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

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint on inspection tour of Nanyun in Sagaing Division

Yangon, 10 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, left here by air on 7 March morning and arrived at Mandalay International Airport at 11.35 am.

Accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party continued their trip to Kachin State and arrived at Myitkyina Airport in the afternoon.

They were welcomed by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, Myitkyina Airbase Commander Col Zaw Tun and officials. Accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint flew to Nanyun via Tanai. At Nanyun, Commanding Officer Lt-Col Kaung Kyaw of the local battalion, departmental officials and local people welcomed them.

At Bandoola Hall in Nanyun, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with departmental personnel, social organization members and local people and presented cash for education, health and social sectors.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on matters related to the township by the chairman of Township Peace and Development Council and departmental officials. He fulfilled the requirements. Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave supplementary reports.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented a computer set and sweatshirts to Nanyun BEHS to officials. He then gave five sewing machines to the Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council. Similarly, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented gifts for education, health and social sectors of Nanyun Township to officials.

Deputy Director-General Col Than Shein of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas (See page 8)

Military Attachés, wives and families back from Shan State tour

Yangon, 10 March — An excursion group including military attachés, their wives and families of foreign missions led by Dean of the Military Attachés to the Union of Myanmar Military Attaché to Lao People’s Democratic Republic Col Onechanh Phetsalat, accompanied by Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Chief of Defence Services Military Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe, wives of senior military officers and officials, arrived back here by special Tatmadaw aircraft this afternoon after visiting Taunghgyi, Inlay, Pindaya and Kalaw regions of Eastern Command area.

The excursion group was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chief of Defence Services Military Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers and officials.

Chief of Defence Services Military Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe welcomes back Military Attachés and wives and party who visited Taunghgyi, Inlay, Pindaya and Kalaw regions of Eastern Command area.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive for national economic development

The Government of the Union of Myanmar is building the nation into a modern and developed one by implementing the political, economic and social objectives laid down. For economic development, the market-oriented economic system is practised. Moreover, national entrepreneurs are given an important role in translating the market economic system into reality in accordance with the objective : the initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples. Thus, increased cooperation of the national entrepreneurs can be enlisted in the field of national economic endeavour and farmers, industrialists, traders, importers and exporters, and service providers have emerged.

Myanmar is an agricultural country and so agricultural produce is important not only for domestic consumption but also for export and most of the businesses rely on the nation’s rich terrestrial and aquatic resources. In addition to rice, coffee, tobacco, and tea, produção is an important source of revenue for the economic development of the nation, is the region where most of the monsoon rain is falling. In Mon State and a five-year plan is being implemented to promote cultivation methods. The government has shaped the market economic system so that national entrepreneurs can make the best use of the nation’s rich resources. As the government has also paved the way for import and export business for the economic development of the nation, the role of entrepreneurs has become greater. Therefore, we would like to call on the entire national entrepreneurs to strive for economic growth in the interests of the nation and the people by making the effective use of the favourable environment created by the government.
ARF pledges to enhance non-traditional security cooperation

BEIJING, 9 March — Participants at a seminar of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) on Tuesday called on relevant parties to strengthen non-traditional security cooperation.

Representatives from foreign ministries of 23 ARF members and officials in charge of non-traditional security issues, such as anti-terrorism and drug abuse control, delivered proposals on enhancing non-traditional security cooperation among Asia-Pacific countries.

The seminar, sponsored by the Chinese Foreign Ministry, was held in Sanya, a scenic city in south China’s island province of Hainan, between 7 and 8 March.

Participants agreed that non-traditional threats, including terrorism, transnational crimes and infectious diseases, have been rising markedly in recent years, bringing uncertain factors to regional security even though the overall security situation in the Asia-Pacific Region maintained stable in general.

The non-traditional security issues have been emerged in the backdrop of complicated political, economic and cultural factors so that they should be tackled thoroughly in a comprehensive way, participants said. While enhancing their own capacities for dealing with the non-traditional security issues, all countries should actively support and participate in international and regional cooperation in this regard, they said.

The participants spoke highly of the achievements made by the ARF in carrying out dialogue and cooperation in fighting terrorism and other non-traditional security issues, and called for all concerned parties to further enhance dialogue and cooperation. The seminar was held in line with the decision made on the 11th Foreign Ministers’ Meeting of the ARF, which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia last July.

Initiated in 1993, ARF is the primary forum in enhancing political and security cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region and also a pivot in building regional peace.

Counselor in China said, noting that the MoU seeks to translate the ARF’s commitment to fighting terrorism and other non-traditional security issues, and called for all concerned parties to further enhance dialogue and cooperation.

In goods, one of three in-built components of the accord, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Trade in services and investment agreement are the other two components of the accord, he said, adding that the BIMST-EC members adopted the preliminary framework of the accord in February 2004.

Philippines, Brunei sign MoU on education cooperation

MANILA, 9 March — The Philippines and Brunei agreed to enhance the education standards in the two countries through a memorandum of understanding (MoU), a local TV reported on Tuesday.

According to the report from the ABS-CBN news channel, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, who is in Bandar Seri Begawan for a two-day working visit, said that the MoU seeks to “broaden cooperation in the field of education and expand people-to-people relations”.

Nepali FM’s visit to India improves mutual understanding

KATHMANDU, 10 March — Nepali Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramesh Nath Pandey said his visit to India provided an opportunity to enhance understanding on issues of mutual concerns between Nepal and India.

“The three-day working visit was fruitful in many aspects to extend and expand bilateral relations, because both sides put their views in a transparent manner,” Radio Nepal on Thursday quoted Pandey as saying.

During his meetings with his Indian counterpart and other officials, Pandey conveyed the Nepali Government’s assurances that the state of emergency measures imposed since February 1 will be relaxed, detained party leaders will be released and press censorship will be lifted in a gradual manner.

Vietnam further taps key export markets

HANOI, 9 March — Vietnam focuses on further exploiting export markets of China, Northern Europe and new European Union (EU) members, in a move to reach export target of 31.5 billion US dollars this year.

Vietnam is infiltrating more deeply into China via aviation and boosting export of fresh items such as seafood, fruits and vegetables, according to local newspaper Youth on Tuesday.

Currently, local products, mostly unprocessed and frozen ones, enter China mainly via border trade, Doi Ngoc Chuong, Vietnamese Commercial Counselor in China said, noting that Vietnam annually earns just 50 million dollars from exporting seafood to China while the foreign country spends some two billion dollars on importing the products each year.

Vietnam will also boost export of items that China has high demand for, including rice, cashew nuts, crude oil, coal and rubber. Vietnam and China, which posted a two-way trade of more than 6.7 billion dollars in 2004, have targeted to obtain a turnover of 10 billion dollars in 2010.

Regarding Northern Europe, Vietnam will establish stronger trade relations with big retailers who can sell a great volume of local products through their distribution systems across the region. Products that Vietnam will intensify export to the region include woodworks, handicrafts and footwear.

Regarding new EU members such as Poland where many Vietnamese people are living and working, the country will facilitate shipping abroad its products which are widely sold in markets run by local people in the foreign country. It will make more local products to be sold in the foreign country’s supermarkets and big shops.
HK health experts propose antiviral stockpile

HONG KONG, 9 March — Hong Kong’s Health, Welfare and Food Bureau has proposed spending 254 million Hong Kong dollars (32.56 million US dollars) to purchase antiviral capsules, raising its stockpile from 3.7 million capsules to more than 20 million in phases.

The capsules form an integral part of the bureau’s plan for tackling an influenza pandemic, and avian flu in particular.

The bureau will present its proposal to Hong Kong Legislative Council’s Panel on Health Services on 14 March and seek the Finance Committee’s endorsement for creating a capital commitment later.

As so many other places in the Asia-Pacific Region also need the antivirals, their delivery will need to be phased over six to 12 months.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), stockpiling drugs is the only way to ensure sufficient supplies at the start of a pandemic and governments with adequate resources should pursue this option as a precautionary measure.

