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

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

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

The country is peaceful and better foundations in political, economic, social and transport sectors have emerged because of working with might and main by officials at central level and those at grassroots levels. Achievements have been made due to correct and practical policies of the State.

GAD staff should understand overriding importance of their functions and implement State policies properly and dutifully. Dissension, pressures under pretext of democracy, human rights are to be warded off through unity of State, people & Tatmadaw.

In his discussions, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said the Tatmadaw government had assumed the State duties because the conditions in the country deteriorated. Those present at the meeting had already learnt how the government restored peace and stability in all the regions of the Union and how it gave priority to prevalence of law and order and better transport and communication.

(See page 8)

Inside

"In fact, the people have experienced the events of the nation throughout the nation’s history, so they realize the correct stand and acts of the Tatmadaw Government and have taken a wide range of lessons from the international events."

(Page 6)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive in concert for development of political, economic and social sectors of the State

The State Peace and Development Council has been making all-out efforts for development of political, economic and social sectors of the State. In the process, it is working hard for the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with the global community, for enhancing socio-economic life of the people and for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and officials concerned, on 26 and 27 February inspected regional development in Mandalay Division. During inspection tour, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party on 26 February held a meeting with division/district/township level departmental officials, social organizations, town elders and entrepreneurs at the Town Hall of Mandalay. He said that it is virtually impossible to achieve the national goal—the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation—only through ordinary procedures, stressing the need for those responsible to actively take part in revolutionary tasks of a transitional period.

To bring about national economic development, efforts are to be exerted for further development of trade which has been already in place. Mandalay Division needs to work hard to be able to transform its border trade into the normal trade system that Yangon Division is practising.

The businessmen in Mandalay Division are well-versed in trade and equipped with fairness, and they are to strive to ensure further progress of trade services, especially to be able to enlarge the horizon of trade.

The State service personnel, on their part, are to perform duties in accordance with the laws but not to misuse the authority. Meanwhile, they are to strive to be in oneness with the people and constantly serve the interest of the State.

This being the case, the service personnel, entrepreneurs and all are to make concerted efforts together with the people with nationalistic spirit for development of political, economic and social sectors of the State under the leadership of the government.

Special tours for holiday makers

YANGON, 5 March—The Myanma Hotels and Tourism Services is expanding the scope of its local tour service for the improvement of the tourism industry and convenience of pilgrims and holiday makers.


Those wishing to make tours may contact the Myanma Hotels and Tourism Services, No 77991, Sule Pagoda Road, Yangon (Tel: 252859). — MNA

UDNR Council holds meeting 1/2005

YANGON, 5 March — The University for Development of National Races held meeting No 1/2005 at the university on 3 March.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the University Council Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Commissioner of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Vice-Chairman of the Council Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, University Council Members CSSTB Member U Aung Myint, Director-General U Hla Kyi of the Civil Service Selection and Training Department, Rector of Sagaing Institute of Education Dr Myint Thein, Rector of the University U Aung Min Thein, Pro-Rector (Administration) Lt-Col Nyi Nyi San, Pro-Rector (Academics) Daw Khin Si Si and officials, Member of the University Council U Aung Thein and officials.

Council Chairman of the UDNR Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye extended greetings and those present made a decision for the matters of the training. Afterwards, the commander made a concluding remarks and the meeting ended at 11.45 am.

After the meeting, the commander, the chairperson of CSSTB, and members of the council for the NRDU viewed round the booths of the university. — MNA

Co-ord meeting for functions of UDNR held

YANGON, 5 March — Chairman of the Council for the University for Development of National Races Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Commissioner of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun and delegates of the state/division Peace and Development Councils held a coordination meeting on functions of the University at the meeting hall of the university on 3 March.

Also present on the occasion were Council Member of the UDNR Members of CSSTB U Aung Myint, Director-General U Hla Kyi of the Civil Service Selection and Training Department, Rector of the UDNR Col Zaw Min Thein, Pro-Rector (Administration) Lt-Col Nyi Nyi San, Pro-Rector (Academics) Daw Khin Si Si and officials, delegates of the state/division Peace and Development Councils. The academic, selection of trainees and management matters were discussed in the meeting. The meeting ended at 4 pm. — MNA

NC delegates visit Kyaikkhauk Pagoda, National Races Village

YANGON, 5 March — As it being a holiday, under the arrangement of Reception and Accommodation Subcommittee for Convening the National Convention, the delegates to the National Convention visited Sandawshin Kyaikkhauk Pagoda in Thanlyin Township and National Races Village in Thakayta Township this morning.

At Kyaiktyauk prayer hall of the pagoda, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Pagoda Cmdr Myat Soe (Navy) (Retd) explained the NC delegates about the history and salient points of the Pagoda.

The NC delegates donated K 77,260 for all-round renovation of the pagoda.

Afterwards, the NC delegates proceeded to the National Races Village and heard the explanation on the purpose of setting up the village.

Next, the NC delegates viewed around the houses of the national races in the village. — MNA

Medical Equipment donated

YANGON, 5 March — The fifth ceremony to donate medical equipment worth US $20,690 by the Rotary Club of Essendon, Australia, to Yangon Children’s Hospital was held at the Hospital this morning.

Well-wisher Mr Richard Lawrence explained the purpose of the donation and Medical Superintendent Associate Professor Dr U Chit Ko Tin accepted the donation. Next, the medical superintendent expressed thanks. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever battered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Medical Superintendent of Yangon Children’s Hospital Associate Professor Dr U Chit Ko Tin accepts medicines worth US $20,690 for the hospital donated by Mr Richard Lawrence of Rotary Club Essendon of Australia on Saturday. — NLM
Hun Sen stresses importance of health services

PHNOM PENH, 4 March — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Thursday stressed the importance of good health services for the country’s economic development and poverty reduction.

“Good health provision will positively contribute to economic development,” said the Premier at the closing ceremony of the 26th health conference.

He said that “such services are one of the determinants of labour productivity, investment and saving, and according to that each person can get access to education and knowledge for their livelihood”.

In recent years, Cambodia has succeeded in combating infectious diseases such as poliomyelitis, HIV and tuberculosis. HIV prevalence rate among adults has declined from 0.3 per cent in 1998 to 0.1 per cent in 2003. Polio has been eradicated since 1998. Leprosy no longer poses a public health threat to the people. Immunization coverage has increased from 67 per cent in 2003 to 80 per cent in 2004.

At the same time, measures to control the spread of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) and avian influenza have been actively carried out in close collaboration with relevant agencies and neighbouring countries.

Meanwhile, Hun Sen said that poverty reduction cannot be achieved only through economic growth, because the enhancement of social development is also one of the key factors promoting social equity which contributes to reducing social gap as well as building capacity and providing opportunity to people so that they can contribute effectively to national development.

“In this regard, to build a strong society, it requires people, who are knowledgeable and healthy...” he added.

The Premier said that “even though we have enough law in health sector to supervise the private sector, we have faced the issues of faked medicine, illegal medical practices and misleading medical advertisement”.

While demanding all physicians, pharmacists, and all health staffs to further promote professionalism and professional ethics, he urged the all relevant institutions to effectively enforce all valid rules and regulations and enhance the enforcement of laws and regulations.

MNA/Xinhua

China to build its first “Science City” in Hefei

HEFEI, 4 March — Hefei, capital of Central China’s Anhui Province, is dedicating itself to science. The city is actively seeking new technological industries and striving for efficient use of energy and raw materials, low pollution and high added value yields.

Authorized by the central government on December 11, 2004, the reform of the city will be guided by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the local government for the next five to 15 years.

