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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



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Shweli Hydro-electric Power Project in Namhkam Township. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Shweli Hydro-electric Power Project in Namhkam

YANGON, 26 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 arrived at Shweli Hydro-electric Power Project in Namhkam Township on 22 February noon.

They were welcomed there by local Tactical Operations Commander Col San Shwe Tha, officials of the Hydro-electric Power Department of the Ministry of Electric Power, Yunnan Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Corporation (YMEC) and local people.

At the hall of the project, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported that the natural condition of Shweli River is good to generate hydro-electric power. With the generation capacity of 400 megawatts and it will produce 3,022 kilowatt hours a year.

The Hydro-electric Power Department and YMEC has signed the contract to build the concrete dam and tunnel and instal machinery at the project. At present, preliminary tasks are being carried out.

The electricity generated from the project will be supplied to Shan State (North) through 66-kv high-tension cables. A grid including

230-mile long double high-tension cable line from Shweli to Mandalay will be built to supply power to other regions.

Then, the minister reported on arrangements for construction of roads and bridges of the project.

Director-General U Win Kyaw of HPD reported on construction of tunnels and others and power grids and arrangements for assignment of duties sector-wise between the department and YMEC.

After hearing the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions on improvement of the road to the project to become an all-weather facility, up-

grading of Shweli suspension bridge and other matters.

Then, YMEC Chairman Mr Feng Ke spoke words of thanks for assigning his company the task to build the facility, saying that the facility will be built in accord with the set standard within the scheduled period.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented fruit baskets to Chairman of YMEC Mr Feng Ke and Director U Win Kyi of Construction-2 of HPD and Deputy Director U Aung Hlaing. Later, the Chairman of YMEC presented a souvenir to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye. Next, Vice-Senior

General Maung Aye and party inspected sample stones dug at the project and viewed the main embankment.

At the project site, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party saw over the main dam, the tunnel and preliminary engineering works. Later, they posed for documentary photos.

Shweli Hydro-electric Power Project is being implemented on Shweli River near Mantet Village, 17 miles south-west of Namhkam Township, Shan State (North). The 531-foot long and 154 feet high concrete gravity dam and 33-foot diameter and 850 feet

long tunnel with 33-foot diameter and 3.12 miles long tunnel with 23-foot diameter will be built.

MNA

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears a report on Shweli Hydro-electric Power Project presented by Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut. — MNA

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UN envoy in Iraq to assess humanitarian problems

BAGHDAD, 26 Feb — The UN special representative for Iraq assessed humanitarian problems on a brief visit to Baghdad Wednesday ahead of a weekend conference of donors who have pledged billions of aid dollars.

Ross Mountain — appointed following the death of former special envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello in a suicide truck bomb attack on the UN Baghdad headquarters last August — will meet local staff and senior Iraqi leaders during his visit, UN spokeswoman Veronique Taveau said in Jordan.

"He is in Iraq to assess humanitarian issues, speak to the people and meet officials and national UN staff," Taveau said. Donor nations are due to meet in Abu Dhabi to discuss the disbursement of around \$15 billion in aid to help Iraq recover from decades of war, sanctions and dictatorship.

Iraqi officials say aid is urgently needed to help rebuild the country and tackle widespread unemployment.

"Come to my district and see the state of its hospitals and the mass of qualified people on the streets," said Moayad al-Ameri, president of the Latifiya council south of Baghdad. "We have a social catastrophe on our hands."

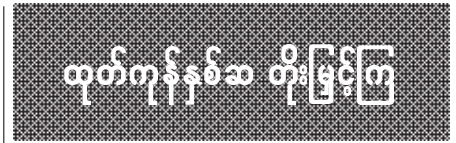
UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan pulled international staff out of Iraq last year after the August bomb blast killed 22 people and a suicide car bomb attack in September killed a security guard outside UN headquarters.

He has said the United Nations will only re-establish a permanent international presence in Iraq when security improves. Earlier this month a special UN team led by Lakhdar Brahimi visited Iraq at the request of the country's US-led administration to assess

the feasibility of holding elections.

The team concluded it would take at least eight months to get Iraq ready for elections — far later than many Iraqis had hoped. Clerics representing Iraq's Shi'ite majority had called for polls to be held by June 30, when the US-led occupying powers have promised to hand back sovereignty to Iraqis.

Ahead of the handover, Iraq's Governing Council has a February 28 deadline to agree a transitional constitution to guide the interim government that will take over on 1 July. Officials said Wednesday they were close to agreeing on the document but divisions remained over controversial Kurdish demands for autonomy and over the role of Islam. — *Internet*



Gunmen kill senior Iraqi policeman in Mosul

MOSUL (Iraq), 26 Feb — Gunmen assassinated one of the most senior policemen in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Wednesday as he drove to work, police said, in the latest deadly attack on Iraqis cooperating with occupying forces.

Police said Brigadier Hikmat Mahmoud Mohammad, chief of administration in the provincial police headquarters in Mosul, was shot dead around 8 am (0500 GMT).

Guerillas have repeatedly targeted Iraqi police. On Monday, a car bomb killed 13 policemen in the city of Kirkuk, the latest in a series of suicide attacks on police stations.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi women hold up pictures of their missing relatives during a rally in Baghdad, on 25 Feb, 2004. The UN special representative for Iraq assessed humanitarian problems on a brief visit to Baghdad. — *INTERNET*

Two killed in US helicopter crash in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 Feb — Two crew members were killed as a US military OH-58 Kiowa helicopter crashed in central western Iraq Wednesday, the US military said.

The helicopter crashed within the US 82nd Airborne Division area, "we are aware of an incident involving a coalition helicopter" that crashed near Haditha, 200 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, a US military spokeswoman said in Baghdad.

She could not identify what caused the incident. "We don't know the exact time and we are investigating," she added.

Earlier, witnesses said a US military helicopter crashed near Haditha on Wednesday noon but it remained unclear if the plane was shot down by hostile fire or by mistake.

Haditha, located on the highway connecting this capital city with the borders with Syria, stands within the volatile al-Anbar Province, home to restive towns of Ramadi and Fallujah.

The helicopter of unknown type was the sixth that crashed in Iraq this year. On 8 January, a *Black Hawk* combat helicopter was shot down near Fallujah, killing nine US soldiers on board.

US Army has warned that thousands of missiles and rockets still unaccounted for in Iraq could be used by guerillas thus pose threats to military and civil planes flying over the country. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Indonesia supports one-China policy

BELING, 26 Feb — Indonesia will abide by the one-China policy, said Indonesian Minister for Coordinating Political and Security Affairs Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing here Tuesday.

Li briefed Susilo on China's policy of developing good-neighbourly relations with neighbouring countries.

Susilo said Indonesia would continue to support the Chinese people's efforts to safeguard their national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The minister spoke highly of China's important role in promoting the six-party talks on the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula.

Li and Susilo agreed to make concerted efforts to promote friendly relations of cooperation between China and Indonesia and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). — *MNA/Xinhua*

Infosys in select group of companies

BANGALORE, 26 Feb — Infosys Technologies Ltd Tuesday said it is among seven international companies chosen to be in the first annual list of "top brands with a conscience".

Infosys is the only Indian company to be part of this select group, a company statement said here.

Brought out by the Medinge Group, an international collective of brand experts who meet annually, the list is based on principles of humanity and ethics rather than financial worth, it said.

Companies were evaluated on various parameters ranging from the evidence of ethical programmes and human implications of the brand to the ability of the brand to take risks in line with its beliefs, the statement said.

Infosys Technologies recently won two other awards recognizing its financial performance as well as overall management. — *MNA/PTI*

India manufactures microprocessor-control diesel locomotive

NEW DELHI, 26 Feb — India has become the first country outside United States to manufacture a 4,000 horse power new generation microprocessor-controlled diesel locomotive capable of hauling 58 BOX 'N' Wagons.

"The indigenously manufactured 4,000 horse power diesel locomotive at the Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, is the only freight locomotive of the Indian Railways capable of hauling 58 BOX 'N' Wagons," an official release said Tuesday.

It was for the first time

that such a locomotive was manufactured outside the General Motors factory in the United States, it said adding that it can run for three months without maintenance.

The Indian Railways have completed successful trials for the introduction of a passenger train at

150 kilometres per hour speed with WDP4 class General Motors locomotive on the Konkan Railway.

Besides, it said Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) for short distance inter-city commuter traffic have been introduced.

MNA/PTI



A soldier (C) allows an Iraqi police truck onto their newly-built base in Samawa, southern Iraq, on 25 Feb, 2004. — *INTERNET*

New airline opens in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 26 Feb —

A new carrier, First Cambodian Airlines, opened its flights to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia Wednesday and the flight to Guangzhou in southern China will be followed on Saturday.

It is the fourth Airlines to open direct air services between Chinese Mainland and Cambodia.

In 1999 and 2000, China's Southern Airlines and Shanghai Airlines opened their direct services between Guangzhou and Phnom Penh, as well as Shanghai and Phnom Penh.

And China Eastern Air Group Yunnan Corp opened its direct flights between Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, and Siem Reap, home of well-known Angkor Wat temples on December 2003.

First Cambodia Airlines, a joint venture between Cambodian business and a Hong Kong firm, currently has just one leased 161-seat Airbus 320-200. It plans to have three or four by the end of the year.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq seeks non-US funding for \$4b projects

BAGHDAD, 26 Feb — An Iraqi team will travel to Abu Dhabi on Friday to request funding for projects worth four billion US dollars at an international conference convening to channel non-US aid to help rebuild Iraq.

The international community pledged around 33 billion US dollars in October to rebuild Iraq, but 15 billion US dollars of non-US pledges have yet to translate into projects that could raise living standards after years of wars and crushing economic sanctions.

The Iraqi requests for funding at the February 28-29 conference include 1.8 billion US dollars of infrastructure projects, 790 million US dollars for health and education, 602 million US dollars for water and agriculture and 62 million US dollars for mine sweeping.

"These projects are vital for the economy and for the future of Iraq," said Planning Minister Mehdi al-Hafedh, who will lead his country team. "They do not just concern reconstruction, but include employment and

long-term development," he told reporters.

Foreign delegations, such as Japan which pledged around five billion US dollars alone, will take back the proposals to their capitals to study before agreement on financing.

Iraq expects the projects to start this year after delays partly due to concern about the lack of security in the country.

Hafedh said the conference will regulate the relationship between the donors and Iraq, making it easier to submit more proposals to cover the 15 billion of pledges.