The bureau said in line with the WHO’s recommendations, the proposal will contribute to keeping Hong Kong safe for the international community to do business, providing a living and working environment and pursuing policies which promote and protect the health and safety of Hong Kong people.

Since late December, avian influenza cases have claimed 13 lives in Vietnam. The WHO has expressed concern that the virus may re-assort its genes with those from a human flu virus, acquiring the ability to move more easily from person to person.

The bureau said the pandemic’s impact will depend on how well Hong Kong is prepared, adding it aims to ensure an adequate antiviral supply while minimizing wastage.

Hong Kong’s Centre for Health Protection has recommended maintaining the target level in consultation with its board of scientific advisors and in the light of recent developments in neighbouring places as well as their proactive action to raise their antiviral stockpile.

Reliance in talks with African S American nations for gas, oil

NEW DELHI, 9 March — Reliance Industries, the country’s largest private sector oil firm, is in talks to acquire oil and gas fields in West Africa, South America and Middle-East, a top company official said.

Reliance, on lines of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp’s hunt for oil properties abroad to supplement falling domestic production, has opened dialogue with several countries. “We are in dialogue in Nigeria, Chad, Angola, Ghana, Cameroon, Congo and Gabon. Things are progressing at a fast pace,” the official, who wished not to be identified, said.

In Latin America, Reliance is eyeing oil blocks in Venezuela, Mexico and Brazil.

“Like everybody else, we too are looking at oil assets in Middle-East. The basic difference is that we are discussing with countries from whom we already import crude oil for processing at our 33 million tonnes refinery at Jamnagar in the western Indian state of Gujarat,” he said.

Lawmaker calls for intensified protection of indigenous brands

BEIJING, 10 March — A Chinese lawmaker has called for more efforts from the legislature and government to protect the brand names and intellectual property of indigenous products, so as to make China’s national industry more “competitive internationally”.

“The state should adopt more substantial and feasible measures to protect the indigenous brands in the fields of trademark and intellectual property rights,” said Yang Minmian, the CEO of the Haier Group, China’s electric appliance giant based in the eastern coastal province of Shandong.

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China’s lawmakers propose for more traditional public holidays

BEIJING, 8 March — Two lawmakers have proposed more public holidays in China to remind the younger generation of the value of their traditional culture amid increasing popularity of Western holidays.

Huo Fuhua and Chen Xuexi, both Guangdong-based deputies to the 10th National People’s Congress, said on Sunday that the people in China should be given at least one day off on some important occasions that have been observed since ancient times.

They suggest an extra day off on the eve of the Chinese New Year, or the traditional Spring Festival as it is often referred to, the Dragon Boat Festival which falls on the 5th May of the Chinese lunar calendar and the Mid-Autumn Festival on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month. The latter two occasions are less celebrated among the youths these days, compared with the Valentine’s Day and Christmas, said the deputies on the Dragon Boat Festival.

Former Thai Interior Minister elected House Speaker

BANGKOK, 8 March — Thailand’s former Interior Minister Bhokin Bhalakula on Monday was elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

At the first session of the Lower House following the 6 February general election, Thai Rak Thai Party’s vice-chairman Bhalakula was elected as the Speaker of the House, while former Deputy House Speaker Suchart Tancharoen and veteran female politician Lalita Lerksmart was named the first and second deputy speakers.

No candidates from the opposition party were nominated to compete for the above positions.

The Thai Rak Thai Party led by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra won a landslide victory in the 6 February election, laying the base for the formation of the country’s first elected one-party government.

Thailand’s Parliament is scheduled to officially vote Thaksin as the new prime minister on Wednesday.

US military casualties in Iraq surpass 1,500

WASHINGTON, 9 March — A total of 1,504 US military personnel have been killed in Iraq since the start of the war in March 2003, the latest statistics released by the Pentagon showed. As of 10 am EST (1500 GMT) Tuesday, 1,149 US troops had been killed in action in Iraq, including 1,039 casualties after major combat operations ended on 21 May, 2003. The total included 355 deaths from non-hostile fire. Over 10,000 American soldiers have been wounded in Iraq, including 5,418 who returned to duty within 72 hours and 5,867 others who did not.

Meanwhile, 158 US soldiers have been killed relating to military operations in Afghanistan, including 117 inside the country and 41 in supporting operations elsewhere. Of the dead, 65 were killed in action while 93 by non-hostile fire. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan’s February foreign reserves down

TOKYO, 9 March— Japan’s foreign exchange reserves stood at $40.56 billion US dollars at the end of February, down $1.2 billion US dollars from the previous month, the Finance Ministry said Monday.

Japan remained the largest holder of foreign reserves of any country or territory for the 63rd straight month, the ministry said, citing the latest comparable data.

The country’s foreign exchange reserves consist of securities and deposits denominated in foreign currencies plus International Monetary Fund reserve positions, IMF special drawing rights and gold.

The February figure marked Japan’s third-largest foreign exchange reserves on record. A record high of $44.54 billion US dollars was registered in December and the second-highest figure of $40.97 billion US dollar was logged in January, according to the ministry. — MNA/Xinhua

Three S African gold miners killed in quake

JHANNESBURG, 8 March — Harmony Gold, the world’s sixth biggest gold mining company, said on Monday that three of its miners died at a shaft in the Free State, South Africa, following a seismic event 2,300 metres underground.

South Africa’s News24 media group reported that Harmony Gold’s spokesperson Vusi Magadana has confirmed the death of the miners following an earlier report that the three were presumed dead.

A woman buys a book on the opening night of the 2005 Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival, in Hong Kong on 9 March, 2005. — MNA/Xinhua

Tata Steel has investment plans of 30 billion rupees for Bangladesh

JAMSHEDPUR, 8 March — India’s leading steel maker Tata Steel on Tuesday said it has investment plans of about 30 billion rupees in the Bangladesh project, to be generated through internal resources and borrowings.

Tata Steel Managing Director B Muthuraman said a final decision on the steel plant would be taken after feasibility report, that is likely to be submitted by the end of next month.

“The feasibility report will be coming by the end of April and a final decision on Bangladesh, where we have three projects, will be taken,” he told reporters after the inaugural ceremony of Global Compact Regional Conclave organized here.

The Tata group has signed an MoU with the Bangladesh Government involving investment of two billion dollars in the country to set up a power plant.

Sony Corp’s new Walkman portable music player NW-E507 is displayed in Tokyo on 9 March, 2005. — INTERNET

Annan encourages South Asia to achieve millennium goals

UNITED NATIONS, 9 March — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan encouraged countries in the South Asia on Tuesday to work together under the framework of the Global Compact to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Annan made the remarks in a message to the Compact’s regional group, meeting in Jamsedpur, India, saying he welcomes the strong expression of support for the UN Global Compact, a voluntary corporate citizenship initiative based on universal values in the areas of labour, the environment and anti-corruption.

China’s foreign reserves fall

BEIJING, 9 March — China’s foreign exchange reserves stood at $840.56 billion US dollars at the end of February, down $1.2 billion US dollars from the previous month, the Finance Ministry said Monday.

Chinese traditionally wrap glutinous rice with bamboo leaves to commemorate a patriotic poet who had drowned himself more than 2,000 years ago. The Mid-Autumn Festival is a popular family holiday featuring the full moon and tasty pastries. The Mid-Autumn Festival is a popular family holiday featuring the full moon and tasty pastries.

US, Italy to jointly investigate shooting of Italian journalist

WASHINGTON, 9 March — The United States and Italy will jointly investigate the shooting of an Italian journalist in Baghdad last week and the probe will last three to four weeks, the US commander of multinational forces in Iraq said on Tuesday.

“My expectation is it will be a joint investigation and “these investigations normally take three to four weeks to complete”, General George Casey said at a Press conference at the Pentagon.

Casey, who was in Washington for meetings at the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill, said the investigation was headed by Brigadier-General Peter Vanghel.

Russia’s vice finance minister: CPTPP does not conflict with WTO

MOSCOW, 9 March — The Russian Finance Ministry has confirmed that it supports the idea of joining the CPTPP (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership), which is expected to be signed later this year.

