Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integration 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

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 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

Group discussions on compilation of proposals on sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in framing of State Constitution held

Delegate Group of Representatives-elect

The group discussion of the delegate group of representatives-elect was held at the meeting hall-2 at 9 am today. Alternate Chairman U Yaw Aye Hla of Lahu National Development Party chaired the discussion together with members of the panel of chairmen U Maung Gyi of Union Pa-O National Organization and U Law Hsin Kwam of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party.

Deputy Director U Maung Maung Phyu Tin and Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Nwe acted as masters of ceremonies.

The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the discussion with cent per cent attendance of delegates. Alternate Chairman U Yaw Aye Hla of Lahu National Development Party gave a speech. The delegates took part in the discussion to compile the proposals of seven political parties concerning the explanations made by the Work Committee Chairman concerning the detailed basic principals for the sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the framing of the State Constitution.

Later, the discussion chairman gave the concluding remarks.

Delegate Group of National Races

The delegate group of national races held the group discussion at Pyidaungsu Hall this morning. Alternate Chairman U Mya Sein of Mandalay Division presided over the discussion with members of the panel of chairmen U Mahn Ohn Maung of Kayin State and U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Taninthayi Division.

Deputy Director U Than Tun acted as emcee together with Assistant Director U Tin Maung Oo as co-emcee.

The emcee announced the validity of the discussion with attendance of delegates accounting for 98.42 per cent. U Mya Sein of Mandalay Division delivered an opening speech.

U Soe Myint of Taninthayi Division read out the notes from explanations made by the Work Committee Chairman on the sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the framing of the State Constitution. Next, all the delegates decided to compile a proposal to be submitted to the plenary session of the National Convention.

The discussion ended with the hope that the national unity and the role of the Tatmadaw will be strengthened.

Delegates of national races hold group-wise discussions on compilation of papers concerning sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the framing of the State Constitution. — MNA

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

YANGON, 9 March — The discussions on compilation of the proposals of respective delegations concerning the explanations made by the Work Committee Chairman on the sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the framing of the State Constitution were held at Pyidaungsu Hall and respective places at Nyaungshapin Camp in Hmaubaw Township at 9 am today.

Delegate Group of Political Parties

The delegate group of political parties held its group discussion at the meeting hall-1 this morning. Deputy Director U Khin Maung Phyu acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director Daw Yin Yin Than as co-master of ceremonies.

The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the discussion with attendance of delegates accounting for 96.99 per cent.

Alternate Chairman U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party presiding over the discussion gave an opening speech.

All the participants discussed compilation of the proposals of seven political parties concerning the explanations made by the Work Committee Chairman on the sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the framing of the State Constitution.
Take an active part in all national endeavours

The government is striving for all development of the nation with the united strength of the entire national people including women and Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs has been formed so that it can lead the women forces and carry out activities for the development of the women sector.

Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs is made up of State-level responsible officials, representatives of social organizations and associations related with women’s affairs and management personnel of the health and education sectors.

Under the sponsorship of Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs, International Women’s Day (2005) was observed at the International Business Centre, Yangon, on 8 March, and it was attended by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, also Chairman of MNCWA.

Women population is a major national force in Myanmar. Throughout various ages in the history of Myanmar, there have been patriotic and very outstanding women intellectuals and artists.

According to the law or Myanmar traditions and customs, Myanmar women have always enjoyed the same rights as men and they have had a fine tradition of serving the best interests of the nation and the people.

Nowadays, the government is trying on all fronts and in every way possible for the development of the women sector by laying down effective policies. The result is that outstanding women have emerged in business, health, education, science and technology, information and communications, arts, sports and social fields. There are a lot of women engineers in the construction industry.

The Yenwe bridge in Bago Division was the first in Myanmar to be built by women engineers. Also at the construction site of the Paunglaung Hydelpower Project, women engineers are working together with men engineers.

The government is fulfilling all the requirements to keep the momentum of development of Myanmar women and carrying out women’s affairs on a nation-wide scale.

Therefore, we would like to call on all the Myanmar women intellectuals and intelligentsia to actively and enthusiastically lend themselves to all the national endeavours being carried out by the government.

**People’s Desire**

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

**Cash donated for power supply and educational tasks in Bago Division**

Yangon, 9 March — Central Executive Committee Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min attended the ceremony to present cash for self-reliant power supply for Kyeninkahon Village-tract in Kyaukdagya Township, at Inkon Village Basic Education Middle School on 7 March.

CFC Member Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min explained the purpose of presenting the cash and presented K 1 million for self-reliant power supply.

The minister proceeded to Toungoo General Hospital and visited the USAID members donating blood.

Yesterday morning, the minister attended the ceremony to donate K 2 million to the fund of Kanyunkwinn BEHS in Pyu Township.

On arrival at Kyaukkyi Township USAID Office, he met with social organizations and USDA members and explained progress of the State, the Seven-Point Road Map, convening of the National Convention and the development tasks carried out by the USDA members in Bago Division.

Later, the minister called for the USDA members to take part in carrying out the tasks for the peace and stability of the region, development and successful realization of the 7-point road map.

**Myanmar Golf Federation**

**UMFCCI AGM 12 March**

Yangon, 9 March — The 14th Annual General Meeting of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be held at Myanmar Convention Centre (MCC) on Mindama Road in Mayangon Township at 1 pm on 12 March.

It is announced that all the members of UMFCCI are to attend the meeting without fail whether they receive invitation cards or not. The export quality Myanmar products will be displayed at UMFCCI AGM Exhibition-2005 which will be held on the same day for the public.

**All this needs to be known**

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appeased
60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

— To work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementation of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing society
— To exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks
— To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the twelve State Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes
— To build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw

Nepali FM meets Indian counterpart to improve ties

NEW DELHI, 8 March — Nepali Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey held talks with Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh here on Monday to discuss developments in the Himalayan Kingdom. Pandey, is here on a three-day working visit. This is the first official high-level visit to India since Nepali King Gyanendra reshuffled the Cabinet on 2 February. Pandey is accompanied by Foreign Secretary Madhuraman Acharya and other senior officials of the ministry. — MNA/Xinhua

Cuba rejects US human rights report

HAVANA, 8 March — Cuba on Monday rejected the accusations against its human rights record made by a recent report released by the US State Department.

At a Press conference held here at the Foreign Ministry, Foreign Minister Felipe Perez called on Washington to present evidence on the accusations.

The US document, which terms Cuba as a “stain in the hemisphere’s democratic process,” was issued prior to the 61st session of the Human Rights Commission that will start at Geneva, Switzerland, on March 14 and last through late April.

Perez said Washington intends to rally support in its attempt to condemn Cuba in the coming Geneva meeting and seeks accomplices to embody its purpose.