The pledges were made at the Madrid donors' conference in October, which set up two funds run by the World Bank and the United Nations to

manage the bulk of the money.

A US plan to give Iraqis sovereignty by July would also speed up the process, the minister added. "There will be a sovereign authority that can decide on the country's needs without impediments," he said.

Washington has allocated around 18 billion US dollars to Iraqi reconstruction separately as bilateral aid after spending billions of dollars to repair Iraq's oil industry, power plants and other infrastructure.

Contracts covering a major part of the 18-billion-US-dollar allocation are expected to be announced next month.

Iraqi businessmen have criticized the US aid, saying it did not include enough work for Iraqi subcontractors.

MNA/Reuters

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US soldiers patrol along the Euphrates River near the Iraqi town of Haditha during a search operation for a downed US military helicopter which crashed into the river on 25 Feb, 2004, killing two crew members. With the latest crash, the US military has lost 15 helicopters since the occupation began in May, most to hostile fire, with a total of 62 Americans killed in the crashes. — INTERNET

Malaysian PM says prosperous China contributes to regional peace

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Feb — A prosperous China holds a historic opportunity to promote peace and stability in Asia and the world at large, said the Malaysian Prime Minister here.

China's willingness to sign the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation has proved that it is committed to peace, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said at the Malaysia-China Economic Conference 2004.

China is the first East Asian country to sign the treaty in Bali, Indonesia, on 8 October, 2003.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), set up in 1967, now groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

He said China's willingness to participate actively and constructively in the East Asian community is a heartening sign for the future and Malaysia very much welcomes China's involvement in the regional community building.

China and ASEAN countries are expected to set up a free trade area in 2010. In the past decade, the trade volume between the two sides has grown 15 per cent annually.

"All of us in the region should assume responsibility to encourage the kinds of constructive behaviour that will make the region, and thus the world, a better and safer place," he added.

The Malaysia-China Economic Conference, attended by some 2,000 local and international representatives, is organized by Malaysia National Small and Medium Industries Consultative Centre (NASMIC).

MNA/Xinhua

Blix says Blair, Bush damaged UN credibility over Iraq

EDINBURGH (Scotland), 26 Feb — Britain and the United States badly damaged the United Nations when they ignored international condemnation and invaded Iraq last year, former chief weapons inspector Hans Blix said on Tuesday.

US President George W Bush and his ally, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, not only undermined the credibility of an impartial international institution, he said, but also inflicted serious injury to themselves in the process.

"The states which we would have expected to support and strengthen some basic principles of the UN order, in my view, set a precedent of ignoring or undermining this order by acting too impatiently and without the support of the Security Council," Blix told University of Edinburgh students.

"As a result, their own credibility has suffered and the authority of the UN Security Council has been damaged — and this at a time when there was no Cold War paralysing it, but opportunities to strengthen it," he added.

Blix said the justification Bush and Blair gave for the war — the existence of weapons of mass destruction — was unfounded.

"Saddam was dangerous, but not a great, and certainly not an immediate, danger to his neighbours and the world," Blix said.

Blix, who once headed the UN nuclear watchdog body, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), advised governments to steer clear of using the methods of the advertising world.

"We would like to be told about the real world, not to be shown a virtual one," he said.

He deplored faulty intelligence that reinforced the idea of a huge arsenal of illegal weapons waiting to be fired and praised the impartiality of his own inspectors.

MNA/Reuters

Indian Air Force to rely less on Western jets

SINGAPORE, 26 Feb — India's Air Force will phase out many of its Western-made fighter jets and rely more on indigenous planes such as its planned *Tejas*, a light combat aircraft, the nation's Air Force chief said on Wednesday.

Russia and Israel are the main arms suppliers to India, which has the world's fourth-largest Air Force.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam to export less rice this year

HANOI, 26 Feb — Vietnam is expected to export 3.3 million to 3.5 million tons of rice this year, down from 3.9 million tons last year, according to local newspaper *Young People* on Wednesday.

The main reasons for the decline are the shrunken rice cultivation area in the Mekong Delta, the country's biggest rice basket, and new higher taxes imposed on rice imports by the European Union when it admits 10 new members in May.

The rice output of the current winter-spring crop in the delta will decrease by 230,000 tons because the rice-growing area decreased by 45,000 hectares. Therefore, rice supply for export for the first half of this year is estimated at only 2.5 million tons.

MNA/Xinhua

Wen Jiabao meets Surinamese President

BEIJING, 26 Feb — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met here Wednesday with Surinam President Rinaldo Ronald Venetiaan.

Wen said President Venetiaan's China visit had been fruitful.

Both Wen and Venetiaan held positive views on the development of relations, and they believed in strengthening ties.

In recent years, Wen said, China and Surinam had frequent high-profile exchanges. Cooperation focused on trade relations, infrastructure building and energy exploitation.

Surinam was a good partner of China in the Caribbean, Wen said, adding that the two countries had great potential in economic cooperation.

He believed the relationship would advance with efforts from both sides.

Venetiaan said his country had cultivated a brotherly relationship with China, featuring increasing political dialogue and a smoothly developed economic partnership.

He said his government would continue supporting Surinamese enterprises in extensive cooperation with their Chinese partners.

He believed relations were cemented in mutual respect, mutual benefit and reciprocity. — MNA/Xinhua

A US army OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter hovers above southern Baghdad. Two American soldiers died as a US helicopter crashed into a river on 25 Feb, 2004.

INTERNET



China offers emergency aid to quake-hit Morocco

BEIJING, 26 Feb — China Wednesday offered five million yuan (0.6 million US dollars) worth of material to Morocco as emergency humanitarian aid for the African country's earthquake-shaken areas, a spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce announced.

The quake, which struck northern Morocco Tuesday, has killed over 500 people and injured more than 300 others. The US Geological Survey said the quake measured 6.5 on the Richter Scale, but French seismologists put it at 6.3.

It is said that most of the victims were women, children and the elderly because men in the region had gone to European countries such as the Netherlands and Germany for work. Rescue work was underway but bad traffic conditions made the task harder, according to reports.

MNA/Xinhua

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



US soldiers on patrol in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. Three Iraqis working as contractors for US troops were shot dead and two others seriously wounded by gunmen in Mosul recently.

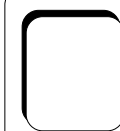
INTERNET



A US soldier sits on an armoured vehicle while patrolling Baghdad's Yarmuk neighbourhood. Two coalition soldiers died as a US helicopter crashed into a river, as the US-led occupation said it may delay the drafting of a security accord that would lengthen the stay of American forces.—INTERNET



Iraqis look at US soldiers as they patrol a street of Baghdad neighbourhood of Kazemiya. — INTERNET



An elderly Iraqi couple walks past a US armoured vehicle patrolling Baghdad's Yarmuk neighbourhood.

INTERNET



US soldiers watch over Iraqis Community as they participate in a demonstration in central Baghdad demanding more representation of their community on the Iraqi interim Governing Council.

INTERNET



Children gather where a hand grenade exploded in a Baghdad compound recently. — INTERNET

UK drops case against Iraq war whistleblower

LONDON, 26 Feb—Charges have been dropped against a British intelligence translator who leaked plans of an apparent US “dirty tricks” campaign targeting UN Security Council members.

A relieved Katharine Gun, 29, on Wednesday walked free from the Old Bailey criminal court in London after prosecutors said - without elaboration - that they would be offering no evidence against her.

“I am absolutely overwhelmed and I am obviously delighted,” she told reporters outside the court, where a supporter gave her tulips. “I am just gobsmacked, just speechless.”

Asked if she would leak a similar memo again, the blonde whistle-blower replied: “I have no regrets and I would do it again, yes.”

Gun, a Chinese speaker sacked in June from her job at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), was charged in November under the Official Secrets Act 1989 of disclosing security and intelligence information.

She was accused of disclosing a

request from the US National Security Agency for help from British intelligence to eavesdrop on non-aligned UN Security Council delegations in the run-up to the Iraq war.

The US memo - details of which emerged in the Observer newspaper - was sent to British authorities at the time when Washington and London were seeking a UN Security Council resolution to green-light their invasion of Iraq.

Angola, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, Guinea and Pakistan were the UN Security Council members named in the memo as targets of the eavesdropping effort, which Gun feared would have been illegal.

The memo - reprinted by the Observer on 2 March - was signed by Frank Koza, defence chief of staff (regional targets) at the National Security Agency.

Internet



Katharine Gun, a former Mandarin translator with Britain's Government Communications

Headquarters who leaked a confidential memo from the United States asking Britain to spy on UN Security Council delegations before the Iraq war, is seen during a news conference in London on 25 Feb, 2004. The case against her for breaching the official secrets act collapsed at the Central Criminal Court. — INTERNET

Iraq prepares to regain control of poorly-run healthcare system

BAGHDAD, 26 Feb—Iraq will regain control of its healthcare system in the coming weeks in one of the first steps by the US-led forces to hand back power to the people, officials said.

The move will leave the health ministry with its hands full as it aims to restore Iraq's decaying medical facilities by the end of 2005 and to halve child death rates, which jumped in the 1990s due to the combination of UN-imposed trade sanctions and neglect under Saddam Hussein.

Adding to the challenge, the ministry's restructuring plans lack sufficient funds, with just 950 million dol-

lars earmarked for health in the 2004 budget, said Iraq's interim health minister, Khudair Abbas.

“I wish I could have two billion dollars,” he told AFP after a news conference at the recently refurbished ministry.

Abbas noted, however, that the amount was a vast improvement on the money spent on healthcare under Saddam, which came to just 16 million dollars in 2002.

The US-lead coalition aims to transfer power in Iraq to a transitional government on June 30, a task that — aside from thorny political debates — requires the physical handover of authority and management of 25 ministries.

“It just so happens that the ministry of health is out in front and will probably be one of the first ministries that will move that way,” said James Haveman, senior advisor to the health ministry for the Coalition Provisional

Authority (CPA).

Asked when the actual transfer will take place, Haveman told the news conference: “I think we will see some activity in March and that gives us the chance to get the technical assistance in place in April.”

The CPA has already cut its presence of senior advisors on the ground to less than 15 people from 37 last June and will continue to take a backseat role in future, offering help on logistical matters such as training.

Internet

Vietnam, China renew effort in fishing cooperation

HANOI, 26 Feb — Vietnam and China signed a document on fishing in the South China Sea, official media said on Wednesday, renewing efforts to resolve thorny territorial issues between neighbours that have had testy ties for centuries. The Vietnam News daily said China's Deputy Agriculture Minister Qi Jingfa and Vietnam's Deputy Fisheries Minister Nguyen Ngoc

Hong initialled a protocol in Hanoi on Tuesday aimed at enforcing an earlier fishing cooperation agreement.