The US Department of Commerce announced on Wednesday that the US government will extend an anti-dumping and countervailing duty (AD/CVD) investigation to RussianKnow how to recognize the potential of a given text for this task. The task requires extracting and representing the plain text of a document in a natural manner. The model should focus on comprehensiveness and accuracy of the content. The input is a set of natural text samples, and the goal is to process each sample, extracting and representing the text as accurately as possible. The output should be a plain text representation of the document. The model should be able to handle various formatting and styles, ensuring that the extracted text is readable and understandable.
China to deliberate on draft law on emergency state this year

**BEIJING, 10 March** — China’s top legislature will deliberate on the draft law on emergency state this year as part of its legislation plan, a top legislator said here on Wednesday.

Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, told the on-going annual session in a work report of the NPC Standing Committee that the top legislature has scores of draft laws for deliberation in 2005.

It will deliberate the draft laws on emergency state, anti-monopoly, civil servants, notary, governing offences against public order, enterprise bankruptcy, among others. The NPC adopted amendments to China’s Constitution last year. The amendments included stipulation on the state of emergency. It will also discuss the draft amendments to laws on corporation, securities, individual income tax, audit, compulsory education, protection on contagious diseases and to treat patients suspicious of them from swallowing their catch. — INTERNET

China to tighten surveillance over contagious disease

**BEIJING, 10 March** — China has asked its medical institutions to offer preliminary check-ups on contagious diseases and to treat patients suspicious of these diseases in isolation wards, the state media reported on Tuesday.

Ministry of Health said in a notice that the move is intended to prevent medical institutions from becoming the hotbeds for virus spread. Doctors in hospitals and clinics should give patients check-ups on contagious diseases before any further treatment, Xinhua news agency quoted the notice as saying.

Patients who are believed to be infected must be transferred to particular venues immediately and the departments that first received them should be disinfected, it says.

In periods of crisis, institutions should set up a booth for preliminary check-ups and only allow patients to enter the main hospital after being confirmed to be free from contagious diseases, it says.

In cases of respiratory diseases, check-ups should also be given to people who accompany the patients to the hospital or anyone in close contact with them, it says.

China promulgated a law on preventing contagious diseases in the summer of 2004, a year after the disastrous Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome broke out, killing 349 people and affecting thousands of others. — MNA/PTI

Women infected with HIV/AIDS increase in Cambodia

**PHNOM PENH, 10 March** — Although the epidemic rate of HIV/AIDS has decreased these years in Cambodia, more women have been infected with HIV/AIDS, worrying the government and society.

The figures from the National AIDS Authority on Tuesday’s forum showed that there were more than 57,500 women infected with HIV, about half of the nation’s 123,000 people who have HIV.

From 1991 to 2003, the number of men infected with HIV declined from 100,000 to about 65,000, while the women infected with HIV increased from 56,000 to 57,000. — MNA/Xinhua

An Indian tea plantation worker drinks water during a break while plucking the season’s first crop in Singha Jora, India recently. — INTERNET

Japan, Mexico confirm importance of cooperation in free trade

**TOKYO, 10 March** — Farm ministers from Japan and Mexico shared an understanding on Tuesday of the importance of cooperation to ensure that the free trade pact the two countries signed last September will be implemented smoothly.

The understanding was confirmed in a meeting between Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Yoshinobu Shimamura and Mexican Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Javier Usabiaga, now on a Japanese stay, according to the Japanese farm ministry.

Usabiaga was quoted as saying Mexico will export its farm produce to Japan by putting even greater emphasis on securing its safety for Japanese consumers after the pact takes force.

Shimamura threw his weight behind the Mexican attitude, the ministry said.

The pact was signed in Mexico on 17 September last year between Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Mexican President Vicente Fox as Japan’s second FTA following one inked with Singapore in 2002. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan to host 15th ASEAN-EU ministerial meeting

**JAKARTA, 10 March** — At least 11 ministers from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union (EU) will meet here on Thursday to discuss ASEAN-EU relations, reconstruction of the tsunami-affected areas, terrorism, transnational crime and other matters of regional interests.

The 15th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) was preceded by Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to be held here Wednesday, Jakarta Post reported on Wednesday.

“The ASEAN troika will be represented by Laos (as Head of the ASEAN Standing Committee), Indonesia (as Country Coordinator of the ASEAN-EU partnership) and Cambodia (as next Country Coordinator of the ASEAN-EU partnership),” said Marty Natalegawa, the director-general of ASEAN-Indonesia Affairs of Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“The EU troika will consist of Luxembourg (as EU President), the European Commission (EC) and the EU General Council,” said the official. — MNA/Xinhua

A cormorant waits for its turn to fish on a boat in the Li Jiang River near the town of Xingping, China recently. The birds have been used for centuries by Chinese fishermen, who tie strings made of hemp around the birds’ neck to stop them from swallowing their catch. — INTERNET

Japanese investment to Thailand to increase

**BANGKOK, 10 March** — Japan will increase its direct investment to Thailand, for the kingdom serves as a gateway for investment to other Southeast Asian countries, said a Japanese trade organization.

Thailand currently ranks as the second-largest overseas investment destination for Japan after China, said Atsuo Kuroda, the president of Japanese External Trade Organization (JETRO) Bangkok.

Japanese companies considered Thailand a main gateway to other countries in Southeast Asia, particularly Laos, which is a close partner of Japan. — MNA/Xinhua
I first came across the word “Nyimuya” in Mandalay in 1995. At that time the term was carried on the banner of the hall of the Malun Rice Offering Association. The grandpas contributing their volunteer services towards the association were still hale and hearty and active. They devoted themselves to the tasks for promotion and propagation of the Sasana. They willingly explained the definition of the word “Nyimuya” to me.

Members of the Sangha have to get together and coordinate matters in carrying out religious tasks for promotion and propagation of the Sasana such as indoor and outdoor discussions in such a harmonious and cohesive way. In honour of the Vinayana and procedure, the first Tipitakadhara Dhamma Bhandagarika Mingun Sayadaw named the hall of the association “Nyimuya”.

I found the grandpas very polite and modest and they preserved humility and religious traditions and dealt with each other with due respect. An elderly person cited a sermon of the Buddha to amplify his statement, saying that if there was a case, those responsible should coordinate all possible ways and means thoroughly so as to meet justice and reach a consensus. If the agreement represented the wishes of each and every participant and inflicted harm to no one, it was in conformity with “Nyimuya”. In order to reach such situation, all the participants must be imbued with genuine goodwill and all the discussions are to be based on mutual interests. The association has been established since many years ago. My articles about the association appeared in some journals and magazines, and a Myanmar national who was in Japan delivered his donation of K 100,000 to the association through me. I handed over the donation to the association and had an opportunity to gain the knowledge of the definition.

Man is a social being and no one is isolated. Based on relation, friendship and similarities, people group themselves into families, societies, work communities, religious communities, and regional and national communities. There are so many things to be done by respective societies. The more one considers the word “Nyimuya” and its procedure, the more deeply one realizes its essence. The word “Nyimuya” depicts all-round coordination to reach an all-agreeable consensus. But, here it does not mean to do things in compliance with the wishes and instigations from outside.

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mean to do things in compliance with the wishes and instigations from outside. The procedure means the holding of coordination in unison to seek the most appropriate methods to make things and functions together effectively and in a well organized way in order to create equal opportunities for all. Being based on cohesion and unity, the procedures bring prospects and progress to man.

The opposite of “Nyimuya” is disagreement lacking goodwill and cordiality. Disagreement weakness and cohesion in all cases, and it leads to deterioration. Whenever the term “Nyimuya” and its essence are in my mind, it is my endless thought on such good things as cohesion, unity, revitalization, peace and stability. “Nyimuya” is indeed a procedure that is like a stalk with one hundred fruits on it.

Such a good procedure cannot be put into practice without thorough and effective coordination. Participants must hold discussions and talks many times in order that understanding can be embedded in their minds. It is needed to take enough time for holding discussions to achieve improvement. But, the time spent should be commensurate with progress made. The participants, when discussions are in progress, should not heed to destructive acts and accusations outside the building in which they meet. Only when they are united and harmonious, can they serve the interests of the people, and they are thus to concentrate on things they are discussing.

