Established 1914

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four political objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

YANGON, 4 March — Mr Andres Carral Cuevas, newly accredited Ambassador of Mexico to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Kommyinttha here, at 10 am today.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of Mexico Mr Andres Carral Cuevas at Zeyathiri Beikman on Kommyinttha.— MNA

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Senior General Than Shwe receives newly accredited Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic Mr Miltiadis Hiskakis at Zeyathiri Beikman on Kommyinttha. — MNA.
Contribute with zest and zeal to nation-building endeavours

The Union of Myanmar is indeed a nation in which women can embrace a unique opportunity to play a significant role in all sectors and enjoy great kindness, protection and care, if compared to the women of other nations.

Not only have been in Myanmar women enjoying the rights equally with men but have a golden opportunity to play a vital role in the tasks sharing the same status with men for development of families of their own, human societies, the motherland and the people. Vividly visible in the course of Myanmar history is a fact that each and every woman in Myanmar has never failed to reveal their abilities and capabilities whenever there are any kinds of crises and hardships faced by the motherland and the people.

The government is encouraging as well as nurturing the entire womenfolk in the nation effectively and thoroughly so as to sharpen their qualifications in diversified areas and to lift their roles.

The opening of the annual meeting of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation took place at its office on Thanlwin Street in Bahan Township, Yangon, the other day. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win addressed the meeting, saying that it was necessary for the MWAF led by national women themselves to make arrangements to carry out the tasks systematically like a dynamic and efficient machinery in order to take an active role not only in Myanmar women’s affairs but also in State affairs, he said. Now, there have been constantly emerging more and more national women entrepreneurs who are in the forefront of the economic, education, health, science and technology, information and technology sectors, who are engaged in voluntary services and who join social organizations, and so it is safe to say that the role of Myanmar is shining brightly.

The MWAF is indeed an authentic social organization established just in the interests of the nation and the people. The leaders at all levels should try to be a role model in morale, efficiency and diligence. The federation is to cultivate the habit and concept of preserving and cherishing traditions, customs, culture and patriotism among young women and to lead and organize them for constant propagation of the spirit of national unity and Union Spirit.

In a word, all Myanmar women are therefore exhorted to be imbued with patriotism and nationalistic fervour and to make contribution with zeal and zest and harmoniously towards the nation-building endeavours in the interests of the nation and the people.

DMA Golden Jubilee

YANGON, 3 March — The training of Diploma in Management Administration which gave birth to the management administration subject will enter in Management Administration which gave birth to the nation and the people.

YZ: The new light of Myanmar Saturday, 5 March, 2005

Parade columns practise drill

YANGON, 3 March — The Tatmadaw columns which will participate in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade practised drill at the Resistance Park, here, from 5.30 am to 10 am today.

In the parade, columns from Anawrahta Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Kyansitha Column led by Column Commander Col Tha Aung, Bayintnaung Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Nawade Column led by Column Commander Captain Aung Zaw Win (Navy), Aungzeya Column led by Column Commander Col Myo Win, Hsinbyushin Column led by Column Commander Col Khin Aung Myint, Bandoola Column led by Column Commander Col Khin Maung Oo, Myawady Column led by Column Commander Col Win Swe and Aung San Column led by Column Commander Col Thein Zaw took practising drill under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and senior military officers. — MNA

Press conference on Tiger-Myanmar Amateur Open held

YANGON, 3 March — The press conference on Tiger-Myanmar Amateur Open 2005 was held at the Dusit Inya Lake Hotel this afternoon.

Present were officials of the Ministry of Sports, President of Myanmar Golf Federation Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), General Secretary U Aung Kyi and members, journalists, the President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and members.

MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) gave a speech. General Manager Mr David Teng of Myanmar Brewery Ltd explained arrangements for the gold open.

Next, the president and officials answered the queries raised by the journalists.

Afterwards, selected Myanmar golfers performed skills demonstration.

The open will be held at Yangon Golf Club in Danyangon from 7 to 10 March. The prizes for the winners amounted to K 3,455,000 including K 500,000 for first prize winner, K 350,000 for the second and K 300,000 for the third and other winners.

Myanmar Brewery Ltd will sponsor the open together with co-sponsors Air Mandalay Ltd, Dusit Inya Lake Hotel, Ping Golf Equipment, Srixon Golf Equipment and Accel International Ltd. — MNA

Winners of short story, novel, article contests announced

YANGON, 4 March — The Work Committee for Holding the Literary and Photo Contests in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day announced winners in the short story contest, the novel contest and the article contest today.

Tun Naing won the first prize, Ohnma Tin second and The Mya Hnya third together with 10 consolation prize winners in the short story contest.

In the novel contest, Tin Aung Soe (Pannyaodaw) secured the first prize, Ko Htwe (Kalaw-GTI) second and Thin Moe Ni third together with eight consolation prize winners.

Similarly, Tha Bye Nu stood first, Aye Than (Lepadan) second and Ma Thuzaa Win third together with 10 consolation prize winners.

First, second and third prize winners are to attend the prize presentation ceremony to be held on 27 March 2005 and are to report in person to U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary of the Work Committee, Myanma Radio and Television, Pyay Road, Yangon, on 23 March. — MNA
ASEAN maritime security forum opens in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 3 March—Cooperation at both the regional level and the international level is needed to deal with maritime threats. Singapore’s Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean said on Wednesday.

Teo noted that a regional consensus has been made on the basis of three principles, namely, the primary role of the littoral states, the important role of other stakeholders, and the need for consultation and to proceed in accordance with international law. Teo was speaking at the opening of the Association of South-East Asian Nations Regional Forum (ARF) on Regional Cooperation in Maritime Security—three-day event held on Wednesday with a participation of about 170 officials from 22 ARF countries.

As the Malacca and Singapore Straits transport as much as a quarter of the world’s commerce and half of the world’s oil, Teo said, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore have begun trilateral coordination patrols since last July.

He also welcomed International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) initiative to catalyze international cooperation on the security of vital shipping lanes. Teo added that the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Anti-Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) has provided a legal framework for the region’s cooperation initiative. He further suggested that the ARF member countries conduct a maritime security exercise in the near future.

The Channel NewsAsia report said that a ministerial declaration can be expected in the next round of ARF meeting, which will be held in Indonesia’s capital of Jakarta later this year. —MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Belarussian FMs pledge further relations

BEIJING, 3 March—China is ready to work with Belarus to promote relations between China and Belarus "in a stable and healthy manner", said Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing here on Wednesday. Li appreciated Belarus' adherence to one-China policy and its support for China's stance on Taiwan. Li also stressed the fast-growing relations between China and Belarus to promote relations between China and Belarus this year. —MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to increase fuel import in March

JAKARTA, 3 March—Indonesia will increase fuel import to 13 million kiloliters this month from the average of 11 million kiloliters, an official said Wednesday. "We plan to increase the importation of fuel products, such as gasoline... from 11 million kiloliters to 13 million kiloliters," Ari Soemarno, marketing manager of state-run oil company Pertamina, was quoted by Detikcom online news service as saying.

He said the increase is needed to ensure fuel supply for the next 22 days, adding that the plan has nothing to do with the hike in domestic fuel prices imposed on Tuesday. Oil output in Indonesia, a member of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC), has been plummeting in the last few years and government officials have said oil production will not meet the targeted 1.1 million barrels per day this year. —MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN+3 oil funds to seek closer Asian oil cooperation

HANOI, 4 March—Senior officials representing 10 ASEAN countries plus China, Japan and South Korea, or ASEAN+3, will seek ways to beef up Asian oil cooperation to ensure their energy security at two oil forums this month.

