaths under US occupation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Death toll</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cluster bomb</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children deaths (From March 2003 to March 2004)</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air strikes (From March 2003 to March 2004)</td>
<td>1187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiscriminate shooting</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraqi deaths (other causes) (From March 2003 to March 2004)</td>
<td>8659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Servicemen death</td>
<td>10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20430</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Bridge</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Foot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pathaung</td>
<td>Myeik Township</td>
<td>810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dawlan</td>
<td>Thaninthayi Division</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ngamoeyeik</td>
<td>Yangon Township, Kayin State</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pahtolon</td>
<td>Yangon Division</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lapin</td>
<td>Sagaing Division</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The map showing the location of Pathaung Bridge near Myeik at the centre, Dawei in the north and Kawthoung in the south.
Railroads which help further strengthen love and friendly relations among national races

### Railroad constructed by Tatmadawmen across the nation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>part of nation</th>
<th>name of railroad</th>
<th>miles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>north-west part</td>
<td>ChaungU-Pakokku</td>
<td>277.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>eastern part</td>
<td>Shwenyaung-Yaksaw</td>
<td>37.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>eastern part</td>
<td>Aungban-Loikaw</td>
<td>101.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>eastern part</td>
<td>Shwenyaung-Namhsan</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>southern part</td>
<td>Ye-Dawei</td>
<td>101.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>central part</td>
<td>Pyay-Aunglan-Taungdwingyi</td>
<td>90.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shwenyaung-Namhsan 165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Taungdwingyi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the guidance, the Ministry of Rail Transport has invested a large amount of capital to build new railroads for the economic benefits, but for the progress of the ethnic people living in the hill regions and to further consolidate the national unity. The ministry is extending railroads and transport facilities with an increasing number of passengers and cargo freight. In 2002-2003, its long-distance passenger trains transported 34.307 million passengers and city circular trains transported 27.256 million totalling 61.763 million. During the period the long-distance passenger trains travelled 2,693.078 million miles and city circular trains 233.358 million miles totalling 2,926.436 million miles, and carrying 3.442 million tons of cargo.

Up to December 2003, there were 2,998.36 miles of railroads in the nation, up 1,022.01 miles from 1,976.35 miles in 1988. New railroads measuring 145 miles in length are under construction, and another 515.05 miles are in planning stage. Of the completed railroads, the 277.34 miles long ChaungU-Pakokku Railroad has helped develop the western sector of the nation, the Shwenyaung-Namhsan section have been completed. The remaining sections — PyinThaya-Htiri, Htiri-Htheto, Htheto-Htookyant, and Htookyant-Ponchaung in Taunggyi District and Mongseik-Htanhsai section have been restored in the near future.

The Tatmadaw has three main tasks — the first is combat, the second training if there is no combat, and the third public welfare if there is no combat and training. Thanks to the collective efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people, internal peace has been restored in the nation. At present, the Tatmadaw is concentrating its efforts on the nation-building task. It has been taking part in building roads, railroads, bridges and dams. Due to the harmonious endeavours of the Tatmadaw and the people, the nation is achieving sustainable development. We interviewed Deputy-General Manager U Tin Soe of MR, the Project Director of 103-mile Namhsan-Hsaikhaung railroad at a guest house in Taunggyi. We visited the sections which will be opened soon and other sections which are under construction of the railroad.

**Kayan Soe Myint**

From Hsaik-haung, we travelled by EMC rail car to PyinThaya-Htiri section which is soon to be opened. Rails have already been laid at the 4.3-mile PyinThaya-Htiri section. We took photos of the railroad passing through the slopes and winding through the mountains, with Shan mountain ranges in the background.

When we passed Htiri, we continued our trip to Htheto, Htookyant, Htanhsai and Ponchaung by car. We saw Tatmadawmen of the Eastern Command taking part in the project in Htheto, Htookyant and Htanhsai and at Ponchaung Bridge under the burning sun. They were working under the supervision of the command commander.

We went to a sergeant who was working. His body and clothes were wet with sweat. His name is U Oo Tun. He is an ethnic Rakhine. “Sergeant, we would like to ask you something we want to know.”

“Please do.”