The US Administration, with the violations committed at the US Naval Base of Guantanamo, Cuba, and at the Abu Ghrai Prison in Iraq, has no moral authority to condemn any country in the field of human rights, he said. The US authorities should mind their own business and leave the rest of the world alone and in peace, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

China to launch leading group to oversee energy sector

BEIJING, 8 March — The government will set up a national leading group to oversee China’s energy industry but is unlikely to establish a ministry of energy “within the foreseeable future”, Monday’s China Daily reported.

“There is no timetable on forming an energy ministry,” said Minister of Water Resources Wang Shucheng in an exclusive interview.

Experts agreed with the central government's decision but said “the step was far from enough.” Wang himself has been calling for such a ministry for some time. He believes energy is of such importance in China’s development that the State Council should have a special ministry to oversee it with total assets of more than 10 trillion yuan (1.2 trillion US dollars). — MNA/Xinhua

Qinghai-Tibet railway to start trial operation in 15 months

BEIJING, 8 March — Qinghai-Tibet railway, the world’s highest, is to complete track laying by the end of this year and go into trial operation on 1 July, 2006, said Minister of Railways Liu Zhijun on Monday.

Construction of the 1,142-kilometre railway started in 2001 at the cost of 26.2 billion yuan (3.16 billion US dollars), Liu said while joining deputies of the National People’s Congress from the southwestern Tibet Autonomous Region for deliberation on Monday. The railway from Golmud in the northwestern Qinghai Province to Lhasa is a landmark project in China’s blueprint to develop its western regions. “It is the most elevated rail route.

After it opens to traf-
Spanish PM to attend Arab League Summit

MAHAD, 8 March — Spanish Prime Minister Jose Rodriguez Zapatero will take part in the coming Summit of the Arab League in Algiers, Algeria, on 22 March, said a spokesman for the Spanish Government on Monday.

Arab leaders have expressed their interest in the Alliance of Civilizations proposed by Spain last September before the General Assembly of the United Nations, which was taken on by the Inter-American Summit of Costa Rica, the spokesman said. Zapatero was invited by Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika on 24 February, the spokesman said — MNA/Xinhua

First direct flights between China, Spain to open in May

BEIJING, 8 March — The Spanish-based Air Europa announced here on Monday that it will open direct flights from Beijing to Madrid on 23 May, and direct flights from Shanghai to Madrid on 25 May.

The direct flights will further promote bilateral tourism by reducing flying hours and provide more convenience for passengers, said Jose-Pedro Sebastian de Erice, Spanish Ambassador to China.

He said Spanish Embassy and Consulate in China will provide easier and more convenient visa-issuing procedures, such as on-line application system. The new route will also enable Chinese passengers to transfer to north Africa and South America via Madrid. Airline company will provide free accommodation for them, said Daniel Li, China representative of Air Europa. — MNA/Xinhua

More women than men enter labour market in Cambodain

PHNOM PENH, 8 March — Cambodian women make up 52 per cent of the workforce and the 82 per cent female labour force participation rate of the country is the highest in the region, said a report released here on Monday.

The report said that women out number men in the labour force in all age groups from 15 to 54 years, with the exception of those in the group of 25 to 29 years.

The summary report of “A Fair Share for Women” was launched by the Ministry of Women Affairs and five international institutes. At Monday’s meeting in celebration of the International Women’s Day.

There are signs that women are beginning to enter formal employment at a faster rate than men, due mainly to growth in the garment sector and because more women are becoming paid labour in the agriculture sector.

In the garment industry, which employed about 270,000 workforce, women account for up to 90 per cent.

Although some progress has been made, the representation of women in government and Parliament is still very low, the report said. In the 2003 National Assembly elections, only 15 of the 123 people elected were women.

In his speech at the celebration, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen urged the government and relevant sectors to strengthen women's participation in policymaking and economy, to eliminate domestic violence in families and society, to fight human trafficking and to enhance enrollment rate of girls.

"The Rectangular Strategy of the third term of government considers women as the backbone of economic and social development," the Premier said.

Cambodia’s population in 2001 was 13.1 million, of whom 52 per cent were women and 80 per cent lived in rural areas. — MNA/Xinhua

Italy renews demand for full inquiry into US shooting in Iraq

ROMA, 8 March — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on Monday summoned once again the US ambassador to Italy to renew his demand for a full investigation into the shooting by US forces in Iraq that killed an Italian agent and wounded several others.

At the end of their 45-minute meeting, US ambassador Mel Sembler submitted a written report to Berlusconi, which may cover the results of initial investigations by the US of the shooting, Italian Press said.

Shortly after the shooting, Berlusconi summoned Sembler and demanded an explanation. Sembler told Berlusconi he had asked Washington for an immediate clarification and promised a thorough investigation.

US media quoted US military sources as saying on Monday that the shooting was due to a “lack of communication” between intelligence organizations of the two countries. But Italian intelligence authorities said Washington should have had related information.

The freed Italian female journalist, Giuliana Sgrena, who suffered shrapnel wounds in the shoulder, said it was possible that she was targeted deliberately because the United States opposes Italy’s policy of negotiating with kidnappers. — MNA/Xinhua

China to put into service new meteorological satellite in 2007

BEIJING, 8 March — China will put into service a new meteorological satellite in 2007 to gather meteorological information at high altitude around the globe, said a chief engineer with China’s meteorological satellite centre on Tuesday.

“The Fengyun-3 meteorological satellite is being manufactured by the eighth research institute in Shanghai under China AerospaceCorp. It will be launched into an 870-kilometre-high orbit to observe how temperature changes with altitude,” said Xu Jianmin, who is a deputy to the annual session of the National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature in Beijing.

He told Xinhua in an exclusive interview that Fengyun-3 will enable China to observe the atmospheric temperature changes over oceans and gather meteorological information at higher altitude around the globe.

“Through analyzing changes of atmospheric temperature relative to altitude, we’ll know the changes of atmospheric pressure relative to altitude, movement of air currents and overall weather information,” said Xu.

China has put into service Fengyun-1 and Fengyun-2 satellites to observe clouds and ground situations. From January 1 of this year, China started to provide information collected by Fengyun-2 meteorological satellite to Southeast Asian countries hit by tsunami. — MNA/Xinhua

More violence in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 8 March — Gunmen killed a senior Iraqi police officer and his son in a Baghdad neighbourhood on Tuesday as they headed to work, security sources said.

Witnesses said the gunmen riding in a speeding car sprayed the car of Brig General Ghazi Khailji outside his home in western Baghdad, killing him and his son. Also Tuesday, armed men assassinated the director of a Baghdad hospital in al-Jihad quarter. In the meantime, witnesses said gun battles erupted in the Sunni city of Ramadi, west of Baghdad, between guerrillas and US-backed Iraqi national guards as a result of large-scale raids and searches conducted by police.