The more they concentrate on their discussions, the greater progress they can make. Here a noteworthy point is that the greater opportunity one can create on one’s own, the greater success one will achieve in doing things. If one tends to believe in what others say, one will feel exhausted at the end of one’s thoughts. The attempts made through lack of confidence and enthusiasm will not yield any fruitful benefits.

If discussions are held in dissunity and disagreement among the participants, the destructive elements can grab an opportunity to diminish the dignity of the former.

Therefore, the national people are to cultivate a good habit of doing things through thorough coordination and unity and cohesion with unwavering determination and confidence. Only then, will we be able to choose effective methods and correct procedures in the interests of the nation and the people in the long run. It is safe to say that “Nyimuya” is a key to success.

Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 10-3-2005
(Translation: MS)

Military Attachés, wives and families tour Taunggyi,
Inlay, Pindaya, Kalaw of Eastern Command area

YANGON, 10 March — An excursion group comprising military attachés, their families and leaders of foreign missions led by Dean of the Military Attachés to the Union of Myanmar Military Attachés of Lao PDR Col Onechanh Phetsalat, accompanied by Daw Khin Thet Hlay, wife of Chief of Defence Services Military Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe, wives of senior military officers and officials, left here by special Tatmadaw aircraft on 8 March morning to visit Taunggyi, Inlay, Pindaya and Kalaw regions of Eastern Command area and arrived at Heho Airport at 8.45 am.

They were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife Daw Win Win Nu, Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and wife, senior military officials and departmental officials. The military attachés and party arrived back here in the evening.— MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and foreign military attachés pose for photo. — MNA
and National Races and Development Affairs handed over 100 dozens of exercise books and sweaters donated by the ministry to in-charge of the school U Yang Yan and town elders.

Similarly, Director Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein handed over medicines donated by the Ministry of Health to Head of the township health department Doctor Thein Win of Nanyun Township.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave a speech. After the meeting, Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted those present. In the evening, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the operation theatre and new building of Nanyun Township Hospital. Officials conducted them round the hospital campus.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party spent the night at Nanyun. — MNA

**Summer Buddhist Culture Course**

**Yangon, 10 March** — The Summer Course of Buddhist Culture organized by the religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs will be given a lecture at Wizayathan Hall on Thirimingala Kaba Aye Hill from 8 to 10 am starting on 15 March.

Those who wish to attend the course may contact Room 9, Povavideha Monastery (Tel: 666148) and the course will last from 15 March to 25 May.

— MNA

**Road construction tasks inspected**

**Yangon, 10 March** — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun together with the officials of the Public Works, inspected the road and bridge construction tasks along Pathein-Thaletkha-Mawtinzun road on 6 March.

The minister inspected the construction tasks of Thabyu Creek Bridge, extension of the road and sanitation tasks. Next, the minister gave instructions on upgrading into gravel road which is serviceable all seasons and attended to the needs.

The Pathein-Thaletkha-Mawtinzun road is 98 miles long and the pilgrims can make a day trip to Mawtinzun Pagoda using this road.

— MNA

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The commander gave instructions to the staff, saying that Cocogyun Township is enjoying development in various sectors such as education, health, communication and economy thanks to the efforts of those responsible.

**Mines Minister receives Dae Woo Int’l Corporation Chairman**

**Yangon, 10 March** — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Chairman of Dae Woo International Corporation Mr Tae Yong Lee and party at the ministry on Kanbe Street yesterday.

It was also attended by the responsible officials of the ministry.

— MNA

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**Feasibility of nickel mine inspected at Tagoung Hill**

**Yangon, 10 March** — Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein arrived at Tagoung Hill in Thabeikkyin 8 March to inspect the feasibility study of nickel mine at Tagoung Hill.

Officials and Chinese technicians reported on progress of tasks and plans to be carried out before the rainy season.

The agreement related to the mining tasks were signed by No 3 Mining Enterprise and China Non-Ferrous Metal Mining & Construction (Group) Co Ltd (CNMC) of China in July 2004. Its tasks were started on 1 October 2004.

The deputy minister inspected drilling of the test wells. The tasks were completed over 80 per cent. They oversaw construction of the hall for the lab. The deputy minister gave necessary instructions.

— MNA
The region or state government...

(from page 16)

to the provisions of this Constitution, the executive power of the State extends to the matters with respect to which the State Council has power to make laws.

Here, the delegates will have to present discussions and suggestions on whether or not the following detailed basic principles should be laid down concerning the executive power of the regions and states.

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the executive power of the region or state government extends to the matters with respect to which the region or state budget has power to make laws. Moreover, in such manner, the executive power of the region or state government also extends to the matters with respect to which the region or state government has been allowed to carry out in accord with any of the Union laws.

I will now explain the study of the matter in connection with the responsibility of the region or state government to help the Union Government as necessary in ensuring stability of the State, community peace and tranquility and the rule of law.

I have already presented in the sector of powers and functions of the Union Government, that the Union Government has the responsibility to ensure stability of the State, community peace and tranquility and the rule of law for successfully implementing the all-round development undertakings covering the administrative, economic, social sector, transport, etc.

As the responsibility rests on the Union Government, it can ensure stability of the State, community peace and tranquility and the rule of law, only if there prevails stability of regions and states, community peace and tranquility and the rule of law.

Likewise, the region or state government may successfully implement the all-round development tasks covering the administration, economy, social sector, transport, etc. in their own territories, if there is stability of regions and states, community peace and tranquility and the rule of law.

In this regard, the region or state government will have to lay down for proper running of the administrative machinery and for launching the all-round development tasks with added momentum in their respective territories, for maintaining the already-forged national solidarity, and for assisting the Union Government in its drive for ensuring stability of the State, community peace and tranquility and the rule of law.

A basic principle “Public peace and tranquility and the observance of law and order is the responsibility of every citizen” concerning the fundamental rights and responsibilities of citizens has already been adopted. Hence, the region or state government has the responsibility to assist the Union Government in its drive to ensure stability of the State, community peace and tranquility and the rule of law.

Hence, the delegates are to discuss and suggest whether or not the following detailed basic principle should be laid down:

The region or state government shall have the responsibility to assist the Union Government in its drive to ensure stability of the State, community peace and tranquility and the rule of law.

I will now continue to present the study on the laying down of work programmes of the region and state governments and implementation of the said work programmes.

The region or state government is to lay down work programmes on how it is going to develop its own territory and the priority tasks. The work programmes should include long-term, short-term and annual plans of the region or state government.

The region or state government will have to lay down work programmes on economy, social sector, administration, etc. appropriate to its territory’s natural conditions. This should be in line with the objectives, basic principles and guidelines of the Constitution. They should not be contrary to the policies adopted by the Union Government and Union laws.

The region or state government will have to implement the long-term, short-term and annual plans, after the approval of the region or state budget.

The delegates will have to discuss and suggest whether or not to lay down the following detailed basic principle in connection with the matter to lay down work programmes of projects of the region or state government.

Subject to the policies adopted by the Union Government and Union laws, the region or state government shall implement the projects in connection with the task to be implemented in the region or state concerned with the approval of the region or state budget.

I will now present the study on the drawing of the annual budget of the region or state and drafting of a bill on budget that should be designated as a task of the region and state governments.

Concerning the compilation of the budget statements for the states and submitting them to State Council, sub-section (1) of section 164, sub-section (1) of section 177 and sub-section (c) (amendment) of section 182, and sub-section (b) of the section 193 of the 1947 Constitution state, “The Head of the State shall prepare or cause to be prepared the estimates of the receipts and of the expenditure of the State for each financial year and shall present them or cause them to be presented for the State Council for consideration.”

The region or state government is the institutions undertaking the responsibilities of the security, administrative, economic, social, transport and other sectors of the areas concerned. Thus they will have to draw the annual budget of the region or state concerned. To do so, the region or state government will have to estimate the receipt region or state, the possible expenditures of the organs of power and staff of the regions or states, and the expenditures of the on-going projects, and short-term, long-term and annual plans. In making the calculations, the region or state governments estimated financial provisions of the Union Government, the desired loans and financial aids should be taken into account.