The two signed a fishing agreement in 2000, but in August, 2002 Beijing stirred angry protest from Hanoi by imposing a ban on fishing in the South China Sea, over which Vietnam claims sovereign rights and jurisdiction

MNA/Reuters

Nine missing as Cargo ship capsizes off south China

GUANGZHOU, 26 Feb— One person was rescued and nine are missing after a cargo ship capsized off south China's Guangdong Province, the Guangdong Maritime Bureau announced Tuesday.

The chief mate was picked up by a ship after being adrift for 10 hours.

The search for other crew members was continuing, bureau officials said.

The cargo ship, carrying 900 tons of plastics, belonged to a shipping company based in east China's Zhejiang

Province. It was heading for Kaiping City, Guangdong, from Shanghai.

The ship was hit by strong winds which displaced its cargo. It lost balance and turned over early on Monday, said the survivor, whose name was not disclosed.

MNA/Xinhua

UN forum on sustainable development opens in HK

HONG KONG, 26 Feb— More than 300 overseas, Mainland and Hong Kong participants gathered here Wednesday to discuss how to take forward commitments made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

The two-day United Nations Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum, “Sustainability for Cities”, which started today, will provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss practical ways of achieving sustainable development goals, with particular emphasis on the development of sustainable infrastructure, economic opportunities and improving basic services in the cities of the Asia-Pacific Region.

Forum participants will also consider issues related to integrating sustainable development into city and regional planning and discuss mechanisms for implementing sustainable development measures. In line with the conclusions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, participants will look at how appropriate public-private partnerships could help in this process. Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

gion Tung Chee Hwa and United Nations Undersecretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Jose Antonio Ocampo addressed the opening of the forum.

Keynote addresses will focus on the questions of “Leadership for Sustainable Development” and “Sustainable Cities of the Future”. The topic-related sessions will focus on the following areas: economic growth and job creation; infrastructure for a better quality of life; planning for a better environment for urban housing and land use; meeting basic social needs; improving mobility; and tourism and cultural heritage. The forum is jointly convened by the Chinese Government and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and hosted by the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. —MNA/Xinhua



An artist impression of the Rosetta orbiter and lander released by European Space Agency. Rosetta, a million-dollar comet-chasing spacecraft, is due to be launched on 26 Feb, 2004 from ESA's space base in Kourou, French Guiana. — INTERNET

China to showcase achievements by overseas-trained Chinese

BELING, 26 Feb — China plans to hold its largest ever exhibition highlighting the achievements made by Chinese people trained overseas from 29 February to 2 March in Beijing, the Ministry of Personnel said Tuesday.

The exhibition will feature 1,100 achievements made by those who returned to China from their overseas study since 1978, when China began to open up to the outside world and took to the path of sweeping economic reform.

The achievements involve technological breakthroughs in aviation, space, information technology, biological pharmaceuticals, medical appliances, new energy and new materials.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Ministry of Personnel in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Sciences and Technology, as well as the Publicity Department of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee.

A total of 700,200 Chinese studied in more than 100 countries and regions between 1978 and 2003, and 172,800 of them have returned home after graduation. — MNA/Xinhua

A land with various species of birds

Chit Naing (Psychology)

About four years ago, a five-member delegation of writers from the People's Republic of China paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar. Under the sponsorship of Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information, the delegation visited Bagan, Mandalay and Innay regions. Before their return home, the Ministry of Information hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation at one of the grand hotels in Yangon.

Members of the delegation repeatedly expressed their thanks for bringing them to interesting and beautiful places in Myanmar and having a chance to call on the minister who himself was present at the dinner. The minister said, on the occasion, that they had a lot of facts to be written about the beauty of Myanmar. The writers replied eagerly that they had a lot and would put on record the beauty of Myanmar. I was pleased to know that.

During the dinner, I had a chat with a lady writer of the delegation who was sitting next to me. She was from Shanghai. They called Myanmar Myantint. She said that previously, she did not know well about Myantint; that she was informed about one year in advance about the visit to Myanmar and thus she studied books on Myantint; that although she found some historical facts and records written in Chinese, there were very few contemporary records of events on Myanmar; and thus she had to ask other writers who had returned from Myanmar.

"Did the writers who had returned from Myanmar like their visits?", I asked.

"Of course, they did.", she replied.

"What did they like best?"

"The people of Myanmar. They said that the people were very adorable and the ones who had the heart of gold with great hospitality."

"Go on."

"They also liked the weather of Myanmar."

"Did they say it was hot in Bagan and Mandalay?"

"They made their trip in winter and the weather was not too hot, they said."

"And then..."

"The land and forests of Myanmar were amazing for them." "Really?"

"Yes, of course, the country, naturally, is very beautiful, they said"

"Glad to hear that, and...?"

"You may think that I lack general knowledge but I will tell you."

"I am all ears!"

"The writers who have returned from Myantint said that there were so many birds in Myanmar."

"Carry on."

"They said that they had found flocks of dove, sparrow and crow. Moreover, they also said they had seen birds such as common myna, crane, magpie robin, duck, brahminy duck, common moorhen, bulbul, white throated babbler, partridge, quail, peacock and parrot and sounds of birds could be heard easily."

"I see!"

"I thought they were just boasting and I did not believe what they said. First, I thought that it was impossible that writers from a vast country like China found it amazing to see various kinds of birds in Myantint."

"Now you are in Myanmar. What's your opinion?"

"(Laughing) I have to admit that I was wrong."

"Really?"

"Yes, there are so many birds in Myanmar, in urban areas, in rural areas, in farmland and lakes along the road. It amazed me very much."

"What is the difference?"

"In my country, it is very rare to hear the sound of a crow, common myna, cuckoo and dove. Here we can hear the sound of various kinds of sparrows through the window of the hotel at the start of the day. It is a sweet sound."

Only after hearing the words of the Chinese lady writer, I come to be aware of the songs of various kinds of birds in our country. When I am in my fifties, I come to realize the existence of natural beauty in abundance in our coun-

try. Manager of International Plans for the Nature of Birds Jonathan C Eames wrote in a letter dated 11th August 2003 that Myanmar is a country where various kinds of birds can be seen in South East Asia region; that it is necessary for the people to take great interest in conserving the wild life of the country; and that lack of books in Myanmar language on birds is the main barrier in carrying out the task.

Not bad, it is a fair opinion.

"As Myanmar citizens are devout Buddhists, it is encouraging to note that they realize the value of the tasks for preserving birds and environment," the author noted.

There are many birds which I don't know their species. I have some knowledge about birds. It will be better for the people who are residing in a country where there are various species of birds to be filled with knowledge about birds.

Once, there were people who did not know that there is a kind of bird called partridge "Kha" in Anya region.

Under the colonial rule, a man called Thakin Ba Thuang was jailed for involvement in launching national liberation movement. A fledgling writer Thakin Ba Thuang who won translation awards several times did not waste his time in the jail but wrote a Myanmar novel based on Thomas Hardy's Tass. His comrades published the novel. Thakin Ba Thuang named his character in the novel Ma KhaU (an egg of a partridge). But, composers and proof-readers who were natives of Lower Myanmar never heard of a partridge bird and they thought the character's name might be SarU, egg of a sparrow, and thus they changed the name from Ma KhaU to Ma SarU. In the upper or central part of Myanmar, there is a tradition of naming a girl Ma KhaU, egg of a partridge. For example, they named their girls Ma KyeU or Ma KhaU. But due to lack of knowledge of some people who did not know the bird, partridge or Kha, the name of a character was changed from KhaU to SarU.

The name of the book is "Pantha Ma SarU."

The book became famous among the bookworms. At the dawn of talkies, the book was filmed with actors Zeya, Aye Kyu and actress May Thit. It is a record of lack of knowledge of composers and proof-readers who had a limited knowledge about birds.

It is said that there are over 8600 species of birds in the world. Over 1000 species of birds can be seen in Myanmar. Of them, over 700 species are native to Myanmar and the rest are migrant birds.

Out of many species of birds, the largest one is ostrich of Australia weighing 300 pounds and the smallest one is bee hummingbird of Cuba weighing half an ounce. In Myanmar, there are many birds from the small species of sparrow to the big one vulture.

If a country is inhabited by many kinds of birds, it is a sign of beauty. Therefore, efforts are to be made to preserve the birds not to be extinct. All are to gain knowledge on birds. To fulfil the needs, there a fine book came out.

"The Birds of Myanmar", compiled by retired Captain Kyaw Nyunt Lwin who served as director of Yangon Zoological Gardens and Secretary of Bird Enthusiasts Association Daw Khin Ma Ma Thwin, and illustrated by Artist U Aung Thant (a graduate of Yangon Fine Arts School), is now available in libraries of Information and Public Relations Department in every township and one can study the book in these libraries. My heartfelt thanks to Writer Kyaw Nyunt Lwin, Khin Ma Ma and Artist Aung Thant for their efforts. Here, I would like to express my thanks to those who have arranged to publish the book and the ones who have donated the book to the libraries.

To know more about Myanmar and to cherish her, I would like to urge all the people to go to the Township IPRD libraries and study the "The Birds of Myanmar", which highlights 350 species of birds with colour photos.

(Translation: BG)

(Myanma Alin: 18-2-2004)

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

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ.

လစဉ်လခတ် ဒုတိယပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလအတွက် (၂၉-၂-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့၊
၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လအတွက် (၁၄-၃-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့၊
(၂၈-၃-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့

2% of Bangladeshi women show early symptoms of cervical cancer

DHAKA, 26 Feb — A sample survey shows some 2.2 per cent of married women in Bangladesh have early symptoms of cervical cancer, reported the *Daily Star* on Wednesday.

This was revealed by a recent one-year survey cosponsored by Proshika (Training), one of the biggest local nongovernment organization, and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, covering over 3,290 women aged between 15 and 60 years old in Dhaka City and its adjacent area.

The study said at least 6.5 per cent of the women under survey show prevalence of low grade squamous intra-epithelial lesion, while 2.2 per cent show the prevalence of

high grade squamous intraepithelial lesion, which indicates primary stage of cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer is the most common form of cancer in women and holds the highest incidence among all forms of cancer in women.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has forecasted around 7,000 women will die prematurely in Bangladesh by the Year 2005 due to such preventable diseases, with cervical cancer on the top of the list.

