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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects farming equipment at Humon Village, Lashio Township.—MNA

There will definitely be rice sufficiency in Shan State (North) very soon

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends Hsinshweli hybrid paddy transplanting ceremony in Lashio

YANGON, 25 Feb — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attended the Hsinshweli high-yield paddy transplanting ceremony and the presenting of farm implements near Humon Village in Lashio Township, on 22 February morning.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen

Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental personnel and local residents.

At the ceremony, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing gave a report, saying that in the previous monsoon paddy season, test cultivation of Hsinshweli high-yield

paddy was conducted on over 100,000 acres in Shan State (North) and per acre yield was about 126 baskets, thereby contributing to over 90 per cent of local rice demand and raising per capita income of local farmers.

Likewise, last monsoon paddy season, pilot cultivation of hybrid paddy was carried out on the two-acre plot on self-reliance in the region, yielding around 6,580 kilos of high-yield strain paddy (F.I). So, now the experiment has been expanded in this summer paddy season, cultivating paddy on 940 acres.

Based on the success, measures are being taken for extended production of hybrid paddy on 120 acres this sum-

mer paddy season as the second step, and the hybrid paddy will be cultivated on over 10,000 acres.

Therefore, efforts will have to be made for cultivation of hybrid paddy on over 1,200 acres in the forthcoming monsoon paddy season so as to meet local cross-breed paddy demand.

Next, Shan State Myanmar Agriculture Service Manager U Hla Gyi gave an account of the production process of hybrid paddy.

The Secretary-1, on behalf of local farmers, handed over the documents related to three combined harvesters and five threshers to U Sain San Tun of Humon Village, recipient of medal for excellent perform-

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

ance in agricultural field. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also handed over the documents pertaining to Leya-16 power tiller to U Sai Si of Mansu Village. Farmer U Sai San Tun of Humon expressed words of thanks to the State.

The Secretary-1 spoke on the occasion, saying that Myanmar is rich in land resources, and farmers, the majority of the nation's population, are engaged in farming.

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye views transplantation of Hsinshweli strain paddy at the field in Humon Village, Lashio Township.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 26 February, 2004

Development of literature — key to national immunity

Now is the time when the Government of the Union of Myanmar, relying on the national forces, is making all-out efforts for prosperity of the people and for enabling the nation to stand tall with dignity among the global nations. Moreover, it is essaying to safeguard the national prestige and integrity and sovereignty, braving all attempts to cause dissension, put pressure, impose sanctions and interpose obstacles. At the same time, it is endeavouring for the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with those of the world as a united, independent and sovereign nation and for developing the nation and the people to the most possible degree.

At such a time like this, only when the tasks for boosting the nationalism and strong national outlook can be carried out, relying on the national might while preserving the national literature, will there emerge the national immunity that is required most today.

The prize-presentation ceremony for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship and Pakokku Library Book Award for 2003 was held in Pakokku, Magway Division, on 22 February and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended it and delivered an address on the occasion. The Prime Minister, in his speech, said that the Government, valuing the might of national literature and enhancing the national interests, has been making efforts for the emergence of a national literature building capable of boosting the national integrity and establishing the national immunity.

The purpose of presenting Pakokku U Ohn Pe Awards, National Literary Awards, Sarpaybeikman Manuscript Awards and National Motto Awards is to promote the Myanmar literature.

The life-long literary awards are for doyen literati who devote their whole life to the development of literature and constantly serve the national interests through literature. The presentation of outstanding awards and scholarship to brilliant students of the new generation is for the development of human resources in literary field. Moreover, the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Award is to contribute to the emergence of new-generation literati and literary enthusiasts.

We would like to urge all those in literary field to inculcate national spirit and national unity in the hearts of the entire people, especially the young.

Deputy Attorney-General inspects law offices

YANGON, 25 Feb— Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin went to Kamayut, Ahlon, Sangyoung and Hline Township Law Offices yesterday afternoon.

He met with district and township Law Officers and gave instructions on legal affairs, management and prosecution matters. He said that law officers are to precisely and correctly perform the cases without partiality and measures are to be taken for efficient use of fuel and electricity and inspected law offices.— MNA

Eye specialists on field tours

SINGAIN, 25 Feb — The eye specialist group led by regional eye specialist Dr U Kyin Hsaing of the Ministry of Health, comprising post-graduate doctors of Institute of Medicine-1 and primary health workers visited Tamoakso village of Amarapura Township in Mandalay Division on 9 February and Ohnbinchan, Pinchar and Tabetswell villages in Singaing Township on 10, 11 and 13 February. They carried out medical check-up of 230 persons and performed minor eye operations on 28 patients there. — MNA

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State's seven-point policy programme
- To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people's militia strategy
- To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people
- To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold 'Our Three Main National Causes'

Ambassador U Ohn Thwin presents credentials to President of Republic of South Africa

YANGON, 26 Feb — U Ohn Thwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa, presented his Credentials to Mr Thabo M Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, on 17 February 2004, in Pretoria. — MNA

People's Desire

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

Ambassador U Nyunt Maung Shein presents credentials to President of Czech Republic

YANGON, 26 Feb — U Nyunt Maung Shein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Czech Republic, presented his Credentials to Mr Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic, on 17 February 2004, in Prague (Praha). — MNA

Delegation calls on Minister

YANGON, 25 Feb — The 35-member Korean Buddhist delegation headed by Secretary Sayadaw of Buddhist Bikkhus of All Ganas of the Republic of Korea Ven Hong Pa and Presiding Sayadaw of Hye-Eun Buddhist Temple Ven Mok Tak, called on Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung at the minister's office at 2 pm today. Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin were also present.

Next, the delegation together with U Sann Lwin paid respects to State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Secretary Sayadaw Abhi dhaja Maha Rattha Guru, Abhidaja Maha Saddha mma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kumara at 2.30 pm at the Maha Nayaka Monastery on Kaba Aye Hill. The delegation donated computers, medicines and offertories to the Sayadawgyi. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents school health model prize to Headmistress of Kamayut BEPS-2 Daw Kathy Soe Thein. — MNA

Prizes for outstanding performance in health presented

YANGON, 25 Feb— A ceremony to present prizes to basic education schools for outstanding performance in health for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 academic year was held at the auditorium of Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu Street this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Patron of the Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Thet Htay,

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Director-General of Health Department Dr Wan Maung, Director-General of Education Planning and Training Department U Bo Win, Commander of Military Region No 4 Col Yan Naing Oo, officials, district and township education officers, school heads and social organizations. The commander spoke at length on education promotion programme at basic education schools for turning out healthy and fit new generation students and establishment of schools that carry out school health activities.

The commander presented prizes to basic education schools for outstanding performance in health, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and the directors-general model awards to school heads of basic education high, middle and primary schools in the division.

MNA

Cash donated to MWJA

YANGON, 25 Feb— A ceremony to donated cash to the fund of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association was held at Sarpay Beikman on Merchant Street this morning. Present were MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Vice-Chairmen U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) and U Than Maung (Than Maung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay), joint-secretaries, CEC members and wellwishers. U Khin Maung Thein-wife Daw Susan Thein (Writer Sagaing Sein Sein) of US donated K 200,000 for MWJA and K 50,000 for Dagon Township WJA to U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) who presented a certificate of honour to them and spoke words of thanks.

MNA



Wellwishers U Khin Maung Thein and wife Daw Susan Thein hand over cash donation of K 200,000 to MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung). — MNA

Poll shows Americans believe less in the existence of WMDs in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb—The number of Americans that believe the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction when US-led forces attacked the country in 2003 is declining, according to a Harris Interactive poll.

Fifty-one percent of those polled believe that Saddam had the banned weapons — a drop from 61 percent in mid-December following the capture of the former Iraqi president.

Forty percent of those polls do not believe Saddam had WMDs, up from 32 percent in December.

The US government of President George W Bush launched a war on Iraq in March 2003 claiming that Saddam had nuclear, biological and chemical weapons that posed an imminent threat to the United States.

US officials have said they based their policy on intelligence information provided by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

However the US former head of weapons inspectors in Iraq, David Kay, recently said that the CIA got it wrong.

Nevertheless 51 percent of those surveyed believe the US government tried to present the information of mass destruction accurately, a one point increase from 50 percent in December.

Forty-three percent believe the US government “deliberately exaggerated the reports ... in order to increase the support for the war,” down slightly from 45 in December.

The poll was carried out among 1,020 US adults between February 9 and 16.

Internet



A convoy of US troops of the 1st Infantry Division moves in the Kuwaiti desert near Udeira Range, 100 km (62 miles) north of Kuwait City, on 24 Feb, 2004. A quarter-million soldiers and their equipment are on their way to, or from, the war in neighbouring Iraq in the largest rotation of US forces in history, according to military planners.—INTERNET

Experts warn poverty still major concern for Asia-Pacific Region

BANGKOK, 25 Feb—Hunger and poverty still posed a serious challenge to the Asia-Pacific Region despite of the area's rapid economic development in recent years, experts warned here on Monday at a related regional meeting.

Out of an estimated 1.2 billion people in the world living under one dollar a day, roughly two-thirds or around 720 million people lived in Asia and the Pacific, said Asian Development Bank's Vice-President GHPB van der Linden.

“Another 1.2 billion people have barely more than that, making ends meet with less than two US dollars a day,” he said at a regional ministerial roundtable meeting on spearheading sub-regional cooperation for eradicating poverty and food insecurity in the region, which is being held from Monday to Tuesday in Bangkok.

The region is also home to just under two-thirds of the developing countries' undernourished.

Though the percentage of people hungry in the region had dropped from 20 percent in 1990 to 16 per cent in 2000, the ratio still meant that one in every six people in the region did not have enough to eat, said Linden.

“More than 500 million people, eight times the population of Thailand, still do not get enough food to meet basic nutritional requirements and to allow them to fulfil their economic poten-

tial,” he said. Linden pointed out that under-investing in infrastructure construction had contained the region's rapid economic development.

Even before the financial crisis in 1997, only about 4 per cent of the area's GDP was allocated for infrastructure against a requirement of 6-7 per cent. “Following the crisis, the investment levels have dropped,” he said.

While urging governments to work out their own poverty reduction policy, Linden also called for international efforts to build up an open and non-discriminatory trading system that would benefit developing economies and accelerate their progress in reducing poverty.

Subsidies to the agriculture sector in developed countries amount to about 300 billion dollars annually, approximately six times global annual flows of official development assistance, according to him.

The two-day meeting is jointly held by the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

It has brought together technical experts and decision makers from the region to discuss how to achieve the goal of halving extreme poverty and hunger by the year 2015, which was agreed by governments at the World Food Summit of 1996.

MNA/Xinhua

China steps up management of mineral exploration

BEIJING, 25 Feb—China handled nearly 30,000 cases of illegal mining in 2003 in an effort to enhance its management of exploration and mining of the country's mineral resources.

Statistics released Monday by the Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR) showed that these included 26,592 cases of mining without licences, 324 cases of mining with licences of exploration and 2,488 cases of mining beyond dividing lines. Meanwhile, the ministry temporarily shut down 13,723 mines as well as suspended or revoked 5,929 licences of exploration and mining, with 611 people punished according to the criminal law.