The region or state government is to draw the budgets in accord with the provisions of the constitution, the respective laws, by-laws and regulations, orders and directives. In the process, the region or state government will have to separate the matter into two headings — the normal income and capital income under the heading “income” and normal expenditure and capital expenditure under the heading “expenditure.” The region and state governments are to earmark the estimated amounts of financial assistance and loans if there is any deficit. In doing so, the region or state governments of the regions and states which have the self-administered division or self-administered zones are to include the estimated amounts of additional funds, loans and financial aids for the long-term, short-term and annual plans approved according to the coordination and submission of the self-administered division leading body and the self-administered zone leading bodies in drawing annual budgets.

The Union Government and the region or state governments are to coordinate at the Financial Commission, formed according to the Constitution, and will have to revise their respective budgets again. The President and the chief ministers of the regions and states will play a key role in the Financial Commission. After making thorough discussions at the Financial Commission, the estimated accounts of the Union Government and the region and state governments are to be approved in accord with the coordination. At the discussions of the Financial Commission the region and state governments may know in advance the amounts of additional funds, financial aids for special cases, and loans they are going to receive from the Union Government during the fiscal year.

The National Convention has already laid down the detailed basic principle in connection with the formation of the Financial Commission and it responsibilities and rights. According to the already-laid-down detailed basic principles, the Financial Commission in the process of supporting the bill on the Union budget inclusive of the receipts and expenditure account of the Union, the provision of additional funds to the regions and states from the Union Budget Fund, special financial aids and disbursement of loans and presenting it to the President for submitting it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the President or the person assigned by the President, on behalf of the Union Government, will have to submit the bill on the Union budget to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Union Government will have to act according to the Union budget law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

(See page 10)

New Sanyo products introduced

YANGON, 10 March — The OK Myanmar Co Ltd introduced new Sanyo electronics at the Excel Treasure Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township yesterday evening. At the ceremony, new models of digital cameras, LCD projectors and water-coolers were introduced to those present. Next, the guests viewed the new products.

The company is running OK Myanmar Co office (Tel: 544454-65) in Dagon Centre near Shwegondang Traffic Light in Bahan Township, Sanyo Main Showroom (Tel: 241077, 384077) on Pansodan Street, and Sanyo Service Centre (Tel: 376997, 384748) in front of City 1 Street. — MNA

The ceremony to launch products of new Sanyo electronics in progress at Excel Treasure Hotel in Bahan Township. — MNA

Commander of Eastern Command

Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint welcomes military attaches, their wives and families of foreign missions at Heho Airport. (News on page 7, MNA)

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 11 March, 2005 9
Based on the annual budget of the Union, the region or state governments will have to draw up the annual budgets of the respective regions or states. After writing the accounts, the region or state governments are to draw up the bill on its budget and submit it to the region or state hluttaw concerned together with the explanation, for approval. The region or state governments of the regions and states having the self-administered division or self-administered zone or zones are to inform the leading bodies of the self-administered division or self-administered zone about the permitted financial amount included in the approved budget.

The region and state governments may use the funds of the bill of budget already approved by the respective hluttaws only after the chief ministers of the respective regions or states have signed and enacted into law in accord with the stipulations contained in the Constitution.

Hence, the delegates will have to discuss and suggest whether or not the following basic principle concerning the drawing of the annual budget of the region or state governments and enactment of the budget law of the region or state government concerned is necessary:

"Region or state governments shall submit to the respective hluttaws of the regions and states the matter containing the promulgation of the bill the region or state government is to adopt for the performance of the civil service functions in accordance with the Constitution, or existing laws, or rules and regulations, procedures, orders and directives born out of these laws. In case of failure to follow any of them, necessary management or directives should be provided. Only then will they perform the functions of the subordinate government organizations of the region or state ministries be in harmony with the powers entrusted. Only then will they serve the interests of the country and the people.

The region or state government is required to make the tasks for supervision, inspection, cooperation and coordination in advance with the Constitution, according to any of the Union Law, or region or State Legislative List, there will emerge tasks to be undertaken by the region or state government, or tasks to be undertaken by the region or state ministry. Moreover, the region or state government concerned and ministries concerned are to take charge of their respective duties.

Constant supervision should be given to ministries, governmental departments and organizations, whose functions are subject to the provisions of the Constitution. Moreover, they are responsible to supervise to ensure that these orders and functions are in accordance with the provisions of the region or state laws. Directive should be provided if need be. It is therefore necessary for the region or state government to submit regular or special reports on the functions of their subordinate bodies.

The region or state government is to run a check on whether its subordinate organizations discharging duties in the respective regions or state governments.

I will now present what the Work Committee has found in connection in the performance of the civil service functions in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, or existing laws, or rules and regulations, procedures, orders and directives born out of these laws. In case of failure to follow any of them, necessary management or directives should be provided. Only then will they perform the functions of the subordinate government organizations of the region or state ministries be in harmony with the powers entrusted. Only then will they serve the interests of the country and the people.

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Constant supervision should be given to ministries, governmental departments and organizations, whose functions are subject to the provisions of the Constitution. Moreover, they are responsible to supervise to ensure that these orders and functions are in accordance with the provisions of the region or state laws. Directive should be provided if need be. It is therefore necessary for the region or state government to submit regular or special reports on the functions of their subordinate bodies.

The region or state government is to run a check on whether its subordinate organizations discharging duties in the respective regions or state governments.

I will now present what the Work Committee has found in connection in the performance of the civil service functions in accordance with the Constitution, or existing laws, or rules and regulations, procedures, orders and directives born out of these laws. In case of failure to follow any of them, necessary management or directives should be provided. Only then will they perform the functions of the subordinate government organizations of the region or state ministries be in harmony with the powers entrusted. Only then will they serve the interests of the country and the people.
In accordance with the provisions...

(from page 10)

state. When the Region or State Hluttaw makes admin-
istrative decisions, the region or state government con-
cerned is responsible to take necessary measures to im-
plement them.

In this context, the region or state government is
required to submit to the Hluttaw concerned as well as
to the Union government the report on progress of
measures taken for the implementation of the resolu-
tions passed by the Region or State Hluttaw. Only then
will the Union government be able to keep in touch
with the entire conditions of regions and states across
the Union.

As an organ responsible for all-round development
tasks in its own area, the region or state government
should be tasked to submit progress reports to the
Region or State Hluttaw concerned on a regular basis.

Only then will the region or state government and
the Region or State Hluttaw concerned, in exercise of
their respective powers, executive and legislative, become
interdependent with mutual respect.

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

The region or state government shall —
(a) implement the resolutions occasionally passed
by the Region or State Hluttaw concerned,
(b) submit the report on the measures taken to the
Region or State Hluttaw concerned.
(c) submit the report on the entire affairs of their
areas to the Union government and to the Re-
gion or State Hluttaw concerned.

Only when the Union government and the region or
state government implement the administrative tasks
against time will the State and the people benefit from it.
The Union government will promulgate policies and
directives relevant to time and condition in the interest
of the State and the people. The region or state govern-
ment is responsible to implement such policies and
directives by putting into practice the powers vested in
them. It is therefore assumed that the region or state
government should be tasked to implement what the
Union government assigns on an occasional basis.

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

The region or state government shall implement
the tasks occasionally assigned by the Union gov-
ernment.

I will now sort out the detailed basic principles that
should be adopted in connection with the executive
authority vested in the region or state government and
the powers and functions relevant to that authority.

1. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the
effective power of the region or state government
extends to the matters with re-
spect to which the region or state hluttaw has
power to make laws. Moreover, in such man-
ner, the effective power of the region or state
government also extends to the matters with
respect to which the region or state government
has been allowed to carry out in accord with
any of the Union laws.

2. The region and state governments shall have
the responsibility to assist the Union Govern-
ment in its drive to ensure the stability of the
State, community peace and tranquillity and
the rule of law.