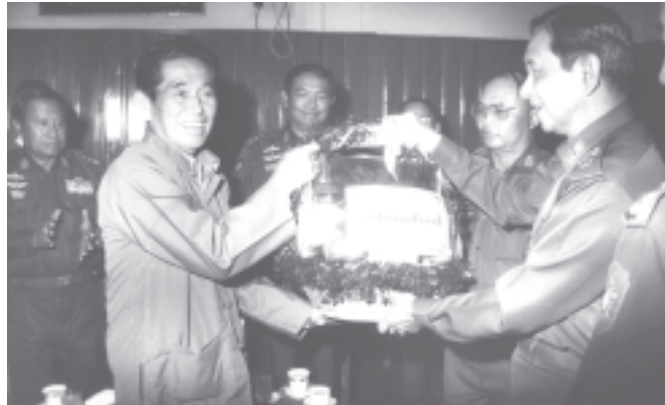
The incidence of the disease is low in developed countries, as women there have access to a screening test to detect precancerous lesions and treat it early.

MNA/Xinhua

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



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party being welcomed by Kokang national race leader U Phon Kyar Shin of Shan State (North) Special region-1 and officials.— MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents gifts to Kokang national race leader U Phon Kyar Shin.— MNA

Remarkable development...

(from page 16)

reported on short-term plans for development of the nation implemented by the Government, exceeding the targets of the first four-year plan and the second five-year plan, the third five-year plan being implemented, cent per cent accomplishment of the plans in all the sectors in the region; Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, on hydropower projects including Shweli Hydropower Project for extended production of electricity during the period of the third five-year plan; and Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, on the need for service personnel to make efforts with goodwill for the emergence of a fine and strong administrative machinery in the interest of respective regions and the people, the importance of taking charge of duties in accord with the existing rules and regulations, and accomplishment of drug elimination tasks.

Assessing the reports, the Secretary-1 said that Shan State (North) has enjoyed cumulative economic progress year by year with increasing number of cultivable acres and boosting per acre yield of crops.

Introducing high-yield hybrid paddy, the region is raising the rate of its rice sufficiency. Endeavours are to be exerted ensure boosting per acre yield of crops with better income and less expenses as well as multiple cropping with the use of farm machinery and implements, he noted.

The region has achieved success in the agricultural sector and border trade. Border trade businesses are therefore to be carried out effectively in conformity with the rules and regulations, he said.

He stressed the need of exact data and figures of agricultural produce.

At the same time, the region has made progress in transport, education and health sectors, catching up with other States and Divisions. In the process, continuous efforts are to be made not to lag behind in development momentum of other States and Divisions. Only when all States and Divisions and national races develop, will the nation be a peaceful and developed one, he said.

National brethren have been living together in amity in respective States and Divisions as well as in the Union. Likewise, Shan, Palaung, Wa, Kokang, Kachin and Bamar national races and so on and so forth live together in unity in Shan State (North). Thus, continuous efforts are to be made with might and main with the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit for regional and national development, he remarked.

Then, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at the venue and delivered an address. In his address, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that basically peace and stability are to be restored in all parts of the nation along with a strong economy in building up a peaceful and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. That is why the Government has been implementing plans and projects for restoration of peace and tranquillity in the entire nation including border areas and for enabling the nation to be strong economically, he added.

Thanks to the special development regions project, rural development tasks and border areas development projects, all parts of the nation has enjoyed remarkable progress in a short time. It needs to ensure development of 14 States and Divisions for development of the nation, and it also needs to ensure equitable development of all districts and townships for development of the States and Divisions, he noted.

In the past, in Shan State, only Taunggyi Region where the office of Shan State is based and its environs enjoyed development. But, now the Government has striven for development of the entire Shan State after designating four development regions — Taunggyi, Lashio, Kengtung and Panglong. As a result, the entire Shan State including border areas has developed significantly, he said.

The remarkable development of the entire nation is due to the combined and harmonious efforts of the Government and the people, he noted. In conclusion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye called on departmental officials at all levels to make field tours down to the grass-roots level in carrying out future tasks, organizing the cooperation of the entire people. After the meeting, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye had a cordial conversation with those present.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party left Lashio by helicopter for Laukkai, where they were welcomed by Commander of Regional Control Command (Laukkai) Brig-Gen Than Win, local authorities, Leader of Shan State (North) Special Region-1 U Phon Kyar Shin and officials.

At the meeting between Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Kokang ethnic groups at the parlour of the command, U Phon Kyar Shin reported on progress of Kokang region, conditions of basic needs of local people, and endeavours for elimination of narcotic drugs in the region. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the Government has established Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs for effective and thorough implementation of

development projects in border areas including Kokang region. The Government is always fulfilling all the requirements for raising living standard of local brethren in Kokang region, he said.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented gifts to U Phon Kyar Shin and officials and cordially greeted them. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung also presented seeds of vegetables to them.

At the same venue, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party also met with local authorities, departmental personnel, members of the USDA and social organizations, and families of Tatmadaw members of Laukkai Station. On the occasion, Chairman of Laukkai District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Zaw reported on area and sown acreage of the region, cultivation of monsoon paddy, corn and sugarcane as major crops, growing of perennial crops, measures being taken for ensuring local food sufficiency, livestock breeding, drug elimination and better transport.

In response to the report, the Secretary-1 pointed out the need of service personnel, Tatmadaw members and local people to make combined efforts with Union Spirit for development of Kokang region, local food sufficiency fully utilizing water and land resources, and forging the friendly relations with the neighbouring country.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that Laukkai region was notorious for narcotic drugs in the past. But, now national race leaders, hand in hand with the State, have been making efforts for regional development, stability and peace and elimination of narcotic drugs in the region.

So, departmental personnel in Kokang region are responsible for development of the region. In conclusion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said the Government will render necessary assistance to the region as far as it can for regional development. In the process, Tatmadaw members and service personnel are to join hands with local residents in carrying out regional development tasks. After the meeting, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted those present.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party helicoptered to Konegyan. There they also held a meeting at local regiment with departmental officials and families of Tatmadaw members. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye fulfilled the requirements of township's education and health sectors, calling for collective efforts for development of the township.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and entourage arrived back here by air via Lashio in the evening.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets Kokang national race leader U Phon Kyar Shin at the hall of Laukkai Regional Control Command.— MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greets local authorities, service personnel, social organizations and local people in Lashio on 23-2-2004. (News on page 16) — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially converses with departmental personnel and Tatmadawmen in Kongyan. (News on page 16) — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations and local people at the hall in Lashio. (News on page 16) — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations, Tatmadawmen and local people at the hall of Regional Control Command (Laukkai). (News on page 16) — MNA

Prizes awarded for mass sports activities

YANGON, 26 Feb — To mark the mass sports activities on December for 2003, the prize presentation ceremony was held this morning at the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) in Thingangyun Township

with an opening address by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Myanmar Olympic Committee Vice-Chairmen Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen

Aung Thein and Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, members of the MOC, officials of the Sports and Physical Education Department and prize winners.

After the opening address, the minister presented shields to Bago, Mandalay and Sagaing divisions which managed to secure first, second and third prizes in state/division level sports activities.

At township level sports activities, first, second and third prizes were given away to Lashio Township in Shan State (North), Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon Division and Sittway Township in Rakhine State by Col Maung Pa. Afterwards, Brig-Gen Aung Thein and Deputy Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win awarded the winners in short story contest and article contest.

After the ceremony, the sports minister and officials viewed round the award winning colour photos and documentary photos of the state/division/township sports activities. — MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents first prize to U Soe Min (Yankin Soe Min) in 2003 mass sports activities colour photo contest. — MNA

Zaw Zaw Latt wins National Tennis Championship Trophy

YANGON, 26 Feb — The prize presentation of the National Tennis Championship 2004, organized by Myanmar Tennis Federation, was held at Theinbyu Tennis Plaza in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this evening, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Also present were Deputy Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thein Aung, President of MTF U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd) and fans.

Before the prize presentation ceremony, final matches of the men's double open event was held.

At 5 pm, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented first and second prizes to Zaw Zaw Latt and

Tu Maw and joint third prize to Min Min and Mahn Lyan Sein in the men's singles open event and first, second and third prizes to Amy Tun, Kyi Mya Zaw and Lar Thang Vee in the women's singles open event respectively.

MTF President U Zaw Zaw, Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung of SPED and officials presented prizes to respective winners.

Next, MTF President U Zaw Zaw gave away first and second prizes to Zaw Zaw Latt & Tu Maw, Khin Maung Win & Thet Lwin in the men's doubles event and joint third prize to Kyaw San Win & Min Min and Aye Tun & Aung Moe. Later, the National Championship Trophy was presented to Zaw Zaw Latt.

MNA



59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

WHO terms diseases as global health problem

GENEVA, 26 Feb — Oral diseases such as dental caries (tooth decay), periodontitis (gum disease) and oral and pharyngeal cancers are a global health problem in both industrialized and increasingly in developing countries, especially among poorer communities, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Tuesday. Announcing the findings of the World Oral Health Report, the WHO said that an estimated five billion people worldwide had experienced dental caries. "Worldwide, losing teeth are seen as a natural

consequence of ageing, but it is in fact preventable," said Catherine Le Gales-Camus, WHO's Assistant-Director-General, Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health. The impact of oral diseases in pain, suffering, impaired function and reduced quality of life, is both extensive and expensive, the report said. Treatment is estimated to account for between 5 per cent to 10 per cent of health costs in industrialized countries, and is beyond the resources of many developing countries, it said. "In many developing countries, access

to oral health care is limited and teeth are often left untreated, or extracted," said Poul Erik Petersen, coordinator of WHO's Global Oral Health Programme. The report also states that, globally, most children show signs of gingivitis (bleeding gums) and among adults, the initial stages of periodontal disease are prevalent. Smoking, smokeless tobacco, chewing betel, and alcohol use, are all risk factors to the prevalence of oral cancer, which has been the eighth most common cancer of men worldwide, it said. — MNA/Xinhua



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents fruit basket to Chairman of YMEC Mr Feng Ke. (News on page 1) — MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents a prize to Ma Anita of Kayah State at the dinner to mark the 49th Myanmar Nurses Association Conference. (News on page 16) — MNA

Divisional Police Force meets

YANGON, 26 Feb — Yangon Division Police Force held the third four-monthly meeting at its headquarters in Kyauktada Township, Yangon, this morning with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. He said stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and the rule of law play a key role in building a modern and developed nation or a discipline-flourishing nation. The Yangon Division Police Force will have to cooperate with the local authorities and social organizations to get information about the criminal plots in advance. There was a significant decrease in the number of crimes in the division in 2003. Collective efforts are required to make Yangon Division, a model in ensuring security and the rule of law, and reducing the number of crimes. Police of the other branches are required to render cooperation to traffic police to reduce traffic accidents. Police members should take part in making Yangon a modern and pleasant city. They should not be a burden for the people, but should try to win the trust of the people.