MNA/Xinhua

Hans Blix says Iraq war was unfounded

EDINBURGH (Scotland), 25 Feb—Former chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix argued Tuesday Saddam Hussein had not been an immediate threat, making the justification for the war against Iraq unfounded.

The US-led invasion nearly a year ago damaged the authority of the United Nations Security Council and the credibility of the nations that went to war, Blix told an audience of 1,000 at the University of Edinburgh.

“The justification for the war — the existence of weapons of mass destruction — was without foundation,” Blix said. “The military operation was successful, but the diagnosis was wrong.”

“Saddam was dangerous to his own people but not a great, and certainly not an immediate, danger to his neighbors and the world,” he added.

Going to war without UN damaged the world body, he said.

Blix, whose teams did not make significant weapons finds during months of searching Iraq before the war, has repeatedly criticized US and British handling of information before the war.

Again on Tuesday he criticized the United States and Britain for trusting their own intelligence more than that of the weapons inspectors, who had not found “a smoking gun.”

Blix, 75, who headed the UN inspectors from 2000 to mid-2003 said in a speech Feb. 15 that no hidden weapons had been found in Iraq since 1991, but he did not rule out that a minor cache of weapons might be exposed.

Internet

Kerry says Democrats have Bush “on the run”

NEW YORK, 25 Feb—White House hopeful John Kerry said on Monday that Democrats had George W Bush “on the run” and had forced the Republican President to start his re-election campaign even before he knew who his opponent would be.

The four-term Massachusetts senator and decorated Vietnam War veteran also renewed his criticism of Republicans “who never fought in a war” but think they have “a leg up” over Democrats on defence.

Kerry defended his record, saying he had voted for the biggest Pentagon and intelligence budgets in US history but had also challenged former president Ronald Reagan's “star wars” anti-missile defence as well as some weapons systems like the MX missile.

He said the Republicans' underlying message was that he was weak on defence.

“That's the game they play,” he told reporters. “They haven't come to you and said we need this (weapons) system and John Kerry voted against the system. They're saying he voted against defence ... and I'm not going to let them nickel and dime us on one system or another that was an individual vote.” Marc Racicot, Bush's campaign chairman, said it was “simply not true” that Republicans were attacking Kerry's patriotism.

“But he has refused repeatedly to ex-

plain his record on voting to cut the very weapons systems that are helping us fight and win the war on terror, and that's what this discussion is about,” Racicot told reporters in a conference call.

In a pre-emptive strike, the Democratic front-runner criticized in advance a speech Bush gave on Monday night to the Republican Governors Association that laid out the themes to be debated over the next eight months.

Kerry also acknowledged the race for the Democratic presidential nomination was not over despite his 15 victories in 17 primaries and caucuses so far.

“Tonight he (Bush) will begin his campaign drawing two contrasts that are not real and there's no nominee,” Kerry said. “I think he's on the run because he doesn't have a record to run on.”

He told a rally at Harlem's Alhambra Ballroom, where speaker after speaker extolled his military service, he thought it “extraordinary” that Bush was finally laying out a vision after more than three years in office.

MNA/Reuters



The Iraqis look at a British soldier during a patrol in Basra on 24 Feb, 2004.

INTERNET

CIA Director asked by Senate committee to explain extent of Iraq threat

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb—Lawmakers pressed CIA Director George Tenet on recent comments he made about having told the White House that prior to the war Iraq had not posed an imminent threat to the United States.

"If it wasn't an imminent threat in your mind, how would you have characterized or assessed the threat at that point in time?" asked Republican Senator Olympia Snowe, saying the message sent out had been a "mixed" one.

"I would have characterized it as something that was grave and gathering, something that we were quite worried about," Tenet told the hearing of the Senate Intelligence Committee on the threat to national security.

Snowe noted President George W Bush's words in his 17 September, 2002 speech on his national security strategy, "When the threat is imminent, the nation has the right to conduct preemptive operations."

Refusing to state that Bush launched the Iraq war due to a threat that was less than

imminent, Tenet said the CIA "said things quite assertively in our key judgments that caused the policymaker to have a look at this thing in a way that he or she had to assess risk."

"Those are just the facts as we know them today," Tenet said.

"We can go back and, of

course, we will look at all of this work. And make judgments about did we word everything carefully, did we have the right context and everything. That's appropriate. We need to go do that as professionals."

Senator Dianne Feinstein who, like Snowe, voted in October 2002 to authorize

Bush to launch the war on Iraq, said that due to apparent errors of judgment it was "a pretty bitter pill to swallow particularly with a preemptive war."

"People voted to authorize the use of force based on what we read in these reports," she said.

Internet



US Army Blackhawk helicopter pilots decelerate their rotor engines shortly after arrival at Al Asad airbase, about 50 miles northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, on 24 Feb, 2004.—Internet

Democrat says CIA did not give UN all Iraq WMD data

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb—A Democratic senator accused CIA Director George Tenet on Monday of making false statements when he said during public hearings that his agency gave the United Nations information about all the top suspected weapons of mass destruction sites in Iraq before the war.

"All such sites were not shared, and Mr Tenet's repeated statements were false," Senator Carl Levin of Michigan said in a speech on the Senate floor.

The CIA last month declassified the number of top suspected WMD sites categorized as high and medium priority, and acknowledged that 21 of those 103 sites were not shared with the United Nations before the war, Levin said.

A US intelligence official countered that nine of those 21 sites had been "frequently" visited by UN inspectors between 1991 and 1999 and they knew as much about them as the CIA. Three of the sites were added to the CIA's list after Iraq declared them to the United Nations, and three sites were duplicate entries, the official told Reuters.

The CIA did not know the precise locations of several other sites and efforts were being made to develop more data on them, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Levin said if the public

had known that not all WMD site information had been shared with UN weapons inspectors it might have reinforced sentiment that UN inspections should be completed before going to war.

"I can only speculate as to Director Tenet's motive," said Levin, the senior Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee and a member of the intelligence committee.

"In other words, honest answers by Director Tenet might have undermined the false sense of urgency for proceeding to war and could have contributed to delay, neither of which fit the Administration's policy goals," Levin said.

Prewar intelligence on Iraq has become a key issue in this year's presidential election campaign, with Democrats suggesting the Republican White House exaggerated the threat to build its case for war.

"We provided the best information that we had and the notion that we held back information that would have been useful is simply

wrong," the US intelligence official said.

"The US certainly did not hold back timely actionable intelligence information from the (UN) inspectors," he said.—MNA/Reuters



Polar bears Sheba, right, and her 13-year-old son Inuka, wander at their cage of Singapore Zoological Gardens in Singapore on 23 Feb, 2004. The usually white coats of the two polar bears turned green a few weeks ago from algae growing in their hollow hair shafts. Sheba's coat was successfully bleached with hydrogen peroxide 2 1/2 weeks ago and Inuka will be given a similar treatment in 3 weeks time. — INTERNET

ဝက်မွန်အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Iran says Rumsfeld knows nothing about Middle East, Iraq

TEHERAN, 25 Feb—Iran denied it was allowing militants to cross its border into Iraq, saying allegations to the contrary from US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld only showed he was "incapable of understanding Iraq or the Middle East".

"Iran has always worked towards security and stability in Iraq, which is important for security in the region as a whole," foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told the official news agency IRNA.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow any group to use its border to enter Iraq, and we will act against anything illegal," he added Tuesday.

Asefi said it was "surprising that the American defence minister is so incapable of understanding Iraq or the region."

During a visit to Baghdad, Rumsfeld reiterated accusations that Iran and Syria were allowing militants to cross into Iraq to carry out attacks.

"Syria and Iran have not been helpful to the people of Iraq", he told journalists Monday. "Indeed they have been unhelpful."—Internet

Philippine population reaches 84 million level

MANILA, 25 Feb—The Philippine population has reached 84 million and is expected to double in the next 29 years, a Philippine official said Tuesday.

"Our country's annual growth rate is 2.36 per cent. If in 2000 we had a population of 76.5 million and we grow by at least 1.8 million a year, then by now there should be around 84 million Filipinos," Population Commission executive director Tomas Osias told reporters.

Earlier, Philippine Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the Philippine population growth is beneficial to the Philippine economy as it boosts private consumption and provides more labours to be overseas Filipino workers, who remitted 7.6 billion US dollars back home in 2003. Overseas remittances account for about 10.8 per cent of the Philippine gross domestic product and about 15 per cent of current account receipts.

According to the government, there were 7.4 million overseas Filipino workers as of 2001, composed of 2.7 million permanent workers, 3.1 million temporary workers, and 1.6 million irregular workers. —MNA/Xinhua

CEPA to boost development of service industry in Mainland, HK

HONG KONG, 25 Feb—Participants from China's Mainland and Hong Kong gathered here Monday in a seminar to explore the opportunities cropped up with the signing of CEPA, which they agree would provide great impetus to the mutual development of the industry in the two sides.

Guo Li, deputy director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) noted that Mainland's rapid development has provided great room for Hong Kong's service industry, and CEPA (the Chinese Mainland/Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement) would surely promote the trade and economic cooperation between the two places.

John Tsang, Secretary of Commerce, Industry and Technology with the HKSAR Government, noted that CEPA has enhanced the attractiveness of Hong Kong in luring foreign investment and the opportunities of the Hong Kong service industry in exploring the Mainland market.

Meanwhile, Tsang pointed out, the Mainland, by introducing Hong Kong's high-quality service and correlating specialists, would stimulate the long-term growth of its own service industry.

MNA/Xinhua

Annan says safety needed for return to Iraq

TOKYO, 25 Feb—A “more secure environment” in Iraq is necessary for the United Nations to play a full role in helping set up an interim government and arrange elections, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Tuesday.

In a speech before the Japanese Parliament, Annan also urged Iraqis and others to recognize the distinct identity of the UN and not confuse it with the country's various power-brokers.

“A more secure environment is absolutely essential if we are to play our full role,” said Annan, who pulled all non-Iraqi UN workers out of the country last year after devastating suicide bombings at the UN headquarters in Baghdad.

“The people of Iraq and others must see us for what we are: an impartial, independent world body with no other agenda than to help their country in this time of need,” Annan added.

Annan spoke the day after the UN released a report saying Iraq could be ready to hold direct elections for a new government by January 2005 and calling for the estab-

lishment of a credible caretaker government in the interim.

The UN leader said his organization was willing to help in the task if asked.

“It is necessary for Iraqis to agree on an interim mechanism to which sovereignty can be transferred,” Annan said, adding that the UN was ready to help with elections, drafting a constitution and establishing “a state based on human rights and the rule of law.”

The UN chief also praised Japan for its support to the organization, contributions to peacekeeping forces and financial aid to poor countries in Asia and Africa.

Annan pledged to push for UN reform and recognized Japan's complaints about the organization. Japan says it is assessed too much for UN dues and it deserves a permanent seat on the Security Council. —Internet



United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan ruled out a deployment of UN peacekeepers to Iraq but said the UN Security Council was likely to authorize a multilateral security force. —INTERNET

India's space programme will not suffer despite fire at plant

BANGALORE, 25 Feb—Indian Space Research Organization said on Tuesday that its space programme is not expected to suffer on account of the damage to the Solid Propellant Space Booster (SPROB) plant at Sriharikota following a major fire that had left six persons dead.

In a statement here, ISRO said the building suffered extensive damage due to intense heat and the estimated damage was about seven million rupees.