“Is the Htheto, Htookyant, Htanhsai section you, the Tatmadawmen, are building soon to be completed?”

“Yes, it will be completed in the near future.”

“Are you tired, you are sweating.”

“Why should I be tired? It’s nothing for a Tatmadawman. We, the Tatmadawmen, have already dedicated our lives for the national cause. My sweat is for the national races. We are happy to know that the Tatmadawmen across the nation.

(See page 9)
Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

The completed Pyinlwaya-Htiri section of Hsaikhaung-Namhsan Railroad runs through the mountainous region of southern Shan State.

railroad when completed will facilitate the transport of the nation."

"By the way, you are an ethnic Rakhine, and you are contributing volunteer labour in the region of ethnic Shans." “Our Tatmadaw is formed with the national races. Thus, we are working in the interest of the national races, wherever we are in the nation. Because we all are the brethren living on the same land and partaking the water from the same source.”

Even under the burning sun, we felt cool to hear his words.

The Tatmadaw is formed with the good sons and daughters of the people of the Union. The idea of forming the Tatmadaw was conceived during the independence struggle, and it was born during the anti-Fascist struggle. The concept of the Tatmadaw in the time of Burma Independence Army and Burma Defence Army was independence first, independence second and in-dependence third.

When the independ-ence was regained the inter-nal insurgency broke out and the country was on the verge of disintegration. At such a time, foreign intrusion was threatening the sovereignty. Therefore, the Tatmadaw had gone into battle for non-disintegration of Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. Currently, the Tatmadaw is participating in nation-building tasks while discharging the national de-fense duty, the main duty and safeguarding the life and property of the national people.

Our news crew pro-ceeded to Namhsan railroad section construction site af-ter stopping over for the night at Ponchaung Bridge project which had already been opened. The 5.5-mile Ponchaung-Namhsan rail-road section is a part of new Shan and Gyein-Mongseik railroad construction project. The Ponchaung-Namhsan railroad section was divided into five sub-sections—Namsan-Mongseik, Mongseik-Kaungsai, Kaungsai-Nammaheik, Nammaheik-Taungkai and Taungkai-Ponchaung. Each of which is five miles long. The trains are now running from Namhsan to Mongseik section. Again, in hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, arrangements have been made for opening of the 10.24 miles long Mongseik-Kaungsai railroad section.

Our news crew inter-viewed Project Engineer U Than Win who was assigned duty at Kaungsai railroad section. The project engineer said in the interview with our news crew that he took responsibility for construction of the 55 miles long Namsan-Ponchaung section and the 19.2 miles long Namsan-Mongseik section had already been opened: that the construction of 10.24 miles long Mongseik-Kaungsai section was complete and the section will soon be opened: that in the project, altogether 249,041 earth pits were undertaken by Tatmadawmen with the use of heavy machinery; that altogether 35 bridges had to be built on the road section.

Afterwards, our news crew interviewed Deputy General Manager U Tin Soe who acted as the Project Di-rector for the 103-mile Saikkhaung-Ponchaung railroad project. Project Direc-tor U Tin Soe said that Saikkhaung-Namhsan railroad project was divided into three sub-projects—Saikkhaung-Ponchaung section project, Ponchaung Bridge project and Ponchaung-Namhsan section project; that Ponchaung Bridge project had already been completed; that Saikkhaung-Pyinlwaya sub-section of Saikkhaung-Ponchaung section was com-pleted and arrangements have been made for comple-}
Economic development must for building up ... 

(from page 1) division as saying that should Taninthayi Division exploit fully its natural resources for the standard of the dwellers.

Moreover, regarding the agricultural sector, one of the divisions economic sectors reliable for regional development, the Senior General gave guidance on extended of paddy cultivation for ensuring regional rice sufficiency as well as that of suitable perennial crops like oil palm and rubber.

And oil palm industry will help the division become the oil bowl of the nation and the oil palm entrepreneurs enjoy long-term benefit. This is why the government provided necessary assistance to undertake oil palm industry in the division.

Since around five years ago, 15 groups of national entrepreneurs have run oil palm industry on tens of thousands of acres in the division and some of the oil palm farms are now thriving well. So, Taninthayi Division will definitely meet the target of becoming the palm oil bowl of the nation, he said.