Division Judge U Aung Ngwe and Division Law Officer U Kyaw Moe Naing explained about court and legal affairs. Division Police Commander Police Col Aung Daing explained the instructions given by the Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council, the Home Affairs Minister, the Deputy Home Affairs Minister and the MPF Director-General. Police officers of various divisions also took part in the discussions. Police Col Aung Daing made the concluding remarks. — MNA



Heavy machinery at work at the construction site of Shweli hydro-electric power plant project in Namhkam Township on 22-2-2004. (News on page 1) — MNA

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် စိုက်ပျိုးမှုတောတန်း
တစ်တောင်တစ်တောင်တက် မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။

Commerce Minister meets with industrialists

YANGON, 26 Feb — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone who is in-charge of South Okkalapa Industrial Zone met with industrialists at the Dhammayon on 2nd Street, Ward 8, South Okkalapa Township, this afternoon.

Also present were Director-General of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Arnt Kyaw, Chairman of the Management Committee of the industrial zone U Bo Hsai and industrialists.

Delivering a speech on the occasion, the minister emphasized the importance of innovative measures for production of import-substitute parts of machines, jeeps, wagons, two-ton trucks and buses. He called on the industrialists to be united in maintaining fine traditions of the industrial zone.

The director-general reported on necessary assistance provided by the department for industrial zones; and the chairman of the management committee, on products of the industrial zone and assembling automobiles. It was followed by a general round of discussions.

The minister gave closing remarks. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address at the third four-monthly work co-ordination meeting of the Yangon Division Police Force. — MNA

Commander inspects hostels of Kyansittha, Myawady Columns

YANGON, 26 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 morning inspected camps of parade columns which will participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade and gave necessary instructions to officials.

At 10 am, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe arrived at Myoma Ground where Kyansittha and Myawady columns were practising drills. The Commander was welcomed there by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, Col Myat Thu of No 11 LID, Kyansittha Column Commander Col Thein Dan, Myawady Column Commander Col Kan Nyunt and officials. After inspecting the drills practice, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions to



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects welfare shop of Myawady Column. — PUPR

officers and other ranks of the columns, saying that emphasis is to be laid on high quality practising of drill, training tasks and following of disciplines. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe then inspected hostels, messes, kitchens, ration stores, welfare shops of the two columns, documentary photos and publications, book stalls and clinics.

Afterwards, the commander urged all Tatmadawmen of the columns to abide by disciplines.— MNA

Hu Jintao holds talks with Surinamese President

BEIJING, 26 Feb — Chinese President Hu Jintao Tuesday suggested that China and Surinam should continue high-profile exchanges, deepen bilateral economic cooperation, strengthen exchange on science and education, culture, health and human resources, and increase coordination in dealing with international affairs.

Hu made the remarks in talks here with Surinamese President Rinaldo Ronald Venetiaan.

Venetiaan said he fully agreed with Hu's suggestion. He said his country is willing to implement current cooperation projects and explore new modes of cooperation with the Chinese side.

The two presidents extensively exchanged views on bilateral relations, international and regional issues and reached consensus.

Hu said since the establishment of diplomatic relations 28 years ago, the bilateral relations have been continuously developed.

The two sides greatly enhanced trade and economic and other cooperation, and supported each other in international affairs.

Hu said China greatly

valued and thanked Surinam for its adherence to the "one-China" policy and for not developing official ties with Taiwan.

Venetiaan expressed his gratitude for the Chinese Government's attaching great importance to cultivating friendship and cooperation with Surinam.

He reiterated that his government would further stick to the "one-China" policy and always support China's endeavours in realizing peaceful reunification. Hu and Venetiaan also exchanged views on the current situation of the Caribbean region and the relationship between China and the region.

After the talks, the two sides signed three documents, including the economic and technological cooperation agreement.

MNA/Xinhua

Tanzania supports use of English in higher schools teaching

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 26 Feb— The Tanzanian Government has reiterated its support for using English as a medium of instruction in higher learning institutions,

local newspaper *The African* reported Wednesday. Minister for Education and Culture Joseph Mungai made the remarks while speaking to experts attending the a National Kiswahili Council meeting in Dar-es-Salaam Tuesday.

"Our government uses both languages, Kiswahili as

that financial institutions, donors and other organizations had been invited to the meeting so that the project could be marketed to them.

In September last year, officials from the three countries met in Zambia and signed an inter-governmental memorandum of understanding in which they committed themselves to the fulfilment of the project.

MNA/Xinhua

a national language and English as an official language, therefore civil servants need to master both," he said.

He, however, stressed that the government stand is not aimed at undermining the role of Kiswahili in the Tanzanian society, saying using English as a teaching language in colleges and universities is for the country's good.

The argument that the use of Kiswahili in higher learning institutions will better boost the standard of education in the country does not hold water, Mungai said.

According to the 1995 National Education and Training Policy, Kiswahili and English are passed as languages of instruction in primary and secondary schools. — MNA/Xinhua

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းစွာ သာမက ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာရေးကို စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခ ဖြည့်ဝခြင်းကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရဖြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များကို စားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုကင်းစင်၍ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာ ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင့်တော်မျှတသော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့ရုယ်မှကကွယ်ရန် ခြင်္သေ့တောင်ဖြင့်အိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်ကျေးမှုကိုသုံးစွဲပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်စားရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက်မွေးမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

“သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တော် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား ဖြိုဖျက်သို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတိမှတ်ခေါက်ရေနှင့်အညီ စက်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ပေးထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတိမှတ်နှုန်းထားများအတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်စီးခနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက်တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင်ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရှိပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနည်းလမ်းများကို တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

- (၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉)
- (၂) ကြို့မကြေးနန်းနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့မှူးရုံး (ဖုန်း ၂၉၁၂၈၅/၂၉၁၂၈၄)
- (၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

(ဖုန်း ၇၄၁၉၀၇/၇၄၁၉၀၄) ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

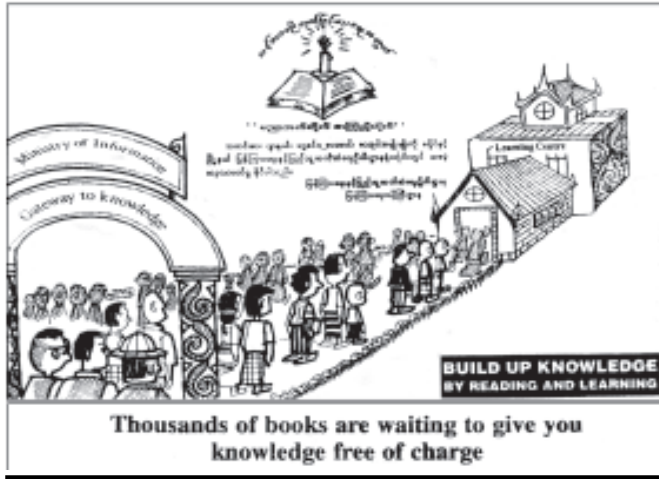
Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya to make decisions on power interconnector

LUSAKA, 26 Feb — The Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya power interconnector has reached a stage at which important decisions have to be made regarding the implementation, financing strategies and reaffirming the implementation schedule earlier adopted by the three governments, it was reported on Wednesday.

Zambian Energy Minister George Mpombo was quoted as saying here dur-

ing a meeting of three ministers for energy, the three countries have shown tremendous enthusiasm for the project.

He added that it was necessary to identify funding gaps in the preparatory stages of the project, attract potential investors and financiers in the development of the power interconnector. The Zambian minister pointed out that it was for this reason



ADVERTISEMENT

မြန်မာ့ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

မြန်မာ့ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနသည် အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သော နည်းပညာပစ္စည်းများ ဝယ်ယူ ရန်တင်ဒါ ခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာ့ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန အကယ်ဒမီဦးစီးဌာနအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရုံးသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။

- (1) Personal Computer Intel Pentium IV 1.8 GHz 40 GB HDD 128 MB SD RAN 15" Monitor Laserjet Printer A4
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၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၃-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၃၀)နာရီတွင် ပိတ်သိမ်းပါမည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်း အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါ လိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာ့ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန ဝန်ကြီးရုံး၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ အမှတ် ၂၂၀၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ မိုင်းတောတောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

ဖုန်း-၂၄၇၆၃၀၊ ၂၄၇၆၂၄၊ ၂၄၇၆၂၅

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Phone: 372416

Dated: 27th February 2004

Colombia destroys suspected drug plane in Amazon

BOGOTA (Colombia), 26 Feb — Colombian war planes destroyed a twin-engine aircraft suspected of carrying drugs and arms from Brazil on Tuesday after it landed at a clandestine airstrip in rebel-held jungle, officials said.

The crew of the plane ignored orders to land at a military base after it was intercepted flying over thick Amazon jungle and then chased it to the clandestine strip.

It was not possible to know if any crew member was killed in the attack but a military video released to journalists showed two Air Force planes machine-gunning a hidden hangar before it caught fire and exploded.

MNA/Reuters

မြန်မာ့ပြန်လှန်အားပေးပါ

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E-mail: msp@myanmar.net.mm Tel: 254032 G.P.O. Box 888 Yangon 27 February 2004

Parmalat Mexico recovers as accounts released

MEXICO CITY, 26 Feb — The Mexican arm of Italy's insolvent food group Parmalat said on Tuesday it was able to free up frozen accounts and business was expected to return to near normal levels in a few days.

US-based financial giant Citigroup, via its Mexican arm Banamex, had frozen the accounts of Parmalat de Mexico a few days ago, putting a cash crunch on the company and threatening its future in the country.

But the unit said on Tuesday it negotiated release of the accounts.

"Parmalat Mexico starts

now a reorganization period that will allow it to resume its commercial operations gradually," the company said in a statement.

Parmalat had missed payments to all 40 of its local dairy farm suppliers recently, many of which stopped supplying its Mexican plant, located in an industrial hub in the western state of Jalisco.