"During the 2nd ASEAN+3 Oil Market Forum and the 3rd ASEAN+3 Oil Stockpiling Forum scheduled to take place in Hanoi on 14 March, delegates will centre their discussions on joint activities towards setting up an oil stockpiling programme for the 13 countries, and developing an Asian oil market in a prosperous and sustainable way," an official from Vietnam’s Industry Ministry told Xinhua on condition of anonymity Thursday.

Oil market issues are of great importance to members of ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) as well as China, Japan and South Korea, since many of them have huge demand for oil and largely rely on Middle Eastern products, the official said, noting that they have already realized the importance of establishing a common oil stockpiling programme.

"According to a specific capacity of each country, ASEAN+3 members should contribute specific amounts of oil, both crude and refined oil, but mainly crude, to the future programme so that they can actively deal with fluctuations in world oil prices," he said.

adding that the stockpiling will be meaningless if no proper oil markets are developed for it. —MNA/Xinhua

1,502 US soldiers killed in Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 3 March—As of Thursday, 3 March, 2005, at least 1,502 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,141 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST Thursday. The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,364 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,032 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

China draws up Tibet tourism development plan

BEIJING, 3 March—The first Tibet tourism development plan, which will last from 2005 to 2020, entered the final assessment phase.

The plan covered six regions in Tibet, with total area of 1.2 million square kilometres, said Losang Jamcan, vice-chairman of Tibet Autonomous Region.

According to the plan, Tibet will focus on developing inbound tourism and domestic tourism, in order to establish an important tourism centre between China and south Asia as well as a world famous high plateau tourism destination combining ecology and Tibetan culture. By 2010, Tibet will attract 280,000 inbound travellers and 2.2 million domestic travellers. Tourism revenue will reach four billion yuan (0.5 billion US dollars), accounting for 10 per cent of local GDP. By 2020, Tibet will attract 1.12 million inbound travellers and 9.05 million domestic travellers. Tourism revenue will reach 22.8 billion yuan (2.8 billion US dollars), accounting for 18 per cent of local GDP.

Losang said tourism will also promote urbanization and infrastructure construction in Tibet as well as help protect traditional culture and the environment.

Situated in Southwest China, Tibet has its unique climate and geography. Its historical relics, religious architecture, paintings, portraits, costumes, cuisine and folk culture attract travellers. In recent years, the local tourism industry developed rapidly. Last year, Tibet received 1.22 million visitors, gaining 1.5 billion yuan (0.19 billion US dollars) worth of tourism revenue, occupying 7 per cent of domestic GDP. Nearly 30,000 farmers were involved in tourism service industry, with income increasing 2,328 yuan (300 US dollars) per capita. —MNA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 5 March, 2005 3

An olive beaches rests on a flower in New Delhi on 2 March, 2005. Spring, which started last month, is the season when flowers in Delhi's gardens come alive with colour, attracting birds and bees alike.—INTERNET

US military arrive at the scene of a suicide bomb in central Baghdad. The car bombers killed 10 people on an Iraqi Army base and at a checkpoint. —INTERNET

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R A W  T E X T  S T A R T

East China’s historic city to build 10 museums

Nanjing, 3 March — The 2,500-year-old city of Yangzhou in east China will build 10 museums and exhibition halls to “show off its charm”, an official of the municipal government said.

“The project plan has taken form after consultation attended by relevant officials and experts, and will be implemented soon,” said the official.

The 10 expected museums on basis of ancient architecture include a folk collection exhibition hall, a traditional Chinese medical science museum, a city industry museum, a Yangzhou-style potted landscape exhibition hall, an animal specimens museum, a Yangzhou cuisine museum, a canal culture museum, a Buddhism museum, a bridge museum and an art exhibition centre.

As one of the first group of 24 famous historic and cultural cities of China announced by the State Council in 1982, Yangzhou boasts an array of well-preserved ancient architecture, which the local government considers has not displayed its value.

“The government spent three years renovating the old architecture, such as temples and the ancient residents’ former residences, which have not opened to the public,” said the official. “They can easily become museums as long as being remodelled a little, which is a good way of protection.”

MNA/Xinhua

Hainan Province hit by rare drought

Haikou, 3 March — A total of 554,800 rural residents in south China’s Hainan Province are almost without drinkable water as a rare drought maintains its hold on this island province.

Statistics provided by the provincial drought relief office show that by late February, 126,600 head of large livestock were also suffering from lack of water. The severe drought has also threatened 196,200 hectares of crops — about half the province’s total arable land.

An official with the provincial drought relief office said 18 cities and counties of the province were suffering drought, with Wenchang, Qionghai, Wanning, Lingshui and Dunchang the worst hit.

Reserves in the province hold just 34.57 per cent of the water for a normal year, and 64 local rivers have run dry. The drought has also caused seawater to flow eight kilometres upstream along the Wanquan River, called the mother river of Hainan.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 650,000 volunteers to help during Beijing’s nati’l legislature session

Beijing, 3 March — More than 650,000 volunteers in Beijing will emerge in lanes and streets of Beijing to help police with security during the upcoming annual sessions of China’s national legislature and national advisory body.

The volunteers, who are called “Red Armbands” since they wear a red armband on duty, took part in a patrol ceremony Monday as the launch of their missions. They have played an important role in public security during big events occurring in Beijing in recent years, local police said.

According to the police, 448 suspects have been detained in 403 cases handled with the clues provided by volunteers who performed their duties ahead of the annual meetings of the National People’s Congress (NPC) and the China People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) starting this week.

This is another move by the police to tighten security for the high-profile national political events.

From March 1 to 20, police will take measures to restrict trucks and passenger cars from entering the city. Passenger cars with a pass to the capital will be allowed to stay for three days instead of 30 days.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldiers in Japan suspected of drug abuse

Tokyo, 3 March—Fourteen crew members on the US aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk are suspected of having used the synthetic drug MDMA, better known as ecstasy, and marijuana in violation of military regulations, Kyodo News reported Tuesday.

The crew members tested positive for drug use last spring, the report quoted investigative sources as saying.

Disciplinary action has been taken against seven of the 14 crew members of the 83,960-ton flattop, which is home-ported at Yokosuka. Kanagawa Prefecture. Similar action will also be taken against the remaining members, they said.

The 14 reportedly told US military authorities that they obtained the drugs in Tokyo’s Roppongi area or Yokohama when they visited there on weekends.

A total of 36 crew members on two Aegis cruisers based at the Yokosuka base have been disciplined for drug use since last summer, the sources said.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkey seizes 215.8 kilos of heroin

Ankara, 2 March — Turkish police seized 215.8 kilos of heroin in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Monday.

The report said the police confiscated 215.8 kilos of heroin hidden in a lorry in Sirnak Province and two suspects were arrested.

The drug was brought from Iran, said the report.

Turkey, located on the crossroad of Europe, the Middle East and the Mediterranean Sea, is an important channel in heroin trade destined for Europe.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia’s trade with ASEAN continues to increase

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 March — Malaysia’s trade with ASEAN countries would continue to increase in the coming years following the completion of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) process, a senior official said Wednesday.

Overall, Malaysia’s trade with ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) had been increasing, registering a growth of 22.8 per cent in 2001, 24.7 per cent in 2002 and 23.5 per cent in 2004, Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Ahmad Husni Hamadzlah said at a one-day conference on the offered potential for further market expansion of Malaysian products.

In 2004, Malaysia’s trade with other ASEAN members was valued at 56.89 billion US dollars, representing 23.2 per cent of the country’s global trade.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq car bombs kill six

Baghdad, 3 March—Two suicide car bombs outside Iraq’s Interior Ministry and another near a police station in Baquba killed six people, as Shi’ite political parties piled pressure on the Kurds to join them in a governing coalition.