In reality, he said palm oil is not only import-substitution item but one that will become export item soon. It will be prosperous one.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that correct ways are to be sought to achieve success in cultivating the aims. State and Division CD heads are to closely supervise their respective tasks. Cooperative societies are also to carry out production, service and trading tasks.

Agricultural cooperative societies are required to extend cultivable lands and raise agricultural capability. The societies are to seek markets at home and abroad.

Minister receives ICAO official 

YANGON, 19 March—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe received International Civil Aviation Organization Asia-Pacific Regional Director Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party at his office at 9 am today.

They discussed development of civil aviation among ICAO member countries. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung, Director-General U Win Maung of Department of Civil Aviation and Managing Director of Myanmar Airways.

Cooperative tasks coordinated

YANGON, 19 March—The meeting to coordinate cooperative tasks of Cooperative Department and State/Division Cooperative Departments was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Cooperatives this morning.

Present were the director-general of CD, the deputy director-general and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that correct ways are to be sought to achieve success in realizing the aims. State and Division CD heads are to closely supervise their respective tasks. Cooperative societies are also to carry out production, service and trading tasks.

Agricultural cooperative societies are required to extend cultivable lands and raise agricultural capability. The societies are to seek markets at home and abroad.

Later, officials reported matters related to their sectors.
ROADS commissioned into service in Dagon Mithon (North) Township to haul Armed Forces Day goods

YANGON, 19 March — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, tarred streets, which were constructed on a self-reliant basis, were opened in Dagon Mithon (North) Township this morning.

The opening of nine tarred roads took place at the archway in U Ba Cho Street, opened nine tarred roads in Thakayta Township this morning.

The mayor, attended the ceremony, the commander, the mayor and officials inspected the roads and congratulated the local people.

Brig-Gen Thura Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commanding Officer, Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee and Mayor, attended the ceremonies and formally opened the roads. No officers or government official on both occasions were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura 2834.32 acres of poppy plantations destroyed

YANGON, 19 March— The Government has been steadily taking measures for eradication of narcotic drugs as a national task. As part of the measures, it has been expunging and destroying poppy plantations illegally grown.

A combined team and members of Hppingon Township MPF destroyed 29.76 acres of poppy plantations near Howay Village, Hppingon Township. 29.35 acres of poppy plantations near Sanphu Village, 65.8 acres of poppy plantations near Tanilek Village and Pankalae Village, 46.4 acres of poppy plantations near Donitthan Village and Naungkyow Village, 44.8 acres of poppy plantations near Talardo Village, Pankun Village and Lekkim Village, numbering 5,332.42 acres of poppy plantations illegally grown in Shan State (South), 859.49 acres of poppy plantations in Shan State (North), 467.52 acres of poppy plantations in Kayah State, 47.36 acres of poppy plantations in Kayah State, 205.5 acres of poppy plantations in Kayah State and 91.3 acres of poppy plantations in Sagazag Division, totaling 7,003.596 acres of poppy plantations were destroyed in 2003-2004 poppy growing season.

Agreements for production of bicycle spare parts, sewing machine parts signed

YANGON, 19 March— A ceremony to sign the agreement to manufacture bicycle spare parts for Bicycle Factories (Yangon) and (Kyaikkyo) between the Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 and Samra International Ltd of India in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry-1 this morning attended by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, Charge d'Affaires Mr Rahul Kulshreshth of the Indian Embassy spoke words of thanks. Bicycle Factory (Yangon) and (Kyaikkyo) manufactured seven bicycle spare parts in the past. According to the agreement, the factories can produce remaining bicycle spare parts of as import-substitute products. In addition, the agreement will contribute towards the convenient production of the electric bikes.

Furthermore, Sewing Machine Factory (Kyaikkyo) will expand the scope of producing machine parts as import-substitute products.

Marijuana seized in Dagon Mithon (South)

YANGON, 19 March— A combined team comprising members of local intelligence units, 151st Border Guard Squard and Dagon Mithon (South) Police Station, acting on information, on 10 February 2004 searched the house of Kyaw Win Htoo (a) Kyaw Htoo, of 5th Myatlay Street, Ward 2, Dagon Mithon (South) and arrested him together with Thein Han (a) Ko Pu, Ye Lwin Oo and Thein Oo who were at the house and Kyaw Han and Kyaw Thein of marijuana concealed inside.

