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Saturday, 28 February, 2004



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Vietnamese Military Attaché Sr Col Le Van Vy and his successor Sr Col Le Van Thanh.— MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Vietnamese military attaches

YANGON, 27 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 received Military Attaché of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Myanmar Sr Col Le Van Vy who had completed his tour of duties in Myanmar and his successor Sr Col Le Van Thanh at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall at Konmyinthar here this morning.

Also present at the call were Military Adviser to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win. — MNA

Prime Minister receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 27 Feb — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received China Metallurgical Construction Group Corporation President Mr Ma Yanli and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall at Konmyinthar here this morning.

Also present at the call were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Vice-Chief of the Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Industry-

1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Managing Director U Than Shwe of the Ministry of Industry-1. — MNA

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives China Metallurgical Construction Group Corporation President Mr Ma Yanli and party.— MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 28 February, 2004

For regional rice sufficiency

Being an agro-based nation Myanmar is striving for its national development based on agriculture and all-round development of other sectors of the economy.

At present, the State is providing necessary assistance to endeavours for agricultural development. In the process, ways and means are being sought to supply water for agricultural purpose.

Rice surplus, edible oil sufficiency and extending the cultivation and production of beans and pulses and industrial raw material crops are the main aims of the State in the agriculture sector. Farmers are being encouraged to extend cultivation of new items of crops that will generate their income, of crops that are in good demand and of vegetables.

At the same time, agricultural methods, modern farm implements and high yield strains are being provided to farmers.

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

On the occasion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the drive of those in charge of the region will contribute towards local rice sufficiency and economy of local farmers. He also said that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation are to render necessary assistance to local farmers.

At the ceremony, three combined harvesters, five threshers and Leya-16 power-tillers are presented to local farmers. Although Shan State (North) has not enjoyed rice sufficiency, it has now met over 90 per cent of the local rice demand, thanks to the combined efforts of the respective departments and local people. There was over 560,000 acres of cultivable land in Shan State (North) in 1988 and the number of cultivable land has increased to over 900,000 acres now. Furthermore, a total of 4,300 more acres of high land has been reclaimed. Measures are to be taken for cultivation of crops on all the cultivable land as well as extension of multiple cropping in Shan State (North) since the region does not have enough plain regions for agriculture.

For ensuring rice surplus in the region, farmers are urged to make earnest efforts hand in hand with local authority for extended cultivation of paddy by using high-yield strains.

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

Minister receives Ambassador

YANGON, 27 Feb — Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo received Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yacov Avrahamy at his office on Bogyoke Aung San Street here at 11 am today.

They discussed matters relating to enhancing co-operative cooperation. Present on the occasion were Director-General of the Co-operative Department U Soe Win, Cottage Industries Department Director-General U Sein Than, General Manager of Cooperative Export & Import Enterprise U Myo Than and officials. — MNA

Commerce Minister receives Sri Lankan Ambassador

YANGON, 27 Feb — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone received Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar Mr Mahinda Ranaraja and party at his office on Strand Road here at 2 pm today.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye, Director-General of Border Trade Department U Nay Win and officials of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading.

MNA

Rural roads in Maubin Township inspected

YANGON, 27 Feb — Director-General of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Myo Myint, together with officials, arrived in Maubin this morning and inspected paving of tar road on Yayle Street as well as Aungheik-Seiktha earthen road. The rural earthen road is 8 miles and 3 furlongs long and 18 feet wide for the people from Aungheik, Seiktha, Sitchaung and Bilin village-tracts to reach Maubin.

MNA

People's Desire

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



59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

Matriculation exam identity cards to be drawn beginning 3 March

YANGON, 27 Feb—The identity cards and roll numbers for students who are going to appear for the matriculation examination to be held from 11 to 20 March 2004 at examination centres in states and divisions have already been sent to the respective examination centre supervisors and the students are to draw their identity cards from the examination centre supervisors beginning 3 March 2004. The roll numbers and examination centres for the students who are in townships of Yangon municipal area will be posted at the respective Township Education Offices beginning 4 March 2004.

The identity cards for the students who are in Yangon municipal area will be issued beginning 8 March 2004 and the students from Basic Education High Schools (Branch) and Affiliated Basic Education High Schools are to draw identity cards from their respective school heads and those who are going to sit for the exam as external students are to draw identity cards from their respective examination centre supervisors.—MNA

Exam centres for in-patient students

YANGON, 27 Feb—With the aim of enabling the students who are undergoing medical treatment to sit for the matriculation examination, arrangements have been made for opening three examination centres at Yangon General Hospital, the Central Women's Hospital and the Waybargi Hospital. The in-patient students who want to sit for the examination are to contact liaison officers being assigned duties at the hospitals.