Initial reports said three people were killed in the clashes, which started overnight and continued until daylight. — Internet

Italy intends to design a batik spacesuit and prepare a local delicacy, roti canai, for the country’s first astronaut who will blast into space on a NASA flight in 2007. — Internet

A natural gas drilling platform in the Gulf of Thailand on 7 March, 2005. — Internet
Australia vows to take advantage of China’s growth

CANBERRA, 8 March — Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said here on Monday his country will seek every opportunity to consolidate and enhance its market share in the fast-growing China.

He was telling reporters on the eve of his trip to China which is designed to finalize the Australia-China Free Trade Agreement feasibility study.

The joint feasibility study, announced as part of the Trade and Economic Framework signed by Australia and China in October 2003, was due for completion by October this year.

But following good progress, leaders of both countries have agreed that the completion of the FTA study could be fast-tracked.

“It goes without saying that China’s emergence as an industrial power has been one of the most significant events that have happened to the global economy in the past 25 years, so it is imperative that Australia position itself to take advantage of this major export market opportunity,” he said.

Australia will be an important trade partner to China by providing resources it badly needs, he said.

In answering to a question, Vaile said by the terms of FTAs, Australia will recognize China as a market economy if the two countries begin negotiations.

Meanwhile, Australia’s opposition Labour Party voiced its support to a bilateral FTA.

Shadow minister of trade Simon Crean said on Monday that “Labour stands ready to take a positive approach toward Australia-China FTA negotiations — if they begin.”

Vaile also stressed that China has an important role to play in the World Trade Organization as the country has significant economic impact on the global economy. He said he would encourage China to play a leadership role in the organization.

The two-way trade reached an unprecedented level of 20.4 billion US dollars last year, according to China’s official statistics.

China is Australia’s third largest trading partner.

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Vietnam to remove foreign capital cap in equitized firms

HANOI, 8 March — Vietnam will phase out the restriction regarding capital contribution of foreign investors in local equitized enterprises in many fields, according to the local newspaper Investment on Monday.

The current restriction will remain effective only in several fields, which are compliant with international commitments made by Vietnam such as finance, banking and telecommunications. The specific list of fields, in which foreign investors can contribute as much as capital as they want, is scheduled to be publicized late this month.

Now, the cap on the total aggregate shareholdings of foreign individual and organizations in Vietnamese joint stock companies is 30 per cent.

Since 1992, Vietnam has equitized 2,242 state-owned enterprises with combined capital of 17.7 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (over 1.1 billion US dollars), 59.2 per cent of which are firms with each capital of below 5 billion VND (318,000 dollars), mainly specializing in construction, installation, consumer goods production, trade and services.

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China to cut national awards for entertainment

BEIJING, 8 March — China will cut 90 national awards programmes of entertainment, journalism, and publications to 24 in accordance with a regulation issued by the country’s relevant departments.

The national awards for entertainment, including movies, music and performance, will reduce from 44 to 18, national awards for journalism will drop from 14 to two, while those for publications will be down from 31 to three, said sources with the departments here Sunday.

The Department of Publicity of Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the Ministry of Culture, State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, State Administration of Press and Publication and Information Office of the State Council have started the work in line with the regulation.

According to the regulation, several government departments and national associations such as China Federation of Literary and Art Circles and All-China Journalists Association will be allowed to host national awards in their fields.

Internet web sites, agencies, companies and other organizations and individuals are banned from granting any national award entitled with “China” and “national” or disguising the award as contest and billboard, said the regulation.

The award organizers are forbidden to charge any candidate or finance from any contributor, the regulation said, adding it aims to safeguard the fair, justice and authority of national awards.

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NZ to take more steps to improve women’s lives

WELLINGTON, 8 March — New Zealand has maintained a proud record in women’s rights and the government will take more steps to implement the Action Plan for New Zealand Women, Women’s Affairs Minister Ruth Dyson said on Monday.

Ruth Dyson said that the Action Plan is a five-year whole-of-government programme identifying three key themes to bring about real improvements to women’s lives: economic sustainability (having enough income for women and families to care for themselves), work-life balance and preserving and improving health and well-being.

Fresh from heading New Zealand’s delegation to the 49th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York, Dyson will host a special function in Wellington on Tuesday to celebrate the International Women’s Day.

She said New Zealand has already taken some important steps including paid parental leave (which increases to 14 weeks this year), increased child care subsidies, boosting income support for New Zealand families through the Working for Families Package and steps toward addressing pay and employment inequity in the public sector.

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Suicide car bomb blast north of Baghdad kills 5 Iraqis

TIKRET (Iraq), 8 March — A suicide car bomb blew up Monday morning outside the house of an Iraqi national guards officer in the Iraqi city of Balad, north of Baghdad, killing five Iraqis and wounding 20 others, witnesses and medical sources said.

“A suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden vehicle outside the house of the officer which is close to a primary school at about 8:00 am (0500 GMT) and blew his vehicle, causing several casualties,” the witnesses in Balad police told Xinhua.

Meanwhile, a source in Balad Hospital said that they had received five bodies and 20 injured people.

The officer was identified as Major Muhammed Abdul Mutalib. It was not immediately clear whether he was among the casualties, said the police.

US and Iraqi forces have rushed to the area, sealing it off and preventing people from approaching to the scene. Guerrillas frequently attack Iraq’s fledgling security forces and accuse them of collaborating with the US troops.

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Vietnam uncovers 12,000 drug-related crimes

HANOI, 8 March — Vietnam detected 12,068 drug-related crimes, and arrested 18,260 involved people last year, the newspaper Pioneer on Monday quoted the Ministry of Public Security as saying.

In 2004, the country seized 239.4 kilos of heroin, a year-on-year increase of 57.4 per cent. In Vietnam, possessing, trading or trafficking 600 grammes of heroin is punishable by death or life imprisonment.
The first prize for transplanting skills contest went to Leikha Township, the first prize for direct sowing contest, to Pinlaung Township, the first prize for agriculture-16 power-tiller skill contest, to Yaksaw Township, and the prize for supporting best, to Loilem Township.

Shweyinaye medium-term paddy strain was found out due to the unremitting endeavours of the commander sticking to the guidance on the implementation of the four agricultural methods for meeting the targeted per acre yield of paddy given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. It has a good taste. It is not a hybrid nor cross-breed. It thrives well in the regions with cold weather. According to the research, per acre yield of Shweyinaye strain paddy is around 150 baskets. If it is cultivated with the effective use of modern agricultural methods, the per acre yield can be increased to about 200 baskets.

On 7 November 2004, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun attended the harvesting of Shweyinaye strain paddy at Kyaw Myaung Nge village in Nyangshwe Township. An average per acre yield of the paddy fields was about 150 baskets.

Shan State PDC is distributing farmers pamphlets on the agricultural methods for cultivation of such a good-taste and high-yield strain of Shweyinaye paddy that draws the attention of growers, traders, and customers.