As a result, its daily supply of milk dropped to 50,000 litres a day from an average of 200,000 litres the company had been buying on average before the crisis.

MNA/Reuters

Survey says Cybercrime cost huge losses for British business

LONDON, 26 Feb — British companies lost hundreds of millions of pounds in Cybercrime attacks in 2003 and face what specialists described as a more severe wave of Internet attacks this year, according to a survey released by British police Tuesday.

In a police survey of 201 of Britain's largest companies by the country's National Hi-Tech Crime Unit (NHTCU), 83 per cent said they had experienced some form of cybercrime in 2003,

costing more than 195 million pounds or 366 million US dollars in business downtime, lost productivity and perceived damage to their brand or share price.

The crime wave's biggest target was the financial sector. Three British financial service firms, which the NHTCU declined to name, reported cybercrime-related damages totalling more than 60 million pounds or 112 million US dollars last year.

The survey also found that 77 per cent of respon-

dents said they were the victim of a virus attack, costing nearly 28 million pounds or 52.6 million US dollars.

Police blame organized crime gangs, particularly those in Eastern Europe and Asia, as the biggest culprit for the outbreak.

It is predicted that the cyber criminals will attempt to target banking systems, company payroll and business transaction data to intercept vast sums in the future.

MNA/Xinhua

Spain seized record amount of drugs in 2003

MADRID, 26 Feb — Spain seized 738 tons of hashish and 45 tons of cocaine in 2003, breaking the record in history and tripling the seizure in 2002, the government announced on Tuesday.

The cocaine seized last year accounted for 60 per cent of the total in the entire

European Union, said the government.

These figures showed that Spain has become the main transit country for drugs to the European Union.

Police also seized some 800,000 pills of ecstasy.

Police reports said heroin did not appear in several big anti-drug traffick-

ing operations. In 1999, some 1,170 kilos of heroin was seized, but the seizure last year decreased to only 273 kilos.

Police also arrested some 16,189 people connecting to drugs dealing in 2003 while the number for 2002 was 16,293.

MNA/Xinhua

Latest MyDoom outbreak spreading, deletes files

LONDON, 26 Feb — Security experts issued fresh alerts over a new, file-deleting version of the MyDoom email worm that was targeting computer users with greater ferocity on Wednesday.

The new outbreak, known as MyDoom.F, emerged late last week and has been gathering steam ever since.

The virus is programmed to infect personal computers and use them to unleash a crippling digital barrage known as a denial-of-service attack on select web sites belonging to Microsoft Corp. and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

The attacks failed to bring down the sites, though access to the web site for the RIAA was hampered slightly on Wednesday, security firms reported. The RIAA, a lobbying group for the music industry, has drawn the ire of computer users since it began suing American online song swappers last year.

While it was not spreading as fast as its MyDoom

predecessors nor as rapidly as last week's Netsky.B outbreak, MyDoom.F is considered a growing risk as it deletes random Microsoft Word and Excel files, plus photos and movies stored on an infected computer.

"MyDoom.F has been picking up pace since Monday and Tuesday," said Mikko Hypponen, manager of Finnish anti-virus research firm F-Secure. "The disturbing thing is that it has a destructive payload. We haven't seen a destructive virus like this in a while," he said. Computer viruses rarely destroy files these days. They have instead evolved over the years to turn unsecured computers into "zombie" machines capable of carrying out the virus writer's commands.

Typically, this army of commandeered machines is used to send out torrents of email spam messages, unleash digital attacks on targeted web sites and, in some cases, host web sites that sell everything from vitamins to pornography.

MNA/Reuters



Visitors stand in front of a mock-up of the Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighter on static display at the Asian Aerospace airshow, on 25 Feb, 2004 in Singapore.

The Asian Aerospace, one of Asia's major trade fairs, expected 750 exhibitors of aerospace products from 33 countries and 23,000 trade visitors.

INTERNET

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



A visitor watches the new Holograph Viewer phone from the Panasonic company during the 3GSM World Congress in Cannes, southeastern France, on 24 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

WHO says, 1% of adult Russians are HIV positive

Moscow, 26 Feb—One per cent of Russia's adult population is infected with HIV, special representative for the World Health Organization's Director-General in Russia Mikko Vienonen said Tuesday. Vienonen told a Press conference in Moscow that about 265,000 cases of HIV have been registered in Russia at present, but the

actual number of HIV carriers can only be measured approximately. Russia's "Federal Centre on AIDS Prevention says the actual number of HIV cases surpasses the statistics by three or four times, and reaches one million," Vienonen was quoted by *Interfax* as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Over one third of Romanians smoke every day

BUCHAREST, 26 Feb—A study done by the Centre for Health Policies and Services in Romania showed that 39.9 per cent of Romanians smoke daily, the Romanian national news agency *Rompres* reported on Tuesday.

About half of the men and a quarter of the women smoke, the survey found from a sample of 1,209 people.

The survey showed that 36.3 per cent of the smokers admitted to having spent their last money on cigarettes. Of the respondents, 63.2 per cent of the men and 44.6 per cent of the women said they get tired easily and have breathing difficulties, and 30.5 per cent of those surveyed admitted to having at least one argument over a smoking-related issue.

The survey also said that passive smoking is equally harmful and poses health hazards. Nearly 90 per cent of the respondents believe passive smoking can damage their health.

Smoking is considered a risk factor at the work place and a threat to human health, through raising risks of cardiovascular and breathing diseases for both smokers and non-smokers.—MNA/Xinhua

**Don't
smoke**

Study shows epilepsy drug effective against migraines

CHICAGO, 26 Feb—An anti-epilepsy drug that is now being tested for uses from alcoholism to weight loss can curtail the number of headaches experienced by migraine sufferers, a study said on Tuesday.

Topiramate, which is produced by Johnson & Johnson under the name Topamax, not only cut the number of days that migraine sufferers developed debilitating headaches but also reduced their reliance on pain relievers such as aspirin.

The study, which was funded by the drug maker, found daily dosages of 100 to 200 milligrammes of

Topiramate reduced the frequency of migraine headaches by 2.1 to 2.4 days per month.

"Topiramate showed statistically significant efficacy in migraine prevention within the first month of treatment" and continued to work through the six-month study, wrote study author Jan Lewis Brandes of the Nashville Neuroscience Group in

Nashville, Tennessee.

Roughly 11 per cent of Americans suffer migraines, and researchers have been unable to define a cause or find a cure.

However, Topamax has previously been found to produce unwanted side effects, some of which were experienced by participants in the latest study that caused a few of them to drop out. The side

effects listed were paresthesia, a tingling or pricking sensation of the skin; fatigue; weight loss; diarrhoea; nausea and difficulty with memory.

Writing in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Brandes concluded, "Topiramate appeared to be safe and had an acceptable tolerability profile."

MNA/Reuters

NASA OKs spacewalk for "ISS" astronauts

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 26 Feb—NASA has overcome initial safety concerns and approved a spacewalk that will leave the orbiting *International Space Station* empty later this week, the US space agency said on Tuesday.

The two astronauts aboard the station — one American, the other Russian — will work outside for several hours with no one inside to help them should a hatch get stuck, communications drop out, or power fail.

During past *Space Station* spacewalks, there has always been a crew member inside or a space shuttle docked nearby.

A top space station official told reporters that the US space agency was initially skeptical of Russian plans for the joint spacewalk, known in NASA parlance as an EVA, for extra-vehicular activity.

"We've had quite a lot of discussion about this EVA since it was first proposed by our Russian partners. It was met with some skepticism at that time," said Mike

Seffredini, the *Space Station's* operations manager.

That was last summer, when NASA thought its remaining space shuttles would be ready to fly this summer. That date has slipped to late winter of 2005. The shuttles have been grounded since the fatal crash of the space shuttle *Columbia* in February 2003.

The shuttles are needed to deliver water and other critical supplies to the *International Space Station*, which has been limited to two astronauts since May.

Although Thursday's spacewalk is not considered critical, NASA decided the walks could not be put off indefinitely because they are required for assembly and maintenance of the *Station*, Seffredini said.

The next crew, due to arrive in April, is scheduled

to do some outside work to prepare for a new, robotically piloted cargo vehicle built by the European Space Agency. That vehicle could launch in June.

"We need to be able to do two-person crew EVAs. The problem is we get to this backlog of EVAs that just gets worse and worse," Seffredini said.

During a downlink from the *Station*, station Commander Michael Foale, recalled that pairs of NASA astronauts made lengthy excursions across the lunar surface in the 1960s and 1970s without anyone staying behind on their lander.

"This is something we all must get used to," said Foale, who will make the spacewalk with his Russian colleague, Alexander Kaleri.

MNA/Reuters

Natural disaster deaths rose sevenfold in 2003

FRANKFURT, 26 Feb—Natural disasters caused by extreme weather claimed seven times as many victims in 2003 as in the previous year and the trend is set to continue, the world's biggest reinsurance company said on Wednesday.

Munich Re said in its annual review of natural catastrophes that earthquakes, heat waves and tornadoes had killed 75,000 people during the year, including 40,000 who died in December's severe earthquake in Iran.

The figure was higher than the 50,000 estimate the company gave in a preliminary report in December, largely because the full effects of the Iranian earthquake were not yet known then, a Munich Re spokesman said.

"After three years of relative calm, no fewer than five great natural catastrophes occurred in 2003," the report said, saying the five events alone had accounted for about a third of all economic and insured losses.

Apart from the Iranian

earthquake, a heat wave that hit central and southern Europe in the summer claimed 20,000 lives, and an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale killed 2,200 in Algeria in May, the report said. The most expensive disasters for insurers, however, were in the United States, where tornadoes battered the Midwest in May and a heat wave caused drought and forest fires in California in October and November, destroying thousands of homes.

The Californian fires cost the insurance industry some two billion US dollars, Munich Re said, while a massive hailstorm in Texas during the tornadoes "will go down in US insurance history" after generating insured losses of more than

one billion US dollars.

In total, insured losses were 40 per cent higher than in 2002 at 16 billion US dollars, said Munich Re, which insures insurance companies for the risks from their policies. Total economic losses rose 18 per cent to 65 billion US dollars.

Munich Re said global warming would cause increasing economic damage in the future. In central Europe alone, an expected two-degree Celsius increase in temperatures by the middle of the century would cause more heat waves and floods.

MNA/Reuters

Turkmen President orders more video surveillance

ASHGABAT, 26 Feb—Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov has ordered the government to intensify video surveillance of his isolated Central Asian state.

