YANGON, 18 March
— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected plants and workshops at Indagaw Industrial Zone of the Ministry of Industry-2, Bago Township, Bago Division, this morning.

Accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials, the Senior General arrived at Indagaw Industrial Zone at 10 am.

On arrival at the zone, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, ministers, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and heads of department.

At the briefing hall of Research and Development Division of the zone, the Senior General and party heard a report on the progress in materializing the guidance given by the Senior General during his visit to the zone in June 2003, progress in building the Disc Wheel Plant, Radiator Plant, Metal Bearing Plant, Power Tiller Plant, Inlet and Exhaust Valve Plant, Steel Plant, Ball Bearing Plant and Aluminum Conductor Steel Plant (ACSR), staff strength, investment and productivity presented by Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin.

The minister also explained the situation of the electric motor plant and auto electric parts plant under construction, setting up of 19 new plants under the ministry beginning 1988, annual increase in the production of heavy and light (See page 8)
Perspectives

Serve national interest with nationalistic spirit and esprit de corps

In building the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one, the government has been enhancing the role of the NGOs to ensure the participation of the entire national people. With the participation of the NGOs made up of intellectuals, technocrats, literati, artists and entrepreneurs, the nation-building endeavours are making notable progress.

Myanmar War Veterans Organization is one of the NGOs that have been serving the national interest whatever role they are in.

Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee held its Annual General Meeting 2/2005 at the MWVO Headquarters on Pyay Road in Mayangon Township on 12 March with an address by Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-I Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thaing Sein.

He said it is important to ensure the perpetuation of an organization, we need to have shared concept, confidence and ambition, adding that is why all the members with these qualities are to carry out their duties conscientiously in the interest of the State and the people.

The MWVO upholding in the fore Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty—is engaged in those tasks such as enhancing the socio-economic life of the people, ensuring the national defence and security and serving the national interest.

Currently, the National Convention, a prerequisite for the well-being of the entire national people, is being held. To make the conference a success, all NGOs as well as the MWVO are to extend all possible support to it by doing their bit.

The special 24 development regions have been designated and work is well under way to bring about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation.

Meanwhile, the five rural development tasks are being implemented for raising the socio-economic life of the rural people. The MWVO is to contribute its shares in the nation-building endeavours. Therefore, the MWVO is urged to actively take part in the nation-building tasks in the interest of the State and the people with the nationalistic spirit and esprit de corps.

Tarmacking of roads inspected

Yangon, 18 March — Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected upgrading of roads in the city by the YCDC.

First, the mayor visited the quarry and tar mixer in Dawbon Township where he inspected production of gravel and tar and gave necessary instructions to officials.

The mayor also looked into the tarmacking of Banyadala road section between Satyon Street and Kyakkan road in Tamway township and Strand road near Kwinmyaung street in Ahlone township and left necessary instructions.— MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung attends the 13th 47-member Plenary Meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. — MNA

Yangon, 18 March — The second-day and final session of the 13th 47-member Plenary Meeting of the 5th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee took place at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabhin Hall on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

Present were SSMNC Vice-Chairman Sayadaws, the Secretary Sayadaw and Joint-Secretary Sayadaw, member Sayadaws, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Amin Maung, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of the Religious Affairs Department, Director-General Lt-Col Myo Kyaw of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, Pro-rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, and departmental officials.

SSMNC Vice-Chairman Aung Mingala Monastery Sayadaw of Magway Division Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammojikakadajja Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Bhaddanta Kesara presided over the meeting. SSMNC Joint-Secretary Shwetaung Pali University Sayadaw of Yenayoung Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma jotikadajja Bhaddanta Tejaniya encede the meeting.

After a general round of discussions on religious matters and education, the meeting went into recess.

The meeting resumed at 1 pm. Approvals were sought for proposed matters.

At the meeting, the list of Ovadacariya Sayadaws, SSMNC member Sayadaw and members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha was discussed.

The plenary meeting came to a successful conclusion in the evening.

Wellwishers offered ‘Soon’ to Sayadaws present at the meeting. — MNA

Title recipient Sayadaws, lay persons to be honoured

Yangon, 18 March — The Buddha Sasana Nuggha Organization, Hitethi Group and Women’s Yogi Organization, will organize a ceremony to honour our 15 religious title recipient Sayadawas and four lay persons who were awarded titles by the State Peace and Development Council at Phanyin Dhammayo of Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha at 16, Sasana Yeiktha Road in Bahan Township, at 1 pm on 25 March.

Anybody may attend the ceremony. — MNA
Visa launches new brand identity in HK

HONG KONG, 17 March — Visa International announced plans to refresh and extend its brand identity and structure on Tuesday in Hong Kong.

The changes include a new look for the famous blue, white and gold Visa logo and changes to card design features. The first cards and merchant signage bearing the new logo is expected to appear by the end of this year.

“We were simply a consumer credit card company. Today, debit and prepaid products, commercial payment solutions and processing and authentication services are major components of our business,” said Christopher Rodrigues, president and CEO of Visa International.

“We need to evolve the way the brand is used to enable consumers and merchants to distinguish between different Visa products and services while continuing to trust Visa to enable them to make efficient secure payments anywhere in the world,” he added. The updated brand will work better across new technologies and payment channels, such as the Internet, mobile phones and handheld devices, he noted.

As well as a refreshed Visa logo on the card, the well-known Visa dove hologram on the front of the card will be moved to the back and be integrated with the magnetic stripe, making card counterfeiting more difficult. — MNA/Xinhua

Motorcycle swap project launched to reduce pollution in Thailand

BANGKOK, 17 March — The Thai Government and leading motorcycle manufacturers have started a motorcycle swap project in a bid to cut down pollution in the capital and save fuel.

The project enables owners of two-stroke motorcycles over 10 years old to trade the polluting model for a new four-stroke motorcycle with less money which consumes less gasoline and is more environmental-friendly.

Two-stroke bikes not only use twice as much fuel but also release twice as much exhaust fume as four-stroke models, Aprichai Chawacharoenpan, director-general of the Pollution Control Department, said at Bangkok Post newspaper as saying on Wednesday. He said that of the more than 100,000 two-stroke bikes in the city, only about 20 percent were still in use, which was a major contribution to the city’s air pollution. The old motorbikes have even caused respiratory problems to a large number of Bangkokians.

“Getting rid of these dangerous vehicles should be a priority,” Aprichai noted.

Planning to join the scheme are leading motorcycle manufacturers Suzuki, Kawasaki and Honda, and many financial institutions. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Belgian FMs agree to boost ties

BRUSSELS, 17 March — Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Belgian counterpart Karel de Gucht pledged on Wednesday to boost relations between China and Belgium.

During their talks held on Wednesday morning, Li said that the Chinese Government attaches importance to its ties with Belgium, extending the wish to make concerted efforts to score more progress in promoting bilateral relations. De Gucht said he was satisfied with the good momentum for the Belgium-China relations.

Both ministers spoke highly of the visit to Belgium by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao last year, stressing that the tour has contributed to pushing forward the development of bilateral ties.

De Gucht reiterated Belgium’s adherence to the one-China policy, for which his Chinese colleague expressed appreciation. Li who arrived in Brussels on Tuesday night, is expected to meet with leaders of the European Union headquarters on Thursday. — MNA/Xinhua

Bulgaria reduces troops to Iraq, withdrawal to be discussed in March

SOFIA, 17 March — Bulgaria will reduce its troop contingent in Iraq from 462 to 370 soldiers in June, and the government will decide by the end of March whether to ask parliament for a full withdrawal, Bulgarian Defence Minister Nikolay Svinarov said.