* * * * * (concluded)

(Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 9-3-2005)

(Translation: MS)
Group discussions on...

(from page 1)

concluding remarks by the alternate chairman.

Delegate Group of Peasants

Similarly, the discussion of the delegate group of peasants was held at the meeting hall-4 this morning. U Kyi Tint of Ayeyawady Division chaired the discussion together with members of the panel of chairmen U Mya Aye of Yangon Division and U Sai Tint Aung of Shan State (North). Deputy Director U Myint Kyi and Assistant Director Daw Myint Sein acted as MC and co-MC.

The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the discussion with cent per cent attendance of delegates. U Kyi Tint of Ayeyawady Division made a speech. Next, they held a meeting to form a proposal compilation group to submit the proposal of the delegates of peasants concerning the detailed basic principles for the sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the framing of the State Constitution to the plenary meeting. The discussion ended with the concluding remarks by the alternate chairman.

Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia

At the meeting hall-6, Alternate Chairman U Hla Myint chaired the discussion of the Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia together with members of the panel of chairmen U Mya Aye of Yangon Division and U Sai Tint Aung of Shan State (North). Deputy Director U Myint Kyi and Assistant Director Daw Myint Sein acted as MC and co-MC.

The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the discussion with cent per cent attendance of delegates. U Hla Myint of Ayeyawady Division made a speech. Next, they held a meeting to form a proposal compilation group. Later, the meeting chairman gave the concluding remarks.

Delegate Group of State Service Personnel

The group discussion of the Delegate Group of State Service Personnel was held at the meeting hall-7 this morning. Alternate Chairman Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presided over the discussion together with members of the panel of chairmen U Myat Ko and U Hla Tin. Deputy Director U Htay Win and Assistant Director U Htein Min acted as emcees.

The emcee announced the validity of the discussion with attendance of delegates accounting for 98.17 per cent. Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin spoke on the occasion. Next, U Myat Ko read out the explanation of the Chairman of the Work Committee of the National Convention Convening Work Committee concerning the detailed basic principles for the sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the framing of the State Constitution.

They took part in the discussion to form the proposal compilation group. The group discussion ended with the concluding remarks by the alternate chairman. Next, the members of the panel of chair-

Delegate of Workers

Likewise, the Delegate group of Workers held its group discussion at the meeting hall-9 this morning. Deputy Director U Zaw Win and Assistant Director U Aung Win emceed the discussions. The emcee announced the validity of the discussion with cent per cent attendance of delegates.

Alternate Chairman U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Division, presiding over the discussion together with members of the panel of chairmen U Kyaw Win Tun of Mandalay Division and Dr Myo Thant Tin of Yangon Division, gave an opening speech.

Next, all the participants discussed the submitting of proposals of the delegate group of workers. Afterwards, the discussion chairman gave the

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Delegate Group of State Service Personnel

The group discussion of the Delegate Group of State Service Personnel was held at the meeting hall-7 this morning. Alternate Chairman Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presided over the discussion together with members of the panel of chairmen U Myat Ko and U Hla Tin. Deputy Director U Htay Win and Assistant Director U Htein Min acted as emcees.

The emcee announced the validity of the discussion with attendance of delegates accounting for 98.17 per cent. Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin spoke on the occasion. Next, U Myat Ko read out the explanation of the Chairman of the Work Committee of the National Convention Convening Work Committee concerning the detailed basic principles for the sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the framing of the State Constitution.

They took part in the discussion to form the proposal compilation group. The group discussion ended with the concluding remarks by the alternate chairman. Next, the members of the panel of chair-

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**Group discussions on…**

**Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons**  
(from page 7)

The Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons this morning held the group discussion presided by Alternate Chairman U Paw Lai Khiam together with members of the panel of chairmen U Aung Hkam Hti and Dr Manan Tu Ja. Dr Park Jong Sou of Hankok Aviation University in Korea presented the paper ‘Radio Frequency Identification/Ubiquitous Sensor Network’, and Professor Akhiro Tamaki of Tokyo University of Information Science, ‘Software Process Improvement’. The MC announced the validity of the discussions with attendance of delegates accounting for 98 per cent. First, U Aung Hkam Hti gave an opening address. Next, Dr Manan Tu Ja explained the compilation of the proposals of the delegates of other invited persons concerning the detailed basic principles for sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the framing of the State Constitution. All the delegates participated in the discussions. Later, U Aung Hkam Hti gave the concluding remarks.

**Third International conference on Computer Applications commences**

YANGON, 9 March — The opening of the paper reading session of the Third International conference on Computer Applications (ICCA-2005), organized by Yangon University of Computer Studies under the Ministry of Science and Technology, took place at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, departmental heads of the Ministry of Science and Technology and related ministries, officials of the Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association, rectors and pro-rectors of Yangon and Mandalay Universities of Computer Studies, rectors of universities in Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Australia and Thailand, computer PhD students and resource persons form Yangon University for Computer Studies and universities in Korea, Singapore, India, Taiwan, Malaysia, Japan and Thailand, faculty members and students.

The deputy minister delivered a speech. Yangon University of Computer Studies Rector Dr Paik Tin extended greetings.

Dr Park Jong Sou of Hankok Aviation University in Korea presented the paper ‘Radio Frequency Identification/Ubiquitous Sensor Network’, and Professor Akhiro Tamaki of Tokyo University of Information Science, ‘Software Process Improvement’. In the afternoon, the paper reading sessions were held at Mindon Hall, Room Nos 1, 2 and 3, Ahlon Hall, and Dagon Hall of the Sedona Hotel. Students of Yangon University of Computer Studies, Yangon Technological University (IT), Mandalay Technological University (Maths), and the universities abroad read out software engineering, parallel and distributed computing, network and computational analysis, web engineering, and image processing. A total of 101 papers — 21 from foreign universities and 80 from local universities — will be submitted. Foreign professors and students took part in the discussions in the session, which continues tomorrow.

**Tatmadawmen of parade columns entertained**

**Yangon, 9 March** — Under the arrangements of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare, No 1 and No 2 Mobile Public Relations Units entertained Tatmadawmen of various columns with films at different camps where the military columns to take part in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade are being put up yesterday evening.

Vocalist to the accompaniment of Myawady Music Troupe of Myawady TV Broadcasting Unit entertained the Tatmadawmen of Kyansiththa Column at the local battalion opposite of Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal; No 1 Mobile Public Relations Unit presented songs and dances and Anyeint to the Tatmadawmen of Anawralta, Bayinnaung and Aungzeya Columns at No 1 Transit Centre (Bayinnaung); and No 2 Mobile Public Relations Unit presented songs and dances and Anyeint to the Tatmadawmen of Myawaddy Column at Yangon Command Headquarters. Similarly, the Tatmadawmen of Aung San Column at the local battalion in South Okkalapa Township were entertained with film entitled “Myint-myat-hna-lon-tha”, the Tatmadawmen of Nawade Column in Ayeyawady Naval Regional Command Headquarters with the film titled “Yin-gwam-nan-daw” and the Tatmadawmen of Bandooola Column at Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) with “Achit-ko-mwe-hpwa-gyin”. Column commanders, commanding officers, officers and Tatmadawmen enjoyed the entertainment.