3. Subject to the policies adopted by the Union
Government and Union laws, the region or
state governments shall implement the projects
in connection with the task to be implemented in
the respective regions or states with the approval of
the region or state hluttaw.

4. Region or state governments shall submit to
the respective hluttaws of the regions and
states the budget bill of the regions and states
considered based on the annual budget of the
Union Government in accord with the provi-
sions in the Constitution.

5. If the region or state hluttaw cannot pass the
bill on the budget of the region or state submit-
ted by the region or state government con-
cerned, the said region or state government shall
have the right to use the funds of the
current expenditure included in the last-en-
tacted budget law of the region or state hluttaw.

6. In accordance with the provisions of the Con-
stitution, the region or state government shall
have the right to submit to the Region or State
Hluttaw the necessary Bill relevant to the
matters embodied in the Region or State Leg-
islative List.

7. The region or state government shall —
(a) manage, guide, supervise and inspect the
performance of the region or state minis-
tries and their subordinate government
departments and organizations to ensure that
they conduct their functions in ac-
cordance with the provisions of the Con-
stitution, or with those of the existing laws,
(b) supervise, inspect, cooperate and coordi-
nate in accordance with law the perform-
ance of the civil service organizations dis-
charging duties in their respective regions or
states.

8. To implement the tasks under its charge in
accordance with the Union Law for State
Civil Service, or through coordination in ad-
vance with the Union government, the region
or state government shall —
(a) establish civil service organizations of the
region or state as necessary;
(b) appoint the required number of civilian
staff.

9. The region or state government shall —
(a) implement the resolutions occasionally
passed by the Region or State Hluttaw
concerned, and submit the report on the
measures taken to the Region or State
Hluttaw concerned.
(b) submit the report on the entire affairs of
its area to the Union government and to the
Region or State Hluttaw concerned.

10. The region or state government shall imple-
ment the tasks occasionally assigned by the
Union government.

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 execu-
tive authority of the region or state government and the
powers and functions relevant to that authority.

Clarification on executive power of leading body
of division or zone presented by National Convention
Convening Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe
and on State Service Personnel presented, on behalf of
Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work
Committee, by Vice-Chairman of the Work Commit-
tee Attorney-General U Aye Maung will be published
in the newspapers to be issued on 12 March.

— MNA

15th Oto-Rhinolaryngologists’
Conference commences

YANGON, 10 March—The opening of the 15th Oto-
Rhinolaryngologists’ Conference of the Society of
Oto-Rhinolaryngology of the Myanmar Medical As-
sociation took place at the Association on Thembys
Road here this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw
Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, heads of de-
partment, rectors, professors, six specialists from
Britain, and 70 local specialists from States and
Divisions.

The minister delivered a speech on the occasion.
Vice-Chairman of the MMA Professor Dr Thein
Aung, Chairman of the unit Professor Dr Kyi Maung
and Chairman of the reception committee Associate
Professor Dr Khin Maung Than extended greetings.

The minister and guests viewed the booth staged
in commemoration of the conference.

The six specialists led by Dr Robin Young of the
royal operation group from Britain held ENT and
Head and Neck Reconstructive Surgery Workshop
at Sanpya General Hospital in Thingangyun and Ear,
Nose and Throat Hospital on 8 and 9 March.

A total of 20 papers will be submitted to the
conference, which continues till 12 March.— MNA

Iran rejects Bush’s hostile
remarks

TEHERAN, 10 March.—Iran on Wednesday
rejected US President George W. Bush’s recent
remarks against Tehran, terming them as “dis-
tortion of realities and disinformation campaign,”
the official IRNA news agency reported.

“America’s all-out support for Israel’s state ter-
rorism is so explicit and disgraceful that leaves no
room for the United States to make any comment on
terrorism,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza
Asefi was quoted as saying.

Bush on Tuesday accused Iran and Syria of
“using murder as a tool of policy” and urged them to
“end all support for terrorism.”

Asefi said the arrogant nature of the United States
was a big obstacle preventing the country from see-
ning the realities or making a sound assessment of
developments in the region.

“Time has come for US president to open his
eyes to realities, end instrumental use of the concept
of terrorism, refrain from giving the terrorism label
to freedom-seeking nations and stop following Zion-
ists’ discriminatory ideas,” Asefi stressed.

The spokesman added the US Government
should respect Iran’s legitimate rights and general
demand and stop its futile efforts to divide the Ira-
nian people.

Iran and the United States, who had been close
allies in the 1970s, turned into enemies after the
Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979. Washington
accuses Iran of secretly developing nuclear weapons
and sponsoring terrorists, categorizing Iran as part of
the so-called “axis of evil” and imposing harsh sanc-
tions on the country.— MNA/IRNA
New car price gap narrow in enlarged EU

BRUSSELS, 9 March — New car prices are converging across the European Union (EU), including in new member states, according to a latest report on car prices released on Tuesday by the EU executive European Commission.

“We can confirm that prices differentials between certain countries, and particularly for certain models, are still significant, the gap is closing,” says the report.

In the 12-nation euro-zone, pre-tax prices are generally lowest in Finland and most expensive in Germany. Looking at the EU as a whole, cars are less expensive on average in the new member states, with Estonia being the cheapest market.

“I am confident that the new legal framework for car distribution and strict enforcement of EU competition rules will contribute to further price convergence by removing obstacles to parallel imports throughout the EU,” said EU Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes.

Although the figures show that the situation is improving, more work needs to be done and rigorous enforcement action will continue, he added.

Price differentials, based on November 2004 figures, are smaller than those recorded in May 2004, with the average standard deviation of prices between the 25 national markets falling from 6.9 per cent to 6.4 per cent.

But price differences for particular models between the cheapest and most expensive member states can still be substantial. The widest price difference is for the Opel Astra, one of the 10 top best selling cars in EU in 2004, which costs almost 50 per cent more in Germany than in Denmark.

Hu calls for good implementation of policies on ethnic minorities

BEIJING, 9 March — President Hu Jintao on Tuesday called for implementing China’s policies on ethnic minorities and religions in all around way and improving the system of regional ethnic autonomy so as to boost the nationwide endeavour for social harmony.

To this end, efforts are required to do a good job in the ethnic and religious work to create a social and political atmosphere whereby the people of all ethnicities share a common destiny, Hu said when he joined a delegation of legislators from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in their panel discussion about the government work report and other related documents.

While underscoring the role of ethnic offici-
cials and grass-roots organizations in boosting economic and national unity in ethnic autonom-
ous areas, Hu encouraged the people of western China to follow the scientific outlook on development, continue macroeconomic control, keep to the new path of industrialization and focus on resolving agriculture and farmers- related issues for the sake of sustained, rapid, coordinated and health economic and social development.

Joining the Hubei provincial delegation in their discussion, Wu Bangguo, China’s top legislator, said drafting of the Anti- Secession Law, opposing and checking the activities of the “Taiwan independence” forces that were bent on making Taiwan secede from China and splitting the peaceful reunification of the motherland is the common will of the Chinese people, including the Taiwan compatriots.

Sovereign state can tolerate seces-sion and every sovereign state has the right to use necessary means to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Shougang may suspend production to curb pollution during Olympics

BEIJING, 9 March — Leader of a Beijing-based steel giant said on Tuesday that his company may slow down or suspend production during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games to curb pollution.

“We’ll take substantial measures, including production slowdown and suspension, to reduce pollution as we are able to move all the polluting plants by the time the Olympics opens,” said Zhu Jinmin, president of Beijing Shougang Group, one of the largest steel and iron maker in China.

The central government has recently approved a plan for Beijing Shougang Group, China’s leading iron and steel maker, to relocate all its polluting plants to neighbouring Hebei Province by 2010.

Zhu, also a deputy to the National People’s Congress, told the delegation of lawmakers from Beijing that his steel company has a major role to play in cleaning and purifying Beijing’s atmospheric air. “We’ll seek technological advancement this year to further stem pollution in the desulfurization process.”

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L for HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY P.O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 11 March 2005

British fashion chain says sales crashed in Feb, March

LONDON, 9 March — British fashion chain French Connection said sales crashed further in February and March, as it shook off its troubled spring range.