SPROB was provided with two Cast-Cure facilities to meet any contingencies and hence ISRO's programme was not expected to suffer on account of damage to the building, it said. ISRO said a high-power committee had been appointed under the chairmanship of R Aravamudan to identify the events that led to the accident, the extent of damage, and the corrective actions required for the future.

Narrating Monday's incident, ISRO said a crew of nine people was engaged in the Cast-Cure facility at SPROB at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR).

The work at the time of fire accident was the final operations of removing the fixtures after the satisfactory conclusion of propellant curing of a segment of a motor holding around 14.5 tons of

solid propellant, which is a composite of Ammonium Perchlorate Oxidiser, atomized aluminium powder as fuel and Hydroxy Terminated Polybutadiene as binder.

ISRO said the crew had Monday afternoon satisfactorily concluded the removal of Mandrel, which is one of the critical operations.

At around 3:15 pm local time, the crew was attending to the removal of the bottom plate of the casting assembly when the propellant in the segment inadvertently caught fire and caused severe damage to the building and persons inside.

It said three members of the nine-member team — Y Krishna Prasad, S Narayanan, both senior engineers, and S K Sachin, tradesman — were able to escape from the building with burn injuries.

Six others were rapidly asphyxiated and burnt due to intense heat and fumes caused by burning of 14.5 tons of propellant.

MNA/PTI

Switzerland to grant 24m euros to Mozambique

MAPUTO, 25 Feb—Switzerland is to grant 24 million euros (about 30.4 million US dollars) to Mozambique, in order to support this southern African country to fight poverty, local media reported on Monday.

According to Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey, who is on a visit to Mozambique, the money is earmarked mainly for the fight against poverty and for fiscal reform.

She expressed her country's commitment to supporting programmes for the improvement of healthcare, water supply and agricultural development in Mozambique.

Calmy-Rey met with her Mozambican counterpart, Leonardo Simao, on Sunday. —MNA/Xinhua

China sold 11,717 prospecting, mining rights in 2003

BEIJING, 25 Feb—China last year sold 11,717 prospecting and mining rights through bids, auctions and other public means, according to figures released Monday by the Ministry of Land and Resources at a national conference on mine resources.

China is terminating the old system of absolute government monopoly in mineral exploration and exploitation, and as part of its reform programme, China has adopted the international practices of allowing mining enterprises to determine production in line with market conditions and allowing prospecting and mining rights to be traded.

Social investment pouring into prospecting projects continued to exceed the governmental investment, figures showed. —MNA/Xinhua

Bullets claim stirs Iraq equipment row

LONDON, 25 Feb—A serving soldier reignited the row about equipment shortages during the Iraq war last night, claiming he and his men had been issued with just five bullets each for the entire conflict.

The unnamed soldier, who said he came under fire several times on the frontline in southern Iraq, told Channel 4 News: “We had five rounds each to defend ourselves. I actually crossed the border with five rounds.”

“The magazine held 30 separate bullets but I was issued with five separate bullets to last the entire hostilities of the war. We came under fire in Um Qasr three or four times. Not fire, it was more like ricochets.”

The soldier's claims reopen the debate on equipment shortages in the army. Last month, the defence secretary, Geoff Hoon, faced calls to resign following the death of Sergeant Steven Roberts, who was killed after being ordered to hand his flak jacket to another unit because there were not enough to go around.

The soldier making the latest complaints, who is reportedly based in Germany and served in Um Qasr, Az Zubayr and Basra, risks losing his job and pension if his identity becomes public.

As well as receiving just five bullets, he claimed the unit's camouflage nets and many of their vehicles and uniforms were green, not desert brown.

The report said the men were also short of maps and body armour and instead of radios, they were issued with a mobile phone and instructed to call if they were attacked.

Last night, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said it was impossible to comment on the specific allegations without knowing the soldier's unit and role.

Internet

Britain accused of selling weapons parts to rights abusers

LONDON, 25 Feb—The British government was accused by leading charities on Wednesday of allowing the export of deadly weapons components to countries where abusers could use them to kill, torture and rape at gunpoint.

International charity Oxfam accused the government of exercising “double standards” on export licences, making it easier to obtain a licence for weapons components while tightening up on licences for entire weapons.

“The government has put lives at risk by setting up false and dangerous double standards.”

“Whether a machinegun comes in pieces or ready-made, the suffering it can cause in the wrong hands is just the same,” said Justin Forsyth, Oxfam's director of policy.

“These aren't simply nuts and bolts we're selling, these components include firing mechanisms, bomb making equipment, guidance systems and gun barrels.”

The government rejected the report called “Lock, Stock and Barrel”, written by Oxfam for the Control Arms Campaign.

Foreign Office minister Baroness Symons said the report had no evidence to support its claim that Britain was too lax on exports of arms components.

“It is simply not the case,” she said in a statement. “We take full account of what the components might be used for... We simply would not issue a licence where there was an unacceptable risk of it being misused or diverted.”

The report said there had been an 11-fold increase since 1998 in the number of different arms components licensed for export to countries including Zimbabwe,

Israel, Indonesia, Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines.

“Arms components are clearly central to the operation and maintenance of weapons systems, and if it is wrong to export a whole system then it is equally wrong to license the parts that make that system work,” the report said.

It said the export of weapons parts rather than entire weapons systems created “a

smokescreen that hides the true extent of the British arms trade”.

“Components for deadly weapons are being sold to known human rights abusers,” Lesley Warner, spokeswoman for Amnesty International UK said. “It doesn't take much to re-assemble them. And from there it takes even less to kill, to torture or to rape at gunpoint.”

MNA/Reuters



Users of GSM mobile telephone systems grow to more than one billion. —INTERNET

နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းဖြင့်

စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်။

Halliburton arm faces Iraq oil probe

NEW YORK, 25 Feb—Halliburton is fighting off fresh controversy after the Pentagon revealed it is opening a criminal investigation into allegations the oil services company overcharged the military.

The Houston-based business, which was run by US vice-president Dick Cheney between 1995 and 2000, is the target of repeated claims that it wins contracts worth billions of dollars, thanks to close ties to the Bush administration.

The latest charge is that subsidiary Kellogg Brown & Root overcharged for fuel delivered from Kuwait into Iraq.

A Pentagon official confirmed: "The Defence Criminal Investigative Service is investigating allegations of fraud on the part of Kellogg Brown & Root, including the potential overpricing of fuel delivered to Baghdad."

The tarnishing of Halliburton has be-

come an election year issue for President Bush, whose reputation was already knocked by the closeness of his ties to Enron.

It is possible that Halliburton may be suspended from future work in Iraq, at least until the furore dies down.

Company spokesman Wendy Hall called the criminal probe, "a step towards resolution of the issue. In the current political climate, it is to be expected".

After the invasion of Iraq, Halliburton won multi-billion dollar contracts to rebuild the country's oil industry. It also runs more mundane operations such as providing food and laundry to troops on the ground.

Internet

Microsoft confident bounties will nab virus writers

LONDON, 25 Feb—A trio of bounties Microsoft Corp placed on the heads of virus writers has generated a variety of investigative leads, but still no arrests, a top security official from the software giant said on Tuesday.

In November, Microsoft created a 5-million-US-dollar fund to pay ordinary computer users for tips leading to the arrest and prosecution of the creators of computer viruses and worms that use its ubiquitous Windows operating system to wreak havoc online.

Microsoft issued three separate 250,000 US dollars bounties for information on the whereabouts of the SoBig, Blaster and MyDoom virus authors over the past three months.

"I am confident there will be some arrests that will result from at least one of the three bounties we have issued. The odds are in our favour," said David Aucsmith, chief technology officer for Microsoft Corp's security business and technology unit.

"We have good leads and

various law enforcement entities are tracking those leads," he told Reuters on the sidelines of cyber security conference in London. He declined to provide a timeframe for a possible arrest.

Aucsmith added that the investigation involved multiple countries, but declined to say which ones.

Security experts have had difficulty pinpointing the culprits. For example, a data trail led to Russia as the origin of last month's MyDoom virus outbreak, but security experts disagree on whether the culprit is from the region.

Aucsmith said the company's own investigation revealed that the culprits would be either mid-sized thieves or organized crime gangs.

The first camp use computer viruses to steal the users' personal details from e-

mail addresses to bank and credit card details. The second group are looking to break into companies or banks for big pay-offs.

Each group has a goal of sabotaging a computer from which they can steal data or take it over to unleash further digital attacks on new targets, Aucsmith said.

He also said virus writers were able to take a known vulnerability in software code and create a malicious programme in a matter of days and hours. The same thing took weeks and months just two years ago.

Microsoft has taken considerable heat from the business sector for the latest outbreak of viruses and worms, which are costing companies vast sums of money in lost productivity and damaged infrastructure.

MNA/Reuters

မြို့ပြဒေသများ၊ ဆိပ်ကမ်းလှည့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြှင့်



Protesters wearing President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney masks, and others, take part in a demonstration in Washington, on 24 Feb, 2004, against Bechtel Corp and the Halliburton Co to protest against the companies profiteering from the Iraq War. The Dick Cheney character holds his chest mimicking a heart attack. — INTERNET

Guerillas kill three Iraqis working with US military

MOSUL (Iraq), 25 Feb—Three Iraqis working for the US military were killed by guerillas who opened fire on their car, hospital officials said on Tuesday, in the latest deadly attack on Iraqis co-operating with occupying forces.

The three Iraqis — two translators and a technician — were killed on Monday evening as they drove to work at the US military base at Mosul's airport. Two other Iraqis in the same vehicle were wounded, hospital officials said.

Guerillas fighting the occupation of Iraq have frequently targeted Iraqi police, security guards and contractors working with the US military. Scores of Iraqis have been killed this month in suicide car bomb attacks on Iraqi security targets.

MNA/Reuters

Moderate earthquake jolts northern Pakistani town

ISLAMABAD, 25 Feb—An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale rocked a small town in northern Pakistan on Sunday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, an official said.

An official in Pakistan's Meteorological Department said the epicentre of the tremor lay some 125 miles northeast of the major north-western city of Peshawar.

He said the quake jolted the mountain town of Manshera, about 50 miles north of Islamabad, but was not felt anywhere else in the country. — MNA/Reuters

Nigeria to help Ghana in national ID card project

ABUJA, 25 Feb—Nigerian Minister of Internal Affairs Iyorchia Ayu said here on Monday that the Nigerian federal government was willing to assist the Ghanaian Government in the implementation of its national identity card project in terms of information and technical expertise.

Ayu made the remarks when a Ghanaian presidential delegation paid him a courtesy visit in his office in the capital Abuja.

Though there have been some pitfalls in the implementation of the national identity card project in Nigeria since 1999, the minister said that the project was on course smoothly.

According to Ayu, the federal government is sorting out issues with the technical partners on the project and the national ID card scheme will be successfully completed this year.

Ayu, however, advised the Ghanaian Government to learn from the pitfalls of the Nigerian experience in the implementation of its own scheme.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Ghanaian presidential delegation Professor Kwaku Appiah-Adu said, the purpose of their visit was to get vital information on Nigeria's implementation with a view to implementing its own. — MNA/Xinhua

China to train community mediators nationwide

BELING, 25 Feb—The Chinese Government has adopted a five-year programme to train community mediators with legal knowledge and mediating skills in a campaign to develop methods of solving disputes out of court.