**Cultivation of summer paddy, others crops inspected in Pathein District**

YANGON, 9 March — Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naung and departmental officials inspected maintenance and 34,347 acres of oil crops have been grown.

**Construction Minister inspects Sittoung Bridge (Mokpalin)**

YANGON, 9 March — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials of Public Works, arrived at the Sittoung Bridge (Mokpalin) Project Site this morning and heard the reports on progress of the construction works and future plans by officials at the briefing hall. Afterwards, the minister gave instructions on preparatory measures to be made before arrival of steel frames and attended to the needs. Sittoung Bridge (Mokpalin) is 2,392.7 feet long and 28 feet wide together with pedestrian way on each side. The allowable load of the bridge is 60 tons.
The Union Government shall submit bill concerning…

(from page 16)

The Union Government, after coordinating with the Financial Commission, will have to submit the bill on the annual budget of the Union to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval before the end of fiscal year. The Union Government has the duty to run the State administrative machinery without any interruptions. As the Union Government has to work in accord with the State objectives for harmonious progress of the entire nation, there may arise a situation in which it cannot complete the task of discussing the matter on the bill on the Union budget at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw before the end of the respective fiscal year.

During such a situation, the Union Government may have the right to continuously use the funds of the budget in accord with the stipulations of the Constitution to run the administrative machinery as usual. The Union Government should have the right to constantly pay the monthly salaries and other expenditures of the State authoritative bodies, staff salaries and other expenditures of the service personnel organizations, expenditures liable to be paid in accord with the international treaties and agreements, and current expenditures from the funds of the State budget in accord with the limits contained in the Constitution. It should have the right to use the funds within the framework of the enacted budget laws that was last approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The constitutions of some of the world nation state, if the legislative huttaw concerned cannot approve the bill on budget submitted by the government before the end of fiscal year, the government shall have the right to use the funds of current expenditure allowed within the framework of the previous year’s budget law, in line with the stipulation of the Constitution. Only then will the government be able to drive the administrative machinery without losing acceleration.

If the legislative Hluttaw approves and enacts the budget law only after the end of fiscal year, necessary balance sheets may be made for the current expenditures that was used in line with the stipulations contained in the Constitution, the existing laws, bylaws, rules and regulations, orders or directives, to be in conformity with the stipulations stated in the budget law approved later.

In submitting a bill on budget by the Union Government to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, for certain reasons, there may arise the situation, in which, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw cannot approve and issue the bill before the end of fiscal year. The National Convention for Convening3 will make provisions in this situation that, the Union Government should be delegated with the right to use the funds within the allotment of the current expenditure included in the latest-enacted Union budget law of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw within the framework of the Constitution, so as not to cause a halt in the administrative machinery and to continue its functions.

Hence, delegates will have to discuss whether or not the following basic principles concerning the right of the Union Government to write bills, on behalf of the Union Government. According to the provisions of the Constitution, the Union Government members may continue to discharge the duties assigned to them in line with the stipulations of the Constitution, the Union Government members may continue to discharge the duties assigned to them in line with the stipulations of the Constitution. The Union Government members may continue to discharge the duties assigned to them in line with the stipulations of the Constitution.

Concerning the matters put on the Union legislative list, it is assumed they have already been laid down sector-wise.

According to the procedure, members of the Union Government will have to present the respective bills, on behalf of the Union Government. According to the Constitution, the Union Government members shall not be the huttaw representatives. And if they are not the representatives, it is assumed they have already been laid down sector-wise.

When the Union Government has to undertake the executive power of the State in accord with the Constitution, it will have the right to write bills concerning the matters stated sector-wise, and participating in the discussions. Because of the requirement, the proviso concerning the rights will be included in the respective chapters.

Now is the turn to explain the study on the matters in connection with management, guidelines, supervisions, and inspection to be conducted by the ministries of the Union Government for their subordinates, departments and organizations to carry out their work in accord with the laws. The Union Government will have to distribute and delegate its executive powers to ministries sector-wise. The ministries will have to distribute their executive duties to government departments and organizations that are under their management sector-wise.

Generally, the powers and functions of the Union Government originates in the provisions of the Constitution. According to the laws to be enacted within the framework of the stipulations of the Constitution, and the laws that have been enacted in connection with the matters included in the Union legislative list, the Union Government will have the tasks which needs collective responsibility and the ministry-wise responsibilities. Moreover, when the Constitution is ratified by an overwhelming majority, the Union Government will have the right to write bills concerning the matters put on the Union legislative list, and the Union Government may have the right to write bills concerning the matters put on the Union legislative list, and the Union Government may have the right to write bills concerning the matters put on the Union legislative list.
The Union Government shall manage, guide and supervise their subordinate government departments and organizations in accord with the provisions of the Constitution and the bylaws. The Union Government, according to the Constitution, the basic principles — “The state is divided and constituted with the existing seven divisions as the seven regions and existing seven states as the seven states”, “The Regions and States are of equal status and authority”, and “The executive power of the Union is distributed among the Pyidaungsu, regions and states; and self-administrative power is distributed to self-administered areas as stipulated by the State Constitution” — have already been laid down.

The Union Government is to make strenuous efforts to ensure proportionate development in the entire Union, sufficiency in the food, clothing and shelter needs of all Union-dwellers and their higher living standard in building the Union system.

Despite the differences in population, economic opportunities, resources, transport and living standard, region governments and state governments are to cooperate and coordinate with the Union Government for equitable development.

In like manner, the self-administered area leading body is to cooperate and coordinate with the region government concerned or the state government concerned for the all-round development of the people living in the self-administered area.

The region governments, the state governments and the self-administered area leading bodies are to draw long and short-term and annual plans for implementing such tasks as economy, social affairs, education, health, development affairs and transport in their respective regions.

In this context, it is assumed that region governments, or state governments, or self-administered area leading bodies will be in no position of achieving remarkable success as much as they should if they carry out development tasks separately on their own in their regions. Only when they take combined and coordinated measures among themselves or with the Union Government will the work projects and plans take full shape.

In case some regions and states are lagging behind in terms of development while other regions and states are enjoying prosperity, and in case border areas and self-administered zones are lagging behind in terms of development, the Union Government is to make concerted and coordinated efforts to ensure a proportionate development in all sectors across the Union.