“Our object is to build Hefei into a city boasting beautiful environment, advanced information sharing, a strong cultural atmosphere and scientific creativity capability that could attract scientific talent from around the world,” said Guo Wanqing, Mayor of Hefei.

The disconnection between scientific and technological research fruits and their industrialization has been a weakness for the development of China’s economy, said Guo.

“It is a great move for the Chinese Government to promote its innovation ability by building a city gathering scientific and technological research centres and high and new technological industries, just like the Silicon Valley of the US,” said Cheng Biding, an expert in regional development.

“The result for this successful reform of Hefei will be a good example for China to develop its regional innovation system,” said Chen Zhi, State Councillor in charge of the country’s science and technology affairs.

The first group of 25 projects were selected in 2004. With an estimated investment of 13.85 billion yuan (1.67 billion US dollars), those projects cover a variety of fields including scientific research, industrialization, education, commerce and infrastructure construction.

MNA/Xinhua

Germany to invite GCC leaders to discuss railway project

ARORAB, 4 March — Germany is to invite leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for a meeting in Berlin to discuss a railway network project linking the six GCC member states, the Gulf News daily reported Thursday.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, currently on an official visit to Bahrain, told a Press conference in Manama on Wednesday he had invited the Gulf leaders to Germany for talks on the project. The Press conference was held following talks between Schroeder and Bahrain King Hamad Bin Eisa Al Khalifa, according to the report.

Schroeder said the project was an important part of his one-day visit to Bahrain, noting Germany was able to provide the needed technology for the proposed project.

MNA/Xinhua

CPPCC Nat’l Committee members active in political affairs

BEIJING, 4 March — The members of China’s top advisory body, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, have been active in performing their duties and making proposals on state issues over the past year, the CPPCC National Committee Chairman Jia Qinglin said here on Thursday.

In his report on the work of the committee’s Standing Committee, delivered at the Third Session of the 10th CPPCC National Committee that opened here Thursday, Jia said that the National Committee received 4,478 proposals from its members and participating units over the past year, and transferred 4,263 of them to the relevant departments of the National People’s Congress, the top legislature, and the government.

The proposals on promoting the development of the non-state economic sector were taken by the central authorities and were absorbed in a major document of the State Council, or China’s Cabinet, issued recently for the development of the non-state economy, said Jia. The outcome of researches done by various special sub-committees for making China’s future development plans also became important reference of policy makers, Jia acknowledged.

Jia said the CPPCC has a regular channel to convey important opinions and suggestions to the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the State Council and relevant departments.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian hostage, released in Iraq, is shot by GIs

BAGHDAD, 5 March — American soldiers guarding a checkpoint here fired on Friday night on an approaching car carrying a kidnapped Italian journalist who had just been released, wounding the journalist and killing an Italian intelligence agent, according to American and Italian officials.

The Italian prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, said in Rome that the intelligence agent had been instrumental in negotiating the release of Giuliana Sgrena, the abducted journalist.

Two other intelligence agents in the car were wounded in the shooting, Mr Berlusconi said.

The military did not know that the hostage was in the car, a State Department official in Washington said. According to a statement released by the United States Army’s Third Infantry Division in Baghdad, the soldiers tried to warn the driver to stop before firing at the speeding vehicle’s engine block.

“About 9 pm, a patrol in western Baghdad observed the vehicle speeding towards their checkpoint and attempted to warn the driver to stop by hand-and-arm signals, flashing white lights, and firing warning shots in front of the car,” the statement said.

The circumstances of Ms Sgrena’s release remain murky, and Italian officials have shed no light on how, or from whom, she was released.

Mr Berlusconi said that American troops had taken Ms Sgrena to an American hospital to remove shrapnel from her left shoulder and that she had told an Italian government official on the telephone that “I am well.”

Internet
Philippine to start another round of tourism promotion campaigns

MANILA, 4 March — The Philippine Government is about to launch another round of tourism promotion campaigns by spending about 4.6 million US dollars to attract more foreign tourists, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said on Thursday.

The Philippines promotes its tourism sites to foreign tourists with the slogan “Wow Philippines: More Than Usual”, while trying to mobilize Filipinos to tour around their own country with the slogan “I Love Philippines, Biyah Na (go touring now)”.

Durano said they are targeting possible tourists from South Korea, China and North America, which include ethnic Filipinos.

He said the beautiful beaches of Boracay, Palawan, Bohol, and Cebu may be considered possible alternative vacation sites by foreign tourists.

The tourism department earlier expressed confidence that the travel advisories against the country due to the bombings will not adversely affect tourist arrivals.

The Department of Tourism posted a 24.3-percentage growth in visitors from 1 January to 31 October, 2004, compared with the same period the previous year.

The increase in tourist arrivals amounting to 1,861 million people during that period was mainly caused by an influx of travellers from neighbouring Asian countries including China with 100,000 arrivals.

Asian visitors altogether stood at 964,404 arrivals, accounting for 51.81 per cent of the total visitors to the Philippines last year.

Singapore to issue biometric passport by October

SINGAPORE, 4 March — Singapore will issue biometric passports to its citizens by October this year as one of the anti-terrorism measures, Minister for Home Affairs Wong Kan Seng said on Thursday.

According to Channel NewsAsia report on Thursday, one’s new passport number will be different from that for his identity card to avoid difficulties in tracing lost passports.

Wong said that the current passports will remain valid at the issuance of the biometric ones while the validity of passports will be shortened to five years from 10.

Other anti-terror measures include strengthening the recognition at the passport checkpoints for the clearance of motorists and enhancing cargo screening with radiographic equipment, Wong said.

A new police unit will be patrolling the subway trains and stations by the second half of this year and the Closed Circuit Television monitoring will be proposed at bus terminals and other places, he added.

US mily death toll in two-year-old Iraq war tops 1,500

WASHINGTON, 4 March — The US military death toll in the nearly two-year-old Iraq war topped 1,500 on Thursday, according to a count of casualty announcements made by the Pentagon.

The US military in Iraq announced the combat death of a soldier in Babil Province and two more in a roadside bomb attack in central Baghdad, bringing the toll to at least 1,502.

The number of deaths of American troops and US forces in Iraq increased this year.

In fact, the February US military death toll of 58 was the lowest monthly tally since July 2004, and followed a particularly bloody three-month period leading up to the elections. In November, the month that included the Fallujah offensive, 137 Americans were killed.

Another 72 died in December, and January’s toll reached 107.

The war began in March 2003 with a US-led invasion to topple President Saddam Hussein, with President George W Bush citing Saddam’s stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction as a primary justification.

No such stockpiles have been found, and the United States called off the search for them in December.

The United States has about 150,000 troops in Iraq. The count of more than 1,500 deaths includes Americans killed in combat and in non-combat circumstances such as vehicle and aircraft accidents.

Huang disclosed that China’s first and only spacefaring astronaut Yang Liwei was also among the trainees. The 40-year-old Yang, a former fighter jet pilot of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army Air Force, piloted the Shenzhou-5 spacecraft and was crowned a “space hero” upon his safe return.

According to Huang, two new technologies were applied in the design of the Shenzhou-6’s launch vehicle. One is a video transmission system which enables the ground controllers to monitor the separation of the rocket and the spacecraft, and the other is a better escape system for the pilots in case of emergen- cies. He also acknowledged that the return capsule of the Shenzhou-6, which was designed to accommodate three astronauts, would be quite “spacious” for two men.

According to schedule, the two astronauts on the mission will enter the orbit capsule of the space- craft to “conduct some scientific experiments” during the spaceflight, but there is no plan to engage them in any activities out of the spacecraft such as space walk, Huang said.