MNA



MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) delivers an address at the meeting. MNA

MWJA Central Executive Committee meets

YANGON, 27 Feb—The Central Executive Committee of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association held its meeting 2/2004 at the office of MWJA on Merchant Street here this afternoon, attended by MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Vice-Chairmen U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), U Than Maung (Than Maung)

and U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay), joint-secretaries and CEC members. Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) presided over the meeting while Joint-Secretary U Khin Swe (Shwe Sun Nyo) acted as master of ceremonies. First, the meeting chairman made an address

and MWJA Secretary U Hla Tun presented work progress on resolutions passed at the central committee's meeting 1/2004. Next, leaders of the MWJA office, organizing committee, the financial committee, the welfare committee, the international relations committee and the literary funds supervisory committee made suggestions.—MNA

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Britain accused of spying on Annan before Iraq war

LONDON, 27 Feb — British spies conducted surveillance on the office of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York during the intense diplomatic struggle over whether to invade Iraq, a former cabinet minister alleged Thursday.

Clare Short, who resigned in protest after the invasion, said she had seen transcripts of Annan's conversations in the weeks before the war, which was launched last March.

"The UK in this time was also getting spies on Kofi Annan's office and getting reports from him about what was going on," Short told BBC radio. "These things are done, and in the case of Kofi's office, it was being done for some time." Asked

about Britain's role in the eavesdropping, she replied: "Well I know — I've seen transcripts of Kofi Annan's conversations."

She added: "In fact, I have had conversations with Kofi in the run-up to the war thinking, 'Oh dear, there will be a transcript of this and people will see what he and I are saying.'"

Prime Minister Tony Blair branded Short's allegations deeply irresponsible but refused to confirm or

deny them, saying that to do so would violate his government's policy of not discussing intelligence matters. He said at a news conference that Britain's intelligence services always act in accordance with domestic and international law, and those who disclose intelligence activities, whether intentionally or not, undermine the essential security of the country.

The United Nations reacted sharply to the allega-

tions, asserting that any attempt to eavesdrop on the secretary general would constitute a violation of three international treaties that govern diplomatic relations.

"From our point of view it is indeed illegal" to spy on UN premises, said Annan's chief spokesman, Fred Eckhard. But he noted that there was little the United Nations could do about it. "The United Nations doesn't have a police force or any other means of enforcing these laws," he said.

Internet



Iraqi policeman killed, seven injured in bomb attack

BAGHDAD, 27 Feb — An Iraqi policeman was killed and seven others were wounded in a bomb attack in eastern Iraq on Thursday, Dubai-based television Al Arabiya reported.

The bomb, probably planted in one of two police cars parked outside a restaurant in Baquba, 60 kilometres east of Baghdad, exploded about 2:00 pm (1100 GMT), killing one police officer.

Five other policemen and two civilians were injured, said the news channel. The bomb could have been placed in the vehicle when the policemen were having their lunch, said one of the wounded men.

MNA/Xinhua



Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair (R) takes questions from journalists during his monthly news conference at 10 Downing Street, London, on 26 Feb, 2004. Britain spied on UN chief Kofi Annan before the Iraq war, former minister Clare Short said on Thursday, threatening a fresh crisis for Blair as he tries to put the conflict behind him.—INTERNET

Guerilla attacks rise in Iraq

BLOOMBERG, 27 Feb — Attacks by guerilla in Iraq are becoming more prevalent than those by loyalists to ousted leader Saddam Hussein, Agence France-Presse cited Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, US military ground commander, as saying.

The US military command has named Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, an alleged member of the al-Qaeda terrorist network, as being responsible for organizing suicide bombings in recent months in Iraq. The US offered a reward of \$10 million for information leading to his death or capture.

"The terrorist elements of Zarqawi, Ansar al-Islam and linkages to al-Qaeda have begun to take preeminence in the actions being conducted against the coalition," AFP cited Sanchez as saying yes-

terday in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. "There is a guerillas element that is focusing on the Iraqi people. It is focusing on people that are defenseless."

The US military command earlier this month made public a letter said to have been written by Zarqawi that described a plan to provoke a civil war between Iraq's Sunni Muslims and the majority Shiites. The command said earlier this week Zarqawi's top bomb-maker was killed February 19 in a clash with coalition forces.

Internet

Philippines ranks 8th in TB cases worldwide

MANILA, 27 Feb — The Philippines ranks eighth in the world and third in the Western Pacific Region so far as tuberculosis (TB) cases are concerned.

Each day, about 75 Filipinos die of TB which has become the sixth cause of morbidity and mortality in the Philippines with an estimated 270,000 cases detected every year, the Philippines News Agency Thursday quoted Dr. Michael Voniatis, a Manila-based medical officer of the World Health Organization, as saying in a symposium held recently.

In a global situation on TB, Voniatis said the highest TB rates per capita were in Africa. Global targets for TB include a cure rate of at least 85 per cent and a detection rate of at least 70 per cent by 2005. It is targeted that morbidity and mortality rates of TB will fall to 50 per cent in 2010. At present, the Philippines' cure rate is 88 per cent with a detection rate of 58 per cent.