“According to organizational plans there will be a considerable reduction, by almost 100 soldiers, of our next (rotation) contingent in Iraq,” Svinarov told reporters on the sidelines of a weekly cabinet meeting. Svinarov seemed to rule out Bulgarian troops staying beyond the end of 2005 when he said: “I do not see anything wrong if we are present in Iraq in 2006 but this presence must be other than military.” Svinarov said Italy had proposed withdrawing Italian troops from Iraq based “on UN resolution 1546 ... and we will refer to this resolution if we decide to do the same thing.”

Resolution 1546, adopted last year by the UN Security Council, says that the status of foreign troops in Iraq should be reviewed this June. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has proposed withdrawing Italian troops from Iraq but no decision has been taken. Anti-coalition feelings were sparked here by a US “friendly fire” incident 4 March in Iraq in which a Bulgarian machine-gunner was killed due to lack of communication between his patrol and a US communications post. The same night, Italian intelligence agent Nicola Calipari was shot dead by US gunfire on the road to Baghdad airport, while escorting to safety a released Italian hostage, journalist Giuliana Sgrena. Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov said Tuesday that he felt Bulgarian troops should be reduced at rotation and completely withdrawn at the end of 2005. — Internet

Will I Am of the Black Eyed Peas, left, and Malaysian-born actress Michelle Yeoh, right, share a light moment during a Press conference in Kuala Lumpur on 17 March, 2005. — Internet

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 democratic nation
— 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

A man cycles past an Olympics logo on the side of a construction site in Beijing on 17 March, 2005. — INTERNET

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Will I Am of the Black Eyed Peas, left, and Malaysian-born actress Michelle Yeoh, right, share a light moment during a Press conference in Kuala Lumpur on 17 March, 2005. — Internet
More Singaporeans risk suffering stroke, diabetes and obesity

Singapore, 17 March — More Singaporeans risk suffering stroke, diabetes and other diseases as obesity levels rise in the affluent Southeast Asian city-state, a new government system of measuring body fat shows.

Singapore’s collective waistline is bulging, a trend some researchers attribute to a gradual shift in diet on the predominantly ethnic-Chinese island towards Western fast foods.

The Health Promotion Board said it was lowering a scale which correlates an individual’s body mass index (BMI) to health risks after new findings from local studies and recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Recent studies have shown that many Asians, widely envied for their slim waists, actually have widely envied for their shown that many Asians, zation (WHO).

The figures include four military civilians. The figures include four military civilians. According to the Defence Department, nine military have died since the beginning of the Iraq hostile action, according to the Defence Department. At least 1,156 died as a result of the hostilities.

Soekarno-Hatta Airport on 17 March, 2005. — Internet

Japan extends loan to Cambodia’s Greater Mekong Project

PUNOM PENH, 17 March — Japanese Government on Wednesday extended a loan around 28.85 million US dollars to Cambodia to help it implementing the Greater Mekong Telecommunication Backbone Network Project.

The signing ceremony of Exchange of Note was held at the Foreign Ministry under the presence of Prime Minister Hun Sen and signed by Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and Takahashi Fumiki, Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia.

The project will install a new telecommunication network in this country stretching some 400 kilometres between Kampong Cham and Sihanoukville via Kandal. Phnom Penh, Takéo and Kampot, which could be linked to existing network and thus connected to those in the neighbouring countries.

The aim of this important project is to promote economic development by accelerating the development of the telecommunications and information sectors.

The installation of this network is expected furthermore to make the region attractive to foreign investors,” said Fumiki.

New Zealand launches Ocean Survey over next 15 years

WELLINGTON, 17 March — New Zealand has launched Ocean Survey, which is to complete by 2020, with an aim to build up a comprehensive picture of New Zealand’s oceanic interests and the resources and ecosystems they contain over the next 15 years.

Minister for Land Information Pete Hodgson said in a statement on Wednesday that New Zealand’s future prosperity would depend increasingly on ocean resources such as fisheries, aquaculture, natural products, hydrocarbons and other minerals.

“Before we can efficiently and sustainably manage those resources, we need a fuller understanding of their make up. Ocean Survey 20/20 is designed to deliver that,” he said.

The survey will cover an area of around 6.5 million square kilometres including the seabed, water column and airspace of New Zealand’s exclusive economic zone and extend out to the edge of the continental shelf.

1518 US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 March — As of Thursday, 17 March, 2005, at least 1,518 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,156 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST on Wednesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,380 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,047 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. — Internet

Thailand’s vehicle sales drop in February

BANGKOK, 17 March — Soaring oil prices have affected Thailand’s automobile sales, which dropped 4.1 per cent in February compared to the same period of last year.

In February, 47,038 vehicles were sold, down 4.1 per cent from 49,044 units in February 2004, the state’s situation in 2004 showed that the proportion of its population listed as overweight had risen in six years from 21 to 24 per cent, while those categorized as obese had increased from 5 to 6 per cent.

Because of the decreased automobile sales. Climbing oil prices are believed to be major reason for the decreased automobile sales.

“Amid the absence of new models, the segment was hard hit due to the higher petrol prices, which had a negative psychological impact,” said a research paper released by Syrus Securities Ltd on Tuesday.

Many automobile producers believe that the kingdom’s vehicle sales would stay around 680,000 units, down from the target of 700,000 units. Last year, the kingdom’s total car sales were 628,000 units.

Traffic offences increased in Singapore last year

SINGAPORE, 17 March — Traffic offences such as drunk driving, speeding and driving while using mobile phones increased in Singapore last year, according to Channel News Asia report on Wednesday.

A survey of the island state’s situation in 2004 conducted by the traffic police showed the 23 per cent more drunk drivers, mostly motorists, were arrested last year despite of heavy penalties.

An aircraft from Indonesia’s flag carrier Garuda takes off from Jakarta’s Soekarno-Hatta Airport on 17 March, 2005. — Internet

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**Zambian First lady learns about China’s education relief work**

**BEIJING,** 17 March—Zambian First Lady Maureen Mwanawasa visited the China Youth Development Foundation (CYDF) here on Wednesday, acquainting herself with China’s education relief work.

Tu Meng, standing vice-secretary-general of the CYDF, said: “China always attaches great importance to development of agriculture, rural areas and farmers, taking such programme as Project Hope to help children in poverty-stricken areas pursue primary education.”

Project Hope was founded by the CYDF in 1989 as a public welfare programme, with a mission to educate and motivate society to help relieve the education problem in poverty-stricken regions.

Under this project, China has raised 1.6 million yuan (193 million US dollars) to provide more than 2.58 million children from underprivileged families with the opportunity to go to or return to school, and to build more than 11,000 primary schools in poverty-stricken regions, Tu said.

China is facing tremendous challenges in educating its 1.3 billion people, particularly children and teenagers in underprivileged rural areas. About 40 million rural students are unable to acquire adequate education due to their families’ financial problems.

“Education is very important for every country,” Mwanawasa said, noting that Zambia also faced the same challenges as China in education problems.

The First Lady expressed her appreciation for the achievements made by the CYDF, hoping that Zambia would learn from experiences of the CYDF to improve the schooling condition of children in Zambia.