A Chinese military brass band member plays during the opening of the National People’s Congress in Beijing on 5 March, 2005. —INTERNET
Shaolin kung fu to apply for World’s Intangible Heritage

ZHENGZHOU, 4 March — Preparations have begun for Shaolin kung fu’s application to be placed on the World Intangible Heritage list, a cultural official of central China’s Henan Province said on Thursday.

An official with the Henan Provincial Cultural Bureau said that the listing application has to be approved by the Chinese Ministry of Culture before a final submission is presented to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

ShaoLin Temple, built in 495 in the period of the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420-581) and located in the Songshan Mountain area in Henan Province, is the birthplace of the Shaolin kung fu.

The ancient Shaolin transcripts documented 708 groups of “kung fu,” 545 groups have survived.

Shi Yongxin, abbot of the Shaolin Temple, said that Shaolin kung fu basically serves religious and cultural purposes and should not be separated from Buddhism.

Shi said Shaolin Temple values the study of the religious and cultural functions of Shaolin kung fu. The temple has set up a team of monks to practise Shaolin kung fu, a library for displaying books and audio-visual products about Shaolin kung fu, an academy for studying Shaolin culture, which consists of Zen of the Chinese Buddhism, martial arts, medical sciences and arts.

The temple even organized international seminars and created Shaolin kung fu plays and cartoons to more clearly position “Shaolin kung fu” within the Buddhist framework and publicize Shaolin kung fu around the globe.

Wang Wenzhang, director of the China Arts Institute, said Shaolin culture incorporating Zen, martial arts, medical sciences and arts is a gem of the traditional Chinese culture and should be well protected and further popularized.

Belarus shows interest in development of west, N-E China

BEIJING, 4 March — Visiting Foreign Minister of Belarus Sergei Martynov said here on Thursday that Belarús will make efforts to promote economic cooperation with China and actively participate the development of west and northeast China.

“This is an effective way to deepen the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries,” he told reporters.

The northeastern part of China, including Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces, used to be a heavy industries base of China. They and the western provinces lag behind of the eastern part of China in terms of economic development since the country’s reform and opening-up drive.

Martynov said the China-Belarus relations were based on mutual trust, friendship and cooperation. China is the most important political and trade partner of Belarus in Asia. The two countries enjoy fruitful cooperation in such fields as trade, technology and culture.

Martynov stressed Belarus wants to further enlarging economic and trade cooperation with China by increasing variety of goods and strengthening reciprocal investment. Sales and service network for heavy industrial products such as agricultural machines and machine tools is under planning to be set up in west and northeast China.

According to the Chinese General Administration of Customs, the trade volume between China and Belarus in 2004 reached 218.9 million US dollars, up 69.8 per cent over 2003. China’s export volume to Belarus was 64.97 million US dollars and the import volume was 153.9 million US dollars.

Botswana to have more diamond revenue

JOHANNESBURG, 4 March — Botswana, the largest diamond producer in the world, claimed on Wednesday that it will increase its diamond revenues by 500 million pula (about 100 million US dollars) a year for the next 25 years.

Mogo Moshashane, deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Minerals, said in Gaborone: “This is a result of increased revenues which will accrue from the new diamond mine leases.”

De Beer, which is a 50/50 partner with the Botswana Government in Debswana, the company which mines the diamonds, was from August last year granted new 25-year leases on the four Botswana diamond mines it operates.

Speaking a week ago in a parliamentary debate, Minister of Mines Charles Tbone said the new sorting and marketing arm of Debswana announced in the February Budget, DTC (Diamond Trading Company) Botswana, would also be a 50/50 partnership between De Beer and the government.

“It is through this company that it is hoped to promote the local beneficiation (cutting, polishing and jewellery manufacture) of our diamonds,” Tbone told Parliament.

East Africa’s oil investment exceeds $100m in past two years

KAMPALA, 4 March — Petroleum investments in East Africa have exceeded 100 million US dollars in the last two years, local Press reported on Thursday.

A statement released by the recent Fifth East African Petroleum Conference said commitments for continued investment in new licensed areas have been obtained.

About 31 million dollars was spent in Uganda on activities like acquiring data about land and lakes and drilling wells in the Albertine Graben, while 10 million dollars was invested in Kenya and about 60 million dollars in Tanzania, according to the statement.

Due to growing interest in the region, the three East African states are carrying out a project to have harmonized policy, legal and fiscal regimes to regulate petroleum exploration, development and production.

Two car bombs explode in Baghdad killing at least five

BAGHDAD, 4 March — Two car bombs exploded near Iraq’s Interior Ministry in Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least five policemen, a police source said. The attacks took place at a police checkpoint just outside the ministry, the source said. At least five policemen were wounded.

Guerrillas waging a violent campaign to topple Iraq’s US-backed interim government have killed hundreds of police and security forces with suicide and car bombs. Iraq’s post-election government, which is expected to be formed in the next few weeks, faces the daunting task of imposing security in a country where bombings, shootings and kidnappings have become part of daily life.

1,507 US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 5 March — As of Friday, 4 March, 2005, at least 1,507 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 1,142 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians. The AP count is twelve higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, five; 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, 1,369 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,033 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

Zarqawi group claims responsibility for suicide bombing in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 March — Al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi’s group claimed responsibility Wednesday for a suicide car bombing that killed at least six people outside an Army base in western Baghdad, an Internet statement said.

At least seven people were killed and over 20 others wounded when a car blew up Wednesday outside an Army base in the western part of the Iraqi capital. The blast targeted people who were lining up for Army recruits, witnesses said.

The same base, which was a disputed airport, was hit a few hours later in a mortar attack that killed one soldier and wounded nine others.

The Jordanian militant Zarqawi has operated scores of deadly attacks in Iraq, including a powerful car bombing Monday that killed 118 people and wounded more than 200 others in the town of Hillah, south of Baghdad.

Chinese shoppers walk past a branch of an Amway store in Yichang, central China’s Hubei Province on 3 March, 2005. — INTERNET

Dinosaur robots walk during a press preview in Tokyo on 4 March, 2005. The Parasaurolophus(foreground) and tyranosaurus(rear) can walk at the speed of one kilometer per hour. — INTERNET

Two car bombs explode in Baghdad killing at least five
The National Convention resumed at Pyidaungsu Hall of the Nyaungmyaungnep in Hmuawby Town, Yangon Division, on 17 February 2005, with a speech by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace Convening Commission.

The NCC chairman in his address said that Our Three Main National Causes are the three points key to the flourishing of a genuine multi-party democracy. Democratic order, discipline and stability are the disciplined human society where peace and stability prevail with the rule of law. Democracy cannot thrive in a country where insurgency erupts at the collapse of the State's seven-point Road Map meet its successful completion. This will flourish democracy.

Discipline takes lessons from the bitter events of the history. The People of the nation, so it was brought to an end. The Tatmadaw Government's role and to mislead the nation, this objective is embodied in order that the nation will be able to avoid the situations that had never been able to do so. It was the national people to be always vigilant against the destructive fabrications of the destructive elements, in case they may fall into the hands of the destructive elements.

Hein Myint

Diplomats and local and foreign correspondents attended the opening ceremony of the plenary session. The Secretary-General replied to the questions raised by local and foreign correspondents. On the same day evening, Secretary-1 of the NCC Minister for Information Brag-Gen Kyaw Hsan handed a dinner to the correspondents of the foreign news agencies who covered the opening ceremony. He reflected the honesty and transparency in the National Convention.

In respect of the resuming of the National Convention, the Secretary-General replied to the questions raised by local and foreign correspondents.

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Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than oversees... (from page 16)

Lt-Col Tun Aye submitted reports on cultivation of 58,565 acres of summer paddy against the target of 72,362 acres and supply of water from North Nawin Dam, South Nawin Dam and other irrigation facilities. Brig-Gen Hla Min and Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave supplementary reports.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions and cordially greeted the local farmers.