Voniatis said that approximately two million people die of TB throughout the world every year; 5,000 people die daily from TB in the Western Pacific region; while 75 per day die in the Philippines.

Eight million people suffer from TB each year in the world

while 95 per cent of cases are in the developing countries.

Globally, TB statistics at present are: people infected — two billion; new TB cases — 8.6 million; new positive TB cases — 3.8 million and deaths from TB — 1.8 million.

MNA/Xinhua

CEPA to be fully operational by start of next fiscal

CHENNAI, 27 Feb — The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Sri Lanka was expected to be fully operational by the start of next fiscal, top Sri Lankan officials said in this southern Indian city on Thursday.

The agreement, besides providing additional concessions in Customs duty on trade between the two countries, would also promote hotel, tourism, textiles, pharmaceutical and automobile sectors among other things, Chairman and Director-General of the Board of Investment in Sri Lanka Arjunna Mahendran and Chairman of Sri Lankan Development Board Ratna Sivaratnam told reporters.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his Sri Lankan counterpart Ranil Wickremesinghe had signed the agreement a few months back.

MNA/PTI

Surinamese President expects more cooperation with Dalian

DALIAN, 27 Feb — Visiting Surinamese President Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan said here Thursday that Surinam is expecting more companies from Dalian, a city in northeast China's Liaoning Province.

Venetiaan, who arrived in Dalian City Wednesday evening, made the remark in meeting with Dalian Mayor Xia Deren.

Xia hoped the Surinamese Government would continue to support the cooperative project between Surinam and Dalian.

Venetiaan visited a software development facility, a museum and a shipbuilding

company during his stay in Dalian.

Venetiaan arrived in Beijing Sunday, starting his working visit to China. Chinese President Hu Jintao and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao held talks and met with him.

The Surinamese President will fly to Shenzhen on Wednesday to continue his visit to China. — MNA/Xinhua

Thai Princess receives "Friendship Ambassador" title

BEIJING, 27 Feb — Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was granted the title of "friendship ambassador" in Beijing Thursday for her efforts in promoting friendly exchanges between China and Thailand.

Sirindhorn has shown a great love for Chinese history and culture, and has a very deep friendship with Chinese people. Her current visit is her 18th to China.

Through her visits to China, Sirindhorn not only made the Chinese people better understand Thailand, but also introduced China to Thai people through her books.

Chen Haosu, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, expressed appreciation for Princess Sirindhorn's efforts in further enhancing the China-Thailand good-neighbourly relations.

Sirindhorn said she will continue to promote the two countries' cultural exchanges and the two peoples' friendship.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers secure an area in the northern Iraqi city of Tikrit on 27 February.—INTERNET

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ကာကွယ်တိုက်ဖျက် လက်ချင်းဆက်။

Injured US vets face long road to recovery

BAGHDAD, 27 Feb—Tears well up in a woman's eye at a rodeo in Texas as the announcer introduces some special guests to this patriotic audience.

The guests are a graphic reminder of the real and mounting costs of the war in Iraq.

They are soldiers who were injured in Iraq and are now being treated at Brook Army Medical Centre in San Antonio, Texas.

Among those special guests was Staff Sgt Rashan Canady. He has paid a heavy price.

At the medical centre, he is learning to rehabilitate himself with the help of an army nurse.

He now wears an artificial right arm after his own was severed in an Iraqi attack. He is lucky in one sense. His new arm is state-of-the-art.

"This prosthetic works on nerve impulses from what is left of my arm," he says.

Some 2,500 US soldiers have been injured in Iraq.

As he twitches a nerve, it sparks a sensor that opens and closes the hand. "I'm not sure if I can get my golf swing back to what it used to be, but it can assist me," he said.

This medical centre may be deep in the heart of Texas, but here alone, they have treated more than 800 injured soldiers from the Iraq operation.

This is also turning into something of a front line.

The army doctors at Brook have

been able to apply new medical techniques to increase the survival chances of the badly wounded.

Dr Roman Hayda, head of orthopaedic trauma, said: "The changes that are occurring in medicine make a big difference in their ability to recover and what we can salvage."

The doctors here believe the body armour soldiers wear now has also dramatically improved survivability.

Some 70% to 80% of the injuries now are to limbs, eyes, and the head. Treatment on the battlefield is also much improved.

Internet

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

547 US service members killed since beginning of war in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 Feb—As of Thursday, February 26, 547 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 378 died as a result of hostile action and 169 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

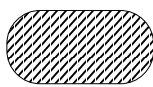
The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Thailand, two; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each. Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 409 US soldiers have died—263 as a result of hostile action and 146 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,708 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department's figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 416. —Internet



An elderly Iraqi man
ponders as he sells
newspapers at the local
market in Samawa,
on 25 Feb, 2004.