MNA/Xinhua

**China approves layouts of track commuters in 3 developed regions**

**BEIJING,** 17 March—Chinese State Council approved the transportation layouts on Wednesday for track commuters in the country’s most developed three regions, the Bohai Bay area including Beijing and Tianjin, the Yangtze River Delta, and the Zhujiang (Pearl) River Delta.

The State Council’s executive meeting, which Premier Wen Jiabao presided over Wednesday, decided to build a modern transportation system with track commuters between scattered cities to facilitate economic integration.

The construction of a 115-kilometre-long track linking Beijing and Tianjin will start in July. It will only take about half an hour to travel between the two cities at 200 kilometres per hour by train in 2008.

In eastern China’s Yangtze River Delta, Shanghai and Nanjing are planning to build a 295-kilometre-long track commuter. The construction of another one to connect Nanjing, Hefei and Wuhu is underway. The Zhujiang River delta also plans to build a 595.6-kilometre-long track to make travelling in the region much easier and faster.

A statement of the meeting required relevant departments to push forward technological innovation, introduce advanced technology and minimize the land occupied to protect the environment.

MNA/Xinhua

**Khatami urges US to stop “wrong policies”**

**TEHERAN,** 17 March—Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Wednesday called on Washington to stop its “wrong policies” concerning Iran and the Middle East, the official IRNA news agency reported.

“The ongoing issues, gripping Iran and the US itself, stem from US President George W Bush’s wrong policies,” Khatami was quoted as saying in the central city of Isfahan.

“If the US is really trying to stop nuclear weapons, it had better go to the states which are neither member to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty nor are abiding by the international regulations and have large nuclear arsenals, the most dangerous of which is Israel,” said Khatami.

Khatami reiterated that Iran was not pursuing nuclear weapons, stressing that Teheran shared concerns with the world over production and stockpiling of nuclear arms.

“We are not at all after weapons of mass destruction because given our beliefs and the events taking place in the world, we consider nuclear weapons as the most dangerous threat to the world,” Khatami said.

MNA/Xinhua

**Saudi Arabia to promote Sri Lanka’s tourism industry**

**COLOMBO,** 17 March—A Prince of Saudi Arabian Royal Family called on Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Wednesday and pledged to promote the Indian Ocean country’s tourism industry.

Saudi Arabian Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Abdulaziz Alsaud conveyed the sympathy of the Saudi Royal family and the people of Saudi Arabia to President Kumaratunga on the recent tsunami.

The Prince said he was happy to be of assistance to Sri Lanka and that he is here to see for himself the extent of the disaster.

The Saudi Government has already donated 300 million US dollars to Sri Lanka, which will be utilized to construct new houses for the displaced, most of them in Kirinda in southern Sri Lanka.

The Prince said the Saudi assistance could be utilized to provide new homes for the tsunami victims and that his government was not particular about directing them to any one community.

The Saudi Prince said his government wishes to provide further assistance, by way of new investments in the hospitality industry, which would afford employment opportunities to Sri Lankans and also attract more tourists.

President Kumparatunga thanked the visiting Prince for his concerns and requested him to convey Sri Lanka’s gratitude to the Saudi Royal Family and the people of Saudi Arabia for the assistance thus far and the pledges made for the future.

MNA/Xinhua

**Tourists swim in the Andaman Sea off Maya Beach after arriving on a tour boat carrying people to Phi Phi Island from Phuket in southern Thailand, on 17 March 2005.** —INTERNET

**Kuwait to speed up construction of 4th refinery**

**KUWAIT CITY,** 17 March—Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Tuesday it will speed up the construction of a fourth oil refinery and complete it in 2007, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

KPC’s Managing Director for Finance and Planning Suhaib Bukreis said the decision was made following a failure to reach agreements with Qatar and Iran to supply Kuwait with natural gas needed to operate a power station. Kuwait at present has three refineries with a total production capacity of 930,000 barrels per day.

The fourth refinery, at a construction cost of 3.3 billion US dollars, will have a capacity of 450,000 BPD, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

**American cultural delegation visits Henan Province**

**ZHENGZHOU,** 17 March—A seven-member delegation from the US state of Oregon has been touring Henan, China’s most populous province, since Sunday, the provincial cultural bureau said.

The delegation, mostly musicians from Oregon State University (OSU), including Marlan Carlson, Music Director of the Corvallis-OSU Symphony Orchestra, will carry out a range of artistic exchange activities in Zhengzhou, the provincial capital, including a symphony concert and a piano concert by Alexander Titinov, and American pianist of Belarus origin who is now a professor of piano with OSU, said an official of Hainan Provincial Government.

Henan and Oregon have been on friendly ties since June 2001, when a cultural mission from Henan toured Oregon.

MNA/Xinhua

**US soldiers patrol during Operation Casablanca, in the Dora district of southern Baghdad on 17 March 2005.** —INTERNET

**Tourists swim in the Andaman Sea off Maya Beach after arriving on a tour boat carrying people to Phi Phi Island from Phuket in southern Thailand, on 17 March 2005.** —INTERNET
COMESA looks forward to cementing ties with China

LUSAKA, 18 March — The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretary-General Erastus Mwencha said on Wednesday his organization is looking forward to strengthening its relations with China, particularly in trade and investment.

He made the remarks in an exclusive interview with Xinhua on his planned visit to China in April. Mwencha described China as an all-weather friend of Africa.

“China has been with Africa for a long time. They stood with Africa even during the struggle for independence. China has also given us its support in various parts of the continent. It is close to our heart. That’s why we want to do more business with China,” he said.

Over the years, China has been participating in the COMESA region in various ways, investing in the area and supporting member countries’ development, said Mwencha.

The Secretary-General said China is becoming an economic power and that economic cooperation between China and COMESA will benefit both sides.

“China is a major consumer of some raw materials. We found in COMESA, like copper and oil. And we believe China has got the technology that we could be looking at, like in telecommunications, industry and agribusiness,” he said.

The Secretary-General said China and COMESA countries share similar views on many issues of trade. The two sides can cooperate in the framework of the World Trade Organization in deciding the global trade architecture.

Drought expected to cause $250m damage in Thailand

BANGKOK, 17 March—Severe drought affecting many parts of Thailand would cause the kingdom economic damage of more than 10 billion baht (250 million US dollars) if the situation not relieved, said a securities house.

“We expect the drought to add to food-price inflation and lower agriculture exports during the second quarter,” newspaper The Nation on Wednesday quoted a report of the Phatra Securities as saying.

The drought has already affected 13.5 million rai (21,600 square kilometres) of farmland, causing hardship to 9.6 million farmers, said the Phatra report issued on Tuesday. Direct loss of farm production was expected to reach 7.4 billion baht (185 million US dollars), while decreased agriculture products exports and trade along main rivers would add up the losses, according to the securities house.

Entering dry season in March, while decreased agriculture products exports and trade are expected to reach 7.4 billion baht (185 million US dollars), a report of the Phatra Securities as saying.

The two sides can cooperate in the framework of the World Trade Organization in deciding the global trade architecture.

ADB seeks carbon buyers for environmentally friendly project in China

BEIJING, 13 March — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is inviting expressions of interest in purchasing carbon credits from an environmentally friendly Coal Mine Methane/Coal Bed Methane Utilization Project in northeast China.