"We should know if a fly quietly buzzes past," Niyazov said. "This is not due to a lack of trust, but to avoid disorder." Conscription soldiers have long been posted on most street corners in the capital Ashgabat and video cameras were installed on main streets.

MNA/Reuters



The European Ariane V rocket, carrying spacecraft Rosetta, stands at its launching pad at the Kourou space base, French Guiana, on 25 Feb, 2004, in this photo provided by the European Space Agency. The rocket will propel the Rosetta craft into space on Thursday, 26 Feb, 2004. If the mission succeeds, it will break new ground by placing a lander on a swift, icy comet. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Yokohama preserve perfect Champions League record

TOKYO, 26 Feb— Yokohama F-Marinos thrashed Indonesian side Persik Kediri 4-0 to preserve their perfect record in the Asian Champions League on Tuesday.

Yokohama manager Takeshi Okada was forced to field an experimental young team with the J-League title holders also involved in the East Asian Champions Cup in Shanghai.

But two first-half goals from 19-year-old striker Sho Kitano put Yokohama on track for a comfortable victory at Mitsuzawa Stadium, leaving them with six points from two games in Group G.

South Korean champions Seongnam Ilhwa play Vietnamese side Binh Dinh at home on Wednesday in the same group.

Saudi title holders Al Ittihad travel to Neftchi of Uzbekistan and Kuwaiti side Al Arabi were at home to Iran's Sepahan in Group D, while China's Dalian Shide face Vietnamese champions Hoang Anh Gia Lai in Group F later on Tuesday. The group stage of the Asian Champions League runs from February to May. Only the top team from each of the seven groups advances to the quarter-finals, to be played over two legs in September.— MNA/Reuters



Stuttgart's Imre Szabics from Hungary, right, Chelsea's goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini, left, and William Gallas from France, centre, fight for the ball during the Champions League 2nd round 1st leg soccer match between VfB Stuttgart and Chelsea FC in the Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium in Stuttgart, southern Germany, on 25 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

Arsenal stay on treble trail with 3-2 win at Celta Vigo

VIGO (Spain), 26 Feb — Arsenal took a giant step towards the quarter-finals of the Champions League when they ended their Spanish jinx by winning 3-2 at Celta Vigo on Tuesday.

Two goals from their Brazilian midfielder Edu, the second a wonderfully struck curling shot from the edge of the area, and a masterful worked winner from Robert Pires 10 minutes from time gave the Premier League leaders the advantage at the end of a thrilling first leg of this first knockout stage tie. It also kept them in contention for the treble of English league, FA Cup and Champions League successes this season — as well as giving them their first victory in a competitive match in Spain after five defeats.

With Arsenal unbeaten in the Premier League this season it is hard to imagine Celta overturning the deficit when they visit Highbury in two weeks.

But Arsenal rode their luck against the home side who started slowly but gradually played their way back into a pulsating game.

In the end the sheer class and close understanding between French international colleagues Thierry Henry and Pires secured Arsenal's win.

They combined with a series of exchanges to split open the Celta defence and the home side, who twice came from behind, were finally left without a reply.

Brazilian midfielder Edu twice gave Arsenal the lead, the first time with a scrappy goal in which Celta keeper Pablo Cavallero suffered a facial injury but stayed on to complete the match.

Twice Celta levelled within 10 minutes, first through their own Brazilian midfielder Luis Edu who scored with a perfectly-placed header after a free kick from former Gunner Silvinho, and then from Jose Ignacio who prodded the ball home after Arsenal failed

to clear a corner.

But winger Pires linked up neatly with Henry deep inside the Celta penalty area in the 80th minute before stroking the ball past keeper Pablo Cavallero.

Arsenal, with Patrick Vieira, Edu and Kolo Toure dominating the opposition, enjoyed plenty of possession but Celta battled hard with Alexander Mostovoi at the heart of most of their moves and Luis Edu a constant threat. Arsenal, brimming with confidence after their 26-match unbeaten start to their premier league campaign and boosted by three successive Champions League wins before the winter break, began the match the far sharper side.— MNA/Reuters

Fulham beat West Ham to secure Man Utd trip

LONDON, 26 Feb — A late second-half onslaught gave Fulham a 3-0 away win over London rivals West Ham United in their FA Cup fifth-round replay on Tuesday and secured a quarter-final trip to Manchester United. After the teams had played out a dull goalless draw in the initial tie it took another 76 minutes for the deadlock to be broken in the replay.

First division West Ham had the best of the first half but it was a different story after the break as the Premier League side took control. Steed Malbranque and Brian McBride both looked threatening and it was no surprise when McBride neatly collected a pass from his American international team mate Carlos Bocanegra and fired home from the edge of the box in the 76th minute.

MNA/Reuters

Kahn blunder hands Real lucky draw with Bayern

MUNICH (Germany), 26 Feb— An awful blunder by goalkeeper Oliver Kahn presented Real Madrid with a 1-1 draw at Bayern Munich in the first leg of their heavyweight Champions League first knockout round tie on Tuesday.

The German international keeper allowed a seemingly harmless long-range free kick from Roberto Carlos to roll under his body with seven minutes left of a lively battle that Bayern had dominated.

Dutch striker Roy Makaay had headed the Germans into a deserved lead in the 75th minute of a game played in freezing temperatures.

Bayern's form this season has been erratic but the German champions rose to the occasion and were clearly the better side in the 15th competitive European clash between two of Europe's football powerhouses.

Their prestigious visitors, who had lost on their previous seven visits to the Olympic Stadium, failed to shine but will now fancy their chances of reaching the quarter-finals.

However, Munich will be kicking themselves after their aggressive midfield and constant movement did not give Real's artists many chances to shine.

The first half was a one-sided affair with the visitors resisting under sustained pressure with help from Iker Casillas, who produced a string of crucial saves.

The Real goalkeeper notably kept out a low drive from Makaay in the 12th minute and an effort from Brazilian defender Ze

Roberto in the 24th.

Looking nervous and disorganized in defence, Real survived several scares and hand only a weak Ronaldo effort to show for their few attacking moves.

The second half was slightly more balanced with the visitors trying their luck as David Beckham curled the ball just over the bar in the 52nd minute.

But Bayern soon resumed their march forward and responded eight minutes later with a header from Makaay that went just wide and then with a shot from playmaker Michael Ballack that just missed the target in the 62nd minute. Makaay finally found the target after a superb cross by Claudio Pizarro but Kahn's blunder — not his first this season — undid all the hard work.

The old rivals set a record with their ninth meeting in the Champions League, one more than ties between Manchester United and Juventus, Galatasaray and Barcelona and Real Madrid and Porto.

The 10th, at the Bernabeu, could be a classic if Bayern can repeat the form they displayed before a capacity 59,000 crowd on Tuesday but Real remain the favourites to survive the showdown and move towards a 10th title — MNA/Reuters

Lokomotiv edge Monaco 2-1 in snowy Moscow

MOSCOW, 26 Feb — Goals by Marat Izmailov and Vladimir Maminov gave Lokomotiv Moscow a deserved 2-1 win over Monaco in their Champions League first knockout round, first leg match on Tuesday.

The Russians dominated the first half, played as light snow was falling on the pitch, with Lokomotiv's Georgian striker Mikheil Ashvetia wasting two good chances in the opening 15 minutes.

Russian international Izmailov finally put the home side ahead in the 32nd minute after evading two defenders inside the box and sending a rising shot into the top of the net.

Taking advantage of a dummy run by Dmitry Khokhlov, Izmailov collected Dmitry Loskov's cross from the left at the edge of the penalty area before calmly beating his markers and firing past helpless Monaco keeper Flavio Roma.

Maminov doubled the lead 14 minutes into the second half, beating Roma with a low shot into the far corner after a series of ricochets.

Moments later Loskov missed a great opportunity to put the game out of reach for the French Ligue 1 leaders but missed from close range after a nice set-up by Izmailov.

That miss came back to haunt the Russians as Fernando Morientes pulled one back for the visitors in the 59th minute, the Spanish forward heading in a Jerome Rothen free kick after being left unmarked at the far post.

Lokomotiv substitute James Obiorah then

wasted an even better chance to restore a two-goal lead two minutes from time but the Nigerian fired well wide with Roma at his mercy.

Obiorah's miss coupled with Monaco's away goal could prove costly for the Russians going into the second leg on March 10.

The match was played amid tight security following a bomb blast in the Moscow metro this month that killed at least 39 people.

"It is a good result for us, even better than I had hoped for," said Lokomotiv coach Yuri Syomin, who said before the game he would settle for a goalless draw.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Loskov, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.

"Nevertheless, we played well as a team and aside from set pieces Monaco rarely threatened our goal."

Monaco coach Didier Deschamps was also satisfied with the outcome.

"It's good we scored an away goal but I must admit Lokomotiv played very well and we were lucky to come away with a draw," said Deschamps, whose team was missing skipper Ludovic Giuly and centre back Sebastien Squillaci through injuries.

MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Quinton Fortune (C) celebrates with Ruud van Nistelrooy (2R) after scoring past FC Porto's goalkeeper Vitor Baia in their Champions League first knockout round, first leg soccer match at the Dragon Stadium in Porto, Portugal, on 25 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

MRTV-3
27-2-2004 (Friday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 View Point Amusement Park
- 9:10 National News**
- 9:12 The National
Museum (III)
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Off-shore Fishing Boat
Construction
- 9:25 Kayah Dance
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Unforgettable Customs
of the Chins
- 9:40 Song "Be Back To
Neem Lane"
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 Precious Myanmar
Lacquerware
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

27-2-2004 (Friday)
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 "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 View Point Amusement Park
- 15:40 National News**
- 15:42 The National
Museum (III)
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Off-shore Fishing Boat
Construction
- 15:55 Kayah Dance
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 Unforgettable Customs

- of the Chins
- 16:10 Song "Be Back To
Neem Lane"
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 Precious Myanmar
Lacquerware
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Myanmar Coffee
- 16:40 A Short Introduction to
Myanma Saing Waing
(or) Myanmar Orches-
tra
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 Myanma Gems Mosaic
- 16:55 Sagaing Hill
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 The Art of Making
Paper Toys
- 17:10 Song "Peace Be with
You"
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Travelogue (Inlay)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)