INTERNET



Blair up in arms as Short claims Britain spied on UN chief

LONDON, 27 Feb—A former cabinet minister alleged that Britain bugged UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in the run-up to the Iraq war, sparking an angry rebuttal from Prime Minister Tony Blair.

In a BBC radio interview Thursday, Clare Short, who before her resignation in May was one of the longest-serving members of Blair's government, was asked if Britain had eavesdropped on the secretary general. "Yes, absolutely," she replied. "These things are done, and in the case of Kofi's office it's been done for some time."

She added she had even seen the transcripts of Annan's conversations.

But at a Downing Street Press conference, Blair hit back at her allegations which he said were "deeply irresponsible".

"We and previous governments have never commented on intelligence, except to say that this country always acts in accord-

ance with domestic and international law," Blair said.

He did not explicitly deny that British intelligence had been targeting the UN secretary general, a key player in diplomatic efforts to avert the US and British invasion of Iraq launched in March last year.

But he said he had "huge respect" for Annan, "a personal friend".

The furore broke just a day after government prosecutors abruptly dropped their case against Katharine Gun, a British intelligence translator who had leaked a US intelligence memo requesting Britain's help in spying on non-aligned UN Security Council members. — Internet

Afghan govt to harden measures against illegal drugs

KABUL, 27 Feb — Afghanistan has decided to crack-down on opium fields in a bid to stem the blooming narcotics production, a top security official said here Thursday.

"Cultivation of poppy opium, production of illicit drugs and its trafficking is not only a threat to security but would tarnish the image of the country, so the Interior Ministry has decided to destroy poppy fields," Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali

told journalists at a news briefing. With international support, he said, the Afghan Government would utilize all necessary means to curtail the menace. However, he stressed, "we would not seek foreign troops" help in this campaign." —MNA/Xinhua

Japan Fair Trade Commission looks into Microsoft

TOKYO, 27 Feb— Japan's Fair Trade Commission said on Thursday it was investigating the Japanese unit of Microsoft Corp, the world's largest software maker, on suspicion of violating anti-trust laws.

The commission said it believed Microsoft imposed unfair conditions on computer makers wanting to license its Windows XP operating system software.

It said it hoped to resolve the matter as soon as possible.

A spokeswoman for Microsoft Japan confirmed that representatives of the fair trade body were at its headquarters on Thursday but said she had no further details.

The investigation is only the latest for Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft,

which is plagued by accusations that it has abused its monopoly on PC operating systems to push prices higher or harm rivals.

It is currently also in settlement negotiations with the European Commission, which says it abused its dominant position and curbed competition by tying its Media Player programme — used for playing music and videos — to its Windows operating system.

Shares of Microsoft closed off 18 cents at 26.70 US dollars on the Nasdaq on Wednesday. — MNA/Reuters

China dominates Cologne household appliance fair

BERLIN, 27 Feb — HomeTech 2004, one of the world's largest exhibition of household appliances so far, opened Wednesday in Cologne, with the largest corps of exhibitors from China.

Altogether 1,300 companies from 53 countries and regions present their products in the Cologne Exhibition Centre, covering a total floor space of 90,000 square metres. — MNA/Xinhua

Zambia eyes top tourist destination in southern Africa

LUSAKA, 27 Feb— Zambia is aiming at becoming one of the top tourist destinations in the southern Africa region, Minister of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources Patrick Kalifungwa said here Wednesday.

"The government's vision includes turning Zambia into a top tourist destination of choice in the region by improving infrastructure such as road networks, airports, communication, water and sewage treatment and to promote local and foreign investment in the sector," Kalifungwa said at the launching of the investment promotion drive for Kafue National Park, ranked among the world's five biggest national parks.

He said the government has identified tourism as the number two priority sector in the national economy after agriculture.

Zambia has one of the best conditions for tourism development in Africa, including

rich and well-preserved flora and fauna resources, a peaceful and hospitable people, mild climate and stable politics. Its 19 national parks comprising 8 per cent of the total land territory represent one of the largest concentration of wild animals and birds in Africa and the most diverse scenic beauty.