The Baghdad bombs went off at morning rush hour, with the first vehicle serving as a decoy for the second and more powerful blast outside the ministry, a strategy in Iraq’s battle against the guerrillas.

“A Kia vehicle tried to enter the checkpoint and at this moment blew up. It was not that effective but made a large amount of smoke so we couldn’t see anything,” said policeman Mohammed Jaafar.

“Two minutes later, a Jeep Cherokee reached the checkpoint and opened fire with an MG machinegun and police fired back but it was too late because he reached the checkpoint and blew up.”

Five policemen were killed and five more wounded, an interior ministry official said. In Baquba, north of the capital, one person was killed and 18 wounded in a car bomb attack near a police station, a police officer said.

Another policeman said it was a suicide attack.

The attacks came just a day after a pair of suicide car bombs targeted Iraqi security forces in Baghdad, killing 10 and wounding dozens more. Two US soldiers also died Wednesday after being wounded by a homemade bomb while on patrol in Baghdad, the US Army said. A third soldier was killed the same day in the south-central Babil Province.

MNA/Xinhua

Pedestrians pass a billboard in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province. The Chinese economy grew at 9.5 per cent in 2004, despite a 7.0 per cent growth target announced at the 2004 National People’s Congress session. The government has maintained the same target since at least 2002.

MNA/Xinhua

THE  NEW  LIGHT  OF  MYANMAR   Saturday, 5 March, 2005

This handout picture shows Jordan Formula One drivers Tiago Monteiro of Portugal (L) and his teammate Naranj Karkhikyan of India (R) meeting a rock wallaby at the Melbourne Zoo. The drivers are in Melbourne to prepare for the 2005 Australian Grand Prix on 6 March, 2005. — INTERNET

Indonesia invites 107 countries for Asian-African Conference

JAKARTA, 3 March — The Indonesian Government has invited 107 countries for the Asian-African Conference scheduled for April to mark the golden jubilee of the Asian and African leaders’ gathering against colonialism, according to official source here Wednesday.

Thirty five countries have confirmed their participation in the two-day conference, Bali Moniaga, a staff member of the African Affairs Directorate of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

“Major countries in Asia and Africa which already confirmed their participation include Japan, China, India, Nigeria and Senegal,” said Moniaga.

The presidential invitations have been distributed to 53 countries in Africa and 54 others in Asia, he added.

Some countries are awaiting second invitations because the old ones were signed by then President Megawati Soekarnoputri, he said.

“President (Susilo Bambang) Yudhoyono will send new invitations to affirm Indonesia’s commitment to host the conference,” he said.

Back to 1955, the West Java town of Bandung hosted the first Asian-African conference, which was chaired by the first Indonesian President Sukarno and called for racial equality and right of self-determination.

In July 2003, Bandung hosted the first Asian-African ministerial meeting to renew “the 1955 Bandung spirit”. It shifted the conference’s theme from anti-colonialism to cooperation enhancement to cope with economic challenges.

Delegates also agreed to hold the 50th Asian-African Conference here in 2005.

China opposes US report criticizing China’s human rights

BEIJING, 4 March — China is firmly opposed to a US State Department report criticizing China’s human rights situation without any facts, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said here Wednesday.

He made the remarks when asked to comment on the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices released by the US on Monday.

“Only the Chinese people themselves have the right to comment on the human rights situation in their own country.”

“The Chinese Government, sticking to a policy it calls “people’s state”, has made many efforts toward building a democratic country under the rule of law,” Liu said. “As a result, the Chinese people are now enjoying an improved situation in terms of human rights.”

Marine biologists say corals affected due to tsunami

MUMBAI, 4 March — Coral reefs in several areas around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India have suffered extensive damage in the December 26 tsunami, according to surveys conducted by marine biologists.

The damage is mainly the breakage of corals and toppling of coral heads while some coral reef areas have been buried under sand and sediments. Interestingly, some shallow water corals have been carried away to deep sea and they may not survive as their habitat changed drastically, Marine Biologist at Reef Watch Marine Conservation (RWMC) Dr. Sarang Kulkarni told PTI.

In North Andaman Islands, some areas were uplifted, exposing the coral reefs and they will not survive, he said.

The surveys were conducted in M G Marine National Park, Vindhyapuram and around Andaman Islands. RWMC has undertaken extensive rapid assessment through the islands to study the impact of tsunami on coral reefs and would present the report to Andaman and Nicobar administration by April this year, he said.

Asked if there is any drastic change in coral population pattern, Kulkarni said “tsunami has affected all coral population”.

The RWMC scientists said presently there seems to be trouble for coral reefs and that could affect the islands’ tourism and fishery sectors.

If there is extensive damage then government may need to regulate few activities in coral reef areas and catchment areas, they said.

China to cooperate with US company on energy-saving buildings

BEIJING, 4 March — China’s Ministry of Construction signed a cooperation memorandum on “green” building technology with American Standard Corporation Wednesday.

The agreement is an important step in strengthening its cooperation with foreign companies to promote China’s development of green building technology, Qiu Baosheng, Vice-Minister of Construction said at the signing ceremony of the memorandum. According to the cooperation memorandum, American Standard Corporation helped China launch the award for the best green buildings in the country, said Qiu.

The energy consumption per unit for Chinese construction is two or three times that of developed countries. Qiu said he believed that it is urgent for China to promote energy-efficiency building because the pace of China’s industrialization and urbanization is putting pressure on the supply of energy and resources.

“Iranian News Agency” opens Chinese web site

BEIJING, 3 March — The Iranian News Agency (INA), Iran’s official news agency, launched a web site about China in Beijing on Wednesday.

The web site is expected to contribute to better understanding, exchanges and cooperation between China and Iran, said Iranian Ambassador to China Ferydoon Verdi Nejad at the launching ceremony.

The web site, with various news columns, will offer latest development of China-Iran cooperation and exchanges. It also provides relevant background introduction about China and Iran so as to serve the travelling personnels and bilateral cooperation.

Torrential rains kill five, thousands flee from homes in Pakistan

CHAMAN (Pakistan), 3 March — Five people were killed and thousands had to flee from their homes in Pakistan’s remote southwest after torrential rain struck the usually arid region, officials said on Wednesday.

More than 400 people were killed across Pakistan last month when the country’s heaviest rain and snow in 16 years caused a spate of floods and avalanches. Once again Baluchistan Province, in the southwest, bore the brunt.

Officials said five people had been killed in the past two days when rain caused many mud-walled houses to collapse near Chaman, a town near the Afghan border.

A spokesman for the provincial government said rain also forced a breach in a dam near the coastal town of Gwadar, forcing thousands of people out of their homes.

Last month’s deluge also destroyed a dam in Baluchistan, and dozens of people were killed and thousands left homeless in the deluge that followed.

Pakistan’s unmanned-aircraft crashes

ISLAMABAD, 3 March — A small unmanned-aircraft of Pakistan Air Force crashed on Wednesday evening in central Pakistan, police said.

An Air Force spokesman in Islamabad also confirmed the crash.

The aircraft crashed near central city of Chakwal, some 100 kilometres south of Islamabad, and there was no loss of life, however the aircraft was totally damaged and became debris, the local news agency News Network International quoted local police sources as saying.

The police sources said that the aircraft crashed at about 4.00 pm local time. The heavy contingent of police rushed on the spot and it cordoned the area where the aircraft was crashed.