Action is being taken against Kyaw Win Htoo (a) Kyaw Htoo, son of U Kyaw Nyein, of 5th Myatlay Street, Ward 2, Dagon Mithon (South), Thein Han (a) Ko Pu, son of U Ohn Soe, of No 7 Bazaar Street, Ward West, Thayatya Township, Ye Lwin Oo, son of U Hlaing Aye, of Myintawtha Street, Ward 1, Thayatya Township and Thein Oo, son of U Tun Hla, of 10th Htupayon Street, Ward 1, Thakayta Township under Section 15/19 (A)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Dagon Mithon (South) Police Station. — MNA

MARIJUANA seized in Dagon Mithon (South)

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Managing Director of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries U Thaik Tun and Mr Anil Rauluck of Luxmi International Ltd exchanged the documents related to import of machinery for manufacturing parts of sewing machines at the Sewing Machine Factory (Kyaikkyo).

The agreement will contribute towards the convenient production of the electric bikes.

Furthermore, Sewing Machine Factory (Kyaikkyo) will expand the scope of producing machine parts as import-substitute products.

Agreements for production of bicycle spare parts, sewing machine parts signed

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The agreement will contribute towards the convenient production of the electric bikes.

Furthermore, Sewing Machine Factory (Kyaikkyo) will expand the scope of producing machine parts as import-substitute products.
China-made large planes may take off by 2018

China has listed large aircraft in its massive science and technology development programme for the coming 10 to 20 years, according to sources with the Ministry of Science and Technology.

However, China’s aviation industry decision-makers have stated that China needs to make large transport and passenger planes to meet ever-s surging demands for air services. Large aircraft refers to aircraft with load capacity exceeding 100 passengers. Used for both civil and military purposes, they play crucial role in national economy, national defence and diplomacy.

China’s scientific projects, research and development of large cargo aircraft, huge aircraft and commercial big aircraft project is all about opportunity for cooperation, it’s about opportunity for peace and stability,” Grey noted. A senior water advisor at the World Bank headquarters, David Grey, described the inauguration of the NBI Trust Fund Committee as a symbol of partnership amongst the Nile states.

“A celebration of partnership, the partnership of the Nile Basin States and partnership of the development community. The Nile is all about opportunity for cooperation, it’s about opportunity for peace and stability,” Grey noted. The Nile Basin Trust Fund Committee is co-chaired by the chairperson of the Nile Council of Ministers, currently Karua and the World Bank. NBI is preparing to launch a joint venture project in 2004.

China brewed over 3.31 million tons of liquor in 2003

China produced more than 3.31 million tons of liquor in 2003, up 2.04 per cent year on year, according to a meeting on national industrial development held Tuesday in this capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province.

The sales income of liquor enterprises was 12,12,24,2 million US dollars, up 14.07 per cent, the meeting announced. In terms of output, the top five provinces were Shanxi, Sichuan, Jiangsu, Anhui and Henan, each of which brewed more than 180,000 tons of liquor.

Microsoft CEO meets EU competition commissioner

BRUSSELS, 19 March — European Union Competition Commissioner Mario Monti met Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer on Tuesday, little more than a week before the Commission is set to rule on its major antitrust case, a source close to the situation said.

The meeting in Brussels was closed, lasting an hour and a half (1700 GMT) and it was not clear when it was to be held. The meeting was first reported, a priva of the Financial Times.

The Commission believes the US software giant broke competition laws by advertising the dominance of its ubiquitous Windows computer operating system and has said it is hurting its rivals by bundling it into its Windows Desktop Player with Windows.

The Commission, the EU’s antitrust watchdog, is planning to fine Microsoft €1.42 billion ($1.9 billion) for anti-competitive behavio. On Monday, EU mem ber states unanimously turned against the Commission’s move to crack down on Microsoft’s dominance.
Scientists say plenty of icy water at Mars south pole

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Saturday, 20 March, 2004

**LODONG, 19 March —** Spectral images from the European Space Agency’s Mars Express Orbiter show there is plenty of icy water at the southern pole of Mars, French scientists said on Wednesday.