To promote local and foreign investment in tourism, Kalifungwa said his government will provide incentives such as zero rating value-added tax, constitutional protection against nationalization of investment, easy access to land, abolition of exchange controls and liberalized air policies that promote access into and within Zambia. —MNA/Xinhua



Keith Hanselman, centre, the father of ex-tuplets born at Akron General Medical Centre, touches the hand of one of the babies, on 26 Feb, 2004, in Akron Ohio. Keith's wife, Jennifer Hanselman, 29, gave birth to three boys and three girls Thursday morning. —INTERNET

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



A US military vehicle passes by the flames and smoke of a burning oil pipeline near the Iraqi town of Samarra on Thursday 26 Feb, 2004. Attackers were said to have thrown a homemade bomb into the complex of oil and gas pipes along the road igniting the pipeline. —INTERNET



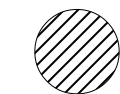
A US helicopter searches the area along the Euphrates River near the Iraqi town of Haditha during a search operation for an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter which crashed into the river on Wednesday 25 Feb, 2004, killing two crew members. —INTERNET



A convoy of US troops cross a Kuwait Army's check point into the military area near Camp Virginia, north of Kuwait City on Thursday 26 Feb, 2004. Under US troops rotation programme. —INTERNET



US soldiers close the highway leading to the city of Fallujah, 50 kms west of Baghdad, following an attack on a sports utility vehicle (SUV) that was riddled with bullets on the western edge of Baghdad recently. —INTERNET



Flames and smoke rise from a burning oil pipeline near the Iraqi town of Samarra, Iraq, on Thursday 26 Feb, 2004. INTERNET



An Iraqi fire fighter extinguishes fire from a car as people gather at site where a bomb went off in front of a restaurant in Baquba, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad. INTERNET



A US soldier walks along a street in Baghdad, Iraq on 26 Feb. 2004.—INTERNET

Jordan issues new passports

AMMAN, 27 Feb—The Jordanian Civil Registration and Passports Department (CRPD) began to issue new black-covered passports to nationals, local *Jordan Times* said Thursday. "The new passports are electronically imprinted to prevent tampering and forgery and comply with international standards," Awni Yervas, department director of the CRPD, was quoted by the paper as saying.

He said 500,000 copies of the new passports had been printed, adding that Jordan chose black as covers of the new kind of passports because the colour is one of the kingdom's flag colours. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Kerry steps up criticism of Bush after winning three more states

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb—US Democratic presidential front-runner John Kerry criticized President George W Bush on Wednesday over gay marriage and other issues after easily winning contests in three states.

The Massachusetts senator accused Bush of seeking to divide Americans by backing a constitutional amendment which would ban same-sex marriage, saying the President was using the issue to distract attention from "real issues" such as jobs and education.

"I think he's a President in trouble and he's just looking for a political change of subject," Kerry told "Good Morn-

ing America" on ABC.

Kerry swept to victory in Tuesday's contests in Hawaii, Utah and Idaho, winning 18 states in the first 20 contests. Since only 61 delegates to Democratic nominating convention were at stake in the three states, Kerry and his last major rival Senator John Edwards of North Carolina skipped campaigning there.

Both senators focused on

the Super Tuesday showdown on March 2 when 10 states including California, New York and Ohio hold primaries. More than half of the 2,162 delegates needed to win the nomination are at stake. Kerry campaigned in Cleveland, Ohio, Wednesday, focusing on trade agreements and job losses. Edwards was travelling to California to begin a three-day swing there. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Syria not to play any role against Iraq

DAMASCUS, 27 Feb—Syria will not play any role against the Iraqi people, Syria's official news agency SANA reported Wednesday, quoting a senior official.

Mahmoud al-Abrash, Speaker of People's Assembly of Syria, said in a Press conference that Syria has "fraternal, historical and strong" relations with Iraq, stressing that Syria cannot do anything that harm the Iraqi people.

He made this statement when answering a question on the latest American statement which accused Syria of standing against the interests of the Iraqi people.

On Monday, US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warned Iran and Syria

about militants crossing their borders into Iraq during his visit to Iraq.

The speaker reiterated Syria's firm stance over the necessity of establishing just and comprehensive peace in the region based on the international legitimate resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

Syria will not part from the Arab consensus concerning the Iraqi and all other Arab issues, Al-Abrash said.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

France says US ban on meat products unjustified

PARIS, 27 Feb—French Farm Minister Herve Gaymard said on Wednesday the US move to bar France from selling some meat products there was unjustified and he was working on having the ban lifted as soon as possible.

"Food safety standards in Europe, and in France, are the highest and most trustworthy in the world. I am looking to resolve this situation as soon as possible," he told reporters.

"There is no problem with our food standards".

Gaymard said that statistically there were more deaths in the United States due to

food safety problems than in Europe.

The US Department of Agriculture said on Tuesday it would suspend all imports of French beef, pork and poultry due to health concerns at the 11 French plants that were licensed to export meat to the United States.

The US move came only hours after the European

Commission decided to slap a one-month ban on imports of chicks and eggs from the United States after the discovery of bird flu in Texas.

Gaymard said he did not believe there was any connection between the US ban on French meat products and the EU ban on US poultry. — *MNA/Reuters*

Jordan signs free-trade-area accord with Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt

AMMAN, 27 Feb—Amman on Wednesday announced that Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt signed in Morocco's capital of Rabat an agreement for setting up a free trade area among the countries, the official *Petra* news agency reported.