Later on, a team of Pakistan Air Force also reached the spot.
Global chip sector to grow at a sharply slower pace in 2005

SINGAPORE, 4 March — The global semiconductor industry is expected to grow at a sharply slower pace in 2005 with revenues to increase 3.4 per cent to 227.6 billion dollars, industry research house Gartner said Thursday.

The projected expansion is down from a rise of 23.9 per cent in 2004, when huge demand for electronics on the back of a strong global economy pushed industry revenues to 220 billion dollars, Gartner said in a report.

Weaker consumer demand, high inventory levels and slower business spending are the main factors behind the projections of a smaller rise this year, Gartner said.—MNA/AFP

UN chief urges to enhance gender equality in education

UNITED NATIONS, 4 March — The world has no chance of achieving many of the ambitious health, social and development targets it has set for itself without achieving gender equality for girls in education, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Wednesday.

“Education is the right of every one of the world’s daughters, as well as its sons. It is also crucial to our progress in reaching many other development goals,” he told the Conference on Gender Parity in Education in Washington in video message.

“If we are to succeed in our efforts to build a healthier, peaceful and equitable world, classrooms must be full of girls as well as boys,” he said, noting that by educating girls, the international community will help raise economic productivity, reduce both maternal and infant mortality, improve nutrition, promote health, and fight HIV/AIDS.—MNA/Xinhua

Scientists discover new method to detect signs of testicular cancer

LONDON, 3 March — Danish scientists said Thursday they had discovered a new method that could help to detect very early signs of testicular cancer.

They diagnosed the disease in a 23-year-old man who had fertility problems but showed no signs of the illness by looking for a specific protein in semen.

“This is the first time there may be a potential method of detecting testicular cancer in a semen sample,” Dr Christina Høj-Hansen, of Rigshospitalet-Copenhagen University Hospital, told Reuters. She believes the findings could lead to the development of a cheap, non-invasive diagnostic test and perhaps a screening programme for testicular cancer.

The researchers had earlier discovered that a protein called AP-2gamma was found in testicular carcinoma in situ (CIS), a very early stage of the disease before it has started to spread.

They were doing a study comparing levels of the protein in semen samples from testicular cancer patients and healthy men who acted as a control group.

“When we were evaluating the first series of semen samples we detected AP-2gamma positive cells in a sample from one of the healthy controls,” Høj-Hansen said.

The man was having a routine semen analysis because he and his partner had been trying for 18 months to have a baby. Further tests confirmed he had CIS, according to the research reported in the journal Human Reproduction.—MNA/Reuters

Britain ranks in top 3 for heroin abuse in Europe

LONDON, 4 March — Britain ranks in the top three for heroin and ecstasy abuse in Europe and has the biggest amphetamine problem in the region, a United Nations drugs watchdog said on Wednesday.

“Cocaine abuse appears to be increasing in the United Kingdom and, to a lesser extent, in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland,” the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) wrote in its 2004 annual report.

It estimates that more than 200 tons of cocaine are smuggled into Europe every year, entering the region mainly via Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Britain.

Cannabis is increasingly being grown locally, particularly in member states of the European Union, the INCB said in the report, adding that its use had grown in almost all countries over the past decade.

“The above mentioned upward trend in cannabis use seems to be related to the efforts by some to promote the notion that cannabis use is not harmful.”

In Western Europe, Luxembourg is the country with the highest level of opiate abuse, followed by Portugal and Britain. Britain heads the table for the most heroin seized.

For ecstasy abuse, Britain ranks third behind Ireland and the Czech Republic while it is number for amphetamines one ahead of Ireland, Denmark, and Spain.

MNA/Xinhua

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“Art” magazine launched in Beijing

BEIJING, 3 March — “Art”, a specialized magazine that is aimed to guide China’s booming art market, was launched in Beijing recently, by a sub-committee on calligraphy, painting and sculpture under the China Society of Cultural Heritage.

The magazine will carry articles on art and art-related economic issues, said Liu Rendao, Director and Editor-in-Chief of the monthly.

The articles will be neutral and objective on the assessment of art works, while closely monitoring the movement of art market, Liu said. “The magazine will adopt a simple and vivid style,” he noted.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam boosts agricultural growth

HANOI, 4 March — Vietnam is applying more advanced technologies, upgrading rural infrastructure and looking forward to a market-based farm production, in an effort to achieve agricultural growth of 5.5 per cent this year.

The country is intensifying investment in application of advanced biotechnology to produce better strains for crops and raise quality of agricultural products, as well as offering greater financial and technical assistance to small- and medium-sized farming and rural enterprises, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Thursday.

Vietnam is also facilitating production and exportation of agricultural products by constructing more paved roads, electricity networks and wholesale markets in rural areas. In a longer-term, it is building up national brands for its key farm products so that they will be better known to foreign consumers.

However, the ministry admitted that the process of integrating into the region and the world also poses many challenges to Vietnam’s agriculture. Being slow in applying science and technology in processing, the country now exports a large volume of raw materials, it noted.

Vietnam obtained agricultural growth of 4.2 per cent last year. Meanwhile, it exported 4.2 billion US dollars’ worth of agro-forestry products, posting a year-on-year increase of 32 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

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The Yangon City Development Committee, in its drive to enable Yangon City possess all the characteristics of a world-class city, has been taking such measures as renovation and maintenance of existing buildings, supervising the development affairs tasks, and contribution towards health care concerns, the upgrading of the transport facilities and construction of public recreation centres.

Yangon City was once regarded as the most beautiful and cleanest city in the south-east Asia. Now, the YCDC is making efforts in numerous spheres for Yangon City to be the model city of south-east Asia.

Yangon City had an area of 133.63 square miles with a population of around four million people circa 1988, and now its area has increased to 265 square miles and its population to about six million people.

The YCDC is carrying out traffic safety tasks such as installation of cat eyes in the traffic facilities and construction of guard rails in addition to upgrading and maintenance of roads, bridges and pavements of the roads. In this open season, it has extended 67 roads from 18 feet wide ones to 72 feet wide ones, tarred the roads stretching 385,188 feet, and tarmacked the 37 roads stretching 168,021 feet. And it is also constructing more than 70 self-help roads.

Its goal will not be achieved fully if the city is having more and more buildings with less greening situation. The YCDC has so far grown more than 2,230,000 saplings of flowering plants, seasonal plants and shady trees, and constructed 59 parks, 101 football grounds and playgrounds throughout the city to upgrade it into a garden one.

It is taking responsibilities for daily supply of clean water for the city dwellers. Upon completion of the Ngamoeyek Water Supply Project, it will be able to supply more 140 gallons of clean water for the Yangonites.

Simultaneously, the Engineering Department (Buildings) under the YCDC is putting into motion the city housing development project. The department has been taking all necessary measures in advance for construction of urban development buildings. The YCDC is giving permission to and helping the people to construct, repair or renovate buildings everywhere except on the State-own estates in the city.

The YCDC has formed the Construction Supervision Committee with the mayor as the chairman and the head of the Engineering Department (Buildings) as the secretary. The Construction Supervision Committee is giving permission to construction entrepreneurs, those who want to extend or repair their buildings, renew the government land grants, and apply for copy of the land grants, for history of maps of their buildings, and for having land survey work undertaken. Those persons may join the YCDC from noon until 4.30 pm on office days.

Taking into account the long-term interests of the city dwellers, the YCDC is undertaking development affairs works effectively and thoroughly with farsightedness for the development of the city. The city with increasing population will remain the commercially strategic city of Myanmar.

The YCDC is also making arrangements for the upgrading of the city in proportion with the growing population and the rising living level of its people.

In conclusion, the YCDC is placing emphasis on the construction of buildings that will match the greening city in the interests of the people.