The group had pinned hopes of a recovery on its new-season clothing after a 15-per-cent slump in year profits, but it said on Monday same-store sales in the first five weeks of March had fallen 17 per cent.

“Recent trading conditions on the British high street have been very difficult, however even in the light of this our current trading is very disappointing,” Chairman Stephen Marks said in a statement. French Connection, known for its controversial ‘fcuk’ branding, said in November European and British sales had fallen and US customers had rejected an autumn collection which lacked a strong edge.

French Connection said pretax profits for the year to end-January were 33 million pounds (63.3 million US dollars), down 15 per cent on the year and in line with the revised forecast it gave in November’s profit warning. British retail sales slipped modestly in February, an industry body said Tuesday, suggesting that the household spending slowdown that took hold late last year is continuing.

MNA/Xinhua
Nigeria may have one of the world’s highest rates of fistula with an estimated 800,000 cases, the UNFPA said in a statement made available to Xinhua on Tuesday. The problem is particularly severe in the country’s north-west.

Obstetric fistula is a preventable childbirth injury that occurs when a woman endures prolonged obstructed labour without medical intervention. Often the baby dies and the woman is left with chronic incontinence.

Obstetric fistula tends to be common in countries with high maternal mortality rates. In Nigeria, a woman has a 1 in 18 lifetime risk of dying of complications of childbirth, a stark contrast to Europe, where the figure is 1 in 2,400. "For so long, these women suffered in silence. Before it was a household issue only discussed in the home. Now it is a public issue, and people know about it," said Aliyu Yakubu, UNFPA programme adviser in the northern Sokoto state.

"We must continue with follow-up counselling and advocacy at the community level. We don't want to see them back again. We want them cured, with healthy babies," Yakubu said.

The campaign, which ran from 21 February through 6 March, is the result of a unique partnership among the UNFPA, the Nigerian Government, the Virgin Unite, the Nigerian Red Cross Voluntary Service Overseas, health professionals and local non-governmental organizations.

It is a part of a UNFPA-led global campaign to End Fistula, launched in 2003 and active in more than 35 countries in Africa, South Asia and Arabic states. The campaign focuses on preventing fistula from occurring, treating women who are affected and providing rehabilitation for survivors to ensure that they reintegrate successfully into their communities. — MNA/Xinhua

**Zimbabwe’s twins recovering after separation surgery**

OTTAWA, 9 March — A pair of seven-month-old twin boys from Zimbabwe who were joined at the abdomen and shared a liver are recovering in Toronto’s Sick Kids Hospital after successful separation surgery, it is reported here on Tuesday.

The boys, Tinashe and Tinotenda, are recovering in the critical care unit, where they are in critical condition on life-support.

Dr Jacob Langer, Langer said the surgery went as planned on Monday, with no unexpected complications, but the boys still face risks. The operation had been expected to last eight hours but went better than expected, — MNA/Xinhua

**British Register General allows Charles’ wedding**

LONDON, 9 March — The British Register General dismissed on Tuesday 11 objections to the marriage of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles scheduled to take place at the Guildhall in Windsor on 8 April.

"I am satisfied that none of these objections should obstruct the issue of a marriage certificate," said Len Cook, Register General for England and Wales. Principal grounds for objection were that the law did not allow the Prince to marry in a civil ceremony. But Cook ruled that the relevant legislation, backed more recently by the European convention on Human Rights and 1998 Human Rights Act, did not prevent the royal marriage.

The couple initially wanted to get married in St George’s Chapel in Windsor Castle. But after it was decided that licensing the royal palace would cause too much disruption, Clarence House announced they would wed at Windsor’s town hall.

The 56-year-old heir to the throne divorced late Princess Diana in 1996. She died in a car accident in the following year.

The Prince has in recent years given Camilla, 57, a more prominent public role, frequently taking her to official engagements. — MNA/Xinhua

**Clinton to undergo new surgery after bypass**

NEW YORK, 9 March — Former US president Bill Clinton, 58, who underwent a bypass surgery in September, will undergo a medical procedure this week to remove fluid and scar tissue from his left chest cavity, his office announced on Wednesday.

The procedure, which is considered a consequence of an open heart surgery, will take place at New York’s Presbyterian Hospital on Thursday and he is expected to remain there for three to ten days. The risk of the procedure, known as decorticization, is low but it requires general anesthesia.

The scar tissue developed as a result of fluid and inflammation causing compression and collapse of the lower lobe of the left lung. — MNA/PTI

**HK, Shanghai woo Japanese investors**

HONG KONG, 9 March — The first Hong Kong-Shanghai joint investment promotion seminar, staged in Tokyo, has attracted more than 380 senior executives from top Japanese firms who have shown strong interest in establishing or expanding business in the cities. A Press release of the information office of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government on Tuesday said the seminar looks at business opportunities and market potential for Japanese companies in China, particularly in the Greater Pearl River Delta and the Yangtze River Delta.

Director-General of Hong Kong Investment Promotion Mike Rowe said he was pleased with the overwhelming response from investors, adding the seminar has set the stage for future cooperation between the two cities.

Rowe said combining with the delta has helped Hong Kong become a leading centre for management, information, co-ordination, finance and professional services. — MNA/Xinhua

**About 90,000 women serve in Russian Army**

MOSCOW, 9 March — About 90,000 women are serving in Russia’s Armed Forces in ranks of officers, ensigns, warrant officers and contract soldiers, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported on Tuesday, the International Women’s Day.

"About 5,000 women in the Army are officers, about 26,000 are ensigns and about 58,000 are soldiers and sergeants," said the information and public relations department of the Russian Defence Ministry.

The average age of woman officers in the Russian Army is 35 years, and all of them have received higher education. More than 70 per cent of the servicewomen are medics, signalers, financiers and military translators.

In the Army, about 500 women are colonels and lieutenant-colonels. More than 1,000 are majors and the rest are company officers, according to the report. More than 95 per cent of ensigns have received higher education or secondary military education, serving in staffs, communication units, logistic facilities and hospitals. They are on average 37 years old.

Women in ranks of contract soldiers and contract sergeants serve practically in all arms of the Armed Forces. Most of them serve in the land troops, airborne troops and the strategic missile troops mainly as telephone operators, code operators, clerks and medical staff.

More than 1,600 women have been awarded state medals and about 13,000 medals of the Defence Ministry were given for high results in the service. Merits and value showed in combat tasks, the ITAR-TASS said.

**545 Nigerian women treated against obstetric fistula**

LAGOS, 9 March — A total of 545 Nigerian women were operated on during an unprecedented surgical effort against obstetric fistula in the northern parts of the most populous country in Africa, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has said.

"The operation had been expected to last eight hours but went better than expected," said Dr Len Cook, Register General for England and Wales.

The couple initially wanted to get married in St George’s Chapel in Windsor Castle. But after it was decided that licensing the royal palace would cause too much disruption, Clarence House announced they would wed at Windsor’s town hall.

The 56-year-old heir to the throne divorced late Princess Diana in 1996. She died in a car accident in the following year.

The Prince has in recent years given Camilla, 57, a more prominent public role, frequently taking her to official engagements. — MNA/Xinhua

A model presents a creation by designer Francisco Javier Saldana as part of his Autumn/Winter 2005 collection show during Mexico Fashion Week in Mexico City in March, 2005. The Mexico Fashion Week show will run till 11 March. — INТЕРНЕТ
Bayern Munich goalkeeper Oliver Kahn (L) and defender Lucio of Brazil celebrate their team's victory over Monaco during the Champions League quarter-final second leg soccer match at Highbury in London, 9 March, 2005. Bayern Munich lost the match 0-1 but will advance to the quarter-finals on a 3-2 aggregate. — Reuters

Zalayeta gives Juventus 2-0 win over Real Turin (Italy), 10 March — A dramatic strike from Juventus forward Marcelo Zalayeta four minutes from the end of extra time gave the Italians a 2-0 win over Real Madrid and a place in the Champions League quarter-finals on Wednesday.