The latest evidence, combined with findings from NASA’s rovers, gives scientists more information about whether the conditions to sustain life existed on Mars in the past and if the planet could have supported life in the future.

“The answers depend on understanding the past and present distribution of water and CO2,” Timothy Titus, of the US Geological Survey in Flagstaff, Arizona, said in a commentary on the research. — **MNA/Reuters**

**US consumer prices up 0.3% in February**

**WASHINGTON, 19 March —** Consumer prices in the United States increased by 0.3 per cent in February following a jump of 0.5 per cent in the previous month, the Labour Department reported on Wednesday.

The report showed the increase of US Consumer Price Index (CPI) resulted mainly from the gain of energy prices. It said that energy prices went up by 1.7 per cent in February following a rise of 4.7 per cent in January. Gasoline prices increased by 2.5 per cent, natural gas prices were up by 2.2 per cent and electricity prices went up by 0.2 per cent last month.

US food prices also increased by 0.2 per cent in February after being flat in January. — **MNA/Xinhua**

**US TV, radio group urges Senate to modify indecency fines**

**LOS ANGELES, 19 March —** The American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) is urging the Senate to modify pending legislation that will increase the fines for making indecent speeches in TV and radio broadcast, the Hollywood Reporter reported Wednesday.

In a letter sent to senators Tuesday, the AFTRA’s top executives ask lawmakers to strike the provision that would raise the fines.

The legislation’s draco-nian approach takes us down a dangerous path, which cuts to the very heart of the nation’s values,” AFTRA president John Connelly and national executive director Greg Hessinger wrote.

“Notwithstanding the current outcry, we believe the public understands that free speech is fundamentally threatened when standards are vague and penalties are both excessive and misdi-rec-ted as in the case of this bill,” the letter said.

The AFTRA’s letter came after the Senate Commerce Committee unani-mously approved the bill, and similar legislation won an overwhelming victory in the House of Representatives.

Under both measures, broadcast companies face fines of as much as 500,000 US dollars, as do individuals who violate the indecency regulations.

Obscene speech that de-picts or describes sexual or excreto-ry activities is not protected by the First Amendment and cannot be broadcast at any time, but indecency can be safely broadcast during the safe harbour period that runs between 10 pm and 6 am. — **MNA/Xinhua**

**AMD introduces new chips for portable notebooks**

**LOS ANGELES, 19 March —** Advanced Micro De-vices (AMD), the No. 2 chip maker in the world, launched energy-saving Athlon XP-M 2100+ processor for port-able notebooks on Wednes-day.

The Silicon Valley-based company said the chips will be used in light-weight notebooks such as Fujitsu’s 4-pound LifeBook S2000.

AMD sells three varie-ties of Athlon XP-M chips for notebooks: low-power and energy-saving, high-performance, and “main stream”. The energy-sav-ing version is designed to consume the least electric-ity of the three and thus produce less heat. This makes the chip more suit-able for the tight space in-side a lightweight note-book.

According to technical documentation posted on AMD’s web site, the 2100+ model runs at a clock speed of 1.46GHz. The new chip helps AMD compete with rival Intel’s Pentium M pro-cessor. The fastest Pentium M runs at 1.4GHz to 1.7GHz. — **MNA/Xinhua**

**Study says parents do not see obesity in their children**

**LODONG, 19 March —** Parents are so accustomed to seeing overweight youngsters that many fail to realize when their own children are obese, British researchers said on Wednesday.

It is a worrying trend ac-cording to scientists at the Peninsula Medical School in Plymouth, England because being overweight and obese increases the risk of suffering from a variety of illnesses later in life.

One-third of children are also more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes, a disease previ-ously seen only in adults.

An increased number of diabetics and 57 per cent of dads actu-ally saw their obese child as normal,” said Alison Jeffery, assistant professor at the medical school.

“Quite a few parents are not recognizing it as a prob-lem. They are not recogniz-ing the health risks either,” she added in an interview.