The accord is expected to raise the competitive capabilities of the four countries and allow their commodities to reach the European markets, the report said.

The idea of the sub-regional free trade zone, which is aimed at promoting joint Arab economic action, was initially proposed by the countries in May 2001, when the 13th Arab summit was held in Amman. The European Commission (EC) has been one of the main political supporters of the proposal and supported it with millions of US dollars.

"The agreement will create an integrated market of more than 100 million people in the four countries, thus providing new attractive opportunities for European investors in the region," a statement issued by the EC said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Singapore, UAE sign Open Skies Agreement

SINGAPORE, 27 Feb—Singapore and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed the Open Skies Agreement (OSA) here on Thursday.

Under the agreement, airlines of the two countries will be permitted to fly on any route they choose between Singapore and any point in the UAE, via and beyond to any third country without restrictions in traffic rights, said Singapore's Ministry of Transport (MOT) on Thursday. In addition, airlines of both countries can use each others' airports to third countries, it said.

Minister of Transport of

Singapore Yeo Cheow Tong said at the signing ceremony that the signing of the OSA demonstrated the "two countries' common commitment to pursue a more liberal and open skies in the global aviation arena". "The Singapore-UAE OSA will send a strong signal of the support of our two governments towards the goal of a liberalized global aviation landscape," said Yeo. — *MNA/Xinhua*

EU to impose sanctions on US on Monday

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb—European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said on Thursday the EU would slap a 5-per-cent duty on more than 4 billion US dollars' worth of US exports beginning on Monday because of Congress' failure to repeal tax breaks declared illegal by the World Trade Organization.

"The picture is now quite clear. Countermeasures will go into effect by next Monday," Lamy told the European American Business Council after meeting with the chairman of the US House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee.

The retaliation, the first imposed by the EU on the United States, will hit a wide array of agricultural and manufactured goods ranging from buckwheat to nuclear reactor parts. Lamy said the sanctions would remain in effect until the US Congress passes legislation to repeal

the tax breaks.

House Democratic leaders seized on the looming retaliation as an example of failed Bush Administration trade policies, which they said have contributed to 2.9 million manufacturing job losses since January 2001.

— *MNA/Reuters*

France receives 2 million less foreign tourists in 2003

PARIS, 27 Feb—Seventy-five million foreign tourists visited France in 2003, two million or 2.6 per cent less than in 2002, the French Government announced Wednesday.

Foreign tourists stayed shorter and spent less in France. Their nights in France were 3.6 per cent less than in 2002 and total spending stood at 32.34 billion euros, 5.4 per cent less than in 2002, said the government in its annual report on tourism.

The report noted that tourist destination countries across the world registered an average 1 per cent cut in number of foreign tourists last year compared to 2002 because of the Iraq war, the SARS impact and the gloomy global economy.

In France, the fall in foreign tourists number is mainly explained by the reluctance of non-European tourists who avoided European destinations since the euro appreciated rapidly against the dollar. Natural disasters also explained the declining number of foreign tourists to France.

The report predicted that the gloomy situation will pursue in 2004. — *MNA/Reuters*



India's bio-technology industry, can become a hub for outsourced research and development work to US and European firms.—INTERNET

Only in the interest of the nation

Chit Naing (Psychology)

Dear Nephew,

Recently, I went on short journeys, one-night-stay or two-night-stay visits, to rural areas in various parts of the country. I visited many villages including the villages in Kyaukphyu, Yanbye, Taungup and Thandwe townships in Rakhine State, those in the environs of Monywa and Yinnabin in Sagaing Division, the rural areas lying near Bago and Thanatpin in Bago Division and the Kyeenisu and Hsudwinpyit villages in Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Division.

I went to the villages to study them and to organize the rural people at the Sarsodaw Day commemorative literary talks to increase their reading power and hours. My journeys to the rural areas included flights, and car rides and boat travels. But even if I can visit over 100 villages in a year, it will take over 650 years for me to visit all the over 65,000 villages in the entire Myanmar. So, it will be enough to enhance the knowledge of village people only if youths holding the same vision as mine and books, dailies and radio and TV programmes reach the rural areas.

Over 50 years ago, Nandawshe Saya Tin composed songs featuring the developments of the villages to revitalize the nationalist fervour of the rural people. In the environs of Yinnabin on the other bank of Monywa on Chindwin River, I have witnessed large stretches of fields thriving with various species of crops making the dry Anya look lush and green even in the late cold season. It was the result of 99 artesian wells that were supplying water to crops fields.

We need to launch the rural development project on an extensive scale if we actually want to develop the whole nation. There are over 65,000 villages in the nation, while the number of townships is just around 350. The ratio is 180 villages for every township. Thus, we will be dutiful only if we can develop all the 180 villages in every township. But it is only a general idea. Because some townships have only round about 70 villages, while others include from 300 to 400 villages.