The Ministry of Justice would launch distance education for mediators of the people's mediation committees this year, said Minister of Justice Zhang Fusen here Tuesday.

In three years the government plans to educate community mediators on civil law and regulations and in five years they would be skilled in mediating in knotty and complicated cases,

Zhang said.

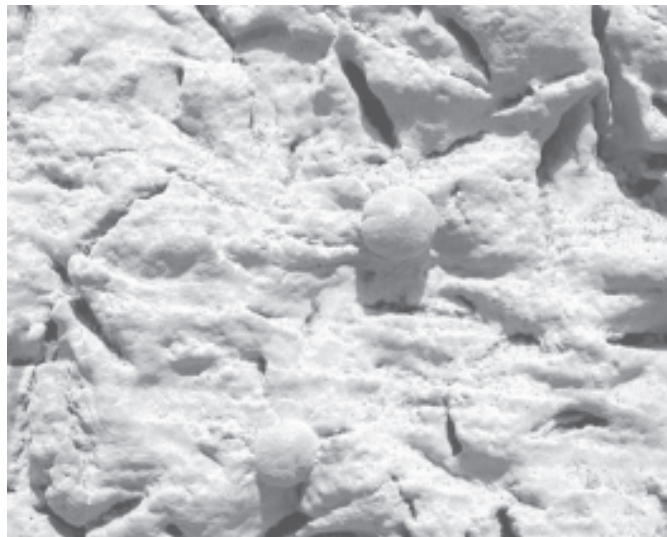
Each Chinese village and community has a people's mediation committee headed by a community worker and comprising volunteer mediators from the neighbourhood communities.

The organizations have helped settle civil disputes, such as quarrels between neighbours and disputes among family members, for free ever since they

were set up in the 1950s.

"The people's mediation committees have proven to be very practical in resolving civil disputes and will play a more effective role in the years ahead," Zhang said.

Agreements reached after mediation by the committees have been legally binding since the Supreme People's Court (SPC) issued a judicial interpretation in September 2002. — MNA/Xinhua



This is a microscopic photograph of a Mars rock taken by NASA's Opportunity rover that has triggered excitement among scientists. This image, posted on the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Mars rovers Web site, shows a highly detailed surface on a rock, dubbed "El Capitan," that has been undergoing examination by the robot geologist. Scientists weren't ready to say where the observations are leading their speculation, a mission official said Monday. — INTERNET



Thitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nanissara hands the Bodhi sapling to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on 24 February 2004.
(News reported) — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers monk's robe to a Sayadaw at the ceremony to hand over Bodhi sapling donated by the President of India.
(News reported) — MNA

Phonedaw Naing-Ngan Village

Sein Myint (Tapestry)

The opening ceremony of the dispensary at Phonedaw Naing-Ngan Village in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division, held on 17 January 2004, was attended by officials, local authorities, and the secretary of Division Union Solidarity and Development Association and members. Phonedaw Naing-Ngan is a village that has been in existence since the time of ancient Myanmar kings. It is a large village located at a place lying between the Ayeyawady River in the west and Dokhtawady River in the east. Most of the natives of the village, which has about 600 houses, are farmers, and the people who make earthen pots and alms bowls for monks to earn their living. The dispensary is built on a place a little bit higher than other places of the village. I said Sadhu for many times for the donation of the dispensary, as it will ensure better health for the villagers. There are a number of pagodas and zayats built with teak in and around the village.

The donors are U Myint Swe and Daw Tin Tin Myint and family. Their daughter and son-in-law residing abroad also contributed cash for the dispensary. At the ceremony, I was having a good conversation with the family. The daughter told me that her husband was a physician living in Macao. We talked about many things including the Myanmar art, food and nature. A number of people including local authorities and USDA members contributed voluntary labour to make the ceremony a real. There are over 2,000 USDA members in the village. In the afternoon, the donor family visited my house.

I have a small-scale tapestry industry at my house. And my house itself is like a museum where a large array of the collections of folk art items, paintings and various kinds of ancient tapestry, I have gathered for many years throughout my life, are displayed. The visiting couple were captivated by my display of art works. They seemed to be interested in painting. The husband told me that he was interested in painting; that he was an executive of the Royal Macao Painting Association; that exhibitions showing the works of the artists of Southeast Asian countries, the Republic of Korea, Japan and China were held annually in Macao; and that he would like to buy a painting from me.

The value of preserving the ancient culture is high. I have been to many countries — sometimes on official visits and sometimes at the invitation of the host countries. And during my visits abroad, I usually met with Myanmar residents there. Some Myanmar residents live in a foreign country on business and some to pursue further studies.

The donor couple, although residing in a foreign country, never forget their native land where their ancestors lived and died, where they have learned the basic education, and where the Sasana flourishes. They always remember the gratitude they owe to the native land. The degree of gratitude one owes to another never wanes or disappears under any circumstances.

I have been to the United States three times. There may be many differences between a big nation and a small one. In one aspect, the big country may be better than the small country, but in another the small one may

be better than the big one. All in all, one should never forget his native land, whether he is living in a desert country, a country located on an archipelago, or a country where glaciers flow.

I met with a couple, who were my friends, in Washington. The husband was a senior official at a bank, and the wife was also a bank officer. The wife was always trying to pursue higher studies. She was a candidate for a doctorate degree. She requested the faculties to send her back to Myanmar for her doctorate thesis. During research work in Myanmar she donated cash and kind to a number of villages from her savings. She also provided cash for youths to pursue education.

A Myanmar lady I met in Hawaii was sponsoring visits for Myanmar academics and technicians to the respective universities abroad. She was an official of an NGO. In most cases the cash for the operations of the NGO came from her purse. At the same time, she requested her American friends to visit Myanmar. For many times, she arranged and led package tours for foreigners to visit Myanmar and study her cultural riches. She wished foreigners to see the Myanmar culture with their own eyes.

A friend in Holland is inviting Myanmar puppeteers, dancers and musicians and making arrangements for them to stage performances in the European nations whenever she gets the opportunity. In my view, she is arranging the programmes with nationalistic fervour.

One day, I met with a childhood friend of Mandalay at a hotel. She was together with her daughter about the age of nine or ten or so. It seemed that the mother wanted to make her daughter know her roots. Even during her short visit to Mandalay, she had made arrangements to do so. I have met with children of Myanmar families in London whose grandpas even didn't know how to read the English alphabets, while the grandchildren didn't know the Myanmar alphabets. I was much pleased, when I came to know that my friend's little daughter could say not only the prayers, but could also recite the Metta Sutta. I honoured her for she never forgets her native land, religion and traditions and culture. She made donations, did religious deeds and provided assistance for her relatives during her stay in Myanmar.

There are also a Myanmar couple in Los Angeles. They are photographers. Although they are living in a foreign land, they have strong Myanmar spirit. They host and treat all the Myanmar visitors to the US. They also give gifts to the guests. And they are happy to do so. "As we are not able to come back to our native land at present, helping and hosting visitors from Myanmar makes us feel at home. Walking together with Myanmar natives alone is enough for us to relieve our homesickness," he once said.

I remember his words till today. I have met with many Myanmar residents living in various parts of the world. Their way of earning their living and situations varied significantly from one another like the multi-coloured lotus flowers in a pond. Even the animals come back to their nest or den to feed their offspring. Doing donations and public welfare services will extend the degree of ones meritorious deeds.

The religious edifices stand witness to the glory of

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased



Bagan as the First Myanmar Empire. Bagan stood with eminence under the glare of the sun and the moon for many years. My mind was travelling beyond the Phonedaw Naing-Ngan Village till reaching the sun and the moon, but I didn't know why.

(Translation: TMT)

(Myanma Alin, kyemon: 25-2-2004)

There will definitely...

(from page 1)

That is why the objective "Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well" is designated as the first of the four economic objectives, he noted.

The agricultural sector contributes 56 per cent to the turnovers of Shan State (North) and thus the agricultural sector plays a vital role in the economy of the region, he remarked.

Concerning the agricultural sector, there was over 560,000 acres of cultivable land in Shan State (North) in 1988 and the number of cultivable areas has increased to over 900,000 acres now. And yearly cul-

turemore, a total of 4,300 more acres have been reclaimed, he said.

However, Shan State (North) has not enjoyed rice sufficiency yet. Thanks to the combined efforts of respective departments and local people under the leadership of the commander, it has met over 90 per cent of the local rice demand, he added. It is sure there will be rice sufficiency in the region soon, the Secretary-1 expressed his belief.

Measures are to be taken for cultivation of crops on all the cultivable land as well as extension of multiple cropping in Shan State (North) for the region does not have enough plain regions for agriculture, he dis-



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gives instructions to officials at the ceremony to donate farm machinery and implements in Humon Village, Lashio Township.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears reports on paddy transplantation Ceremony by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing in Humon Village, Lashio Township.—MNA

tivation of crops has been extended up to over 1.1 million acres now, up from 600,000 acres in 1988. Fur-

thermore,

With multiple cropping, it will need more farm machinery and implements and

advanced agricultural methods, he said.

In conclusion, he said that the ceremony will fur-

ther enhance development of agricultural sector of the region.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the commander and officials are to try triple cropping of crops and double cropping of paddy and one-cropping of a suitable crop on the 120-acre farm in Humon.

Similarly, other hybrid paddy and other high-yield strain paddy should be tested in addition to Hsinshweli hybrid paddy with the use of three agricultural methods, he said.

After introducing agricultural methods, paddy cultivation should be extended with the use of the most suitable methods.

In this way, the drive of those in charge of the region will contribute towards local rice sufficiency and economy of local farmers. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation will have to render necessary assistance to local farmers, he noted.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed Hsinshweli hybrid sunflower and paddy plan-

tations.

They also looked into progress in cultivation of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy on the 120-acre plot and other plots.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and entourage inspected combined harvesters, paddy threshers and power tillers and the booth of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially met with departmental officials and local farmers.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents documents related to three combined harvesters and five threshers to U Sai San Tun of Humon Village, Lashio Township.—MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presents documents related to 16 power-tillers to U Sai Si of Manhsu Village.—MNA

Work Committee for Implementation of ASEAN Economic Agreements meets

YANGON, 25 Feb— The Work Committee for Implementation of ASEAN Economic Agreements held the second meeting at the Ministry of Commerce on Strand Road here at 4 pm today, attended by Chairman of the Work Committee Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone.

Also present were members of the Work Committee Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and deputy ministers, the

Deputy Attorney-General, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force, departmental heads, the General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and departmental officials.

At the meeting, the minister gave an introductory speech. Joint-Secretary of the Work Committee Adviser to the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs U Maung Maung Yi reported on approval of the minutes and implementation of the resolutions of the first meeting.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu gave an account of progress in implementation of the minutes of the first meeting. Officials participated in the discussions.

Later, the meeting ended with the closing remarks by the minister.

MNA

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စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်။



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets local authorities, social organizations and local people of Muse, Namkham and Kutkai townships.— MNA

National peace and stability...

(from page 16)

and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun on financial matters, tax collection and banking services; and Muse District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Soe Win on the national races living in the district, communication, health, education, and regional food sufficiency and regional development projects.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win said once there was internal insurgency in the region. But now, due to cooperative efforts of the State, the local people and the Tatmadaw peace and stability and security are prevailing in the region. Thanks to the regional peace and stability, the whole northern Shan State including Muse District is achieving sustainable development. The region is producing more food to meet the local requirement. Likewise, the border trade is also developing. Above all, the progress of the district can be witnessed.