The invitation, which will last until 31 March, is the Bank’s first project under its Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Facility to be presented to carbon buyers, the Bank said in a statement released on Wednesday.

Between 2006 and 2012, more than five million carbon credits are expected to be generated from the project in Fuxin City in northeast China’s Liaoning Province, part of an Environmental Improvement Project in the province, the Bank said.

The project has been backed by an ADB loan of 70 million US dollars, which was approved in November 2004. The Bank will help the project find a buyer for the credits and facilitate the transaction process during 2005. The project will improve coal-mine methane and coal bed methane extraction, distribution and utilization, both boosting coal mine safety and supplying methane as a clean fuel to residents, industry and electricity generation schemes.

It will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by capturing and using methane that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere during the mining process. The CDM is a market-based financial instrument set up under the Kyoto Protocol to prioritize countries to invest in developing countries projects and acquire greenhouse gas emission reduction credits, or carbon credits, that they can then use to meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Pakistan drug trafficker sentenced to life imprisonment

BANGKOK, 18 March — A Pakistani national on Wednesday was sentenced to life imprisonment in Thailand for smuggling one kilo of heroin into the kingdom in last August.

Thailand’s Criminal Court first sentenced the 44-year-old Areef Areef to death, but reduced it to life imprisonment due to his confession, reported the state-run Thai News Agency.

Areef was caught with heroin in his stomach after receiving X-ray check in Bangkok in last August. He reportedly swallowed the heroin in bags before boarding on a flight from Lahore to Bangkok.

The tipped-off Thai authorities stopped Areef when he landed in Bangkok and referred him to hospital to receive X-ray examination when the authorities failed to find any drugs in his possession.

Japan agrees with China to end yen loans by 2008

TOKYO, 18 March — Japan has reached a broad agreement with China to end yen loans to its Asian neighbour by 2008, Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura said on Thursday.

Japan has scaled back low-interest loans to a booming China for three consecutive years and government officials have recently pointed to the need for Beijing to “gradually” cut back on its reliance on the aid.

“We have been holding talks about ending new yen loans before the Beijing Olympics and we have reached a broad agreement,” Machimura told a budget committee in Parliament’s Upper House.

Central Philippines threatened with typhoon

MANILA, 18 March — The Visayas region in central Philippines is threatened with typhoon as the provinces of the region on Wednesday.

The Philippine national weather forecast bureau, PAGASA, said that typhoon “Auring” has been intensifying and continuing to threaten the region.

The typhoon was last seen at 570 kilometres northeast of Guinuan, Eastern Samar in central Philippines, and has strongest sustained winds of 95 kilometres per hour near the centre and gustiness up to 120 kilometres per hour.

It is moving west at 28 kilometres per hour.

China real estate talk with potential buyers at a property exhibition in Shanghai, on 17 March. 2005.—INTERNET

Workers sort freshly caught crab at a fish market in Hong Kong on 17 March, 2005.—INTERNET
LET US HARMONIOUSLY STRIVE TO PRODUCE QUALITY GOODS

Hein Htut

Quality can be divided into two sectors — quality of products and quality of services. The word “Quality control” is defined as a system of manufacturing a standardized commodity at the least cost. As the industries are developing and the human society is advancing, the role of quality control has become more important.

During his inspection of Padonma Soap Factory near Thabyuyon village in Paung Township, Mon State, on 7 February, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying, “Efforts should be made to produce more Padonma soap of various brands for people from all strata of life in addition to building a stable market for them. The factory officials will have to make plans to acquire technology needed in manufacturing brands of expert-quality soap in the future and to ensure competitive edge in the market.”

Standardization is needed to know the quality grade of a product or a service. There are two kinds of standardization — technology standard and instrument standard. The standardization procedure has the following stages:

- Company standardization
- National standardization
- Regional standardization
- Global ISO — International Organization for Standardization

To materialize one of the five objectives of the Myanmar Industrial Development Committee, which says, “Quantitative and qualitative improvement of industrial products”, Standardization Sub-committee and Quality Improvement Sub-committee have already been formed in the Technology Subcommittees. Myanmar needs to manufacture goods that meet the standard quality to have competitive edge in penetrating local and foreign markets.

Of the industrial zones, Mandalay, Monywa, and Ayethaya (Taunggyi) industrial zones are in the process of setting up advanced steel works with the assistance of the Government. Standardization Subcommittee and Quality Improvement Subcommittee are always trying to get in touch with the objective conditions of the industrial zones and find effective means to raise the standard of the products.

Of the 19 industrial zones, Mandalay, Monywa, Taunggyi and Ayethaya industrial zones are in the process of setting up advanced steel works with the assistance of the Government. Standardization Subcommittee and Quality Improvement Subcommittee are always trying to get in touch with the objective conditions of the industrial zones and find effective means to raise the standard of the products.

The ACCSQ is also cooperating with non-governmental organizations including Myanmar are holding workshops, seminars and courses on standardization and quality control, and sharing knowledge of technology with the assistance of the ACCSQ and knowledge of the respective countries.

Today, people are facing the hazards caused by faked medicines and cosmetics and low-quality electrical apparatus. All the products of every kind should be inspected to ascertain whether or not they meet the standard for the safety of consumers.

A company will be able to adopt the total quality management (TQM) system if it standardizes the products to meet the quality grade and leaves behind the old management systems and introduces the new and effective management techniques.

TQM is a cost-effective method to manufacture quality goods that meet the consumer needs. In addition to the products, the service and other enterprises are also applying TQM.

TQM is being implemented under a five-year plan from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2005. Myanmar has organized four TQM seminars in cooperation with Japanese Standards Association (JSA). Two factories — one factory each of the Toyo Battery Company and Top Detergent Company — have been chosen as model TQM factories. Two experts from JSA have conducted seven one-month courses in Myanmar. Scholars including four officials from the two model companies have been sent to Japan to acquire TQM knowledge.

Although Myanmar is an agro-based nation, it is giving priority to the development of the industrial sector, with private industries as the base, to catch up with other global nations in terms of development. In this regard, we all need to harmoniously play a role in manufacturing environment-friendly goods free from hazards.

(Translation: TMT)


* * *

Sunbeds in N Europe warned of skin cancer

GENEVA, 18 March—The World Health Organization (WHO), warned young Europeans on Thursday that their taste for getting a tan even before they hit the beach could result in an “epidemic” of skin cancer within a decade, from removal of skin cancer and early death if the cancer is a malignant melanoma, the UN agency said, adding it would also add substantial costs to national health systems.

Promoted by an unregulated, multibillion dollar industry, tanning de- vices in commercial studios are popular among whites, especially in West- ern Europe and increasingly Eastern Europe. In qualitative assessment, many fair-skinned, often turn to “all-over tan”, clam- shaped sunbeds ahead of a beach holiday.

NASA/Reuters

Problem with “ISS” circuit breaker shuts down gyroscope

MELBOURNE (Florida), 18 March—A problem with a circuit breaker aboard the International Space Station on Wednesday shut down a gyroscope that helps keep the research outpost properly positioned in orbit, NASA officials said.

While the station can be safely steered with its two remaining gyros, the loss of the third device may impact planning for shuttle Discovery’s mission to the orbital complex in May — the first planned shuttle flight since the Columbia disaster in February 2003.