Likewise, the population of some towns exceed 50,000, but some have only about 10,000. Some big villages house up to over 15,000 people, while hamlets have 150 or so villagers. Some of the large villages are big enough to call a town.

For example Kyonmange, Shwelaung and Okkan are no smaller than a town.

Above all, Aungban in Kalaw Township in southern Shan State is larger, busier and more populous than Kalaw itself. Some villages rival some towns in population, business and progress.

The nation has achieved success to a certain degree in developing the rural areas. But we still need much energy to further develop them. Infrastructures are needed to develop the following sectors — the road transport sector; the potable water supply and irrigation sector; the education sector, the health sector; the production and economic sectors; and the industrial and technical sector.

The village heads and township level officials will have to make collective efforts to look into the requirements of the five sectors and to fulfill them. The destructive elements who do not wish to see Myanmar enjoying

progress are shouting that the people are being forced to work and their labour is being exploited by using the authoritative power. I would like to ask them. "What will they do for those who died on the road while travelling from village to town for emergency treatment due to poor transport?" Some village boys and girls had to go to school by boat. "Are they going to help those children when their boat capsizes due to bad weather?"

In reality, the parents are building and upgrading the roads on which their children will travel. There is no forced labour in Myanmar. All are taking part in the infrastructure development task energetically and actively of their own volition.

Making disturbances to hamper progress is easy. But there is not a single country in this world that achieves progress without hard work. In every nation, all the people have to strive in harmony in their respective sectors for development of their country. The people can enjoy the fruits of progress only after five or more years after launching the national development drive.

People need knowledge, in order that they may not be deceived by outside instigation. They should have the ability to view the situation from the correct point of view. Knowledge can be found in books. The longer hours one reads, the better knowledge he will gain. Books are man's true companion.

A man's actions, behaviour and living style will improve if he gains more knowledge. Every farmer knows how to harrow the land. But he must also know the greater advantage of using machines in his farm work. Machines increase production and reduce costs.

Thus, goods can be produced at lower expenses, and can be sold at reasonable prices, giving a competitive edge for the nation's goods in the global export market.

The products of Myanmar will not be competitive in the world market if they are manufactured with human labour alone. Even if the quality is high, we cannot lower the production cost. So the price will not become cheaper.

True, we are an agro-based nation. But mechanization and industrialization are required in every sector. In the future, the rural people will have basic knowledge about the various kinds of machines.

So, they should have knowledge. And if they have wider knowledge, it will not be difficult for them to skillfully use the machines. They will need only one or two days to learn the method of driving the machines.

Over 70 per cent of the nation's population still live in the rural areas. Roughly, we can say that round about 45 million are rural dwellers.

National development and modernization will be impossible without the improvement of their social standard. The area of the rural area is wide, and the rural population is large. We should pay attention to the development of the social standard of the rural people. We will have to organize them to learn literature and read more books. Only then, will our harmonious drive to develop the rural areas achieve success.

From Uncle, with love

(Translation: TMT)
Myanna Alin, 25-2-2004

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 မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လခါ ဒုတိယဝတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးဝတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ ဖြစ်သည်။
၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလအတွက် (၂၉-၂-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့၊
၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လအတွက် (၁၄-၃-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့၊
(၂၈-၃-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့

Stake driven for rebuilding of Prayer Hall at Shwephonepint Pagoda

YANGON, 27 Feb— The ceremony to drive stake for rebuilding of Phayagyi Koehsu Prayer Hall as the third renovation task of Shwephonepint Pagoda was held at the pagoda in Pazundaung Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Leading Committee for All-Round Renovation of the pagoda Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and members, officials, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara Teingyar U Than Hla, members of the pagoda board of trustees, Myanmar handicraft technicians and officials of Ayeya Min Thein (Mandalay) Construction Co Ltd.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein donated lights, water and incense, sticks to the pagoda.

At the auspicious time, the deputy minister drove the stake. Then, the deputy minister and officials sprinkled scented water on it.

At the prayer hall, Ayeya Min Thein (Mandalay) Construction Co Ltd offered 'soon' to Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of the pagoda. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein drives the stake at the auspicious time on Friday at Shwephonepint Pagoda. — MNA

POEM:

Come, see for yourself

* Can't take hearsay seriously
As a sure thing you can't really say
Only when you yourself see for sure
Can you say it's true.

* Our race Myanmar
Worthy of attachment
Our abode Myanmar
Isn't it pleasant?
With "byaw drum" calling to sermon
With conception
It can be true
To perceive and assess
Come, see for yourself.

Po Wa (Trs)

Myanmar's trade deficit...

(from page 16)

and IMF to develop trade and economy. As the nation is a member of the regional organizations such as ASEAN, BIMST-EC, GMS and ECS, efforts should be made to realize the contracts in accord with the agreed notes. Some countries are reducing trade tariffs on Myanmar goods. Hence, arrangements should be made for the private sector to benefit from their exports.