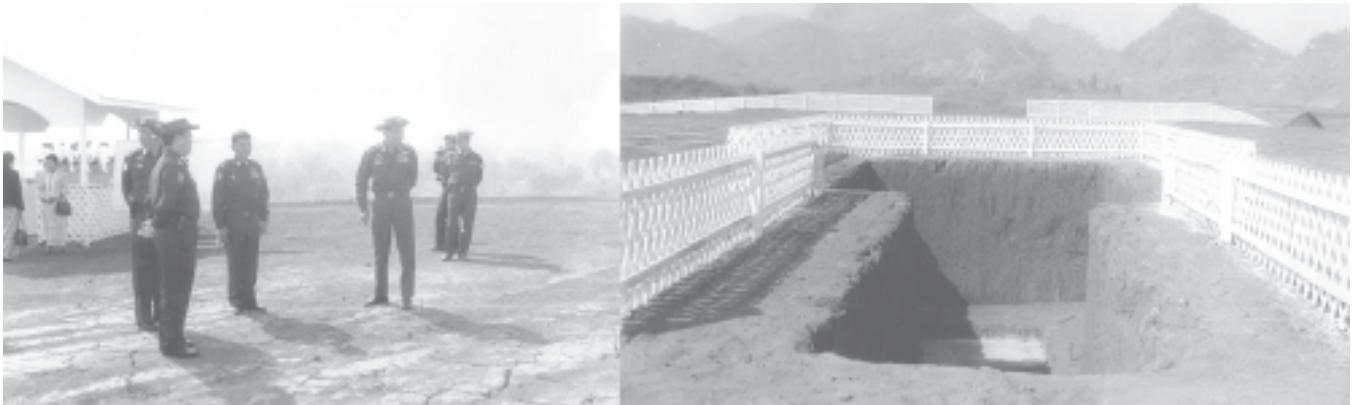
Border trade entrepreneurs should be upright in doing business, instead of concentrating solely on making profits.

If they become trusted entrepreneurs, they can serve the interest of both the region and the nation more. The economy of the State is getting stronger as the whole nation is achieving peace and stability and unity. The developments and the success are the result of the united strength of all the national people. Thus, all will have to harmoniously strive for the successful implementation of the future policy programme of the State.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye delivered an address, saying that when he was discharging duties as the military command commander in the area, there was no regional peace and stability due to BCP insurgents, and the people had to live and earn their living in fear. Unlike in the past, the region has been developing on all fronts within a short span of time as the insurgency has ended and peace and stability is prevailing in it. Among the border towns, Muse is developing with the highest growth rate. The government has been laying down and implementing development projects including the border area development project and rural development project for further progress of the whole nation including Muse region. The regional

peace and stability will contribute to effective implementation of the projects. All must accept and understand the fact that peace and stability of the nation is the basic requirement to implement the State's seven-point future policy programme. As Muse is bordering the People's Republic of China, all should make concerted efforts to maintain the bilateral friendship between the two countries, while launching the regional development task with might and main. There is friendship and understanding between the leaders and the governments of Myanmar and the PRC. In addition, there is love and friendship between the peoples of the two nations. Thus, all will have to maintain and safeguard the bilateral friendly relations. He then cordially greeted those present at the meeting. The Vice-Senior General and party observed the town development by car.

In Lashio, member of the panel of patrons of USDA Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, and Central Executive Committee members of the USDA U Soe Tha, Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Col Tin Hlaing and Brig-Gen Khin Maung met with secretaries, executives and members of Shan State (North) USDA and district and township associations. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects the site for building Yandaingaugung MyoU Pagoda in Lashio.— MNA

MWAF members tour Kayah State

YANGON, 25 Feb — A team led by Vice-President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Prof Daw May May Yi met with officials, and members of Kayah State Organization for Women's Affairs and support groups in Loikaw on 22 February.

At the meeting held at the town hall the next morning, Prof Daw May May Yi gave a speech, and member of the Secretariat Dr Daw San Shwe explained organizational set-up of MWAF and membership application.

Members of the team also discussed prevention of violence against women and human trafficking and reha-

bilitation, and cultural, information, law enforcement, financial, management, health, education, economic and environmental sectors.

Prof Daw May May Yi presented K 500,000 for education sector of the Kayah State, and K 400,000 for small-scale enterprises.

Kayah State Peace and Development Council and Kayah State OWA also presented K 200,000 for MWAF.

In the afternoon, the team members met with responsible personnel and sought means to develop sports standard of the state.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially converses with departmental personnel and local people of Muse, Namkham and Kutkai townships.— MNA

Minister inspects Ngwe Hsaung Beach

YANGON, 25 Feb — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected Patheingyi Hotel in Patheingyi on 23 February.

The minister met with Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and discussed develop-

ment of the communication sector in the division and Ngwe Hsaung Beach Resort.

During his visit to the beach, the minister inspected the situation of the bridge between the beach and Hsinmathe village and the motor road and Ngwe Hsaung Dam supplying water to the beach. He also inspected the post and telecommunication office and the library in Pantanaw. — MNA

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hears reports on offering 'soon' to members of the Sangha, title recipient Sayadaws.—MNA

Offering of 'soon' to members of Sangha, religious title recipient Sayadaws coordinated

YANGON, 25 Feb — A coordination meeting on offering of 'soon' to members of the Sangha and title recipient Sayadaws who will be attending the religious title presentation ceremony was held at the Tatmadaw Dhammayon near the southern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda this evening.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing will offer 'soon' to the Sayadaws who will be attending the ceremony.

Present at the meeting were Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and officials of sub-committees.

On behalf of the Chairman of Work Committee for Offering 'soon', Vice-Quartermaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun reported on arrangements on offering 'soon'.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung reported on matters relating to invitation of the members of the Sayadaws and title recipient Sayadaws.

Next, Chairmen of various sub-committees and officials reported on arrangements.

The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions and the meeting came to a close.—MNA

Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference concludes visit

YANGON, 25 Feb — Mr Lao Haocai, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAIFU) and party left here by air this afternoon after paying a five-day goodwill visit to Myanmar beginning 21 February at the invitation of Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein

Sein.

Before their departure, the Secretary-2 cordially greeted the Chinese guests at the VIP Lounge of Yangon International Airport and presented the documentary photo album and video tapes to Mr Lao Haocai.

Then, the Chinese guests were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Develop-

ment Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff.—MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein sees off Mr Lao Haocai, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAIFU) and party at the airport.—MNA

PRC delegation visits Bagan ancient cultural region

YANGON, 25 Feb — At the invitation of Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the visiting goodwill delegation led by Mr Lao Haocai, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAIFU), accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Mr Li

Jinjun and officials, left here by air and arrived at Bagan-NyaungU Airport yesterday morning.

The guests were welcomed there by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman of Col Zaw Min, NyaungU District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Teza, Deputy Director-General U Aung Kyaing of Archaeology Department (Upper Myanmar) and officials.

The guests paid homage to the Buddha image at Shwezigon Pagoda and signed in the visitors' book.

Next, they went to Ananda Temple where they paid homage to the Buddha image and viewed ancient stone sculptures. They signed in the visitors' book and presented donations to the chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

On arrival at Lacquer-

ware College, students demonstrated process of making various kinds of lacquerwares. The guests then visited the Lacquerware Museum.

In the evening, the Chinese guests proceeded to Bagan Archaeological Museum where the curator and officials conducted them round the museum.

At U Ba Nyein Lacquerware Industry, the Chinese guests viewed production process of the lacquerware. They then enjoyed sunset scenes of the Bagan archaeological cultural region. In the evening, Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Zaw Min hosted a dinner in honour of the Chinese delegation at Thiri Pyitsaya Sakura Hotel in Bagan.

This afternoon, the Chinese guests arrived back here from Bagan.

MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents documentary photo album to Mr Lao Haocai.—MNA

Seinle Shwepyi Journal comes out

YANGON, 25 Feb — Seinle Shwepyi Journal Vol 1, No 3 was published today. Features included in the journal were poems, articles, weather forecast and astrology sector written by Ashin Paññajota, Tekkatho Myat Thu, Pyinmana Maung Ni Thin, Maung Yin Mar (Yoe Byat Taw), Tekkatho Hla Kywe, Dr Khin Swe Win, Aung Soe (Veterinary), Kyi Linn (Hsay) and others.—MNA



Mr Lao Haocai, and party visit Lacquerware College in Bagan.—MNA

Don't smoke



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects the mess of Hsinbyushin column.—PPRU

Commander inspects hostels of parade columns

YANGON, 25 Feb—Chairman of Management Committee for Observance of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe this afternoon inspected the camps of the parade columns which will participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade and gave necessary instructions to officials.

At 2.30 pm, the commander arrived at the local unit in Mingaladon

Station where Hsinbyushin column is being accommodated. Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Hsinbyushin Column Commander Col Oo Kyaw and officials welcomed the commander there.

The commander and party inspected hostels, messes, kitchens, ration stores, documentary photos and publications and welfare shops. The commander and party then inspected

practising of drills of companies of the column and gave necessary instructions.

At Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) where Bandoola Column is being put up, Column Commander Col Myint Ko Ko and officials welcomed Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party. Afterwards, the commander viewed hostels, messes, kitchens, ration stores, documentary photos, publications and welfare shops. Then, the commander gave necessary instructions to officials.—MNA



Agreement signed for pulp factory

YANGON, 25 Feb—The Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 and the China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation (MCC) signed an agreement for supplying fuel for 200-ton pulp factory project and construction of a 50-ton advanced paper factory this morning at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry-1 here. Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, heads of department, Economic Counsellor of the PRC embassy Mr Tang Hai and embassy staff, MCC President Mr Ma Yan Li and others were present on the occasion.

Managing Director of the Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries U Than Shwe and Assistant to President of MCC Mr Xu Xiangchun signed the agreement and exchanged documents.—MNA

Managing Director U Than Shwe and Assistant to President of MCC Mr Xu Xiangchun exchange the documents. —INDUSTRY

Myanmar Olympic Committee meets

YANGON, 25 Feb—The Myanmar Olympic Committee held the work co-ordination meeting at its office at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre here at 2 pm today. The meeting was attended by Minister for Sports MOC Chairman Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Vice-Chairmen Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and members. First, MOC Chairman Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address. All-round discussions were then held. The meeting then ended with concluding remarks by the Minister.—MNA



Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadaja U Khin Shwe presents a Buddha statue made of teak worth US\$ 5,000 to officials of Myanmar-ROK Friendship Association.—MNA

Myanmar-ROK exchange notes

YANGON, 25 Feb —The Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in friendship tasks between Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association and Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association was held at Zay Kabar Hall in Mingaladon Garden City yesterday morning.

Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association Vice-Chairman U Khin Shwe, Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman Ven Monk Tax and Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyung-Woo gave speeches and signed the MoU. Next, U Khin Shwe presented a Buddha statue made of teak worth US\$ 5,000 to officials of the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association. Then, souvenirs were exchanged.

The 35-member delegation led by the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman arrived in Yangon to cooperate friendship, religious, economic, education and cultural matters with the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association.