(Myanna Alin + Kyemon: 3-3-2005) (Translation: MS)
Legislative power to enact laws...

(from page 16)

10. chemical fertilizer and insecticide, and
11. marine fisheries.

They also discussed in support of the laying down of the following detailed basic principles in the region or state legislative list concerning the agricultural and livestock breeding sector:

- 1. agricultural personnel delegate group
- 2. prevention and control of pests,
- 3. proper use of chemical fertilizer and systematic production of inorganic fertilizer,
- 4. agricultural loans and savings,
- 5. dams, embankments, lakes, ditches and supply of irrigation water, for which the divisions or states have the right to manage,
- 6. fresh water fisheries, and
- 7. livestock breeding, prevention and treatment of diseases and the keeping of animals systematically.

I will now present the separate suggestions and discussions of the delegate groups.

In giving a separate suggestion, the national race delegate group raised the point with the occurrence, control of and vaccination against animal diseases. The State will have to conduct research to produce new and potent vaccines and to prevent the spread of animal diseases in regions or states bordering the countries where the infection starts. A basic principle concerning the animal disease prevention and treatment should be included in the Union legislative list.

The group also discussed the term "livestock breeding, prevention and treatment of diseases and the keeping of animals systematically." According to the set objective and path for which the divisions or states are permitted to manage, produce and supply chemical fertilizers and pesticides and conduct research work, the region or state's agricultural sector will achieve rapid development.

It is also said, the State should consider inclusion of the following points:

1. land management,
2. reclamation of vacant, fallow and virgin lands,
3. settlement and land records,
4. mechanized farming,
5. agricultural research,
6. chemical fertilizer and insecticide, and
7. marine fisheries.

The suggestion states to the Union that the legislative power to enact laws for reclaiming of vacant, fallow and virgin lands should be entrusted to the Union. When the Union enacts a law concerning the reclaimed land or the bylaws, as the suggestion states to carry out the task without going against the Union law, the matter is put on record for consideration in enacting laws by the Union.

Hence, in accord with the suggestions of a large number of delegates concerning the agricultural and livestock breeding sector, the following points are laid down as detailed basic principles to be included in the Union legislative list:

1. land management,
2. reclamation of vacant, fallow and virgin lands,
3. settlement and land records,
4. mechanized farming,
5. agricultural research,
Matters coordinated for observance of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 4 March—The third coordination meeting of the leading committee for the observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day took place at the office of Yangon Command, with an address by Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council member Brigadier General Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlements Brigadier General Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Education Brigadier General Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Labour Brigadier General Win Sein, senior military officers, heads of department, officials and invited guests.

Present at the meeting were Management Committee Chairman Yangon Command Commander Major General Myint Swe, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brigadier General Pyi Sone, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Major General Khin Maung Tun, Deputy Information Ministers U Thein Sein and Brigadier General Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Culture, who delivered a speech. He said the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade will be celebrated soon on a grand scale. It is heartening to see the active participation of the respective committees in the efforts for observance of the parade, he said. Next, he called for efforts to improve the military skills of the Tatmadawmen and follow military disciplines. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win added that those responsible are to submit their requirements for administration sector and welfare tasks to the leading committee if necessary.

Next, leading committee Secretary Deputy Adjutant General Col Khin Soe read out the resolutions of the committee, and Commander Major General Myint Swe reported on preparations being made by the management committee. Officials of subcommittees also presented reports on their respective sectors for the observance of the parade. Then the meeting came to a close with concluding remarks by Lt-Gen Kyaw Win.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win chose a centre piece that will be on display at the Armed Forces Day Commemorative Exhibition and gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA
To this, I would like to reply that it has been stated in the Region of State Legislative List the point ‘industries and factories’ is to be undertaken by the Pyidaungsu level. And also the Union Legislative List contains the point ‘industries to be undertaken by the Pyidaungsu level’. It is therefore found that there is no category in the size of industrial zones or medium or small. It is only the matter that shall be taken into consideration when relevant laws are enacted.

The group also proposed another three points to be taken into consideration when the State enact laws and to participate in the self-administered division or self-administered areas. These points are:

1. medium and small industries,
2. cottage industries, and
3. trade in ornaments.

To this, I would like to reply that the proposal in itself calls for consideration when the State enact laws so as to practise them in the self-administered division or self-administered areas. This being the case, these points will be placed on record so as to take them into consideration when relevant laws are enacted.

The representatives of political parties which are members of the delegate group of representatives-elect subsume the political parties as their respective parties. The independent representatives-elect of the same delegate group proposed separate motions in connection with the adoption of detailed basic principles on the clarifications made by the Work Committee Chairman. By the consent of most of the delegates to the National Convention, following points are adopted as detailed basic principles for the industrial sector to be embodied in the Union Legislative List as regards the share of legislative power between:

1. Industries to be undertaken by the Pyidaungsu level;
2. Industrial Zones;
3. Standardization and specification of manufactured commodities;
4. Science and technology and research on science and technology;
5. Standardization of weights and measures; and
6. Intellectual properties such as copyrights, patents, trademarks, industrial designs.

And following points are to be laid down as detailed basic principles for the industrial sector to be embodied in the Region or State Legislative List:

1. Cottage industries.

Member of the Work Committee Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tin Shin, on behalf of the NCC Work Committee Chairman, explained the detailed basic principles concerning the transport and communication sector that should be included in the Union legislative list and the region or state legislative list for sharing the legislative power.

The delegate groups presented discussions and suggestions on the matter. The delegate groups — the national race delegate group, the peasant delegate group, the worker delegate group, and the intellectuals and intelligentsia delegate group — and the delegate group of the Region or State — the National Unity Party, the Union Pa-O National Organization, the Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, the Lahu National Development Party, the Union Kayin League, the Kokang Dal, the Kayah State Party and the Wa National Development Party — gave suggestions to put the following points on the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles for the transport and communication sector:

1. Road transport
2. Railways
3. Roads and bridges under the management of the Pyidaungsu
4. Posts, telecommunications, telephones, fax, e-mail, Internet, Intranet and similar communication services
5. TV, satellite communication, transmission and reception and similar communication services

The delegate groups also gave suggestions to put the following points on the region or state legislative list:

1. Ports, jetties and pontoons under the management of the Region or State
2. Roads and bridges under the management of the Region or State
3. Systematic movement of the private-owned vehicles within the Region or State

As the suggestion calls for giving suitable permissions to the regions and states, it will be put on record for the Union to make consideration in enacting laws as necessary in the future.

As a separate suggestion, the intellectuals and intelligentsia delegate group said that ICT has become a global major industry covering various sectors, and an essential part of man’s daily life. The government has been striving to develop the ICT till becoming the nation’s major industry. Thus, ICT laws will have to be enacted as and when necessary. As the ICT is advancing at an alarming rate in the world, amendments should be made and endorsement added to the law to make it always in line with the advancing times. Moreover, the law should be in conformity with those of the regional and global countries. Thus, enacting of uninform laws concerning the ICT in the nation should be taken into account.

The clarifications made by the Work Committee Chairman include “Posts, telecommunications, telephones, fax, e-mail, Internet, Intranet and similar communication services” in the item 13 and “TV, satellite communication, transmission and reception and similar communication services” in the item 14. The term “ICT” is inclusive in the word “communication”. The suggestion will be included as necessary in enacting laws concerning the sector. Thus, it will be put on record for consideration in enacting laws as necessary in the future.