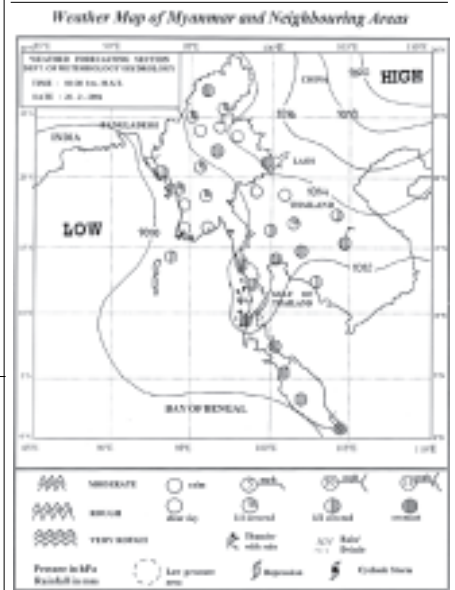
- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 19:35 Toddy Palm Arts
- 19:40 National News**
- 19:42 The National
Museum (II)
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 100 Shuttle Traditional
Weaving Industry
- 19:55 Shutaing Thaswa
Nandar Kan Ahla
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Wall-Hung Giant
Lobsters
- 20:10 Song "Welcome to
Treasure Land"
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Welcome to Bagan
- 20:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Across the

- Ayeyawady"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Talent Show on a
Maze of Xylophones
- 20:40 Mogok (or) The Ruby
Land of Myanmar
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Myanmar Profile
"Fast Food"
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 Thin Straw Pulp Paper
- 21:10 Song "Lover's Life"
- 21:12 Old Master Artist U Ba
Yin Galay
- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 The Gok Hteik Via-
duct
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:30 View Point Amuse-
ment Park
- 21:40 National News**
- 21:42 The National
Museum (III)
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Off-shore Fishing Boat
Construction
- 21:55 Kayah Dance
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 Unforgettable Customs
of the Chins
- 22:10 Song "Be Back To
Neem Lane"
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 Precious Myanmar
Lacquerware
- 22:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Love Slave"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Myanmar Coffee
- 22:40 A Short Introduction to
Myanma Saing Waing
(or) Myanmar Orches-
tra
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 Myanma Gems Mosaic
- 22:55 Sagaing Hill
- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 The Art of Making
Paper Toys
- 23:10 Song "Peace Be with
You"
- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 Travelogue (Inlay)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

- 27-2-2004 (Friday) &
28-2-2004 (Saturday)**
**Evening & Morning
Transmission**
(23:30-1:30)
- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 View Point Amuse-
ment Park
- 23:40 National News**
- 23:42 The National
Museum (III)
- 23:45 National News**
- 23:50 Off-shore Fishing Boat
Construction
- 23:55 Kayah Dance
- 24:00 National News**
- 00:05 Unforgettable Customs
of the Chins
- 00:10 Song "Be Back To
Neem Lane"
- 00:15 National News**
- 00:20 Precious Myanmar
Lacquerware
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 00:30 National News**
- 00:35 Myanmar Coffee
- 00:40 A Short Introduction to
Myanma Saing Waing
(or) Myanmar Orches-
tra
- 00:45 National News**
- 00:50 Myanma Gems Mosaic
- 00:55 Sagaing Hill
- 01:00 National News**
- 01:05 The Art of Making
Paper Toys
- 01:10 Song "Peace Be with
You"
- 01:15 National News**
- 01:20 Travelogue (Inlay)
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 28-2-2004 (Saturday)**
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)
- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar

- Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 03:35 Toddy Palm Arts
- 03:40 National News**
- 03:42 The National
Museum (II)
- 03:45 National News**
- 03:50 100 Shuttle Traditional
Weaving Industry
- 03:55 Shutaing Thaswa
Nandar Kan Ahla
- 04:00 National News**
- 04:05 Wall-Hung Giant
Lobsters
- 04:10 Song "Welcome to
Treasure Land"
- 04:15 National News**
- 04:20 Welcome to Bagan
- 04:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Across the
Ayeyawady"
- 04:30 National News**
- 04:35 Talent Show on a
Maze of Xylophones
- 04:40 Mogok (or) The Ruby
Land of Myanmar
- 04:45 National News**
- 04:50 Myanmar Profile
"Fast Food"
- 04:55 Kayah Dance
- 05:00 National News**
- 05:05 Thin Straw Pulp Paper
- 05:10 Song "Lover's Life"
- 05:12 Old Master Artist U Ba
Yin Galay
- 05:15 National News**
- 05:20 The Gok Hteik Viaduct
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar

- Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 05:30 View Point Amuse-
ment Park
- 05:40 National News**
- 05:42 The National
Museum (III)
- 05:45 National News**
- 05:50 Off-shore Fishing Boat
Construction
- 05:55 Kayah Dance
- 06:00 National News**
- 06:05 Unforgettable Customs
of the Chins
- 06:10 Song "Be Back To
Neem Lane"
- 06:15 National News**
- 06:20 Precious Myanmar
Lacquerware
- 06:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Love Slave"
- 06:30 National News**
- 06:35 Myanmar Coffee
- 06:40 A Short Introduction to
Myanma Saing Waing
(or) Myanmar Orches-
tra
- 06:45 National News**
- 06:50 Myanma Gems Mosaic
- 06:55 Sagaing Hill
- 07:00 National News**
- 07:05 The Art of Making
Paper Toys
- 07:10 Song "Peace Be with
You"
- 07:15 National News**
- 07:20 Travelogue (Inlay)
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**WEATHER**
Thursday, 26 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
 During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine State and Mandalay Division, (5°C) below normal in Chin State and Yangon Division, (7°C) below normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas.
 Maximum temperature on 25-2-2004 was 34.0°C (93°F). Minimum temperature on 26-2-2004 was 15.0°C (59°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-2-2004 was 61%. Total sunshine hours on 25-2-2004 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 26-2-2004 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 (17:15) hours M.S.T on 25-2-2004.
Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 27-2-2004: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-2-2004: Partly cloudy.
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-2- 2004: Fair weather.


Friday, February 27
View today:

- 7:00 am**
- ကျေးဇူးတင်မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော်
တရားကြီးနိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ
ဘုရားအရှင်အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ
အသိစေမဟာဂန္ထဝရ၊ အသိစေမဂ္ဂ
မဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မစောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရဓမ္မ
တက္ကသိုလ်၊ နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆရာတော်ဘုရား၊ ဝိဇ္ဇာ
သာဓကသီလဝါဒီပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
- To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
- Morning news
- 7:40 am**
- Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
- ရိုးရာဓမ္မသီလကဏ္ဍစုန်း
- 8:00 am**
- အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am**
- The mirror images of musical oldies

- 8:20 am**
- မြို့မရောင်တံတား
- 8:30 am**
- International news
- 8:45 am**
- English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm**
- Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
- Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
- Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm**
- Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
- အမေသင်တန်းတိုက် ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ
တတ်ယူခန်း (ရုပ်စောအထူးပြုများ)
(ရုပ်စော)
- 5:15 pm**
- မြို့မရောင်တံတား
- 5:30 pm**
- Song of national races
- 5:40 pm**
- လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးပီတိတေး
- 5:50 pm**
- စုန်းစုန်းစုန်းအားကစားအခြေခံ
programme

- 6:00 pm**
- Songs of yesteryears
- 6:15 pm**
- Discovery
- 6:30 pm**
- Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
- Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
- Milo success in soccer
- 7:10 pm**
- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်သင်ပွဲ
"စိုက်ပျိုးရေး" (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 7:40 pm**
- Musical programme
- 8:00 pm**
- News
- 17. International news**
19. Weather report
20. Myanmar video feature:
 "အမှတ်မရှိသောရေ၊ ရာဇာဓိပတိ"
 လွင်ဇီးတက်တက်စိုးဦး
 (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်မောင်မောင်)
 မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး
 ဦးစီးဌာနသားတော်သခင်၊ အရပ်
 ဆယ်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးပီတိတေး
 ဟောပြောခြင်း တရားတော်
22. The next day's programme


Friday, February 27
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
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch time music
-Love is all (Marc
Anthony)
- 9.00 pm** World of music
Songs from "Japan"
- 9:15 pm** Article/Music
- 9.25 pm** Music at your
request
-Tell him (Celine
Dion & Barbara
Streidand)
-Too much (Spice
Girls)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets Kokang national race leaders at the hall of Regional Control Command (Laukkai).— MNA

Remarkable development brought about in entire nation, due to combined efforts of the Government and the people

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye holds talks on regional development with departmental officials in Lashio

YANGON, 26 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 held a

meeting with local authorities, departmental officials, and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and townsfolk at the town hall in Lashio on 23 February morning.

Prior to the meeting, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and party met with departmental personnel at the same venue. On the occasion, Chairman of Shan State

(North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported on area and location of Shan State (North), local national races living in unity, conditions of security, preva-

lence of law and order and peace and stability, economic progress of the region, utilization of land, food sufficiency, production of hybrid paddy, transport, construction projects including Shweli Hydropower Project being

implemented, education, and health sectors, and measures being taken for elimination of narcotic drugs.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha (See page 8)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends dinner to mark 49th Nurses Conference

YANGON, 26 Feb— Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the dinner to mark the 49th Nurses Conference at the hall of Institute of Nursing on Bogoyoke Aung San Road, here, at 6.30 pm today.

Also present at the dinner were Vice-Chairmen of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, members of NHC, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, chairmen of social organizations, directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Health, the President of Myanmar Nurses Association and CEC members, conference delegates and guests.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents second research paper prize to Daw Mar Mar Thi of Yangon Division.— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents first prize to Ma Thuza Mon of Mon State in the extempore talks contest.— MNA

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented first, second and third prizes to Daw Cho Cho Mar of Mon State, Daw Mar Mar Thi of Yangon Division and Daw Wa Wa Aung of Magway Division in the presentation of research papers.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented first, second and third prizes to Ma Thuza Mon of Mon State, Ma Kay Zin Oo of Kayin State and Ma Khong Nan of Kachin State in the extempore talks contest.

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave away consolation prizes of the paper to Daw Khin Thein of Mandalay Division, Daw Naw Zin Than of Kayin State and Daw Mya Htwe Yi of Rakhine State, and consolation prizes to Ma Thuzar Lin of Magway Division, Ma Anita of Kayah State and Ma Toe Toe Tun of Kachin State in the extempore talks contest.

President of the association Daw E Babaro presented certificates of honour and gifts to Chairman of Myanmar Music Asiayon Accordion U Ohn Kyaw who contributed to fund-raising activity of the association and MAC (Dumex) Co Nutrient Manager Dr Beauty Kyi who provided assistance to holding of the conference.

MNA