“The situation is being evaluated,” said Johnson Space Centre spokes- woman Kylie Clem. “We were unaware of this event (the gyroscope shutdown) and have not been informed of any operational requirements without tapping the limited supply of fuel for rocket thruster burns.

NASA hopes to resur- rect the gyroscope that shut down on Wednesday by remotely resetting the popped breaker, which is located outside the station.

The device, known as a remote power controller, was installed during a spacewalk by a three-man station crew in June 2004. NASA aims to recover use of the gyro- scope through remote com- mands, the station crew commander, spacewalk commander or work on the circuit breaker during a spacewalk planned for later this month, Clem said.

NASA/Reuters
Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin and officials in the Research and Development Department in Indagaw Industrial Zone in Bago, Bago Division. — MNA

Excerpts from Senior General’s address

* Industry officials will have to draw detailed projects on how to extend manufacturing of new types of machines, and which parts of the manufactured machines should be substituted with better ones and what kind of new parts should be added to them to further improve their quality, after studying both the actual requirements of the industries and the entire nation in a practical way, he pointed out. Only then will the industries be able to produce standard machines including new brands according to the demand.

* Factory officials will have to make arrangements to receive suggestions and criticism from consumers, and only if they know and remedy their weakness, will the production enterprise be able to achieve greater success.

* As the government departments have plants and workshops, installed with advanced equipment, of their own, one important factor is that there should be knowledge sharing and bilateral cooperation in the industries.

* State-owned industries should have interrelations and cooperation with the private sector in the necessary fields.

At the electric motor plant, which is under construction, they observed the progress in erecting the plant and machines to be installed there. They arrived back here in the afternoon. — MNA

Blood donated in honour of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 18 March — Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, 60 members of Yangon North District Union Solidarity and Development Association donated blood at the meeting hall of Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) this morning.

Yangon North District USDA Executive U Zaw Win Tun and Htantabin Township USDA Executive U Aung Myint explained the purpose of the blood donation.

Next, Commandant of the hospital Col Tun presented certificates of honour to the donors.— MNA

Myanmar reaches semi finals in Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy

YANGON, 18 March — Myanmar youth soccer team is participating in the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy Under-21 invitational football tournament which is being held from 12 to 26 March in Brunei.

Myanmar has reached semi finals with six points from two wins and one defeat in group-B round ups.

Laotians defeated Myanmar 2-1 in the third match of the groups.
12,000 feet long runway at... and inspected Yebyu
BEHS, Township Hospi-
tal and regional develop-
ment tasks.

In Kaleinaung, they
paid homage to Hsutaungpyay Hsandaw-
shin Pagoda. At the of-
fice of Kaleinaung Gen-
eral Administration De-
partment, he met with
departmental personnel
and local people. After
hearing the reports rel-
lated to the town, he gave
necessary instructions. Afterwards, Lt-Gen
Maung Bo inspected Kaleinaung Station Hos-
pital.

In Yebyu, he over-
saw progress in building
Henne Bridge. They at-
tended the ceremony to
harvest the sample plot of
summer paddy in Zahar
Village of Dawei Town-
ship. On 14 March, they
observed manufacturing
of multipurpose three-
wheel vehicles and mo-
torycles at Dawei Indus-
trial Zone. Next, they in-
pected dredging of
Mingala Hmaw-in Lake
in Dawei. Commander
Maj-Gen Ohn Myint re-
ported on arrangements
being made for holding
the 250th anniversary of
Dawei, the history of the
lake and re-dredging

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 19 March, 2005 9

Delegates continue reading proposals to be submitted to NC plenary session

YANGON, 17 March— Delegate groups of politi-
cal parties, State service personnel and other in-
vited persons held meet-
ings at the Nyaunghnapin
Camp in Hmawby Town-
ship, Yangon Division,
today, attended by mem-
ers of panel of chairmen
and NC delegates.

Delegate group of
political parties

They the delegate group of
political parties held a
meeting to read its pro-
posals at meeting hall-1
at 9 am. U Tun Yin Law
MNA
of National Unity Party
chaired the meeting.
Deputy Director U Khin
Maung Phyu acted as
MC and Assistant Direc-
tor Daw Yin Yin Than as
co-MC.

It was attended by 28
out of 29 delegates ac-
counting for 96.55 per
cent. The meeting chair-
man delivered a speech.

U Saw Than Aung
and Man Tin Maung (a)
MNA
Man Myo Nyunt read the
proposals of the Union
Kayin League; and Ko
Oo Nyi Palok, the pro-
posals of the Wa National
Development Party re-
garding the clarifications
of the NCC Work Com-
mittee chairman for lay-
ning down basic detailed
principles for the sharing
of executive and judicial
powers to be included in
the framing of the State
Constitution. Next, they
presented the proposals
to the meeting chairman.

The meeting ended at
10.20 am with conclud-
ings remarks of the chair-
man.

Delegate group of
State service personnel

The delegate group of
State service personnel
held a meeting at the
meeting hall-7 at 9 am.
U Hla Tin of the Minis-
try of Defence chaired
the meeting.

The alternate chairman
U Min Ein and U
Oo Nyi Palok, the pro-
posals of the Wa National
Development Party re-
garding the clarifications
of the delegates, which
ended at noon.

With the agreement of
the delegates, the meet-
ing chairman approved
the proposals. The meet-
ing ended at noon.

MNA
**Noble Union Pleasant Jetty**

* Union oarsmen all
  Mon, Kayah, Chin, Kachin
  Kayin, Bamar, Rakhine, Shan
  Forming a peaceful family
  Nationalities are many
  Assemble new strength, our relations
  Open all sails, use all oars
  Let’s sail all together.

* The Union Boat that is ours
  Braving the wind and waves
  Meet head-on without turning back
  The dirty wiles of neo-colonialists
  We’ll remove them for sure
  Let the blood come together
  We’ll surely come out victorious

* Our boat, the Union
  To build our nation
  The Constitution to be written
  ’Tis being prepared
  Our brethren in eight teams
  Working for the Union we love
  Noble, pleasant jetty to be ready
  Time’s drawing very near
  Isn’t far from reach
  As seven basic principles
  Are showing the right path
  ’Tis important to unite
  Won’t give up even if the hull alone is left.

O, people, lets get on with the job.

Tekkatho Tin Kha (Trs)

(Composed to hail the National Convention)

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**Coord meeting between NCCWC, Panel of Chairmen held**

NCCWC Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe addresses coordination meeting of NCCWC and members of the panel of chairmen. — MNA

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**Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejinda of Gwa passes away**

YANGON, 18 March — The Department of Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana announced that Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejinda of Maha Bawdiwihara Monastery in Kalabyin Village of Gwa Township, aged 96 and 77 vasa, passed away at 9 am on 15 March, 6th Waxing of Taboung, 1366 ME.

The final rite will be held on 24 March. — MNA

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**Respect paying ceremony at Ba Htoo High School**

YANGON, 18 March — The Golden Jubilee Ceremony of paying respects to teachers will be held on November 2005 at Tatmadaw Children’s High School in Ba Htoo Tatmyo.

Those wishing to donate for the ceremony may contact U Khin Maung Win (Tel: 01-584499 and 0950-17234), U Phone Aung (Tel: 01-525707), Daw Than Than Nwe (Tel: 01-510595), U Nyunt Aung (Tel: 01-538530), U Than Maung (Tel: 081-40101) and SAT Daw The Nu (Tel: 081-40087).