In its separate suggestion, the State service person delegate group said that the transport and communication sectors play a vital role in the development of the economy and the nation, so the construction sector will develop together with building of facilities. Thus, the sector should be termed “Transport, communication and construction sector” and to add the term “residences and buildings”. Only then will the term be able to cover all types of building. The Work Committee coordinated with the panel of chairmen concerning the matter. The panel of chairmen after coordinating with the respective delegate groups presented the paper concerning the groups’ opinions to the Work Committee. It is found that most of the delegate groups have a suggestion to give the state “Transport, communication and construction sector” with Transport, communica
tion and construction sector” and to add the term “residences and buildings” as the 15th item to the 14 points to be included in the Union legislative list.

Other invited persons delegate group proposed that if appropriate the following points should be added to the sectors to be included in the region or state legislative list:

1. Inland Water Transport
2. Maintenance of waterways
3. Water resources and river systems improvement
4. Ship building, repair and maintenance
5. Systematic running of private and cooperative inland water transport services
6. Posts, telecommunications, telephones, fax, e-mail, Internet, Intranet and similar communication services
7. TV, satellite communication, transmission and reception and similar communication services.

The points stated in the suggestion are included in the Union legislative list, because laws concerning them should be enacted by the Union. As the laws enacted by the Union will cover the whole nation, stipulations will be contained in the laws as necessary to give rights to the regions and states. In the practical field also, the regions and states have been given permissions concerning the Union legislative list, hence the points should be included only in the Union legislative list.

Delegates of the representatives-elect delegate group of the political parties presented the same opinion as the representatives-elect of the political parties.

Independent representatives-elect of the representa
tives-elect delegate group, presented their opinion, say
ing, the clarifications made by the Work Committee Chairman should be laid down as detailed basic principles.

Hence, in accord with the suggestions of most of the delegates concerning the transport, communica
tion and construction sector, the following points are laid down as detailed basic principles to be included in the Union legislative list:

1. Inland Water Transport
2. Maintenance of waterways
3. Water resources and river systems improvement
4. Maritime shipping
5. Port terminals
6. Light house, lightship and light house facilities
7. Ship building, repair and maintenance
8. Air transport
9. Aviation, flight control and building of airfields
10. Road transport
11. Railways
12. Roads and bridges under the management of the Pyidaungsu
13. Posts, telecommunications, telephones, fax, e-mail, Internet, Intranet and similar communication services
14. TV, satellite communication, transmission and reception and similar communication services
15. Residences and buildings.

And the following points are laid down as detailed basic principles to be included in the region or state legislative list:

1. Ports, jetties and pontoons under the management of the Region or State
2. Roads and bridges under the management of the Region or State
3. Systematic movement of the private-owned vehicles within a Region or a State

Chairman of the Work Committee, member of the Work Committee Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tin Shin, read out the presentation on the regional sector, the legislative power for Self-administered division or Self-administered zones leading bodies.

The full presentations of the two Work Committee mem
tees will be reported in the newspapers to be issued on 6 March. — MNA
**Left thumb-substitute surgical operation performed successfully**

**Yangon, 4 March** — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, Acting Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of the Health Department and Deputy Director-General Col Than Aung of the Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar), went to Orthopaedic Specialist Hospital on Hinthada Road in Kyimyindine Township this morning and inspected progress of successful surgical operation that the second toe has been substituted in the place of the thumb. In the meeting hall, leader of the surgical team Associate Professor Dr Khin Maung Myint of Yangon General Hospital briefed the minister on the process of the operation. The minister gave necessary instructions. Patient Maung Yi Khang, 20, was a worker of a saw mill in Hinthada Township and he cut his left thumb in the accident of the saw mill. He was undergone medical treatment at the private clinic in Hinthada Township and then he was transferred to YGH. On 22 November 2004, Dr Khin Maung Myint and party provided preliminary treatment to the patient after checking him. On 13 January 2005, they decided to perform substitution of the thumb. According to the agreement of the patient’s family, the team could provide the surgical operation to the patient successfully by replacing his second toe at the place of left thumb.

Similar surgical operations have been performed in the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of Singapore and the Republic of India. Nowadays, Myanmar has achieved an opportunity to show her health standard on a par with neighbouring countries due to efforts of the Myanmar surgical specialists. At present, the substituted thumb of patient Maung Yi Khang reaches in use thanks to concerted efforts of the surgical specialists and assistance of Medical Superintendent Dr Nyunt Hlaing, doctors and nurses.

 Likewise, arrange-

**Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo comfort patient Maung Yi Khang who has been undergone surgical operation at his thumb.** — HEALTH

**President Daw Than Than Nwe speaking concluding remarks at the annual general meeting of MWAF.** — MNA

**MNA concludes annual general meeting successfully**

**Yangon, 4 March** — The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation continued its second-day session of the annual general meeting and concluded at its office on Thanlwin Road, Bahan Township, this morning.

Present on the occasion were President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe, Vice-President Daw Kyaw Lay Myint and CEC members, heads of department, leaders of the working groups, officials and representatives of States and Divisions. Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint presided over the meeting.

Chairpersons of Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Division Organizations for Women’s Affairs reported on their respective sectors. Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint reviewed their reports.

In the afternoon, President Daw Than Than Nwe presided over the meeting. General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun submitted future tasks of the federation and decisions based on the reports of respective States and Divisions to the meeting for seeking of approval. After giving instructions, President Daw Than Than Nwe gave the concluding remarks. — MNA

**Myanmar maintains victory over Japan in volley friendly**

**Yangon, 4 March** — Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint watched the second match of Myanmar-Japan volleyball friendly (men) at the National Indoor Stadium (1) in Thawtwa, here, this afternoon.

The selected Myanmar youths team came behind a set down to beat the Kinki University team 3-1. The friendly continues on 6 March at the same venue. — MNA

Reports are being made for giving medical treatment to another patient, worker Maung Mya Zaw, 20, of Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone, North Okkalapa Township. Four fingers of the patient cut out in the machinery accident. The patient was transferred to the hand surgery ward of Orthopaedic Specialist Hospital from North Okkalapa General Hospital. Arrangements are being made for replacement of second toe at his fingers. — MNA

**Completion of surgical operation for replacement of second toe at left thumb of patient Maung Yi Khang.** — HEALTH
Uruguay, Venezuela sign strategic agreements

Montevideo, 3 March
— Uruguay and Venezuela signed on Wednesday six agreements, including one through which Caracas will supply oil in exchange for food.

The documents were signed following the visit of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

The texts signed were the Agreement on Energy Cooperation of Caracas, the Montevideo Declaration on PETROSUR, the Agreement related to the New Television of the South and the Joint Uruguay-Venezuela Declaration on Agriculture.

The energy-cooperation agreement, similar to the one signed this week by Chavez with Argentine President Nestor Kirchner, consolidates the shipment of crude to Uruguay in exchange for food, knowledge and information programmes.

"Venezuela will certainly be a big support for such a small country, in which the energy problem is of utmost importance," said Chavez after signing the texts.

Through the so-called Caracas Agreement, Venezuela will supply Uruguay 43,600 barrels of petroleum a day, which 75 percent have to be paid within 20 days, and a part of the final price could be swapped for goods and services.

Twenty-five percent of the remaining part has a two-year grace period and a 15-year financing period.

"We are working to ensure the international community as well prepared as it can be to spot and address the early signs of a pandemic as quickly as possible," said Health Minister John Reid.

Experts fear the bird flu virus could mutate into a form that can pass between humans and trigger a pandemic. It is not a cure, but can reduce symptoms and may prevent the spread of infection.

Governments around the world have been stockpiling the drug to combat a possible pandemic of bird flu, which has now killed 47 people in Asia.

"We are working closely with other governments and the World Health Organization to ensure the international community is as well prepared as it can be to spot and address the early signs of a pandemic as quickly as possible," said Health Minister John Reid.