On arrival at Shwedaung, they met with departmental officials, members of USDA and social organizations and local people at the office of Township Peace and Development Council.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered an address, saying that prevalence of law and order for peace and tranquility, strengthening of economy and human resource development play important roles for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Nowadays, departmental personnel should cooperate with local people to safeguard the flourishing of peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order which the State have been achieved. The development of the rural area which is home to majority of the population can reflect improvement of the nation. Therefore, the Government has laid down and is implementing the five rural development tasks. The State economy is based on agriculture and livestock breeding sectors. Thus, as the agriculture and livestock breeding are the main businesses of the rural area, extension tasks of these sectors can benefit the increase of per capita income of the rural people and strengthening of the State economy.

Therefore, he asserted that it is necessary to extend cultivation of suitable crops for the regions out of 10 main crops, three items of perennial crops and three new items of crops laid down by the State. So, efforts are to be made for cultivation of monsoon paddy meeting the target of 3 million acres in Bago Division including Shwedaung Township.

Next, he added his speech on extended farming of livestock breeding and uplift of the education sector in the region.

Shwedaung Township has put 2,824 acres of summer paddy against the target of 2,850 acres of land under summer paddy in 2004-2005.

In Paungde Township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on growing of summer paddy and irrigation facilities by officials.

They arrived at Thonze Dam Project in Thayawady Township and inspected dredging of the right channel of the dam. At the 108 feet long, 150 feet wide and 27 feet high Thonze Diversion Weir, Deputy Director U Kyaw Min Hlaing of Irrigation Department reported on salient points of the dam and its functions. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander inspected test-flow of water into the left channel from Thonze Diversion Weir. The left channel is 32,800 feet long and 30 feet deep and the right one is 12,900 feet long.

Construction tasks of Thonze Dam project started on 15 December 2001. The dam, conduit and spillway were completed and the dam was inaugurated on 26 January 2002. On completion of the irrigation system, it will benefit 50,000 acres of farmland.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived back in the evening. — MNA

Yangon, 5 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials of the SPDC Office, visited Myeik by air on 3 March afternoon to study the development of Myeik and its environs.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party were welcomed at Myeik Airport by Tannay Thi Division PDC Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and departmental heads.

On 4 March, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party attended a ceremony to broadcast fertilizers for cultivation of summer paddy and cordially met with farmers. At the ceremony, Tannay Thi Division Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service Manager U Tin Maung Myint reported on cultivation of summer monsoon paddy and spreading of fertilizers in Toneyawgyi village; General Manager of MAS (Head Office) U San Nyunt on boosting of per acre yield, systematic cultivation and combined use of fertilizers and natural fertilizers; and Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint gave a supplementary report.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo delivered a speech and fulfilled the requirements of local farmers regarding the cultivation of summer paddy and development work. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected arrangements for irrigation of 222 acres plantations of 46 farmers in Toneyawgyi village and broadcast casting of fertilizers and cordially met local peasants.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected arrangements for construction of pipe culvert and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to Kyaukphyu village in Myeik. At a briefing hall, Superintendent Engineering U Ba Wan of Public Works and Director of Division Development Affairs Department U Tin Aung reported on tasks being carried out for development of Myeik and its environs.

Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint gave a supplementary report.

On arrival at the site for construction of Payitaung rural bridge, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard a report by officials on construction of the bridge that is 100 feet long and 16 feet wide and stockpiling of building materials.

After giving instructions on construction of the bridge meeting the set standard, maintenance of roads and bridges in the region and coordinated efforts for regional development.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party visited Mahak Johnny Pagoda on Sanda Wadi Hill in Myeik where they were welcomed by Deputy Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Hone Ngai, Brig-Gen Zin Zaw of Myeik Station and officials. He then met officials and discussed matters related to holding of the Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony of the pagoda. Brig-Gen Zin Aung reported on preparations for the ceremony and progress in construction of the pagoda.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party paid homage to the pagoda and looked into the construction of religious buildings at the pagoda.

After that, they inspected construction of circular road-2 in Myeik which will be about 5 miles long and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

Yangon, 5 March — A ceremony to honour selected Myanmar sepak takraw team which participated in the World Series International Sepak Takraw Championship-2005 in Yangon was held at Panda Hotel on Wadan Street in Lanmadaw Township yesterday evening.

Present were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chairman of the Central Committee of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye, the President of Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation and officials.

Olympic Committee President of Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation U Chit Khaing reported on preparations for achieving success of the selected Myanmar sepak takraw team.

Next, the minister presented prizes to the winners of selected Myanmar team. On behalf of the winners, Thein Zaw Min expressed gratitude. — MNA
main text
To this, I would like to reply that multi-party system will be in practice when the constitution is completed. The parties concerned will have the right to set up peasant organizations in accord with the laws related to the formation of associations and organizations. This being the case, it will not be necessary to include this matter in the Union Legislative List as no separate law needs enacting.

The delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia suggested that the Union Legislative List contain the laws enforcing the construction of any factories with treatment plants, and the laws enforcing the construction of a combined major treatment plant by technicians for the entire industrial zone to ensure public safety.

The group also proposed another five points to be included in the Union Legislative List. They are:
1. protection of clean environment,
2. health insurance,
3. birth and death registration,
4. Occupational health and safety,
5. prevention of natural and man-made disasters.

The group also suggested in connection with the social sector that the birth and death registration be included in the Union Legislative List rather than in the Region or State Legislative List. The matter related to the birth and death registration is the thing that the State has to carry out. Therefore, this matter should be included in the Union Legislative List.

To this, I would like to reply that the matter of treatment plants is mainly aimed at deterrence to air and water pollution. The other words, they are matters related to environmental protection and conservation, which have been mentioned in the energy, electricity, mining, and forestry sectors. In like manner, the above-mentioned explanation covers the proposal for the protection of clean environment.

The proposal for health insurance has been covered in the term ‘national health’ in the social sector; the proposal for occupational health and safety, in the term ‘working hours, breaks, holidays and occupational safety’; and the proposal for prevention of natural and man-made disasters, in the term ‘relief and resettlement’. Laws can be enacted in connection with these matters when necessary. It will therefore not be necessary to include them as separate matters.

The group said of media encompassing newspapers, journals, periodicals, magazines, telecasting and broadcasting. In its separate suggestion on media, it said that apart from periodicals, magazines and broadcasting media plays a vital role in the establishment of a discipline-flourishing democracy. By that time, there will emerge NGO- and private-owned media sooner or later. Permission will be granted to the media that keep their dignity. And action will be taken against those that breach the rules. Therefore, it is necessary, the group suggested, to enact necessary laws in connection with media.

To this, I would like to reply that these suggestions will be placed on record for the enactment of relevant laws in future.

Moreover, the proposal that the birth and death registration be included in the Union Legislative List rather than in the Region or State Legislative List is proper and consistent with the basic principle already laid down. Therefore, this matter deserves deep consideration.

The delegate group of national races, in its suggestion, said that the country might be faced with natural disasters such as fire, flood, strong wind, earthquake and epidemics, each of which could cause huge loss of life. Under such circumstances, preventive measures are to be taken collectively region-wise. This being the case, the group suggested, the point “fire prevention and natural disaster preparedness” should be replaced with the term “fire prevention and natural disaster preparedness”.

In like manner, the delegate group of other invited persons made a similar proposal “fire brigade, fire outbreak, and disaster preparedness”. Regarding this proposal, the term “firebrigade” has been mentioned in the Union Legislative List. The proposal “fire prevention and natural disaster preparedness” is proper and consistent with the basic principle already laid down. Therefore, it deserves deep consideration.