But Jeffery said it is not a case of denial. “We all are used to seeing people who are bigger than they used to be and we just see people who are overweight as normal,” Jeffery, who presented her findings to the Diabetes Brit-ish medical conference in Birmingham, England, ques-tioned 300 seven-year-old children and their parents about their perceptions of body size.

One third of mothers and half of fathers who were either overweight or obese described themselves as “about right”.

When the child was a nor-mal weight, according to an internationally recognized measurement of obesity in children, most of their par-ents, regardless of their own size, knew there was no prob-lem.

When the child was over-weight but not obese, only a quarter of the parents knew. But when the youngsters were obese, 40 per cent of parents were not concerned about their child’s weight.

Health experts have de-scribed the increased rates of obesity in children as a seri-ous public health problem. One reason why is that they can take off quickly in the fast-changing global cellular busi-ness, Strother said.

“Service providers and manufacturers are paying attention to the latest trends,” he added.

“In the age of multi-user de-vices (AMD), the No. 2 chip maker in the world, launched energy-saving Athlon XP-M 2100+ processor for portable notebooks on Wednesday.

The Silicon Valley-based company said the chips will be used in light-weight notebooks such as Fujitsu’s 4-pound LifeBook S2000.

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**Study shows future cell phones will pack plenty of power**

**LOS ANGELES, 19 March —** Future cell phones might not be radically different in how they look in the coming years, but what they will enable users to do will expand significantly, according to a report released Tuesday by In-Stat/MDR, a US hi-tech market research firm.

In-Stat/MDR said high-speed data access, Wi-Fi functionality, high-quality video cameras, or broadcast TV view, are just some of the future functionalities that are on the horizon for cell phones.

“Service providers and manufacturers are paying attention to the latest trends,” he added.

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The Silicon Valley-based company said the chips will be used in light-weight notebooks such as Fujitsu’s 4-pound LifeBook S2000. — **MNA/Xinhua**
Larsson's 30th goal takes Celtic 19 points clear

**Glasgow,** 19 March — Henrik Larsson scored his 30th goal of the season in a 2-1 win at Dundee on Wednesday to help take Celtic 19 points clear at the top of the Scottish premier league.

Stilian Petrov finished off a sweeping counter attack for the opener on 38 minutes before an opportunistic finish from Larsson 30 minutes later clinched another three points for the unbeaten SPL leaders.

Celtic move on to 80 points from 28 games with struggling champions Rangers a distant second on 61 having played one game fewer.

Dundee made a bright start with 19-year-old Celtic goalkeeper David Marshall making fine saves to deny Mark Fotheringham and Neil Barrett before Petrov finished off a flowing move from Stephen Pearson's pass.

Marshall could face Barcelona in the return leg of their UEFA Cup fourth-round match next Thursday if Robert Douglas fails to win an appeal on Monday to overturn his suspension from Celtic's 1-0 first leg win.

Larsson scored on the rebound after Dundee goalkeeper Julian Speroni had blocked his initial effort in a crowded area.

German substitute Sebastian Knießl pulled one back in the dying seconds for Dundee but Celtic were worthy of the win.

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**Utrecht after penalties to third final in a row**

**Rotterdam** (Netherlands), 19 March — Cup holders Utrecht came from behind twice to draw 3-3 then beat second division side Sparta Rotterdam 4-3 on penalties in a Dutch Cup semifinal on Wednesday.

It was the third year in succession that Utrecht had reached the final where they meet Twente Enschede on May 23 in Rotterdam.

Utrecht took an early lead when Sparta goalkeeper Frank Kooman blocked a Pascal Boschmaart shot and Donny de Groot slotted home the rebound on 10 minutes.

Eleven minutes before the break Utrecht goalkeeper Rene Ponk fouled striker Danny Koevermans but made amends by saving the resulting Danny Schenkkel penalty.

After the break Koevermans scored twice in three minutes — on the rebound after a free kick hit the post and from close range — to put Sparta in front.

But Dave van den Brink and Kooman no chance from close range in the 78th minute to take the match into extra time.