The Union Government is to make combined and coordinated efforts to ensure the supply of necessary materials, the employment of staff, intellectua ls and intelligentsia, the dissemination of technologies, and the provision of cash grant, special cash assistance and loans between the departments of the Union Government and region or state governments so as to enable the region or state governments to carry out their respective tasks for realization of political, economic and social development.

In this context, it is assumed that region government, or state government, or self-administered area leading body is to effectively and successfully carry out such work projects in their respective regions as agriculture, construction of dams and reservoirs, establishment of industries, undertaking of business transactions, education, health, social tasks, development affairs, and construction of roads and bridges. Only the continued efforts made through coordination promise a proportionate development across the Union.

In connection with concerted and coordinated efforts to effectively and successfully implement work projects by the Union Government, it is therefore necessary to discuss and suggest as to whether or not a detailed basic principle should be laid down as follows:

“The Union Government cooperates and coordinates with the region government, the state government, and the self-administered area leading body to enable them to effectively and successfully carry out their tasks.”

Of the detailed basic principles laid down at the National Convention in connection with general provisions, one principle reads “A Constitutional Tribunal shall be set up to interpret provisions of the State Constitution; to scrutinize whether or not laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Region or State Hluttaw, and functions of executive authorities of the Pyidaungsu, regions, states and self-administered areas are in conformity with the State Constitution; to decide on disputes in connection with the State Constitution between the Pyidaungsu and regions, between the Pyidaungsu and states, between regions and states, among regions, among states, between regions or states and self-administered areas and among self-administered areas themselves; and to perform other duties prescribed in the State Constitution.”

Moreover, the National Convention has laid down detailed basic principles for the Chapter “State Structure” on how to deal with and settle the matters like the re-delineation of the territorial boundary of the Union, the re-delineation of the territorial boundary of a region or a state; and the re-delineation of the territorial boundary of a village, a village tract, a ward, a town, and a township or a district should such disputes arise over the delineation of territorial boundary. It is therefore necessary to solve the disputes over the delineation of territorial boundary among regions, states and self-administered areas in accord with the provisions embodied in the Constitution.

I will continue the matters related to some disputes not stated in the above-mentioned disputes. In carrying out the duties and functions vested in region governments, state governments and the self-administered area leading bodies according to the Constitution, there may sometimes arise disputes over administration between regions and states, among regions or states, between regions or states and self-administered areas, or among self-administered areas.

In this case, disputes may arise over administration between regions or states and Union territories, or between self-administered areas and Union territories. For instance, they are disputes over cultivation on the alluvial island; disputes over maintenance and utilization of dams and reservoirs and supply of water; disputes over the location of jetties; disputes between development affairs committees over contiguous areas; disputes over taxation; and disputes over shared utilization of irrigation water and river water.

Except the constitutional matters as described above and the disputes over re-delineation of territorial boundary, the Union Government is to make concerted efforts through coordination to settle the disputes over administration among regions, states or self-administered areas, those between regions or states and between regions or states and self-administered areas and Union territories. The Union Government is to adopt the procedures to solve through coordination in case of administrative disputes.

It is therefore necessary to discuss and suggest as to whether or not a detailed basic principle should be laid down as follows:

“(a) cooperate, coordinate and make decisions if necessary on disputes over administration between regions and states; among regions; among states; between regions or states and self-administered areas; and among self-administered areas; and
(b) cooperate, coordinate and solve the disputes over administration between regions or states and Union territories and between self-administered areas and Union territories; and make decisions if necessary.”

Public Relations &…

prevailence of law and order, national solidarity and in nation-building tasks and building of discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

He said the association undertook its aims and future tasks for realization of political, economic and social objectives under the correct leadership of the government upholding Our Three Main National Causes. As it served the interest of the people, the association’s noble, correct aims spread among them and youths and they cooperated with the association in membership from various fields increased. Therefore, the association can be proud of its strong national force. Arrangements for physical and mental development of the members are being made.

He quoted Senior General Than Shwe as saying at the opening of Management Course No 10 for USDA Executives that the aims of conducting courses was to become qualified youths who will discharge the duties of the State and can build a modern developed nation. After realizing the aims, policies and discipline, they are to organize the people through the way.

The trainees are to uphold the objectives of the association unwaveringly, to implement the tasks through belief and concepts, and to organize the people after noticing the public attitude and voice, be urged.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-General and CEC said their aims and objectives under the correct leadership of the government for realization of political, economic and social objectives under the correct leadership of the government upholding Our Three Main National Causes. As it served the interest of the people, the association’s noble, correct aims spread among them and youths and they cooperated with the association in membership from various fields increased. Therefore, the association can be proud of its strong national force. Arrangements for physical and mental development of the members are being made.
The Union Government shall have the right to use the funds within the allotment of the normal expenditure included in the latest-enacted Union Budget, laid down in the Union Budget Law of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, if the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw cannot approve the Union Government-submitted bill before the end of fiscal year.

11. The Union Government shall submit the bill concerning the matters the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw can enact into law within the framework of the provisions of the Constitution, and shall submit it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval.

12. The Union Government, save constitutional disputes and the disputes over the re-delineation of territorial boundary, shall—

(a) cooperate, coordinate and make decisions if necessary on disputes over administration between regions and states; among regions; among states; between regions or states and self-administered areas; and among self-administered areas; and

(b) cooperate, coordinate and solve the disputes over administration between regions or states and Union territories and between self-administered areas and Union territories; and make decisions if necessary.

13. The Union Government, in accordance with law, shall—

(a) constitute Union-related service organizations as necessary, and stipulate the duties and functions for such organizations; and

(b) appoint the required number of staff.

I would like to conclude by repeating whether or not detailed basic principles should be laid down as have just been clarified in connection with the executive authority of the Union Government, the executive authority of the region or state government, presented on behalf of Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee by, National Convention Convening Work Committee Members Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun and Su-
A farmer at the Bollywood Veggies, an organic farm outside of Singapore that grows more than 400 varieties of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers, pushes a wheelbarrow on 9 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Nigeria calls for OPEC to “moderate” oil price

ABUJA, 8 March—Nigeria, Africa’s top oil producer, on Monday called for all OPEC member countries and their non-OPEC oil producer counterparts to reduce high oil price in the world market.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo gave the advice at an economic workshop for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member countries in the capital Abuja.

He said that OPEC, the bloc formed by the world’s most important oil producers, and non-OPEC oil producers should “moderate the high price of oil” according to OPEC price modulating mechanism.

“Excessive and volatile oil prices are not in the best interests of producers and consumers. There is need for price stability and supply security for all concerned,” he said.

The President said speculators should also realize they were doing more harm than good to both the producer nations and the consumers.

OPEC Secretary-General Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Sunday expressed concern over the recent crude oil price hikes in the world market, noting that the OPEC Reference Basket has risen by more than 8.50 US dollars per barrel since February 8, reaching 48.36 dollars per barrel last Friday.