Experts fear the bird flu virus could mutate into a form that can pass between humans and trigger a pandemic similar to one in 1918-19 which killed 20 million to 40 million people.

Poland to patrol Baltic airspace in 2006

RIGA, 3 March — Poland will take over this year the mission of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to patrol Baltic airspace in 2006, the Lithuanian Defence Ministry said Tuesday.

Poland will be the first new NATO member since 1999 to send its Air Force to take over the alliance’s mission, according to a statement released after a meeting between Lithuanian Army commander Gen. Vladimir Blechacz and Poland’s Air Force chief Ryszard Olszewski.

NATO forces have patrolled Baltic airspace since March 2004. Its members take turns at deploying patrol aircraft from the Zokniai air base in northern Lithuania.

Norway took over the mission from Britain in January and will be replaced by the Netherlands this month.

In March 1999, Poland, together with Hungary and the Czech Republic, the first countries from the former Soviet bloc, joined NATO in the first of its enlargement. Five years later, seventeen countries, including the three Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, became the bloc’s new members.

FDA seeks authority to dictate drug warnings

WASHINGTON, 3 March — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Tuesday asked Congress for authority to dictate warning labels on drugs in order to prevent differences in wording from delaying key information for consumers.

Sandra L. Kweder, FDA’s deputy director for new drugs, told the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labour and Pensions that the authority to force changes in product labels “would be helpful”.

The FDA move is intended to avoid the repeat of the haggling with Merck & Co., the manufacturer of Vioxx, over the wording of a warning about Vioxx’s dangerous side effects. The difference had delayed getting the information out.

“We had to negotiate with the company how the specific language should be worded,” Kweder told the panel.

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“We had to negotiate with the company how the specific language should be worded,” Kweder told the panel.

Britain to buy Roche Holding AG’s antiviral drug Tamiflu

LONDON, 3 March — Britain is buying 14.6 million courses of Roche Holding AG’s antiviral drug Tamiflu to protect against a potential bird flu pandemic, the government said on Tuesday.

Roche’s Tamiflu has been singled out by the World Health Organization (WHO) as its drug of choice to protect against bird flu and for use in case of a widespread human outbreak. It is not a cure, but can reduce symptoms and may prevent the spread of infection.

Governments around the world have been stockpiling the drug to combat a possible pandemic of bird flu, which has now killed 47 people in Asia.

“...
Legislative power to enact laws...

(from page 8)

Discussions and suggestions to lay down the following detailed basic principles in the Union legislative list concerning the agricultural and livestock breeding sector:

1. oil, gas and other liquid and solid products considered dangerously inflammable according to Pyidaungsu Law;
2. Union electricity production and distribution;
3. minerals, mines, safety of mines workers, and environmental conservation and reconstruction;
4. gems;
5. pearls;
6. forest;
7. conservation and protection of wildlife, natural trees and natural areas including the environment.

They also discussed in support of the laying down of the following detailed basic principles in the region or state legislative list concerning the sector:

1. small electricity production and distribution industry under the supervision of the region or the state, except big and medium electricity production and distribution under the supervision of the Union;
2. salt and salt products;
3. the cutting and polishing of gem stones in the region or state;
4. village-owned fuel wood plantations and;
5. recreation centres, zoological gardens and botanical gardens.

I will now present the separate suggestions and discussions of the delegate groups. The national racial delegate group said that the nation has a 1,375-mile long coastline, and the continental shelf is rich in valuable natural resources. Arrangements should be made to extract the riches with the use of advanced technology and equipment.

It added that increase in the number of industries, vehicles, buildings and people may cause air pollution. Thus in extending towns, wards and villages, 25 per cent of the newly developed lands should be reserved for forest plantations parks and recreation centres to prevent air pollution.

Hence it said, urban forestation should be included in enacting the forestry law.

In a separate suggestion, the other invited persons delegate group said that it has already presented a proposal to put nuclear energy, nuclear fuel and radiation and mineral resources that produce them in energy, electricity and forestry sector. It also gave a suggestion to add the word “technology” in the phrase “nuclear energy, nuclear fuel and radiation and mineral resources that produce them” and term “conservation and protection of herbal plants, rare plant species and animals facing near extinction” in the energy, electricity and forestry sector.

It continued to say, the State should consider enacting a law to permit regions and states to run small-scale oil and gas industries in the areas where foreign joint-venture commercial-scale production is not possible.

The group presented a proposal to substitute the term “except big and medium electricity production and distribution under the supervision of the Union” with the term “except big and medium electricity production and distribution under the supervision of the Union of the Union”; the term “the cutting and polishing of gem stones in the region or state” with the term “exploration, mining, trading, cutting, polishing and gilding of minerals and holding of gems emporiums” its meaning will become wider and more comprehensive, and will cover all private and community forest plantations including fuel wood plantations of villagers.

The Work Committee made coordination with the panel of chairmen concerning the matter. After making coordination with the other groups, the panel of chairmen submitted a paper concerning the matter to the Work Committee. Most of the delegate groups have proposed to substitute the term “village-owned fuel wood plantations” with the term “village-fuel wood plantations under the supervision of the Union.”

The term botanical gardens is wide and comprehensive enough to cover the terms — various species of plants including herbal plants and teak. Thus adding of any new wording or item in the term various species of plants including herbal plants and teak. Thus adding of any new wording or item in the term “recreation centres, zoological gardens and botanical gardens” is deemed unnecessary.

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Juventus should be stripped of league titles

Milan, 4 March — Former Inter Milan coach Luigi Simoni says Juventus should be stripped of the league titles won in the 1990's if the doping charges against their club doctor are confirmed after appeal. Juventus club doctor Riccardo Agricola was found guilty in November of administering banned substances between 1994 and 1998.

Simoni was coach of the Inter side which finished runners-up to Juventus in 1998.

"I think if that sentence is confirmed, then the Italian Football Federation should act," Simoni told the magazine Espresso in an interview to be published on Friday.

"They should take away the titles won by Juventus in that period. I finished second with Inter in 1998 and now I discover that maybe we weren't playing on equal terms." Simoni added.

Simoni said the presumption of innocence should remain until the outcome of Juve's appeal against the verdict is known and added: "I hope that Juventus are cleared on appeal."

But he said if Agricola's guilt was confirmed he would find it hard to believe there was not wider knowledge of his actions.

"It would be difficult, very difficult, to think that he did everything alone and that at his club, Juventus, no one knew the players were being boosted with illegal medicine," said Simoni.

During the period investigated Juventus also won two other league titles as well as the 1996 European Cup.

Simoni said he was not optimistic, however, that the Federation would take action.

"Even if the sentence becomes definitive, the Federation would never have the courage to take a title off Juventus," he said.

On Wednesday, Italian Football Federation (FIGC) president Franco Carraro said he would ask the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne to rule on the role of the FIGC in the affair.

Carraro said the ruling so far was against a Juventus club doctor and not the club. "Juventus have not been found guilty of doping. In the five years examined their players were tested and none of them resulted positive," said Carraro. — MNA/Reuters

Schnyder beats Myskina to reach last four at Dubai

RVADID, 4 March — French Open champion Anastasia Myskina missed the second Grand Slam titleholder from Russia within two days to fall at the one-million-dollar WTA Dubai Open on Thursday. Myskina, the third seed, was a set and 6-5 up and held an advantage point against Patty Schnyder, the world number 14 from Switzerland, before fading to a 6-7 (0/7), 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 quarterfinal defeat against a talented but unpredictable opponent.