Seven minutes into the silver goal extension Rick van der Bergh lifted the ball over Ponk and Sparta looked on their way to the final only for Joost Broere's deflected shot to level the match for a third time.—**MNA/Reuters**

**Woods roars into contention again at Bay Hill**

**Orlando** (Florida), 19 March — Tiger Woods served early notice he has no intention of ending his string of consecutive Bay Hill Invitational titles at four with an opening five-under-par 67 on Thursday.

The world number one tied his second-lowest opening round score in his last eight starts at the tournament to finish one shot behind Britain's Darren Clarke and PGA Tour Championship winner Chad Campbell.

Woods was returning to competition two weeks after finishing tied for fifth at the European Tour's Dubai Desert Classic and three weeks since successfully defending the WGC Match Play Championship.

Woods credited his form to a new driver he obtained weeks since successfully defending his streak of four in a row, in the open, he hit 13 of 14 fairways.

Woods has only led the Bay Hill Invitational after the first round once during his streak of four years in a row, in 2002 when he was tied one shot with five others. Woods went on to win by four shots from Michael Campbell.

However, in three of the last four years of the streak, Woods has made his move in the second round by shooting no higher than a four-under-par 68 and averaging 65.25 during those four years.

Three players have a won a tournament four years running consecutively Bay Hill Invitational the 25-year-old admitted failing to take the test.

but has denied ever using drugs and hopes the appeal would reduce the length of his suspension to enable him to play for England in this year's European Championship.

Ferdinand asked the commission to overturn the suspension and England's Football Association asked for the ban to be increased to a minimum of 12 months.

"Having considered the matter very fully the appeal board today dismissed Mr. Ferdinand's appeal both against conviction and against sanction. It also rejected the FA's contention that the period of suspension should be increased," a statement from the commission said.

United, who initially described the ban handed out in December as "savage," had said they would provide a robust defence of their player, who cost 30 million pounds (54.44 million US dollars) when he joined from Leeds United in 2002.

Ferdinand, who will also miss the tail-end of the English champions' season, was quoted as telling The Sun on Thursday: "As long as there is hope, I have to train in the belief the ban will be cut and I can get back among the players."

But Dave van den Brink and Kooman no chance from close range in the 78th minute to take the match into extra time.

Seven minutes into the silver goal extension Rick van der Bergh lifted the ball over Ponk and Sparta looked on their way to the final only for Joost Broere's deflected shot to level the match for a third time.—**MNA/Reuters**

**Ferdinand suspension stays at eight months**

**London,** 19 March — Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand had his eight-month ban for missing a drugs test left unchanged on appeal on Thursday.

The England international's case was heard at a Heathrow Airport hotel by a three-man independent appeal commission.

Ferdinand, the world's most expensive defender, began his suspension on January 20 after missing the test at United's training ground at Carrington in September and will not be able to play again until September 20.

The 25-year-old admitted failing to take the test, but has denied ever using drugs and hopes the appeal would reduce the length of his suspension to enable him to play for England in this year's European Championship.

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**Japan's under-23 soccer national team defender Teruyuki Moniwa (C) heads the ball while United Arab Emirates' (UAE) goalkeeper Mohammed Ali Gholoem (R) and midfielders Youssif Abdal Akef (L) and Wajdi Boumedenig (2R) look on during the Asian Group B qualifying match for the Athens Olympics at National Stadium in Tokyo on 18 March, 2004. Japan defeated UAE 3-0 to earn a berth in the summer games.**—**INTERNET**

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**Germany to host 2005 Confederations Cup**

**Zurich,** 19 March — FIFA's Confederations Cup will be held in Germany in 2005, world soccer's governing body announced on Thursday.

The tournament will be contested for a seventh time from June 15-29 next year and Germany will be the second European nation to host it after France, which staged the last competition in 2003.

FIFA said the eight-team competition would be held at five venues from a list of six comprising Hanover, Leipzig, Cologne, Nuremberg, Frankfurt and Gelsenkirchen.

The participants will not be known until August, but FIFA said Germany would enter as hosts, world champions Brazil would take part and recent African Nations Cup winners Tunisia would also play.

Last year's CONCACAF Gold Cup champions Mexico will compete along with the winners of the Asian Cup, Copa America, the Oceania Nations Cup and the Euro 2004 victors. If Brazil win the Copa America, the beaten finalists would qualify, while the same principle would be applied to Euro 2004 if Germany are successful.