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**Makmann TV retransmission station starts programmes**

YANGON, 18 March — Construction of a TV retransmission station in Makmann, Shan State (East), under the TV retransmission programmes finished on 13 March 2005 and programmes of Myanma Television have been on air beginning 14 March, it is learnt. — MNA

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**Commandant Col Tun Tun encourages the blood donors at Tatmadaw Orthopaedics Hospital.** — PUPR

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**After hearing reports by officials, the minister attended to the needs.**

Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspects booth of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at Defence Services Museum. — MNA

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China selects theme for World Environment Day 2005

BEIJING, 18 March—China selected the theme “everyone joins in building a green home” for the upcoming World Environment Day 2005 on 5 June China’s State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) said here on Thursday.

The administration selected the theme to encourage the public to participate in environmental protection practices in China, an official with the administration said, adding that as an echo to the international theme “Green Cities and Plan for the Planet” selected by the UN Environment Programme, China’s theme shows the government’s determination to create a “green home” and “build a harmonious society” for the people.

Statistics released by the administration show that China has 14 pilot zones for environment-friendly industries and 166 state ecology demonstration zones with the government’s continual efforts to promote environmental protection and a recycling economy.

Pan Yue, vice-minister of SEPA, said the Chinese Government lists environmental protection as one of its basic policies, adding his administration would provide more opportunities for the public to participate in environment protection and receive more information on the sector for the public to monitor the administration’s work.

The SEPA will hold a series of activities to celebrate World Environment Day 2005, including a forum, a photograph exhibition and related contests.

Azerbaijani President arrives in Beijing

BEIJING, 18 March—At the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev arrived here Thursday morning, kicking off his state visit to China from 17 to 19 March.

In Beijing, Aliyev will hold talks with Hu and meet with Premier Wen Jiabao. He will also visit Shanghai, China’s economic hub.

Aliyev’s companies include his wife and three ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development, and Sports, Tourism and Youth.

This is Aliyev’s first state visit to China, who was elected President of Azerbaijan in October 2003.

Belgium reiterates one-China policy

BRUSSELS, 18 March—Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt and Belgian Parliament heads reiterated here on Thursday the stance of adhering to the one-China policy when meeting with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

During the meeting at Verhofstadt’s office, the Belgian Prime Minister said the Belgian Government will adhere to the one-China policy, which it has stuck to for years. He also spoke highly of the remarkable achievements made in Belgium-China political and economic cooperation, urging more economic cooperation and investment from Chinese businessmen.

Verhofstadt said upcoming visit of King Albert II to China will be a big event in bilateral relations, noting that the Belgian side is looking forward to the success of the visit.

Li extended appreciation for Belgium’s adherence to the one-China policy, saying the Chinese side will join hands with the Belgian side to make King Albert II’s China tour a success.

On late Thursday morning, the Chinese Foreign Minister also met with Anne-Marie Lizin, president of Belgian Senate, and Herman de Croo, president of Belgian House of Representa-

ers said they understand China’s position on the Taiwan issue.

Later on Thursday, Li is expected to meet with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and European Union (EU) foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

On Thursday evening, the Chinese Foreign Minister will fly to Luxembourg, which is holding the current EU presidency, to hold talks with Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker as well as his counterpart Jean Asselborn.

Iran slams UN for ignoring alleged abuses by US forces

GENEVA, 18 March—Iran on Thursday slammed the United Nations for ignoring alleged abuses by US forces of detainees at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, as well as their assault on the Iraqi city of Fallujah.

In a speech to the UN Commission on Human Rights, Deputy Foreign Minister Gholamali Khoshroo said that sparing some powers from international scrutiny showed “double standards”, and called for reforms to end “politicization of human rights”.

The 53-member state UN forum began its annual six-week session in Geneva on Monday to examine violations worldwide.

“The gross violations in Abu Ghraib and Fallujah and the violations of human rights in Guantanamo Bay have not been judged as worthy of international scrutiny by the Commission on Human Rights,” Khoshroo said.

Activists including the New York-based Human Rights Watch have urged the forum to condemn Washington for the alleged torture and mistreatment of prisoners detained abroad by the United States in its “war on terrorism”.

Iran allegations included abuse of detainees in Abu Ghraib and Fallujah and the violations of human rights in Guantanamo Bay have not been judged as worthy of international scrutiny by the Commission on Human Rights, Khoshroo said.

Activists including the New York-based Human Rights Watch have urged the forum to condemn Washington for the alleged torture and mistreatment of prisoners detained abroad by the United States in its “war on terrorism”.

MNA/Reuters

A 15-strong rescue team was heading by helicopter to the Koyulhisar District of Sivas Province, about 280 miles east of the capital Ankara, the statement said. The Turkish Red Crescent has sent food, clothes and 40 tents, it said, adding that three companies squads were helping the rescue efforts.
China, Italy to enhance cooperation

BEIJING, 17 March — China and Italian defense forces attach great importance to developing friendly and cooperative relations with its Italian counterpart. Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan said here Wednesday, to mark the 75th anniversary of Italian Military Police Lieutenant-General Gottardo, that both China and Italy have shared identical or similar views on many important international issues and conducting cooperation covering a wide range of areas such as politics, economy, culture and the military.

A steroids named after China’s 1st manned spacecraft

BEIJING, 17 March — A grand ceremony was held at Beijing’s “space city” on Wednesday, to mark the naming of two asteroids after Shenzhou, China’s first manned space vehicle, and Yang Liwei, the country’s first man to orbit in space. The naming has been approved by the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

Denmark’s Defense Minister asks for fighter upgrade

STOCKHOLM, 17 March — Danish Defense Minister Soeren Gade wants to ensure that the country’s F-16 fighter jets can continue to participate in international operations and has asked the Parliament for 311 million Danish kroner (48 million euros) to fund an upgrade, Ritzau news bureau reported on Tuesday.

OPEC producers try to rein in runaway crude prices


US crude eased 41 cents in Wednesday trade in Asia to $54.64 a barrel.

Other countries involved in the project include Belgium, Holland, Norway and the United States.

On the jets will be performed in the United States, but some of the components required for will be supplied directly from Danish suppliers.

claimed a number of ways to improve their ability to communicate with military computer networks, and strengthen their self-defense systems. The upgrade is part of an international effort that would improve coordination among air forces from different countries during multinationals campaigns. Other countries involved in the project include Belgium, Holland, Norway and the United States.

To reduce gas costs, the Auto Club also recommends using the houseold’s most fuel-efficient vehicle as much as possible, consolidating errands to reduce mileage and improving by employing heavy items from the trunk and maintaining the vehicle.

China’s first manned spacecraft

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The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is considering a Saudi plan to raise production limits by 500,000 barrels a day to 27.5 million BPD.

“Current oil price levels of 55 US dollars are high and we want prices to be between 40 US dollars and 50 US dollars a barrel,” said Mr. Naimi. He said that the East African countries deserved to be allocated the two permanent seats.

Kenya to vie for permanent seat of UNSC

NAIROBI, 18 March — Kenyan Foreign Affairs Minister Charles Ali Mwak has disclosed that Kenya will vie for a permanent seat in the United Nations (UN) Security Council in the ongoing UN reforms, according to a news release available here.

Mwakwe said Kenya will compete for one of the two permanent seats if the African Union’s recommendations to give African countries two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats is adopted while meeting separately with the Cuban and Nigerian ambassadors to Kenya in his office.