The cartel attributed the price rise to a number of factors, including the late cold snap in the Northern Hemisphere and unexpected outages in the downstream sector.

Dried up Mekong River hails Thai-Lao cargo transport

BANGKOK, 8 March—Cargo ships transporting goods between Loei and Luangprabang provinces of Laos have stopped operating since mid-February as this particular section of the Mekong River is drying up, the Thai News Agency reported on Monday.

The agency quoted Somchate Teeradamrong-sak, deputy chief Customs officer of the Chiang Khan checkpoint, as saying that the Mekong cross-border trade activities with Laos have now ground to a virtual halt after seven months without rain.

However, the peak season for heavy cargo transport has passed as the harvest season for most farm commodities to be transported across the border fell around November to December.

Unlike the cargo business, regular passenger services remain unaffected by the drought, he said.

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.I. for Barum Continental P.O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 10 March 2005

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

Germany, France call for flexible interpretation of EU stability pact

BERLIN, 8 March—German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac agreed Monday that the EU stability pact should be flexibly interpreted so as to stimulate economic growth in member countries.

Speaking to Press after their meeting at North-Western German town of Blomberg, Schroeder said that economic growth in the entire Europe was not satisfactory.

He said that the EU stability pact, or the Maastricht Treaty, should be newly interpreted, but the details should be discussed with Luxembourg, which currently holds the rotating EU chairmanship.

Chirac said that factors such as long-time stagnation and the huge costs of reunification in Germany should be taken into account in implementing the rules of the Stability Pact.

The Maastricht Treaty stipulates that the public deficit of a member state of the euro zone should not exceed 3 per cent of its GDP and otherwise it will be penalized by the EU Commission.

Up to the end of 2004, both Germany and France have violated for three consecutive years the Maastricht rules, but they have avoided penalty only after exerting strong pressures on the EU Commission.

Chirac also said that his country would continue its efforts with Germany and Britain to persuade Iran to use its nuclear programme for peaceful purposes.

In a joint statement, German and French leaders also repeated their support for an independent and sovereign Lebanon.
China protects wild Asian elephants, habitats

BEIJING, 8 March — China has taken measures to protect Asian, or Indian, elephants and their wild habitats in the past years, which helped stabilize the number of the species in the country.

China now has 150 to 250 wild Asian elephants living in Yunnan Province, the southwest of the country, according to the State Administration of Forestry.

To protect the animal from extinction, the country set up two state-level natural reserves and one provincial one in Yunnan to protect its 312,494 hectares of elephant habitat. More than 600 people are engaged in part-time or full-time patrols in these areas.

The government has also invested 3.9 million yuan (470,000 US dollars) in a project to move residents living in the reserves out of the areas, and worked out regulations to provide compensation for losses caused by invading of elephants. Each year, the provincial government allocates three to four million yuan in this respect.

While improving protection, the government has spared no efforts in cracking down on ivory smuggling.

Sending Chinese women into space still needs time

BEIJING, 8 March — China presently does not have women astronauts qualified for being sent into orbit and the dream of Chinese women touring the outer space is yet to come true, said an expert on Monday while attending the session of the top advisory body.

Qi Faren, designer-in-chief of the country’s manned spacecraft, made the above-mentioned remarks during an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

Astronaut candidates are usually required to have flown fighter planes for some 200 hours. “Although China has many women aviators now, none of them meets the minimum requirement,” said Qi. China is now screening astronauts for the second manned space tour and the final squad will not be set until the last minute with varied factors being taken into consideration, said the spacecraft expert in response to whether China’s first man in space Yang Liwei will make a revisit.

Two children die in Madagascar stadium panic

NAIROBI, 8 March — Two children died on Monday from injuries suffered in a crush that hurt 45 other people at an overcrowded soccer stadium in Madagascar’s capital, hospital officials said.

The stadium was already at full capacity of 50,000 people on Sunday when hundreds of fans waiting outside to watch Madagascar’s USJF Rovinola play South Africa’s Kaizer Chiefs forced their way in.

Scores of people were injured in the panic as the standsswelled with people. Witnesses said the main gate was then shut, preventing anyone from leaving.

“Too many people came in and we started being squashed up against one another,” said Solof Rakotobaisera, 24, as he nursed multiple head wounds.

US Navy commissions latest high-tech destroyer

WASHINGTON, 8 March — The US Navy has commissioned its most advanced guided-missile destroyer to date, USS Nitze, at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia, the Atlantic Fleet announced Monday.

The ship, commissioned last Saturday, is the new- est of the Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, which is outfitted with the AEGIS weapons system and a MK 41 Vertical Launch System that fires a combination of up to 96 surface-to-air and Tomahawk missiles, as well as vertically launched ASROC torpedoes.

The ship is also equipped with a remote control minehunting vehicle able to operate without a tether to detect, localize and identify mines in deep and shallow water, and helicopter hangars.

Homported in Norfolk, the 155.3-m, 9,300-ton vessel was constructed in Bath, Maine, and is equipped with four gas turbine propulsion plants that power the ship to speeds above 30 knots.

The ship has a crew of 300 sailors and officers and was named after Paul H Nitze, who served as the US Navy secretary from 1963 to 1967 and died in October last year.

US college students drink more alcohol than non-students

CHICAGO, 8 March — US college students drink more alcohol and are more likely to binge drink than young adults who are not in college, but the non-students are more likely to be dependent on alcohol, a study said on Monday.

Other studies have found that college students are more likely to take part in heavy or binge drinking than peers in the same age group who do not attend college. The 2001 survey of 6,300 people aged 19 to 21 found 18 per cent of college students reported alcohol-related problems compared to 15 per cent of those not in college.

Students also exceeded their nonstudent peers in weekly, monthly, and yearly alcohol use, the report said.

But nonstudents were more likely than students to drink daily — a sign of alcohol dependency.

“The results of this study provide a more encouraging message about the consequences of college drinking than many of the recent reports,” wrote OPEC’s co-chair and the report’s author, Shutek of the University of Missouri at Columbia.

“Although college students suffer from some clinically significant consequences of their heavy-handed drinking, they do not appear to be at greater risk than their noncollege attending peers for the more pervasive syndrome of problems that is characteristic of alcohol depend,” she wrote.

Alcohol is involved in about 1,400 student deaths, 500,000 injuries, 600,000 assaults, and 70,000 sexual assaults each year on US college campuses, said the report published in the Archives of General Psychiatry. — MNA/Reuters

Crude oil futures move higher ahead of OPEC meeting

NEW YORK, 8 March — Crude oil prices rose slightly Monday as traders speculated that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would cut production.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, light, sweet oil futures for April delivery rose 11 cents to end at $53.89 dollars per barrel. Meanwhile, on London’s International Petroleum Exchange, the April Brent crude-oil futures contract climbed 25 cents to settle at $52.02 dollars a barrel.