The delegate group of State service personnel, in its separate suggestions, said that the role of machine operators is very important in industry. Therefore, Occupational Safety Act and Occupational Hazard Act came into force to protect the workers. For the sake of uniformity and equality, these matters should be included in the Union Legislative List so that laws can be enacted when necessary.

The group suggested the Point 15 “working hours, breaks, holidays” and the term “working hours, breaks, holidays, and occupational safety”.

The delegate group of State service personnel suggested the substitution of Point 19 “the matters managed by the Pyidaungsu concerning ancient cultural or historical regions, edifices, monuments, records, stone inscriptions, inanimate objects and archaeological undertakings” with the term “the matters managed by the Pyidaungsu concerning ancient cultural or historical regions, edifices, monuments, records, stone inscriptions, inanimate objects and archaeological undertakings”.

The suggestions are thus, consistent and consistent with the basic principle already laid down. Therefore, they deserve deep consideration.

The Work Committee coordinated with the members of the panel of chairmen in connection with the replacement of words as suggested by delegates to the National Convention. The latter sought the consent from their respective delegate groups through discussions and gave a written feedback on the issue to the former. It is found that most of the delegate groups suggested the adoption of the term “working hours, breaks, holidays, and occupational safety” as Point 15 in the social sector of the Union Legislative List; the term “ancient cultural or historical regions, edifices, monuments, records, stone inscriptions, inanimate objects and archaeological undertakings” as Point 19 (a); the term “birth and death registration” from Point 2 to the Region or State Legislative List; and the term “fire prevention and natural disaster preparedness” as Point 3 in the Region or State Legislative List.

The representatives of political parties which are members of the delegate group of representatives-elect submitted the same opinion 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 clarification 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 social sector to be embodied in the Union Legislative List as regards the sharing of legislative power:

1. Curricula, syllabus, teaching methods, research, and projects and programmes;
2. Courses of universities, colleges and institutes and other higher education organizations;
3. Examinations designated by the Union;
4. Private schools and courses;
5. National sports;
6. National health;
7. Development of traditional medical science and medicines;
8. Free hospitals and dispensaries and private hospitals and clinics;
9. Maternal and child welfare;
10. Red Cross society;
11. Counterfeiting of food, medicines, medical equipment and cosmetics and mixing them with other ingredients;
12. Caring children, youths, women, the disabled, the aged and homeless;
13. Relief and rehabilitation;
14. Fire Brigade;
15. Working hours, breaks, and holidays;
16. Labour disputes;
17. Labour organizations;
18. Labour organizations;
19. The matters managed by the Pyidaungsu concerning (a) ancient cultural or historical regions, edifices, monuments, records, stone inscriptions, inanimate objects and archaeological undertakings (See page 11);
20. Literature, theatrical art, music, traditional arts and crafts, movies and videos; and

(See page 11)
1. Administration of justice
2. Lawyers
3. Penal laws and procedures
4. Civil laws, contract, arbitration, civil wrong, insolvency, Trust and people who can administer because of the trust, administrator and keeper, guardians and wards, transfer of property and inheritance
5. Evidence Act
6. Limitation
7. Valuation of suit
8. Specific relief
9. Foreign jurisdiction
10. Admiralty jurisdiction
11. Piracy at sea, and crimes committed on land or in the international waters or in space in violation of the international laws.

The delegate groups that gave suggestions were:
- the delegate group of national races
- the delegate group of peasants
- the delegate group of workers
- the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia
- the delegate group of State service personnel, and
- the delegate group of political parties, which constitute:
  - National Unity Party
  - Union PaO National Organization
  - Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization
  - Lahu National Development Party
  - Union Kayin League
  - Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, and
  - Wa National Development Party.

I will continue to present separate proposals submitted by the delegate groups to the National Convention.

Dr. Hanh Huynh, the independent representative from the constituency of Thantlaw town in Chin State and U Aung Thein, the independent representative-elect from the constituency of Wyangun town in Shan State, in their suggestion, said that the people living in regions of states should be allowed to continue the amicable settlement through customary practices which is not contrary to Union Law.

U Tn Kyaw, the independent representative-elect from Nambasboup town, and the delegate group of other invited persons proposed a motion similar to the one mentioned above.

To this, I would like to reply that no separate law needs enacting since national races have been following the amicable settlement through customary practices of their own in their regions or states. They can do so in cases except those prohibited by law.

The delegate group of other invited persons suggested the replacement of the term “piracy at sea and crimes committed on land or in the international waters or in space in violation of the international laws” with the term “crimes committed in international waters in the territorial waters, land, and space of Myanmar”.

To this, I would like to reply that our courts have the rights to open the trials in connection with the cases that occurred on our territory. It will be found that the proposed term lacks deep definition. It will imply as if crimes committed in international space and crimes committed in violation of the international laws were not included. Having been used in 1947 Constitution, and being the common practice in the international community, the usage of former term will be more complete in definition.

The representatives of political parties which are members of the delegate group of representatives-elect submitted the same opinion as their respective parties.

The independent representatives-elect of the same delegate group proposed separate motions in connection with the clarification of different basic principles. Dr Tin Aung, the independent representative-elect, submitted 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 legislative power to leading committees of the self-administered division or zone as regards the sharing of legislative power in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies.

At the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention on 21 May 2004, the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee coordinated with the delegate groups to the National Convention held discussions and gave suggestions to adopt the following points as detailed basic principles that should be embodied in the legislative power to leading committees of self-administered areas. They are:

(a) Town and village plan,
(b) Construction, repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and border transit, given the special condition of border trade and border transit have been mentioned as detailed principles in the foreign law.
(c) Public health,
(d) Development affairs,
(e) Fire prevention,
(f) Pasture,
(g) Forest protection and conservation,
(h) Environmental conservation in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu.

Moreover, the following points, the group added, are necessary to mention it separately.

The suggestion in connection with the replacement of the Point (b) “building, repair and maintenance of roads” with the term “construction, repair and maintenance of roads and bridges” is proper. But, it is necessary to mention it separately. Therefore, the usage of the term “construction, repair and maintenance of roads and bridges” is proper and worth deep consideration.

As suggested by the delegate group of State service personnel, consideration should be taken into the replacement of the term “environmental conservation” with the term “environmental conservation in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu”.

In connection with these suggestions, the National Convention Convening Work Committee coordinated with the members of the panel of chairmen, who held discussions with their respective delegate groups to the National Convention. After that, the panel of chairmen gave their written feedback to the Work Committee.

Most of the delegate groups to the National Convention agreed to the terms “construction, repair and maintenance of roads and bridges” and “environmental conservation in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu”.

The representatives of political parties which are members of the delegate group of representatives-elect submitted the same opinion 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, the following points are adopted as detailed basic principles for the legislative power to leading committees of the self-administered division or zone as regards the sharing of legislative power:

(a) Town and village plan,
(b) Construction, repair and maintenance of roads and bridges,
(c) Public health,
(d) Development affairs,
(e) Fire prevention,
(f) Pasture,
(g) Forest protection and conservation,
(h) Environmental conservation in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu.

Moreover, the following points, the group added, should be changed in terminology:

(a) “construction, repair and maintenance of roads and bridges” instead of “construction, repair and maintenance of roads and bridges” in the “environmental conservation in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu”.

See page 11
Aung Thein of Wangan Township constituency in Shan State said that as the town is being modernized and developed, population, businesses and industries are greater in number than they were before. Population grows as a consequence of increasing economic undertakings and industries and a large number of people moving to urban areas for employment. There are house rent and land rent in the urban area on account of growing demand for accommodations, undertaking of businesses and construction of factories and workshops. Only when the measures are taken for such matters on a national scale in harmony will there be equality and uniformity. Therefore, it should be included in the list of Union Legislation to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with “house rent and land rent”. Moreover, specific rights concerning the issue should be enacted in the states in accord with time and situation without going against the Union law.