Mwakwe hailed the ongoing reforms on the UN Security Council aimed towards democratizing it. He said Kenya supports the common African position on the reforms of the Council, adding that being one of the most populated continents as well as one grappling with security issues, Africa deserved to be allocated the two permanent seats at the Council.

Mwakwe also appealed for support of Kenya’s candidacy to one of the permanent seats.

He said that the East African nation deserved the permanent seat due to the pivotal role she played in both the Sudan and Somalia peace processes, her peacekeeping efforts worldwide and being one of the most secure countries in the world among her many attributes and advantages.


The position includes demand for not less than two permanent seats at the UN Security Council with right of veto and five non-permanent seats.

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**US researchers find way to mass-produce embryonic stem cells**

**Los Angeles**, 17 March — A new method to produce embryonic stem cells can raise the cell output by 100 times and lower the time needed to create them, a US research group reported on Tuesday.

The finding’s importance lies in the fact that traditional laboratory methods used to grow stem cells are costly and too slow to meet the increasing demand for human embryonic cells, said Yang Tien Yang, a professor at Ohio State University who led the study.

Presenting their findings in San Diego at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society, Yang and his colleagues said they grew mouse embryonic stem cells in a bioreactor and their growth increased 193-fold in 15 days. At the end of that period, the new method’s result was from 10- to 100-fold higher than the conventional ones, which means hundreds of millions more stem cells.

He added that his new method could cut costs by at least 80 per cent as it requires less equipment and monitoring.

Embryonic stem cells are undifferentiated cells that can develop into any adult cell, including neural, bone, muscle or blood cells, a fact which gives them big potential clinical value.

“We have to find a way to mass-produce them because traditional cell culturing methods cannot meet the projected high market demands for stem cells,” Yang said.

They use the conventional way to grow a number of mouse embryonic stem cells in a flask, while the others grew upon straws of polymer threads inside a bioreactor.

While the bioreactor, a tissue-growing device developed by Ohio State University, tells the cells to stay in their undifferentiated state, the bioreactor is associated with the World Health Organisation.

They analyzed the records of more than 7,300 Swiss HIV patients and found those on HAART had lower risks of Kaposi’s sarcoma and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma compared with those who did not use HAART.

Nonetheless, Kaposi’s sarcoma — a cancer marked by red skin lesions and one of the hallmarks of full-blown AIDS — was 20 times more common in the general population. So was non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system. But the HIV patients still had a higher than usual risk of anal cancer, Hodgkin’s lymphoma, cervical cancer, liver cancer, cancer of the lip, mouth, and pharynx, and non-melanoma skin cancer, the researchers reported in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

**Drugs for AIDS also protect against cancers**

**Washington**, 17 March — Drug cocktails taken to control the AIDS virus may not only keep patients healthy but may protect them against some cancers caused by the infection, international researchers said on Tuesday.

The drug mixtures, called highly active antiretroviral therapy or HAART, suppress the deadly and incurable virus and help prevent pneumonia and other infections caused when HIV is left free to destroy the immune system.

HAART also prevents some cancers, according to Gary Clifford of the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France, and colleagues. The IARC is associated with the World Health Organisation.

**Vitamin E might increase risk of heart failure for elders**

**Washington**, 17 March — Daily Vitamin E supplements do not protect older people with vascular disease or diabetes from cancer, strokes or heart attacks, and might increase their risk of heart failure, showed a study on Tuesday.

“Vitamin E had no impact on fatal and non-fatal cancers, major cardiovascular events or death,” the study said.

The vitamin “had no clear impact on fatal and non-fatal cancers, major cardiovascular events or death”, the study said.

The study, published in this week’s Journal of the American Medical Association, is the latest to add to a growing body of evidence that suggests harm to health rather than benefit from vitamin E supplements, which millions of people take.

**Man shoots from moving vehicle in US, kills 3**

**Washington**, 17 March — A man squeezed through the sunroof of a Jaguar and opened fire with an assault rifle on another car near Dallas early Tuesday, killing three men, police said. Police at the University Park said the shooting may be related to a fight at a bar earlier in the evening in the Southern Methodist University area.

They were searching for the gunman and two others riding in the Jaguar.

A fourth man was critically wounded.

A Dallas police officer witnessed the shootings and stopped to help the victims. He was prohibited from pursuing the fleeing Jaguar because he had a prisoner in the back seat of his car. — MNA/Xinhua

JPMorgan Chase & Co agrees to pay $2b to settle lawsuits

**New York**, 17 March — JPMorgan Chase & Co agreed to pay two billion US dollars to settle a lawsuit accusing it of hiding risks from WorldCom Inc investors when the bank helped the company sell bonds.

New York-based JPMorgan is the last major bank to settle the class-action lawsuit, which was filed on behalf of hundreds of thousands of investors who bought WorldCom stock and bonds before the phone company sought bankruptcy protection in July, 2002.

Only Citigroup Inc., which agreed to pay $2.58 billion US dollars, settled for more. But JPMorgan paid more on a percentage basis than Citigroup, in light of the relative responsibility the banks had for WorldCom’s offerings. Many banks had settled their parts of the lawsuit this month.

“Given recent developments, we made a decision to settle rather than risk the uncertainty of a trial,” JPMorgan Chief Executive William Harrison said. On Tuesday, a Manhattan jury convicted former WorldCom Chief Executive Bernard Ebbers of orchestrating an 11-billion-US-dollar accounting fraud to prop up WorldCom shares.

JPMorgan expects to take a 900-million-US-dollar first-quarter pretax charge, or 560 million US dollars after taxes, for the settlement. Analysts polled by Reuters estimates on average expected the company to report a profit of 71 cents per share.

Last year, JPMorgan set aside 2.3 billion US dollars for litigation related to WorldCom and Enron Corp.

If the settlements with JPMorgan and other banks receive court approval, the amount payable to investors would be $6 billion, the largest US securities settlement ever.

The plaintiffs, led by New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi, accused the banks of helping WorldCom sell bonds when they should have known the company was lying about its finances.

The remaining defendants include failed auditor Arthur Andersen LLP and various former WorldCom directors. — MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese workers return to work at a new high-rise construction site in Beijing on 17 March, 2005. — Internet

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HAART also prevents some cancers, according to Gary Clifford of the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France, and colleagues. The IARC is associated with the World Health Organisation.

They analyzed the records of more than 7,300 Swiss HIV patients and found those on HAART had lower risks of Kaposi’s sarcoma and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma compared with those who did not use HAART.

Nonetheless, Kaposi’s sarcoma — a cancer marked by red skin lesions and one of the hallmarks of full-blown AIDS — was 20 times more common in the general population. So was non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system. But the HIV patients still had a higher than usual risk of anal cancer, Hodgkin’s lymphoma, cervical cancer, liver cancer, cancer of the lip, mouth, and pharynx, and non-melanoma skin cancer, the researchers reported in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.
Newcastle crush Olympiakos 4-0

LONDON, 17 March — Alan Shearer took his Newcastle United tally to 191 goals and Kieron Dyer netted a brilliant back-heel as the English side beat Greek outfit Olympiakos 4-0 in the second leg of their UEFA Cup second knockout round tie on Wednesday.