The bilateral cooperation tasks will soon be implemented.—MNA

Gramophone records, tapes, song books donated to MRTV

YANGON, 25 Feb — A ceremony to donate old gramophone records, tapes and books to Myanma Radio and Television was held at the meeting hall of MRTV on Pyay Road this afternoon, attended by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein.

Also present were Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of MRTV, Managing Director U Myint Thein of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Managing Director Col Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Managing Director U Bo Kyi of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise, Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung of MRTV, directors and wellwishers.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepted 29 gramophone records and 14 tape reels in English version donated by Maj Khin Hla Thi (Retd) and family; 50 English gramophone records by U Aye Maung and family of 7th Mile, Mayangon Township; 21 Myanmar gramophone records by U Hnit-Daw Hnget and family of Letpadan Township; 15 English version gramophone records by U Ba San and family of Salin; 57 English version gramophone records and 158 Myanmar-English songs books by Daw Khin Win Kyi of Seikkantha Street; 118 English version gramophone records by Daw Myint Myint Than and family of East Yankin; 55 English version gramophone records by U Khin Maung Aye and family of Kyauktada Township; 50 Myanmar version gramophone records by late Capt Thein Swe-Daw Than Myint and family of Mandalay; nine Myanmar version gramophone records by Daw Htay Htay Win and family of staff quarters of MRTV, on behalf of late U Saw Hlaing. Then, certificates of honour were presented to wellwishers.

Similarly, Bhaddanta Kumara of Myingyan donated 18 Myanmar version gramophone records and Dr U Oo Maung and family of Mingaladon Township 47 English version gramophone records in absentia. The deputy minister spoke words of thanks. Those wishing to donate gramophone records published between 1922-1945 may contact IPRDs and Director (Broadcast) U Ko Ko Htwe, MRTV, Tel: 536814.—MNA

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepts gramophone records and tapes from a wellwisher. —MNA



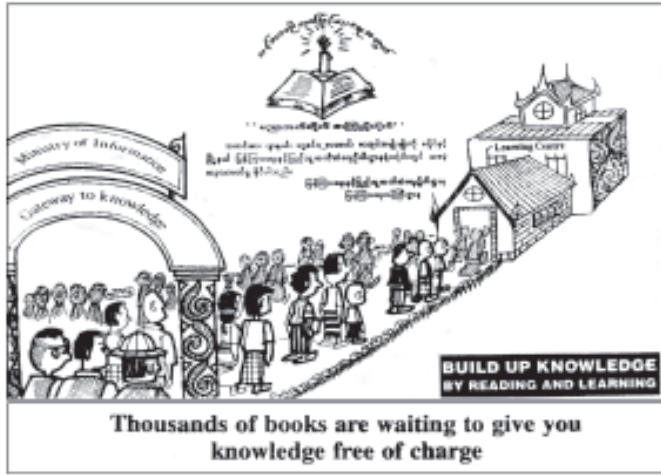
The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.

“သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တင် ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား ဖြိုဖွင့်သို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတ်မှတ်ခေါက်ရေနှင့်အညီ စက်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ပေးထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတ်မှတ်နှုန်းထားများအတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက် တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင်ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနံပါတ်များသို့ တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

- (၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉)
- (၂) ကြီးမကြေးနန်းနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့မှူးရုံး (ဖုန်း ၂၉၁၂၈၇/၂၉၁၂၈၄)
- (၃) ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်း ပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

(ဖုန်း ၇၄၁၉၀၇/၇၄၁၉၀၄)
ယာဉ်ဧည့်ကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ



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UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Eye Surgical Instruments, Surgical & Orthopaedic Minor Surgical Instruments, Locomotives Tyre for DEL & DHL and Spare Parts for YDM-4 1200 HP Indian Diesel Locomotives which will be purchased in US Dollars and Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr No.	Tender No	Description	Qty:
1.	10(T)3/MR(CMO) 2003-2004	(1) Eye Surgical Instruments (2) Surgical & Orthopaedic Minor Surgical Instruments	3- Items 5 - Items
2.	12(T)30/MR(ML) 2003-2004	(1) Rolled Steel Locomotives Steel Tyre (Rough Turn) Drg; No. S-3214/LL (2) Equalizer Beam (long & Short), Expressor Complete (Air Compressor & Exhauster)	784 -Nos 4- Sets 1 - No

Closing Date: 4.3.2004 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours
Opening Date: 4.3.2004 (Thursday) (14:00) Hours
Closing Date: 6.4.2004 (Tuesday) (12:00) Hours
Opening Date: 6.4.2004 (Tuesday) (14:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 26.2.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext: 602, 605,612

**Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon.**

Pilot dies in Thai Air Force plane crash

BANGKOK, 25 Feb—A pilot of Thai Royal Air Force died Monday morning in Suphanburi Province, 110 kilometres north of Bangkok, when his training plane crashed during exercise, the *Thai News Agency* reported.

The report said that Anusorn Kesurasukhon's PC-9 plane began experiencing engine difficulties shortly after taking off from the Air Force's Kamphaeng Saen flight training school in the Suphanburi Province.

Anusorn then attempted to make an emergency landing on a road, but the aircraft was caught up by electrical wires, and ended up colliding into a six-wheeled truck running on the road, which in turn crashed into a 10-wheeled truck and a motorcycle.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV EASTERN HERO VOY NO (91)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EASTERN HERO Voy No (91) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD
JAPAN**

Phone No: 256924/256914

China Telecom more than doubles broadband Internet users

BEIJING, 25 Feb—China Telecom signed up another 4.84 million clients to its broadband Internet services in 2003, the company announced here Monday.

The China Telecom Group, China's largest fixed-line operator, has 7.35 mil-

lion clients using its broadband Internet services across the country.

China Telecom has increased its broadband subscribers tenfold in two years, said an official with the Ministry of Information Industry. —MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းဖြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Madam Jeanne CHANTEREAU, épouse GIBET of 9 Boulevard de la Tour Maubourg, 75007 Paris, France is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark -

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(Reg. No. J/0025/2003)

in respect of - "Pharmaceutical preparations; sanitary preparations for medical purposes; diathermic substances adapted for medical use; disinfectants."

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Hsain Lin Co (LLB) Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND
PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mpla@myanmar.net.mm
Tel. 254037 G.P.O. Box 666
Yangon. 26 February 2004

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာနတွင် အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သော နှိုင်းယှဉ်မှုပစ္စည်းများ ဝယ်ယူ ရန်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း
၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာနအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရုံးသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။
(1) Personal Computer Intel Pentium IV
1.8 GHz 40 GB HDD 128 MB SD RAN 15" Monitor
(2) Laserjet Printer A4
(3) Type Writer (Myanmar-18")
(4) Plain Paper Copier Machine A-3
(5) Note Book Computer 800 MHz, HDD, 128 MB
155 B, CD, IAN, Fax 13.3 TFT
(6) LCD Data Projector
(7) Projection Screen (70"x70")
(8) Motorcycle
၂။ တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူသည့်နေ့ (၃-၃-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီတွင် မိတ်သိမ်းပါမည်။
၃။ တင်ဒါခံယူရန် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့် ထုတ်ရောင်းရေးကော်မတီ
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
အမှတ် ၂၂၈၊ ဗဟိုမြို့လမ်း၊ စိလီတောင်မိမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
ဖုန်း-၂၄၅၆၃၊ ၂၄၅၆၄၊ ၂၄၅၆၅

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Interested parties should have experience in automotive spare parts retailing, preferably lubricants and allied products, strong operational infrastructure, a sound financial background, a franchisee / service center of any major engine / vehicle manufacturer (desirable).

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INVITATION TO TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of lube base oils and additives (6,000 ± 10%) metric tons.
2. Tender documents are available at the Finance Department during office hours commencing (26-2-2004) on payment of one hundred (100) FEC (or) US\$ per set.
3. Tender will be closed on (11-3-2004) at 12:00 noon.
4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender documents officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

**Managing Director,
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise**

First Toyota Corolla rolls off production line in China

BEIJING, 25 Feb — The first Toyota Corolla car rolled off the Chinese production line at a factory in Tianjin on Monday.

The Corolla is the second Toyota model to be produced by Tianjin FAW Toyota Motor Co Ltd, a Sino-Japanese joint venture, after the Vios.

MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Over 500 killed in powerful Morocco Quake

AL HOCEIMA (Morocco), 25 Feb—A powerful earthquake killed at least 564 people in northern Morocco on Tuesday, toppling mud-brick homes and burying residents in their sleep under tons of rubble.

"The death toll has risen to 564," Health Minister Mohamed Cheikh Biadillah told state television 2M.

Hundreds of others were reported injured in and around the Mediterranean port city of Al Hoceima in the earthquake, which measured 6.5 on the Richter Scale.

In the village of Ait Kamara, 11 miles to the south, many houses were flattened like cardboard boxes. The US Geological Survey said the quake struck at around 2:30 a.m. (0230 GMT) when people were asleep. Dozens of aftershocks and rain complicated relief efforts in the outlying villages in the foothills of the Rif mountains in a predominantly Berber area.

"It's a total disaster, the

world needs to help us," Hassan Hmidouch, head of the town council in the village of Im-Zouren, told Reuters Television.

"We don't have sniffer dogs or any equipment to lift or cut iron bars," he told 2M state television earlier.

Residents, some digging with their bare hands or shovels in their flattened homes, said heavy equipment was needed.

"They sent the military which basically ordered us to stop digging but they couldn't do much themselves for lack of equipment," Abdelkhalek said.

Morocco's worst recorded quake was on February 29, 1960. It destroyed the Atlantic city of Agadir, killing 12,000 people.

Many of the injured were being treated in Army barracks, health centres and charity homes. Others were airlifted to the capital, Rabat, Casablanca and Meknes.

Josephine Shields, an official with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Tunis, said six villages within 10 miles of Al Hoceima had been hit.

"We've been told that the entire affected area has between 300,000 and 400,000 people. It is a remote area, very mountainous, so it is a bit difficult to access." She said victims needed blankets, warm clothing, food and water. "There is possibly a need for a field hospital as local health facilities are basically saturated," she added.

MNA/Reuters

Italian researchers make breast-cancer breakthrough

ROME, 25 Feb—An Italian team has made a major breakthrough in breast-cancer research, discovering the protein that lies behind the spread of breast tumours, Italian media reported on Monday.

After years of research that started with genes in fruit flies, researchers in Naples, Sardinia and Milan have identified the protein, dubbed h-prune, and the gene that makes it.

The discovery of the gene and the mechanism by which the protein works has been described in an article published in the magazine *Cancer Cell*.

Practical applications are not far off, the authors say. This may lead to the development of drugs that can stop the killer protein in its tracks.

The researchers say they have identified a drug that could muffle the activity of the h-prune gene, but they are already thinking of the next step.

The research programme, funded by the Italian Association for Cancer Research AIRC, was carried out by a team led by Massimo Zollo of the Tigem Cancer Research Laboratory in Naples.

Zollo worked with Giuseppe Palmieri of the National Research Centre's Institute of Population Genetics in Alghero, Sardinia.

MNA/Xinhua

Dead seals and dolphins wash up on Mexican Beach

MEXICO CITY, 25 Feb—The corpses of 128 seals, nine dolphins and nine pelicans washed up on a beach in the Sea of Cortez, Mexico's Government said on Monday.