They continued to say, citizenry of all free countries are granted the rights to form and join associations and organizations. When it comes to forming associations and organizations, there will be a diversity of groupings for religion, social affairs, labour, arts, sports, etc. Similarly, there will also be associations concerning the professions, such as medical associations, engineering societies, lawyers associations and so on. In this connection, the State is to see that they do not harm the public safety and tranquility nor smear the public morale. There should be common practice and uniformity on a national scale. But the authority to permit formation of some of the associations and organizations should be entrusted in the regions and states without opposing the Union law.

Concerning the suggestion, I would like to explain that the distributing authority concerning “house rent and land rent” and “formation of associations and organizations” without opposing the Union law amounts to the sharing of the management authority. When the Union is in the process of running its machinery and enacting laws, the management authority will be distributed to the different levels of regional authorities. The suggestion will be put on record for consideration in enacting necessary laws in the future.

Independent representatives-elect U Tin Win of Kaykalp Township constituency-2, U Thine Kyi of Taunggyiwinj Township constituency-1, U Hla Soe of Mibun Township constituency-2, U Mya Hlaing of Twantay Township constituency-2, U Kyi Win of Mingladon Township constituency-1 and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingladon Township constituency-2 said that as the legislative power concerning the management of urban areas is delegated to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, management of rural areas should be entrusted in the regions and states as they can know their own objective conditions best.

In connection with the matter, I would like to explain that the legislative power concerning the management of urban and village areas is delegated to the Union to enact laws covering the entire nation. But the Union will delegate the authority to manage villages and towns as their respective parties.

Independent representatives-elect of the group also discussed in support of the clarification made by the Work Committee Chairman.

In accord with the suggestions of most of the delegate groups, the matter concerning “Legislative power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative list of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies.” is laid down as a detailed basic principle.

On behalf of the Chairman of the Work Committee, Secretary of the Work Committee U Thaung Hlaing Nyunt presented the draft basic principles for Union territories, the effect of the laws enacted by different levels of the Hluttaw and the self-administered area leading bodies and formation of Financial Commission, and Taxation and funds allotment among the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Regions and States, U Tin Aye on the formation of Financial Commission, and Taxation and funds allotment among the Pyidaungsu and Regions or States, and Chairman of the National Convention Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Vice-Chairman U Aye Maung on detailed basic principles. Their presentations will be reported in the newspapers to be issued tomorrow.

Dinner hosted to trainees of UDNR

YANGON, 5 March — Vice-Chairman of the Council of University for Development of National Races and Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Board Dr Tha Than Nyun hosted a dinner to the trainees of the 14th Convocation, Diploma in Educa-
tion Course No 3 and JAT Training Course No 14 before holding their convocation, at the square of the university on 3 March evening.

Also present at the dinner were Chairman of the University Council Chairman of Sagraing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye. Council Member CSSTB U Tin Win, Director-General U Hla Kyi of Civil Service Selection and Training Department, Rector Col Zaw Min Thein and wife, council members, representatives of State and Division Peace and Development Councils, Pro-Rector (Admin) Li-Col Nyein, Pro-Rector (Academic) Daw Khin Si Si and officials.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and CSSTB Chairman Dr Tha Than Nyun cordially greeted the trainees. Later, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Dr Tha Than Nyun gave the flower basket and cash awards to them.
Poverty, hunger, homelessness haunt US

BEIJING, 4 March — Poverty, hunger and homelessness have been haunting the United States, the world’s richest country, according to the Human Rights Record of the United States in 2004.

The report, released by the Human Rights Office of China’s State Council on Thursday, said the United States refuses to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and took negative attitude to the economic, social and cultural rights of the labourers.

According to the statistics released by the US Census Bureau in 2004, the number of Americans in poverty has been climbing for three years. In 2003, an average of 35.9 million people were living below the poverty line.

The Chinese government said the average income of most American families has been on the decline.

The earning of many medium- and low-income families could not keep up with the price rises. The government said the health insurance crisis has become prominent, the report said.

Many families could not afford the health insurance. Fewer workers have coverage — 61 per cent in 2004, compared with 65 per cent in 2001, it said.

An official of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development said they found the problems of the homeless population in the country continues to rise nationwide.

The number of people seeking emergency food aid increased by 14 per cent year-on-year while the number of people seeking emergency shelter aid increased by 6 per cent, as an annual survey released at the US Conference of Mayors showed.

But the US Federal budget has stopped providing fund to build new affordable housing, which forced many local governments to cut the public housing projects, it said.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission said speculators, including investment funds, last week had their biggest bet on higher oil prices in eight months.

ARIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV “MAWLAMYINE” VOY NO. ML117/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “MAWLAMYINE” Voy No. ML117/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 6-3-2005 and will be berthing on about 7-3-2005 and cargos will be discharged in the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge or cargos from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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The New Light of Myanmar   Sunday, 6 March, 2005

Crude oil futures jump above $53 a barrel

NEW YORK, 4 March — Crude oil prices ended above 53 dollars a barrel on Wednesday after a US Government report showed a drop in heating fuel stockpiles.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, oil futures for April delivery rose 1.37 dollars to end at 53.05 dollars per barrel.

On London’s International Petroleum Exchange, the April Brent crude-oil futures contract climbed 1.11 dollars to settle at 51.22 dollars a barrel.

On Wednesday, a US Government report showed that inventories of distillate fuel, a category that include heating oil and diesel, fell 1.7 million barrels to 110 million. Analysts had expected a 1.2-million-barrel decline.

While crude oil supply grew, analysts said, concerns about a tight supply and demand balance in the global oil market continued to support high prices.

The entrance of hedge funds also gave an upward pressure on prices.
A model wears tear-like jewels as part of Zucca’s Fall-Winter 2005-2006 ready-to-wear fashion collection, presented in Paris on 3 March, 2005.--INTERNET

**Three killed in Moscow shootout**

*Moscow, 4 March — Three people were killed and another was injured in a shootout in southwestern Moscow on Thursday, a law-enforcement official said.*

Unidentified gunmen opened fire from a Zhiguli car against four men in another car at about 2:00 p.m. Moscow Time (1000 GMT) in the street, killing three and escaping on the spot. The injured one escaped from the scene in the car and was sent to hospital, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. The attackers fled from the scene after the shooting and police are hunting for them. — MNA/Xinhua

**US court sentences man to prison for shooting at sea lions**

*Los Angeles, 4 March — A US court on Thursday sentenced a charter boat captain who used a rifle to shoot at sea lions last fall to federal prison for two months.*

John Woodrum, a 38-year-old California resident, was also ordered to pay a $5,000 US-dollar fine and perform 250 hours of community service at a marine mammal rescue centre in San Pedro, a town near Los Angeles. Woodrum pleaded guilty in January to a pair of misdemeanor counts of attempting to kill a marine mammal — a violation of the US Marine Mammal Protection Act. In his plea deal with US prosecutors, he agreed to serve the two months in jail. The case, which began when passengers on board the charter vessel Paraguay told authorities they saw Woodrum firing a rifle at the animals on an October 13 fishing trip. The passengers said they saw five sea lions struck by bullets, and that three appeared to be dead. In November, agents from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the US Fish and Wildlife Service went undercover on one of Woodrum’s fishing trips, during which they saw him firing a rifle at sea lions, according to prosecutors. He was arrested as the boat returned to San Pedro. — MNA/Xinhua

**Astronomers discover smallest star in Chile**

*SANTIAGO, 4 March — An international team of astronomers in Paranal Observatory of Chile announced on Thursday the discovery of the smallest star ever known in the world.*

The star, christened OGLE-TR-122b, weighs 95 times more than Jupiter but is only 16 per cent as large, said the European Southern Observatory (ESO), which is in charge of the Paranal Observatory in Atacama Desert, north Chile. "Imagine you add 95 times Jupiter's mass and in spite of this you end up with a star that only is slightly as large," said Claudio Melo, a Chilean astronomer participating in the team. "The body of the star gets contracted in order to give further room to additional matter, thus becoming more dense," Melo said. The star has an incan- descence core and releases its own shine and is in the direction of the Can- rina constellation in the Milky Way. It orbits around another star similar to the Sun, and takes one week to complete its revolution, the ESO said. This is the first time that a direct observation shows there exist stars that, with less than 10 per cent of the mass of the Sun, have similar size to giant planets like Jupiter. "The results show the existence of stars that look strikingly like plan-ets," said astronomer Frederic Pont, from Swit- zerland.