The goal followed red cards for Real striker Ronaldo who gave a retaliatory kick to Alessio Tacchinardi after the Juventus defender appeared to grab the Brazilian round the neck as he bore down on the Italian goal.

Zalayeta had the ball in the net from a free-kick three minutes earlier, but Gianluigi Buffon's confident save consigned the Italian striker to the bench for the restart.

The Spaniard was still angry after he was booked for his challenge on Tacchinardi, and as the referee showed the red card to Ronaldo, Zalayeta was ominously poised on the edge of the penalty area.

PSV Eindhoven cruise into Champions League quarters

Monaco, 10 March — PSV Eindhoven cruised into the quarter-finals of the Champions League on Wednesday with a solid 2-0 victory in Monaco.

Striker Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink headed the Dutch league leaders in front from Mark van Bommel's corner after 27 minutes and substitute DaMarcus Beasley wrapped up a 3-0 aggregate win from close range with 20 minutes remaining.

Monaco, beaten by Porto in last year's final, tried to respond through lively Uruguayan Ernest Chevanton, but the principality side were largely subdued against Guus Hiddink's well-organized outfit.

Their bad night was complete when after 76 minutes when defender Gael Givet was shown a straight red card for a wild lunge on PSV's Peruvian striker Jefferson Farfan.

Dead ball situations were largely devoid of chances, but PSV were more creative and deserved victory with their clinical finishing.

Liverpool to take place in Champions League quarters

Leverkusen (Germany), 10 March — Liverpool produced a vintage European display to reach the Champions League quarter-finals on Wednesday with two Luis Garcia goals leading them to a 3-1 win at the Bavarena and a 6-2 aggregate victory.

The four-times European champions went ahead in the 28th minute when Garcia flicked in a Steven Gerrard cross to ease their nerves after Leverkusen's late goal at Anfield in a 3-1 defeat had given the Germans a glimmer of hope.

Garcia, the Spanish forward signed from Barcelona, got the final touch on an Igor Biscan header to make it 2-0 after 32 minutes and virtually settle the tie.

Leverkusen pressed hard at the start of the second half but Milan Baros added a third in the 67th minute and Liverpool made it through to the last eight at a stroll, despite an 88th minute consolation from Jacek Krzynowek.

Liverpool were knocked out by Leverkusen in the quarter-finals in 2002, despite winning the home leg, and after Frank's last-gasp goal in the first match of this season's tie they must have been concerned about history repeating itself.

There was never a hint of a comeback this time, as Liverpool, playing with the expertise that made them one of Europe's great clubs in the 1970s and 80s, kept the ball away from their frustrated opponents for the opening 20 minutes.

Leverkusen stuck to attacking down the wings and their tenacity brought them two chances midway through the half.

Daniel Bierofka set up Landon Donovan for a clear shot in the 23rd minute but the American completely missed his kick. — MNA/Reuters

Liverpool's Luis Garcia (Spain) celebrates after scoring against Bayer Leverkusen during their round of 16 return match of the Champions League in Leverkusen.

Liverpool won 3-1.— Reuters

Liverpool's Mussa Carrara (Spain) celebrates after scoring against Bayer Leverkusen.
Winners in essay, poem and article contests announced

YANGON, 10 March —
Winners of the University/College/Institute Level, Basic Education High and Middle Level Essay and Poem Contests and Professional Level Article Contest were announced today.

Second-year student (science) Ma Thida Myint of Pyay Education College won the first prize in the Basic Education High Level Essay Contest, tenth standard student Ma Aye Chan Mya of Nyaung-lbin BEHS No 1 second and ninth standard student Ma Khin Khin Lay of Mawlamyine BEHS No 6 third. Five participants won consolation prize each.

Ninth standard student Ma Phyo Nanda Tun of Lamkadaw BEHS No 2 secured the first prize in the Basic Education High Level Essay Contest, tenth standard student Ma Aye Chan Mya of Nyaung-lbin BEHS No 1 second and ninth standard student Ma Khin Khin Lay of Mawlamyine BEHS No 6 third. Five participants won consolation prize each.

Ninth standard student Ma Seint Seint Tha of Pyundaza BEHS bagged the first prize in the Basic Education Middle Level Poem Contest, ninth standard student Ma Ei Phyu of Myeik BEHS No 3 second and eighth standard student Ma Zu Thet Hmu of Pathem BEHS No 6 third together with five consolation prize winners.

In the Basic Education Middle Level Essay Contest, sixth standard student Maung Kyaw Khang Htet of Pathem BEHS No 1 won the first prize. Seventh standard student Ma Phyo Nanda Tun of Lamkadaw BEHS No 2 second and seventh standard student Ma Phyo Nanda Tun of Lamkadaw BEHS No 2 seventh standard student Ma Phyo Nanda Tun of Lamkadaw BEHS No 2 third together with five consolation prize winners. First, second and third prizes will be presented to the winners at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day on 27 March. Winners in the University/College/Institute Level and the professional level contests are to contact in person the Headmaster of Kamayut BEHS No 1 not later than 24 March.

Consolation prizes will be presented to the winners at the respective military commands at the ceremony to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. —MNA

WEATHER

Thursday, 10 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State and weather has been partly cloudy in Northern Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.24) inch. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State. Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Southern Shan State and Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu, Magway and Aunglan (40°C) each. Maximum temperature on 9-3-2005 was 37.2°C or 99°F. Minimum temperature on 10-3-2005 was 19.6°C or 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-3-2005 was 77%. Total sunshine hours on 9-3-2005 was (7.7) hours approx. Rainfalls on 10-3-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba- Aye) was (5) mph from West at (00:10) hours MST on 10-3-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 11-3-2005: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Rakhine, Chin and Northern Shan States, 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.

Forecast for outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of light rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-3-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-3-2005: Partly cloudy.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 11 March, 2005

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Concerning the formation of the region or state governments, the following detailed basic principles have already laid down:

"Region government is formed in every Region, and State government is formed in every State." and Region or state government is formed with the following persons:

(a) Chief Minister of region or state
(b) Ministers of region or state
(c) Advocate-General of region or state."

As powers and functions have been vested in the Union Government, so the authority and rights should be delegated to the region or state governments. The Union Government has the right to exercise in the entire Union the executive powers and functions vested in it. Thus, the region and state governments should be delegated with the authority and duty to exercise within their territory. In the already-laid-down detailed basic principles, concerning the executive power, the Union legislative list and the region or state legislative list will be designated separately. The Union executive list will include the executive matters the Union Government has to implement, and the region or state executive list will contain executive matters the region or state has to undertake.

In carrying out its task, the region or state government will form separate region or state ministries as necessary and will assign duties for the task to have effect. In the process, the region or state hluttaw will enact necessary laws included in the region or state legislative list for effective running of the administrative machinery.

To serve the interest of the nation and the people, the region or state governments may have the right to write bills on the matters on the region or state legislative list and to submit the bills to the respective region or state hluttaws. The region or state hluttaw concerned will have to enact laws in accord with the provisions of the Constitution.

In sub-section (1) of Section 162 under the Heading "Government of the Shan State", sub-section (1) of Section 175 under the Heading "Government of the Kachin State" and sub-section (1) of Section 191 under the Heading "Government of the Kayin (Kayah) State" of the 1947 Constitution it is stated that "subject (See page 9)"

The Union Government and the region or state governments are to coordinate at the Financial Commission, formed according to the Constitution, and will have to revise their respective accounts again.

Annulment of Laws after scrutinizing the laws which are no longer in consistency with the changing condition and those which are no longer in need out of the laws enacted by the Region or State Hluttaw. Accord- ing to the provisions of the Constitution, the region or state government is to undertake its duty to write and submit Bills for the matters with respect to which law should be made.

In connection with the writing and submission of Bills by the region or state government, it is there fore necessary to discuss and suggest as to whether or not a detailed basic principle should be laid down as follows:

"In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the region or state government shall have the right to submit to the Region or State Hluttaw the necessary Bill relevant to the matters embodied in the Region or State Legislative List." (See page 10)