On Monday, traders initially cashed in profits from last week’s gains, sending prices lower, but there was some late buying as they digested the remarks by the president of OPEC, who said the market was “well supplied.” Oil prices were about 45 per cent higher than a year ago, up sharply in recent weeks because of a combination of colder weather, the weak dollar and fears that OPEC might rein in production to head off a seasonal drop in demand.

While analysts were expecting that OPEC would cut production at its 16 March meeting to boost prices, the members of OPEC remained divided over the issue.

OPEC’s president said Sunday that the cartel’s producers were concerned by the recent rise in oil prices, “despite the fact that the market is well-supplied and global crude oil stocks have continued to build.”

Iran’s OPEC minister said the group’s current output ceiling was expected to remain unchanged, but the President of Nigeria, an OPEC member, called for the cartel to take action to lower crude oil prices.

Speculative buying by hedge funds had also been driving prices in recent weeks. “In my view, the market is overly excited,” an analyst said. “But this suggests that at some point, there’ll be a sharp downward correction. Prices could fall as fast as they have gone up.”

Prices could fall as fast as they have gone up.

Elephants from the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus walk single file in the snow down Paterson Plank Road from a transport train in East Rutherford, NJ, on 8 March, 2005, to the Continental Airlines Arena where the circus will play for six days.—INTERNET
John Terry heads Chelsea into Champions League quarter-finals

London, 9 March — Captain John Terry headed Chelsea into the Champions League quarter-finals with the decisive goal in a remarkable 4-2 victory over Barcelona at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday.

The centre back’s effort capped a classic match that ended with Chelsea stealing through to the last eight for some time but we committed some crucial errors. Chelsea had the perfect start with three goals before midway through the first half.

Chelsea struck again nine minutes later. Joe Cole, over the onrushing Barcelona keeper Victor Valdes. The cheers for that goal had hardly died down when Lampard’s path and he slammed the ball into the empty goalwards that took a deflection off defender Oleguer.

This time their three-goal strike started in the eighth minute when he burst forward unchallenged from a corner, Jaap Stam partnering Alessandro Nesta in the middle defence with a through ball for Duff who shot past Tim Howard into action.

Gradually Barca came back into the match with Crespo twice worrying the United defence. Barca even had a shot on target — an echo of the last time they played Barcelona at Stamford Bridge almost five years ago when they scored three times in nine minutes at the end of the first half.

This time their three-goal strike started in the eighth minute when Guus Hiddink superbly outwitted defender Overall the match was a superb one and the Brazilian playmaker low shot onto the post and Milan’s Brazilian playmaker Kaka rattling the crossbar.

The plus side of United’s fluid system was that it enabled them to attack in numbers and they went very close to an opener in the 28th minute.

Dutchman Clarence Seedorf exploited that in the eighth minute when he burst forward unchallenged and slumped the ball to Crespo who forced goalkeeper Tim Howard into action.

Milan had been forced to reshuffle their defence, due to the absence through injury of Georgian left back Kakha Kaladze, with former United centre-half Tim Howard into action.

It was a tricky match and we had to be happy. It was a tricky match and we had to be patient Roy Keane playing as conventional midfielders and the formation ensured there was plenty of space for Milan’s midfield.

The centre back’s effort capped a classic match that ended with Chelsea stealing through to the last eight for some time but we committed some crucial errors. Chelsea had the perfect start with three goals before midway through the first half.

This time their three-goal strike started in the eighth minute when he burst forward unchallenged making a profound impression in midfield, cut in at the outside of Dida’s far post with a low drive.

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Dhaka to invest heavily to develop transport infrastructure

Dhaka, 9 March—An investment of about three billion US dollars is required to develop the transport infrastructure of the Dhaka metropolis for the next 20 years, estimated a preliminary report of the Strategic Transport Planning study.

The New Age on Tuesday quoted the study as saying that amount is needed for the construction and implementation of road schemes, flyovers and underpasses to improve the existing public transport system. The study, which began in March 2004 under the Dhaka Urban Transport Project, has listed about 70 projects on infrastructure, mass transport and traffic management for implementation in phases in 20 years in the context of an annual increase in motor vehicles by 10 per cent.

The study said the investment needs to be made in four phases of five years each on the basis of three criteria—readiness, urgency and the needs of the next 20 years for Dhaka where the population will be 30 million by 2025. The study suggested that about 240 million dollars should be invested in the first phase, 2005 to 2009, for the implementation of about 15 projects, 10 of which are now under way. The objective of the first phase is to improve and protect steps towards better transport management, so that future investments do not go waste, the study said.

The study suggested an investment of about 530 million dollars in the second phase, from 2009 to 2014 when 17 projects would be implemented. It also suggested an investment of about 866 million dollars in the third phase, from 2015 - 2019, with 20 projects and an investment of about 1.266 million dollars in the final phase, from 2020 - 2024, with 18 projects.

Latam representatives evaluate quality of education

MANAGUA, 9 March—Representatives from 17 Latin American countries convened here on Tuesday to evaluate the current educational quality of the region.

The officials are attending the 16th meeting of national coordinators of the Latin American Laboratory of Education Quality Evaluation. Regional co-coordinator of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, Ana Machado, said in speech that the goal of the laboratory is to assess the quality of education and strengthen the debate on educational policies in the region.

The purpose of the study is not aimed at deciding who is better or worse, but to find factors that could lead to quality education in all countries of the region, Machado said.

Weathers

Wednesday, 9 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy to cloudy in Northern Shan State, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Chin State and Sagaing Division, (5°C) above normal in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing Divisions, (8°C) below normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway and M.Patho (40°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 8-3-2005 was 37.8°C or 102°F. Minimum temperature on 9-3-2005 was 19.2°C or 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 9-3-2005 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 8-3-2005 was (8.6) hours approx. Rainfalls on 9-3-2005 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 (5) mph from Southwest at (18:55) hours MST on 8-3-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 10-3-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Rakhine and Northern Shan States and upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of light rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-3-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-3-2005: Partly cloudy.

Chilean, European airlines consider investing in Argentina’s SW

BUENOS AIRES, 9 March—Chile’s Airline Lan and Air Europe are mulling the possibility of investing in Argentina’s airline Southern Winds (SW) which has been troubled by a drug scandal, it is reported here on Tuesday.

SW Chairman and main stockholder Juan Migno, speaking to La Stampa in Buenos Aires, said that the airline has not yet received any offers for possible investment in the airline, and that the decision will be taken after the official announcement of the new government in the country.

MNA/Xinhua
By exercising the legislative power, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall have the right not only to enact laws considered necessary for the State but also to make necessary decisions in the interest of the State.