The discovery helps astronomers better under- stand a gray area of definition concerning stars and planets. The observations were made a year ago, in March 2004, through Kueyen Telescope, one of the four 8.2-metre tel- escopes in Paranal. — MNA/Xinhua

**Singapore reiterates one-China policy**

*SINGAPORE, 5 March — Singapore sticks to its one-China policy and has no official relations with Taiwan, said Foreign Minister George Yeo on Friday.*

Speaking to the Parliament, Yeo said that the bilateral relations between Singapore and China are back on track after the setback last year. "We now have a bet- ter understanding of each other’s core interests and this has laid a strong foun- dation for building an even stronger relationship in the future," Yeo said.

The economic rela- tions between the two countries continued to grow in 2004 as the bilat- eral trade volume hit $3 billion Singapore dollars (about 32 billion US dol- lars). He explained the key elements in Singapore’s foreign policy including working with its neigh- bours to integrate ASEAN (Association of South- East Asian Nations), strengthening its ties with the advanced economies such as the United States, Japan and Europe. — MNA/Xinhua

**Dutch tsunami aid reaches 183 million euros**

*BRUSSELS, 4 March — An umbrella group of aid organizations in the Netherlands has raised 183 million euros (240 million US dollars) through a national campaign to help the victims of December’s tsunami in Asia.*

Radio Netherlands re- ported on Wednesday that the total does not include the 5 million euros (6.55 million dollars) contrib- uted by the Ministry of Development Coopera- tion. In addition, the cam- paign remains active and is still getting donations. The money promised so far is being spent on emergency aid. From now on, however, the aid or- ganizations will concen- trate on reconstruction, said the radio. — MNA/Xinhua

**Five Central American nations vow create joint “rapid force”**

*TEGUCIGALPA (Honduras), 4 March — Five Central American nations vowed on Thursday to create a joint “rapid force” to confront terrorist threats, drug traffickers and violent youth gangs.*

The group will include 4 criminal ministers in the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa. "We agreed to form this ‘rapid force’ to con- front narcoterrorism and other emerging threats, like the youth gangs that operate in almost all the countries of the region, including Mexico," Hon- duran Defence Minister Federico Breve told Reuters. "The idea is to have a rapid force in each coun- try, but one which can re- act together in the event of regional situations," Breve said. US security officials are concerned terrorists could try to cut deals with the drug traffickers or street gangs that operate in Central America as part of a planned attack on the United States. Colombian cocaine heading for the United States is often routed through Central America. — MNA/Reuters

Japan’s electronics giant Mitsubishi Electric researcher Yasuko Suzuki poses in front of a 3-meter diameter hemisphere-screen display system that provides a new way to view 3D-CG images at the company’s laboratory in Kamakura, suburban Tokyo on 3 March 2005. —INTERNET
RBC Roosendaal pick up 1-0 home win over NEC Nijmegen

AMSTERDAM, 5 March—RBC Roosendaal picked up a vital 1-0 home win over NEC Nijmegen on Friday to stay in touch with the pack hovering over the bottom of the Dutch First Division.

Tim Smolders got the only goal after 52 minutes to move 17th-placed RBC eight points clear of bottom side Den Bosch in the 18-team league. The last-placed finisher is automatically relegated while the next two enter a playoff competition with six Second Division teams.

Leaders PSV Eindhoven will travel Groningen on Sunday when third-placed Ajax Amsterdam will host second-placed AZ Alkmaar.

Saturday's scheduled game between Ado Den Haag and Heerenveen has been postponed due to a frozen, snow covered pitch.

Den Haag are one of the few First Division sides without the league's obligatory pitch heating system but have been granted dispensation because they are building a new stadium.

MNA/Reuters

Ferguson tips Rooney, Ronaldo into world top players

MANCHESTER (England), 5 March—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson believes Wayne Rooney and Cristiano Ronaldo are poised to become the best players in the world.

Rooney, 18, has scored 15 times in his first season at Old Trafford while Portugal international winger, 28, has been outstanding in the Premier League and Champions League.

"They are both fantastic," Ferguson told a news conference on Friday. "We are very fortunate to have two young players who I think in the next few years will be world-class players.

"I think those two will be the best players in the world, probably with Ronaldo in Barcelona."

Leon (L) of Brazilian team Santos FC celebrates with teammate Robinho after scoring his team's first goal during a South American Libertadores Cup match between Uruguay club Danubio in their first round Copa Libertadores match in Santos, on 3 March, 2005...INTERNET

Ignacio Gonzalez gave Danubio the lead after just 20 seconds, setting the tone for an unpredictable see-saw encounter, said Davenport.

Leo and Robinho put Santos on top, but Jadson Viera equalized with four minutes remaining to set up the dramatic finale.

An air of anxiety hung over Santos, who lost to Bolivar in their opening Group Two game, and nerves were jangling when Gonzalez cheated down to score his early goal.

Luckily for Santos, Robinho had shaken off his injury worries and his penetrating runs down the left wing soon had the Danubio defenders back-peddling.

The talented 20-year-old came close to scoring, but was not involved in the move that led to Leo's 37th-minute headed equalizer.

Robinho settled Santos' nerves on 71 minutes, pulling down a high ball and converting with an aplomb that will only encourage the endless comparisons with Pelle, who was watching from the stands.

Danubio responded with added aggression and Viera's powerfully headed equalizer silenced the home crowd.

The Uruguayans' own celebrations were short-lived as goalkeeper Luis Barbat brought down Basilio with a clumsy challenge and presented a relieved Santos to the route with victory.

Elsewhere, Sao Paulo reversed a two-goal deficit to earn 3-3 draw with Bolivian club Strongest in a Group Three match at altitude in La Paz.

Danilo gave Sao Paulo the lead on 21 minutes, but the Brazilian club struggled to contain the hard-working Bolivians.

MNA/Reuters

Davenport reaches Dubai Open final

DUBAI, 5 March—Top seed Lindsay Davenport overcame a stomach upset and a strong challenge from Switzerland's Patty Schnyder to reach the final of the Dubai Open on Friday.

The American came through 4-6, 7-6, 6-1 and will face either second seed Serena Williams of the United States or unseeded Serbian Jelena Jankovic in Saturday's final.

Schnyder, who beat world number one Davenport in their last meeting, took advantage of a lethargic performance from the world number one in the first set.

Davenport had no rhythm and made a succession of errors, eventually double-faulting to give the Swiss left-hander a 3-1 lead. Even though Davenport managed to break as Schnyder served for the set at 5-3, she dropped her serve again when the number eight seed won a long rally at the net to take the set.