Newcastle completed a 7-1 aggregate victory after their 3-1 win in Piraeus last week, when the Greek side had two men sent off, to go into Friday's quarter-final draw.

Shearer kept up his record of scoring in every round when he took his total to nine goals in seven matches with a low left-foot shot inside the post 14 minutes before halftime from a Lee Bowyer and beat Nikopolidis with a cheeky back-heal as Greece's Euro 2004 goalkeeper tried to block his way to goal.

The former England captain also added Newcastle's fourth in the 69th minute, beating the offside castle's fourth in the 69th minute when he side-footed home from close the post.

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Newcastle United's Keiron Dyer (R) is challenged by Olympiakos' Georgios Anatolakis. A double from Dyer had put Newcastle ahead in the 18th minute when he ran onto a header from the left by Lee Bowyer and beat Nikopolidis with a cheeky back-heal as Greece's Euro 2004 goalkeeper tried to block his way to goal.

AS Roma scrape into Italian Cup semis

ROME, 17 March — AS Roma scraped into the Italian Cup semifinals 7-6 on penalties after a 1-1 defeat by Fiorentina left the quarterfinal tie level at 1-1 on Wednesday.

AS Roma's Damien Caffre, left, of Argentina and Fiorentina's Fabrizio Miccoli fight for the ball during their Cup of Italian Cup quarter-final second leg match at the Artemio Franchi stadium in Florence, Italy, on 16 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Liverpool salvage 0-0 draw with Blackburn

LONDON, 17 March — Liverpool were held to a frustrating 0-0 draw at home by Blackburn Rovers and Charlton Athletic beat visiting London rivals Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 in Wednesday's Premier League matches.

Liverpool's hopes of finishing fourth and earning a place in next season's Champions League qualifying round faded further as they remained in fifth, seven points behind local rivals Everton who they play in the Merseyside derby on Sunday.

Blackburn stayed 14th in the table, eight points clear of relegation. There were few clear-cut chances in a poor game at Anfield, with Liverpool's Czech striker Milian Baros guilty of the worst miss in the second half when he blazed the ball over the bar from eight metres.

Neither Premier League quarterfinalists struggled to break down Blackburn's well organized defence and were reduced to optimistic long shots before the closing stages, rarely troubling Blackburn goalkeeper Brad Friedel.

Victory took Charlton up to seventh in the standings, just one point behind Liverpool and in contention for a UEFA Cup place.

Sochaux, St Etienne win in Ligue 1 matches

PARIS, 17 March — Double strikes by Sochaux's Brazilian Araujo Ilan and Saint-Etienne's Frederic Piquionne helped their sides beat Metz and AC Ajaccio respectively in rescheduled Ligue 1 matches played on Wednesday.

Barcelona beat Athletic Bilbao 2-1

MADRID, 17 March — Primera Liga newcomers Getafe took a major step towards preserving their top-flight status with a 2-1 victory over Athletic Bilbao at San Mames on Wednesday, their first away win of the season.

Bilbao, who have only lost once at home this term, took the lead nine minutes before halftime when midfielder Santo Ezquerro stubbed the ball low past keeper Sergio Aragoneses after a neat pass from Joseba Etxeberria.

They should have extended their lead before the break when Getafe defender David Belenguer was penalized for handling the ball in the area, but Aragoneses saved Andoni Iraola's spot-kick.

Getafe, who secured an impressive 2-1 win over Real Madrid on Sunday, fought back hard and equalized midway through the second half when midfielder Daniel Kome got his head to a Mariano Pernia free kick and flicked the ball into the net.

AZ Alkmaar reach UEFA Cup quarters

ALKMAAR (Netherlands), 17 March — AZ Alkmaar reached the UEFA Cup quarterfinals after a comfortable 2-1 victory over Shaktar Donetsk on Wednesday. AZ, holding a 3-1 lead from the first leg, increased their advantage on aggregate with a goal after just nine minutes thanks to a moment of brilliance from Barry van Galen, who curled a shot past keeper Jan Lastuvka from 16 metres.

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Getafe, who secured an impressive 2-1 win over Real Madrid on Sunday, fought back hard and equalized midway through the second half when midfielder Daniel Kome got his head to a Mariano Pernia free kick and flicked the ball into the net.

Submit Michel grabbed the winner when he side-footed home from close the range 10 minutes from time after great work by fellow striker Riki on the right.

St Etienne's Frederic Piquionne (R) celebrates with Saint-Etienne's 3-0 win over Metz. Sochaux's Brazilian Araujo Ilan (C) contributed to his side's 2-1 victory. —INTERNET

AZ's Damien Caffre, left, of Argentina and Fiorentina's Fabrizio Miccoli fight for the ball during their Cup of Italian Cup quarter-final second leg match at the Artemio Franchi stadium in Florence, Italy, on 16 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Liverpool's Steve Finnan, front, is challenged by Blackburn Rovers' Steven Reid during their English FA Cup third round tie at Anfield, Liverpool, England, on 16 March, 2005.—INTERNET

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Submit Michel grabbed the winner when he side-footed home from close the range 10 minutes from time after great work by fellow striker Riki on the right.
Six arrested with drugs in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 18 March—Police arrested six people with 734 grammes of brown sugar and 7.5 kilos of hashish from different places of the Kathmandu Valley on Wednesday.

“Madan Kumar, 28, of Delhi was arrested with 690 grammes of brown sugar along with measuring scale and weights by the Narcotics Drugs Law Enforcement Unit of the police,” said a Press statement.

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

**Four 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

**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

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**General Thura Shwe Mann inspects drills of Tatmadaw columns**

**YANGON, 18 March —** Member of State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence viewed the drills of Tatmadaw Columns which will participate in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade from Myoma Grounds to the Resistance Park this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade Member of State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of the Management Committee Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and members, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Aung Tun, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Htin, Chairman of the Work Committee for the Parade Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and senior military officers.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected the drills of the Anawrahta, Kyansittha, Bayitnaung, Shwe and senior military officers.

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**YANGON, 18 March—** Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence inspected transport, education, health and agriculture tasks in Dawei and Dawei District on 13 March morning.

Accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ooh Myint, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and local authorities, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on construction of Dawei Airport with a runway measuring 12,000 feet long, 100 feet wide and 26 inches thick by Directorate of Military Engineers, completion of earth work, re-construction of Dawei-Ye Road section, completion of the concrete section of the runway measuring 4,400 feet long, 100 feet wide and 12 inches thick and future tasks presented by Lt-Col Soe Win of Directorate of Military Engineers. Lt-Gen Maung Bourged officials to coordinate construction tasks between Directorate of Military Engineers and Ministry of Transport. He oversaw progress of the tasks. Next, he inspected reconstruction of Dawei-Ye Road kept away from the airport.

At Dawei University, he heard reports on academic and management matters of the university presented by Pro-Rector U Kyaw Kyaw Hlay. Officials reported on construction of buildings on the university campus and future tasks. Lt-Gen Maung Bo greeted the faculty members and viewed round the campus.

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**12,000 feet long runway at Dawei Airport under construction**

**Lt-Gen Maung Bo on inspection tour of Dawei District**

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**INSIDE**

**Improvement Subcommittee are always trying to get in touch with the objective conditions of the industrial zones and find effective means to improve the standard of the products.**

(See page 7)  

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**Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends harvesting of summer paddy on sample plot in Zaha Village-tract of Dawei Township.** — MNA