Final approval must still be granted by FIFA's Executive Committee, but President Sepp Blatter said, "The Confederations Cup is a wonderful competition because it is a symbol of solidarity between the confederations."

"With the exception of the World Cup, it is the official international competition in which teams from all the continents can test themselves against one another," Blatter added.

The tournament will be a dress rehearsal for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany.

Last year's Confederations Cup in France was won by the host nation but was marred by the death of Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foé, who collapsed on the pitch during a semifinal against Colombia.

The three first Confederations Cups were held in Saudi Arabia in 1992, 1995 and 1997. Mexico hosted the tournament in 1999 and Japan and South Korea did so in 2001.—**MNA/Reuters**

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**Brazilian player Milene Domingues, who has separated from Brazilian soccer star Ronaldo, smiles during her training session at their headquarters in Teresopolis, 100 km (60 miles) from Rio de Janeiro, on 18 March, 2004. The Brazilian women's soccer team is training for the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, which will be held from August 13 to August 29 this year.—INTERNET**
The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Saturday, 20 March, 2004  15

WEATHER

FRIDAY, 19 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 03:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taungdwingyi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (4°C) above normal in Bago and Mon States, Mandalay and Taunggyi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kayin, Srayawady and Bago Divisions and above normal in the remaining areas. Significant day temperature was Hpa-an (42°C). Minimum temperature on 19-3-2004 was 17.3°C (8°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-3-2004 was 57%. Total rainfall recorded from 18-3-2004 to 19-3-2004 was 0.1 mm (0.01 inch) at Yangon and Dala and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southeast at (12.30) hours MST on 18-3-2004. Bay in- 

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Commander inspects agricultural, regional development tasks in Yangon East and North Districts

YANGON, 19 March—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice-Quartermaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Armed Forces Day Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein and Reserve Parade Commander Col Nyi Tun, senior military officers and wellwishers.

At the donation ceremony, Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice-Quartermaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun and Armed Forces Day Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein accepted K 12,566,000 and donations worth K 7,280,000, totalling 19,846,000 donated by 47 wellwishers including K 1 million by the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs; K 300,000 by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism; K 100,000 by Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing-Daw Tin Hlay Hlaing; K 1 million by Sweety Home Industry Co Ltd; four MD-8 body searching machines worth K 680,000 by Myanmar Swwe Yin International Co Ltd; K 1 million by U Yin Haing (Haiyang Co Ltd); K 500,000 by U Soe Thein-Daw Khin Cho Ohn; K 1.5 million by 32 gems companies of Phakant region; K 500,000 by U Win Naung of Shwe Hein Htet Co Ltd; (See page 11)

Construction works inspected at Set Hsan shipyard

YANGON, 19 March—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than, inspected the measures taken for keeping the front of the main school building green and pleasant at Myanmar Maritime University in Thanlyin this morning. Rector U Thein Tun and officials reported on cultivation of flowering plants and lawns and the digging of a pool. The minister also inspected progress of construction of the main school building of the university.

A coordination meeting on development of the university was later held at the meeting hall of the main building. The minister and the deputy minister heard reports on the conducting of courses, measures taken for the greening of the campus, and arrangements made for convenient transport. Next, Rector U Thein Tun presented supplementary reports. U Aung Htwe, managing director of Golden Flower Co Ltd, also reported on progress of putting finishing touches to the main building, construction of other buildings and plans to be made for environmental greening.

Later, the minister and the deputy minister arrived at Set Hsan shipyard of Myanma Port Authority. At the briefing hall, U Thein Hlay, Managing Director of MPA, reported on construction of a warehouse at the shipyard. Chief Engineer U Ye Htut and officials also presented reports.

After inspecting the ware- house under construction and Thamada watercraft under repair at the dry dock, the minister left there. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attends second cash and kind donation ceremony for Tatmadawmen

YANGON, 19 March—Chairman of the Leading Committee of Development of the University of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice-Quartermaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Armed Forces Day Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein and Reserve Parade Commander Col Nyi Tun, senior military officers and wellwishers.

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