The government environmental watchdog Profepa said the animals were found over the weekend in the San Jorge Bay in the Sea of Cortez, about 60 miles south of the US border.

It launched an investigation of the deaths.

"We are going to maintain a system of permanent vigilance where all of this happened to try to avoid more deaths," Profepa's head, Jose

Luis Luege, said.

It was not clear why the animals died, although local Press said environmental authorities were investigating a possible link to drug traffickers' use of a substance that creates a luminous effect when thrown in the ocean. The substance is believed to be used to help locate drug shipments that are dumped at sea to be picked up later.

MNA/Reuters

Mitral valve surgery using special technique performed in India

NEW DELHI, 25 Feb—For the first time in India, a mitral valve repair procedure of the heart was performed Sunday using a special surgical technique by an American cardiologist, a top Indian heart specialist said.

"This is a significant milestone in endoscopic minimally invasive surgery. We performed a mitral valve repair procedure using the 'da Vinci' surgical system," said Naresh Trehan, Executive Director, Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre here, where the operation took place.

Trehan said "for many surgical procedures, the method of choice across the world has now shifted from traditional open surgery to the use of less invasive means.

"These minimally invasive alternatives usually result in a reduction in pain, scarring and recovery time for patients, as well as de-

creased heart-care costs," the doctor said, according to a Press release.

Technically known as Robotic Endoscopic Mitral Valve Surgery, it was performed by Dr Randolph W Chitwood, Director, North Carolina Cardiovascular Disease Institute. A Total Endoscopic Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery was also performed by Sudhir Srivastava of Alliance Hospital, Texas using the special technique.

A live telecast of the surgery was made from the hospital to participants of the 50th Golden Jubilee meeting of Indian Association of Cardiac Thoracic Surgery here. —MNA/PTI

China's largest saltwater lake splits into several lakes

XINING, 25 Feb—Qinghai Lake, the largest saltwater lake in China, has changed from a boundless lake into one big lake and several smaller ones due to eco-environmental deterioration.

Looking at a picture taken from a satellite, three large water areas and several smaller ones have been formed on the northern part of the lake. In addition, there is a small lake respectively on the southern and south-eastern parts of Qinghai Lake. The picture taken this month showed a lake covering a water surface of 96.7 square kilometres was severed from the main body of Qinghai Lake on its north-eastern part.

Qinghai Lake covers 4,200 square kilometres in

the northern part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. In the 1960s, 108 freshwater rivers emptied into it. However, 85 per cent of the rivers around the lake have dried up now, including the Buh River, the lake's largest tributary.

Xu Weixin, an engineer of the Qinghai Provincial Remote Sensing Centre, attributed the separation of Qinghai Lake to shrinkage of the water surface as a result of a lowered water level and desertification in the region.

MNA/Xinhua



A strong earthquake shook northern Morocco early on Tuesday, killing over 500 people around the Mediterranean port city of Al Hoceima, officials said. A civil defence spokesman in Al Hoceima said the village of Ait Kamara, 14 km (nine miles) away, was "completely destroyed" and "there are many dead." —INTERNET

Doctors die as heart operation plane crashes in Sardinia

ROME, 25 Feb—Four Italian doctors and two pilots died on Tuesday when their plane, carrying a heart for transplant, crashed in mountains on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia, air safety officials said.

"They had removed a heart during the night and were transporting it for transplant this morning," a spokesman for air safety agency ANSV said. The two pilots killed in the crash were Austria. Police officials said the Cessna 500 plane had hit the Sette Fratelli, or Seven Brothers mountain and was spotted on its summit. Health Minister Girolamo Sirchia hailed the doctors as "heroes who every day, without drawing attention, sacrifice their lives to save those who are waiting for transplants." —MNA/Reuters

Ethiopia ranks fourth in world neonatal morbidity rate

ADDIS ABABA, 25 Feb—Ethiopia stands fourth in the neonatal morbidity and mortality rate in the world, said the Ethiopian Health Ministry on Monday.

The ministry made the remarks here at the opening of a meeting organized under the title "Healthy Newborn Partnership".

Access to early prevention and management of complications in pregnancy and delivery were still very low due to lack of adequate health services, the ministry was quoted by the *Ethiopian News Agency* as saying.

Advocacy and mobilization through partnership of pertinent institutions would be essential to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The ministry said strengthening the primary health care activities by fully involving the community in the health promotion and disease prevention activities helps reduce the problem.

Despite the various efforts, women in the reproductive health group and their newborns as well as children under five years are facing unacceptable death and illness, according to the ministry.

It noted the Ethiopian Government with partner organizations attempted to identify high-risk areas for tetanus and carried out subsequent supplemental immunization campaigns to boost routine immunization service

MNA/Xinhua

Tiger counting drive to be carried out in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 25 Feb—Bangladeshi Ministry of Forest and Environment will begin a tiger enumeration programme in the Sundarbans from February 26 to March 3, reported the *Daily Star* on Tuesday.

The ministry has also barred entrance of tourists, fishermen and wood collectors in that period into the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest.

Minister for Forest and Environment Shajahan Siraj will inaugurate the enumeration work on February 26 in Sundarbans.

The drive will be carried out on the basis of pug mark survey, including counting the number of tiger pugs left in the mangrove mud during low tide, and analyze the age, weight and gender of the tiger through the footprints, according to the Sundarbans Forest Division (SFD).

The tiger counting drive in the country is part of the joint Bengal Tigers census programme in India and Bangladesh sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as 40 per cent of the Sundarbans forest located in India and 60 per cent in southwestern Bangladesh. —MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Fulham settle Marlet transfer debt with Lyon

LYON (France), 25 Feb— English Premier League club Fulham have paid 4.57 million euros to Olympique Lyon in settlement of the controversial transfer of French international striker Steve Marlet.

"We received the check this week, the case is closed," Olympique Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas told *Reuters* on Sunday.

In January, the Court of Arbitration for Sport ordered Fulham to pay the French champions after rejecting an appeal by chairman Mohammed Al-Fayed's club.

Marlet moved to Fulham in August 2001 for 18 million euros but the London club refused to pay the last instalment of the transfer fee due in December 2002.

Fulham said they withheld the payment because they were unhappy with the role Barcelona-based agents Sebastien and Pascal Boisseau had played in the negotiations.

Lyon complained to world governing body FIFA who ruled last February that the French club were in the right and Fulham should pay the remainder of the fee in full.— *MNA/Reuters*



Arsenal's Robert Pires (R) of France has his goal attempt stopped by Celta Vigo's goalkeeper Pablo Cavallero (C) during their Champions League first knock-out round first leg soccer match in Vigo, Spain, on 24 Feb, 2004. Arsenal won the match, 3-2.

INTERNET

Hewitt sinks Ferrero to claim Rotterdam crown

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 25 Feb— Lleyton Hewitt rampled on an exhausted Juan Carlos Ferrero to capture the World Indoor Tournament with a 6-7, 7-5, 6-4 victory on Sunday.

The win earned the Australian sixth seed an early birthday present of 161,800 euros as he turns 23 on Tuesday, and a double celebration with his Belgian fiancée Kim Clijsters, who had triumphed at the Antwerp Diamond Games just 40 minutes earlier. By lifting his 21st singles title, Hewitt also booked his passage back into the world's top 10 when the new ATP rankings are released on Monday.

Ferrero had been on a quest to avenge his defeat by Hewitt in the Davis Cup final in November but, from the outset, he faced an uphill task.

The Spaniard appeared to have little left in his reserves after playing 124 games — 43 more than Hewitt — to reach the final.

He had won his last three matches in third-set tiebreaks and the signs of exhaustion were clear from the start.

The steely determination Ferrero had shown in his previous matches seemed to have evaporated into the grey clouds of the Dutch port city when he tamely surrendered his serve in the opening game of the contest.

Ferrero, however, initially refused to be fazed as he knew he had the goods to last the distance.

Hewitt prowled the baseline and belted down the winners to take a 2-0 lead only to see Ferrero level the score a couple of games later.

With the players unable to break the deadlock, the set headed into a tiebreak.

The Ferrero juggernaut simply overran Hewitt in the decider, the Australian not even registering on the scoreboard until the sixth point.

A volleyed winner and an 185-kph ace combined with numerous unforced errors by Hewitt presented Ferrero with five set points. The Spaniard needed only one and sealed it with a breathtaking passing shot that left even Hewitt applauding.

The seventh game of the second set became a real test of nerves when Hewitt was stretched to seven deuces.

MNA/Reuters

Villarreal coach Floro quits

MADRID, 25 Feb— Benito Floro resigned as coach of Villarreal on Monday, a day after a 4-1 defeat at Real Zaragoza saw the club drop out of the European qualification places. The club confirmed that Floro would give a news conference later on Monday to explain his surprise decision.

Villarreal finished last season in 15th place but after making several big-name signings, including Juan Roman Riquelme and Sonny Anderson, they spent much of the first half of the current campaign challenging for a Champions League slot.

Their form has dipped recently but they remain in eighth place, with 36 points from 25 matches. — *MNA/Reuters*

Arsenal secures funding for new stadium

LONDON, 25 Feb— Premier League leader Arsenal has secured funding for its new 357-million-pound (673-million-US-dollar) stadium and said on Monday the Ashburton Grove ground would open for the start of the 2006/2007 season.

The 60,000-capacity stadium, a short distance from their 38,500-seat home at Highbury in north London, will allow Arsenal to compete on a more equal financial footing with the likes of champions Manchester United and Real Madrid.

Manager Arsene Wenger called the announcement "very exciting news" and said he hoped still to be in charge when the team played their first game at Ashburton Grove.

"It has been a big target of mine to participate in pushing the club forward and relocating to a new stadium is a necessity as it will enable us to become one of the biggest clubs in the world," Wenger said in a statement.

"Also, I love the fact that the new site is so close to Highbury, it's where our heart is." The Ashburton Grove site covers 372,000 square metres and the project will be one of the biggest regeneration plans in the capital.

Arsenal, unbeaten in the Premier League this season and leading the division by seven points, has been at Highbury since 1913. The move had experienced planning and financing problems which led to a one-year delay.

The club said it had obtained a 260-million-pound loan facility from a banking group for the new stadium. Interest on the

debt is set at a commercial fixed rate over a 14-year term.

Arsenal is contributing the balance of the costs through funds from TV company Granada, sponsors Nike and the sale of surplus land attached to the stadium site.

Arsenal, League champion eight times, also has permission to build a residential development on the Highbury site.

Ashburton Grove had become a cause for concern among many fans who were worried that the costs of the project would prevent Wenger spending money on new players. Arsenal announced in September that net debt stood at 45.8 million pounds.

Wenger spent little in the close season but during the January transfer window he splashed out a club record 17 million pounds on Sevilla striker Jose Antonio Reyes.

Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood told fans the financing of the Arsenal group was "now complex" and it had two separate objectives — to fund the stadium and continue investment in Arsenal's squad.

"Over recent years we have established ourselves as one of the leading clubs in Europe and the stadium, which we can now positively look forward to, will provide us with the opportunity to sustain and build on this position," Hill-Wood said.

MNA/Reuters

Weir hangs on for narrow Nissan Open victory

LOS ANGELES, 25 Feb— After squandering a seven-stroke lead, Mike Weir made a crucial chip shot on the 18th hole and then tapped in for par to defend his Nissan Open title by one shot over Shigeki Maruyama on Sunday.