Schnyder, seeded eight, mixed slice with topspin, and angles with deep drives, and often scored well when she tossed in slower balls, de-nying Myskina the pace with which to develop rhythm with her hard, flat-struck blows. But she also made unaccountable mis-takes.

Schnyder's progress was very up and down for the first hour and a half of a two-hour match. She broke at once and reached 4-1, only to be pegged back to 4-4, and then playing a poor tie-break, failing to win a point, and letting slip a first set which she had nearly rescued.

The same was similar, Schnyder advancing 4-0 before being pegged back again to a tie-break. The difference this time was that she had to save a match point to get there, launching a flowing enforced down the line to avert danger.

This seemed to pump adrenaline into Schnyder, because she played a much more focussed tie-break this time, winning it for the loss of only two points, and then surged into a 2-0 final set lead.

Although Myskina briefly retrieved that deficit, her error ratio was increasing. After dropping serve again, she played an indifferent final service game to lose the match, launching a wild inside out forehand into the tramlines and then mistiming a back-hand drive into the net from inside the baseline. — MNA/Xinhua

Mellor becomes third striker to suffer premature end

LONDON, 4 March — Liverpool forward Neil Mellor became the club's third striker to suffer a premature end to the season on Thursday.

Mellor, who enjoyed an extended run in the side after scoring a spectacular late winner against Arsenal in November, will undergo surgery to cure tendinitis in his knee ligament injury in the League Cup semifinal against Watford. The pair will not play again this season. — MNA/Reuters

2006 FA Cup final will be played on 13 May

LONDON, 4 March — The 2006 FA Cup final, the first match scheduled for the new Wembley Stadium, will be played on Saturday May 13, the Football Association said on Thursday.

The final will be the last game of the English domestic season barring the lower league playoffs, providing a boost for England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson, who had asked for ample preparation time for the 2006 World Cup should his side qualify.

The England team would now have a four-week break between the FA Cup final and the start of the tournament in Germany next summer," the FA said in a statement on its web site.

The FA has also moved to help English clubs playing in Europe next season by scrapping FA Cup replays in the fifth and sixth rounds for sides still competing in the UEFA Cup, and the sixth round for teams still involved in the Champions League.

Ties in the relevant rounds involving clubs still in Europe will be settled in the original match using extra time and penalties if required.

The ruling only applies for next season, the FA added. — MNA/Reuters

UEFA starts disciplinary proceeding against Chelsea

LONDON, 4 March — UEFA have begun disciplinary proceedings against Chelsea after their players were late for the second half of last week's Champions League defeat at Barcelona and coach Jose Mourinho snubbed the post-match news conference.

A UEFA spokeswoman said on Thursday the Premier League leaders had until March 14 to send a written statement in their defence, before UEFA's Control and Disciplinary body meets on March 24 to examine the case.

Chelsea, who had striker Didier Drogba red-carded at the Nou Camp, lost the knockout round first leg 2-1. — MNA/Reuters

Real coach comes to defence of Ronaldo

MADRID, 4 March — Real Madrid coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo came to the defence of Ronaldo after the Brazilian striker was jeered by fans during his side's 3-1 victory at home to Real Betis on Wednesday.

"The people that jeered him today will be cheering him tomorrow," Luxemburgo told a news conference after the match. "He worked hard, fought, went in search of the goal and tried everything, but sometimes in football no matter how hard you try, the ball won’t go in the net."

Ronaldo, who has not scored in the last seven league games, came in for heavy criticism from the Spanish media for arrival late for training after his recent Valentine's Day engagement celebrations in Paris.

The 28-year-old was in lively form at the Bernabeu and created several scares for the Betis defence, but was unable to end his recent scoring drought.

"I was very satisfied with his work out on the pitch and saw no reason to substitute him," Luxemburgo said. "The important thing is that he keeps on working and that way he will win over the fans again."

"Ronaldo has got a lot of experience and knows that if he gets two goals in the next game, the fans will applaud him and everything will be forgotten."

Ronaldo has been Real's top scorer in each of the two seasons since he joined the club from Inter Milan and is the club's leading striker in the present campaign with 11 goals, two more than Michael Owen.

MNA/Reuters

Mellor, who enjoyed an extended run in the side after scoring a spectacular late winner against Arsenal in November, will undergo surgery to cure tendinitis in his knee ligament injury in the League Cup semifinal against Watford. The pair will not play again this season. — MNA/Reuters

Nevada's Mo Charlo drives against Hawaii's Bobby Nash during the second half on 3 March, 2005, in Honolulu. Nevada won 55-47. — Internet
Int’l disaster response system faces challenges

HONG KONG, 4 March — The lessons learned from the tsunami on December 26 last year will impact the functioning of the international disaster response system for years to come, a UN official said here on Thursday.

Delivering a keynote speech at a forum here, Margaret Wahlstrom, UN Special Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance to tsunami-affected countries, said the international system for humanitarian response is “challenged collectively to an extent that we have possibly not been facing since the mid 1990s.”

At the Hong Kong Forum of “Asia & East Africa: Earthquake and Tsunamis,” which opened Thursday and will last three days, she defined six points as the practical and strategic challenges for the short to medium term.

The six points are as follows: avoid creating a gap between the relief/recovery and rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, understand clearly what reconstruction requires in the coordination mechanisms and the government’s need, support the national leadership for the process from the outset, ensure that already marginalized communities do not become forgotten or even more marginalized, engage in the required cooperation and monitoring to ensure equity in assistance, and continue to develop and benefit from the multiple new partnerships in this operation.

Since the United Nations is today under some serious criticism and scrutiny in other regards, Wahlstrom said the humanitarian part of the United Nations will have this opportunity to strengthen public reporting mechanisms to ensure that “we are not only aware but also to appear to be, transparent and making further efforts to ensure that information is available easily.” In order to answer the demands and expectations, the UN humanitarian services require a lot more development in the areas of common logistics, air services, emergency telecommunications, public information and civil military liaison services, Wahlstrom said.

MNA/×inhua

WEATHER

Friday, 4 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, except for isolated light rain in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) above normal in Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Kachin States, Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions. (5˚C) to (6˚C) above normal in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Myingyan, Magway and Minbu (40˚C) each.

Maximum temperature on 3-3-2005 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 3-3-2005 was 65°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 4-3-2005 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 3-3-2005 was (6.8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 4-3-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from East (10:30) hours MST on 3-3-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 5-3-2005: Except for the likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather will be fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated light rain are likely in Extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-3-2005: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for first weekend of March 2005: During the coming weekend, weather will be fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

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Weather outlook for first weekend of March 2005: During the coming weekend, weather will be fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
Yangon, 4 March — The following is the full clarification of Secretary of the National Convention Convening Work Committee U Thaung Nyunt, on behalf of the Work Committee Chairman, concerning the agricultural and livestock breeding sector and the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector for laying down of detailed basic principles for sharing of legislative power to be included in the State Constitution, at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, yesterday.

At the plenary meeting held on 19 May 2004, the Work Committee Chairman explained the detailed basic principles concerning the agricultural and livestock breeding sector that should be included in the portion of the sharing of legislative power in Union Legislative List and the Region or State Legislative List. The delegate groups suggested that a detailed basic principle concerning the agricultural and livestock breeding sector: 1. land management, 2. reclamation of vacant, fallow and virgin lands, 3. settlement and land records, 4. survey, 5. dams, embankments and water supply managed by Pyidaungsu, 6. meteorology, hydrology and seismic survey, 7. registration, 8. mechanized farming, 9. agricultural research.

Most of the delegate groups suggested that a detailed basic principle be laid down in the Union Legislative List as third point ‘standardization and specification of manufactured commodities’.