"In the first set I felt so well," said Davenport. "I was trying so hard and the balls were just flying on me. It was so hard keeping balls in.

"Finally I got my shots inside the lines and didn't go for so much and I was able to play a little bit more percentage tennis."

Davenport was the first to break in the second, for 2-1, but played a poor game at 3-2, double-faulting three times and allowing Schnyder to level at 3-3.

Schnyder fought off two break points in the next game before Davenport called for the trainer and received medicine for her stomach.

"I was up 2-1 in the second and for the next four games I was feeling really nauseous, like I was going to get sick," said Davenport.

Leo (L) of Brazilian team Santos celebrates with teammate Robinho after scoring their team's first goal during a South American Libertadores Cup match between Uruguay club Danubio in their first round Copa Libertadores match in Santos, on 3 March, 2005. - INTERNET

Ignacio Gonzalez gave Danubio the lead after just 20 seconds, setting the tone for an unpredictable see-saw encounter. - MNA/Reuters

Leo and Robinho put Santos on top, but Jadson Viera equalized with four minutes remaining to set up the dramatic finale. - MNA/Reuters

An air of anxiety hung over Santos, who lost to Bolivar in their opening Group Two game, and nerves were jangling when Gonzalez cheated down to score his early goal. - MNA/Reuters

Luckily for Santos, Robinho had shaken off his injury worries and his penetrating runs down the left wing soon had the Danubio defenders back-peddling. - MNA/Reuters

The talented 20-year-old came close to scoring, but was not involved in the move that led to Leo's 37th-minute headed equalizer. - MNA/Reuters

Robinho settled Santos' nerves on 71 minutes, pulling down a high ball and converting with an aplomb that will only encourage the endless comparisons with Pelle, who was watching from the stands. - MNA/Reuters

Danubio responded with added aggression and Viera's powerfully headed equalizer silenced the home crowd. - MNA/Reuters

The Uruguayans' own celebrations were short-lived as goalkeeper Luis Barbat brought down Basilio with a clumsy challenge and presented a relieved Santos to the route with victory. - MNA/Reuters

Elsewhere, Sao Paulo reversed a two-goal deficit to earn 3-3 draw with Bolivian club Strongest in a Group Three match at altitude in La Paz. - MNA/Reuters

Danilo gave Sao Paulo the lead on 21 minutes, but the Brazilian club struggled to contain the hard-working Bolivians. - MNA/Reuters

Davenport's performance from the world number one in the first set. - MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
Roads to be closed temporarily

YANGON, 5 March —
The 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2005, Parade Columns will practise marching from Myoma Grounds to the Resistance Park on 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22 and 25 March.

Shwedagon Pagoda Road-U Wisara Road, Shwedagon Pagoda Road-Pantaya Road, Shwedagon Pagoda Road-Mawgun Taik Road, Shwedagon Pagoda Road-Zawka Road, U Htaungbo Road-Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Inya Road-Damazedi Road, Shwegondine Road-Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Damazedi Road, U Wisara Road-Hantawady Roundabout, U Wisara Road-Chindwin Road, Pyay Road-Bagaya Road, Pyay Road-Damazedi Road, Akyin Road-Pyay Road, Manawhari Road-Pyay Road, Pydaungsu Yekhta Road-Pyay Road, Pyay Road-Sagawa Road and Myoma Kyang Street-Samon Road will be closed temporarily while parade columns are practising drills. MNA

Tatmadawmen of columns entertained

YANGON, 5 March — Under the arrangements of Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare, vocalists to the accompaniment of Myawady music troupe of Myawady TV Broad-casting Unit entertained the Tatmadawmen of Myawady Column at Yangon Command Headquarters with various songs yesterday evening.

Likewise, No 1 and No 2 Mobile Public Relation Units presented songs, dances and Anyeint to Tatmadawmen of Nawade Column at Ayeyawady Naval Regional Command Headquarters, Bandoola Column at Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed).

Similarly, Tatmadawmen from Anawratha Column, Bayint-naukung Column and Aungzgya Column at No 1 Transit Centre, Hsinbyushin Column in Mingaladon Station and Kyanittha Column at the local battalion opposite of Aungingala Highway Bus Terminal were entertained with films. Column commanders, commanding officers, officers and Tatmadawmen enjoyed the entertainments. MNA

Rainfalls on 5-3-2005 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 (12) mph from East (at (09:10) hours MST on 5-3-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 6-3-2005: Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin, Mon and Northern Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Temporary strong easterly wind accompanied with (35) mph and moderate seas are likely Deltic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi coasts. Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Thundery conditions are likely in Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-3-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-3-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Untitled rainfall warning

(Issued at 10:00 hours MST 5th March 2005)

Under the influence of a low pressure area moving east from northern part of India, isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary strong winds of speed reaching to 40mph are likely in Kachin, Chin and northern Shan States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions during the next 48 hours commencing tomorrow evening.
Li-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects cultivation of summer paddy in Pyay District

Yangon, 5 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min and party, arrived at Zeeok River Water Pumping Project of Water Resources Utilization Department in Zeeok Village-tract of Pyay Township, Pyay District on 4 March morning. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on water supply for 300 acres of farmland and arrangements for extension of beneficial area by officials and inspected functions of water supply system. Head of Division WRUD U Win Hsan reported on cultivation of 212 acres of summer paddy against the target of 300 acres and the plan to meet the target. Division Myanma Agriculture Service USan Maung and the commander gave supplementary reports. At the 500 acres summer paddy plantation in Htanpauk Village in Pyay Township, Pyay District Peace and Development Council Chairman (See page 7) heard reports about the progress of cultivation of summer paddy plantations and distribution of water supply.

The State shall enact necessary laws to protect the rights of workers

Necessary laws will be enacted to create job opportunities

Yangon, 4 March — The following is the full clarification of Member of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein, on behalf of the Work Committee Chairman, concerning the social sector and the management sector for laying down detailed basic principles for sharing of legislative power to be included in the State Constitution, at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, on 3 March.

At the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention on 20 May 2004, the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee clarified the detailed basic principles relevant to the social sector that should be mentioned in sharing of legislative power in the Union Legislative List and the Region or State Legislative List. As regards this clarification, it is found that following points are proposed to be adopted as detailed basic principles in the social sector that should be included in the Union Legislative List:

1. Curricula, syllabus, teaching methods, research, and projects and programmes;
2. Courses of universities, degree colleges and institutes and other higher learning institutions;
3. Examinations designated by the Union;
4. Private schools and courses;
5. National sports;
6. National health;
7. Development of traditional medical science and medicines;
8. Free hospitals and dispensaries and private hospitals and dispensaries;
9. Maternal and child welfare;

(See page 9)

No separate law needs enacting since national races have been following the amicable settlement through customary practices of their own in their regions or states

Yangon, 4 March — The following is the full clarification of Member of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Dr Tin Aung Aye, on behalf of the Work Committee Chairman, concerning the judicial sector, the legislative power to lead committees of self-administered areas and the distribution of legislative power in connection with other matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies for laying down detailed basic principles for sharing of legislative power to be included in the State Constitution, at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnhapin Camp in Hmawby Township, on 3 March.

At the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention on 21 May 2004, the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee clarified detailed basic principles to be laid down for the judicial sector that shall be embodied in the Union Legislative List as regards the sharing of legislative power. In connection with this clarification, the delegate groups to the National Convention held discussions and gave suggestions to adopt the following points as detailed basic principles for the judicial sector in the Union Legislative List. They are:

1. Administration of justice
2. Lawyers
3. Penal laws and procedures
4. Civil laws, contract, arbitration, civil wrong, insolvency, Trust and people who can administer because of the trust, administrator and keeper,

(See page 10)