Canada's Weir, the reigning Masters champion, shot an even-par 71 in rainy conditions to finish on 17-under 267 at the Riviera Country Club, while Japan's Maruyama fell just short after posting a battling 67.

With the two locked in a tie for the lead on the 72nd hole, the left-handed Weir executed a 47-foot chip superbly off a hill from a wet lie left of the final green to within a foot.

He then holed out for his first victory in 10 months after his playing partner missed a par attempt from above the hole.

Australia's Mercedes Championships winner Stuart Appleby shot a five-under-par 66 to finish alone in third on 14-under-par, just ahead of two of the tour's longest hitters.

John Daly, last week's surprise Buick Invitational champion, made a birdie on the 18th to finish on 13-under-par, while Hank Kuehne missed a birdie putt on the same hole to end the tournament a further stroke adrift.

Kirk Triplett, the 2002 Nissan champion,

fired a three-under 68 to vault up to sixth place on 11-under-par.

World number one Tiger Woods, Jay Williamson and J.J. Henry finished in a tie for seventh at 10-under-par.

Woods recovered from his poor third round 72 to shoot a seven-under-par 64 and move 37 places up the leaderboard.— *MNA/Reuters*

Mexico's first woman referee has torrid debut

MEXICO CITY, 25 Feb — The first woman to referee a Mexican First Division soccer match had a torrid debut on Sunday when she sent off two players and gave a penalty to the home side in a game between Irapuato and America.

Virginia Tovar handed red cards to Irapuato's Costa Rican forward Ronald Gomez for persistent fouling and America's Jesus Mendoza for spitting in an opponent's face. Tovar awarded a penalty to Irapuato in the 34th minute which Ecuadorean Edison Mendez converted. Irapuato won 2-1.

MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Thierry Henry, left is fouled by Celta Vigo's Savo Mostovoi during their Champions League soccer match in Vigo, Spain, on 24 Feb, 2004. Arsenal won the game 3-2.—INTERNET

MRTV-3
26-2-2004 (Thursday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 9:06 Toddy Palm Arts
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 The National
Museum (II)
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 100 Shuttle Traditional
Weaving Industry
- 9:25 Shutaing Thaswa
Nandar Kan Ahla
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Wall-Hung Giant Lobsters
- 9:40 Song "Welcome to
Treasure Land"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Welcome to Bagan
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

26-2-2004 (Thursday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

- Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 15:36 Toddy Palm Arts
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 The National
Museum (II)
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 100 Shuttle Traditional
Weaving Industry
- 15:55 Shutaing Thaswa
Nandar Kan Ahla
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Wall-Hung Giant Lobsters
- 16:10 Song "Welcome to
Treasure Land"
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Welcome to Bagan
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Talent Show on a
Maze of Xylophones
- 16:40 Mogok (or) The Ruby
Land of Myanmar
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Myanmar Profile
"Fast Food"
- 16:55 Kayan Dance
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Thin Straw Pulp Paper
- 17:08 Song "Lover's Life"
- 17:10 Old Master Artist U Ba
Yin Galay
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 The Gok Hteik Viaduct
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- Evening Transmission**
(19:30 - 23:30)
- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting

- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Let's Enjoy Mann
Shwe Sattaw Pagoda
Festival
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 The National
Museum (I)
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Beautiful Taninthayi
- 19:55 Smart Beautiful Cart
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Paper Toys
- 20:10 Song "Bagan the Wonder Land"
- 20:12 What an Interesting
Souvenir Shop
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 Shan Traditional
Hsoon Offering
Ceremony
- 20:25 Song on Screen
"Predestination"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 The Splendour of
Mt. Victoria
(Natmataung)
- 20:40 Green Turtle
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Lacquerware made
from Porcelain and
glaze
- 20:55 Traditional PaO Dance
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Palm Leaf Inscription
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Lodestar"
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 Travelogue (Kalaw)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"
- 21:35 Toddy Palm Arts
- 21:40** **Headline News**

- 21:42 The National
Museum (II)
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 100 Shuttle Traditional
Weaving Industry
- 21:55 Shutaing Thaswa
Nandar Kan Ahla
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Wall-Hung Giant Lobsters
- 22:10 Song "Welcome to
Treasure Land"
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Welcome to Bagan
- 22:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Smooth
Way with beautiful
White Flowers"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Talent Show on a
Maze of Xylophones
- 22:40 Mogok (or) The Ruby
Land of Myanmar
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Myanmar Profile
"Fast Food"
- 22:55 Kayan Dance
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Thin Straw Pulp Paper
- 23:08 Song "Lover's Life"
- 23:10 Old Master Artist U Ba
Yin Galay
- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 The Gok Hteik
Viaduct
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 26-2-2004 (Thursday) &
27-2-2004 (Friday) Evening
& Morning Transmission**
(23:30-1:30)
- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

OBITUARY

Maha Thray Sithu U Pe Kin, Naing Ngant Gonyi (First Class), Retired Ambassador. Beloved husband of Daw Me Me Khin, beloved father of U Myint Pe Kin (Mazhar) and U Aye Pe Kin (Zafar) - Theresa.

From HIM he came 27 August 1912.

To HIM he returned 25 February 2004.
Buried 26 February 2004.

- Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 23:36 Toddy Palm Arts
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 The National
Museum (II)
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 100 Shuttle Traditional
Weaving Industry
- 23:55 Shutaing Thaswa
Nandar Kan Ahla
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 Wall-Hung Giant Lobsters
- 00:10 Song "Welcome to
Treasure Land"
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Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

**WEATHER**

Wednesday, 25 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in upper Sagaing Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine, Chin States, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Mon and Kayin States and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 24-2-2004 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 25-2-2004 was 15.5°C (60°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 25-2-2004 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 24-2-2004 was (8.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 25-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Southeast at (15:30) hours M.S.T on 24-2-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 26-2-2004: Except for the likelihood of isolated rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-2-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-2-2004: Partly cloudy.



Thursday, February 26

View today:

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်ဆာရာတော်
အုရာကြီးပိုင်ခံတော်ဆယ့်မာ
ရာယတအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်
အဘိဓမ္မာရာသီလှူ အဘိဓမ္မာ
မဟာသဗ္ဗဗ္ဗဇာတိတ ဝါရီသုတေသန
အတ္ထာဂါရီတဆရာတော်ဘုရား ဝိနိစ္ဆ
သာရာဘိဝံသစီ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- To be healthy exercise
- Morning news
- Nice and sweet song
- Dance of national races
- Dance variety
- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- စုန်ခရာခင်းစရာလှောင်တစ်

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Let's Go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
3. English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm

4. Cute little dancers

5:00 pm

5. အစားသင့်တူသလိုလဲ ဟောပြော
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား ဆင်ခန်းစာ

5:15 pm

6. Musical programme

5:30 pm

7. မြန်မာစာပြန်စာစကား

5:45 pm

8. "အမွန်မြတ်သုံးလက်မဆောင်"

8:00 am

- ခရစ်လမ်း၊ ခုန့်ပြု၊ ခမန်ဆောင်

8:10 am

- အားခိုင်(ရှမ်းပြည်)တင်တင်ရာ

8:20 am

- (ခါးရိုးတော-မောင်မောင်ပြိုင်)

6:00 pm

9. နိုင်ငံအခန်းဆက်စာစကားပြိုင်

6:15 pm

10. မူလနိသွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

6:30 pm

11. Evening news

7:00 pm

12. Weather report

7:05 pm

13. Milo success in soccer

7:10 pm

14. နိုင်ငံအခန်းဆက်စာစကားပြိုင်

7:35 pm

15. Musical programme

7:45 pm

16. (၅၅)နှစ်မြောက်တမ်းတော်နေ့

8:00 pm

17. News

8:10 pm

18. International news

8:20 pm

19. Weather report

8:30 pm

20. ဂဝဏ္ဏနုဒ္ဓိ (၅၅)နှစ်မြောက်

8:40 pm

21. The next day's programme



Thursday, February 26
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
- 8:50 am National news/
Slogan
- 9:00 am Music
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
- 9:15 am News/Slogan
- 9:20 pm Lunch time music
-Don't say goodbye
(Megahits)
-All that she wants
(ABBA)
- 9:30 pm Aspects of Myanmar
- Tourist sites in
Myanmar
- 9:40 pm Article
Pourri
- Study finds Ebola
may come from bush
meat
- Spore says Asia
must boost health
control
- 9:50 pm Favourite songs
chosen by music
lovers
-I'll be there (Mariah
Carey)
-Just the way you are
(Billy Joel)
- If (Bread)
- 9:55 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects dredging of Yegantaung in Lashio.— MNA

National peace and stability basic requirement for implementing seven-point future policy programme

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects development projects in northern Shan State

YANGON, 25 Feb — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party on 22 February observed the site at the entrance to Lashio where Yantaing Aung Hsutaung-pyi Myo Oo Pagoda will be built.

On Yegantaung Hill, they inspected the extension of 12 lakes that are supplying water to Lashio, and digging of five more lakes to increase water supply for the people. They heard a report on lake-digging work and greening of the hill presented by Director U Kyee Myint of Development Affairs Department. Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint

Hlaing and Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe gave a supplementary report. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

gave instructions.

The estimated total storage capacity of the 17 lakes is over 160 million gallons.

In Muse, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the com-

pleted Shweli Yadana Villa. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and party met with local authorities of Muse District and Muse, Namhkam and

Kutkai, departmental personnel, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and townselders at the town hall.

Minister for Commerce

Brig-Gen Pyi Sone reported to the Secretary-1 on the volume of border trade in Muse, tax collection, and efforts to develop border trade; Minister for Finance (See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Mr Patrick Vial of International Committee of the Red Cross at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives ICRC official

YANGON, 25 Feb — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Leader of International Committee of the Red Cross Mr Patrick Vial at

Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs

Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

MNA

Secretary-1 inspects Import-substitute Domestic Industrial Products Exhibition

YANGON, 25 Feb — Chairman of Industrial Development Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win this morning viewed

products displayed at Import-substitute Domestic Industrial Products Exhibition, organized by Cottage Industries Department of the Ministry of Cooperatives.

Accompanied by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the Secretary-1 arrived at the exhibition in the compound of the CID in North Okkalapa Township at 11.30 am.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed there by Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Exhibition Director-General U Sein Than of CID, Deputy Director-General U Tint Lwin Oo and Industrial Co-operative Syndicate Chairman U Tun Yi.

First, the Secretary-1 and party viewed products displayed at booths of Metallurgical Engineering and General Cooperative Ltd, Young Power Electric Industry, MMG Mechem Machinery Group, Industrial Chemistry Manufacturing Cooperative Ltd, Tawwin Engineering, Sweson Industrial Cooperative Ltd, Modern Industry Co Ltd, Fisca Enterprises, UIC Yadanamyay Natural Fertilizer Cooperative Syndicate, KME Engineering Group, Thein Rubber Industry, Master Power Electronics, Lacquerware College and Weaving Training Schools, Myanmar Automobile Group (Production) Co Ltd and others. Officials conducted the Secretary-1 and party round the exhibition. Afterwards, the Secretary-1 gave instructions on tasks to be carried out for quality improvement of import-substitute products to officials. Next, the Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements.— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win visits Import-substitute Domestic Industrial Products Exhibition.— MNA