The ministry will have to

join hands with the entrepreneurs to develop trade on the correct trend. The Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the ministry will have to play a leading role and give guidelines to find markets for new export items, strengthen markets for existing export items, get the deserving prices for exports, receive information, balance the ratio of exports and imports, control the quality of export goods, transport goods within the scheduled

period and conduct remittances.

The ministry will have to strive for further strengthening of the national economy, while exchanging and sharing the knowledge and experiences at the meeting.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone reported to the meeting on the targeted gross domestic product of the ministry, the aims of the trade sector, the GDP, the trade volume, trade deficit and surplus, exports and imports, sector-wise accomplishments, export of rice

and rice-based products, the number of registered exporters and importers and trade agencies, border trade tax, and trade fairs.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and enterprises, advisers, officials, the president and members of UMFCCL and guests.—MNA

Cash donated to Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation

YANGON, 27 Feb.—Hailing the meeting of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and delegates of State and Division Organizations for Women's Affairs to be held in March 2004, wellwishers donated cash and kind to MWAFF at International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this afternoon.

Present were President of the federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, General Secretary Prof Daw Khin Aye Win, CEC members and wellwishers.

First, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe spoke words of thanks for donations.

Next, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Vice-Presidents Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win accepted Hyundai Starex Ambulance (9 Seater) 2000 model for the federation donated by SOS Daehan Motors Co Ltd of the Republic of Korea; K 3 million by U Thein Win-Daw Ni of Shwe Thanwin Co; K 2.5 million by Managing Director U Wai Yan Aung of Inlay Shoes Manufacturing Co Ltd; K 1.5 million by U Ko Ko Htoo-Daw Sanda Aung



Inlay Shoes Manufacturing Co Ltd Managing Director U Wai Yan Aung presents K 2.5 million to Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.—MNA

of Myanmar Industrial Part Co Ltd; K 1,003,500 by All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation Chairman U Zaw Zaw Naing and party; K 1 million each by Dr Aung Kyaw Win-Dr Thet Thet Naing of Shwenandaw Jewellery Shop; U Tin Hla-Daw Aye Aye Kyi; Daw Khin Nwe Yi of Shwe Pazun Family; and U Chaung-Daw Shwe Sin of Gold Uni Jewellery Co Ltd; K 500,000 each by U Aung Thein (Nibban TV Antenna)-Daw Myint Myint Win; Dr Win Sithu-Dr Su Hla Han; U Hla

Htay-Daw Tin Nwe Oo (Hmancho Traditional Medical Centre); U Mya Han-Daw Khin Sabai Kyi (Fortune International Co Ltd); and Sayagyi U Hla Myint (Kaythiphan Traditional Medical Centre); K 300,000 by U Tun Myint-Daw Aye Aye Nyunt; and KN U Tin Win-Daw San Win; K 200,000 by the Information Working Group; U Kyaw Aung-Daw Yin Hwam (Benhur Co Ltd); U Ohn Hsaing-Daw Myint Myint Sein (New Golden Gate Co Ltd); U Thein Han-

Daw Thi Thi (Myanmar Pipe & Accessories Co Ltd); and U Than Naing-Daw Kyi Kyi Swe of Thamada Robe House; K 100,000 each by U Myo Aung-Daw Khin Yi Mon (Sun Myanmar International Impex Co Ltd); U Min Thein Htut-Daw Mya Thung Wai of PM Co; and U Khin Maung Tun of Htet Lin Traditional Medical Centre.

Then, certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers. Today's donations were K 16,403,500. MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets China Metallurgical Construction Group Corporation President Mr Ma Yanli. (News on page 1)—MNA

Drugs possessors sentenced

YANGON, 27 Feb.—Members of Myaungmya Police Station of Myaungmya District, acting on information, searched the house of Zaw Moe (a) Zaw Moe Win of 12th Street, Ward 5, Myaungmya, on 17 March 2003 and seized WY brand 260 stimulant tablets.

Myaungmya Police Station filed Zaw Moe (a) Zaw Moe Win, son of U Hla Aye, under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 24 October 2003, Myaungmya District Court sentenced him separately to serve 5 years' imprisonment under Section 15 and 16 years' under Sec-

tion 19 (A). Similarly, a combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit, Bago Anti-Drug Squad and Phyu Police Station, acting on a tip-off, searched the house of Bran Magyan of Bote Ward, Kanyutkwin, on 3 October 2003 and seized 0.1387 kilo of marijuana.

Bran Magyan, son of U Mu Thila, was filed by Phyu Police Station under Section 15/19(A)/23 under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 2 January 2004, Toungoo District Court sentenced him to 5 years' imprisonment under Section 15 and life sentence under Sections 19 (A)/23.—MNA

Heroin, arms and ammunition seized in Muse

YANGON, 27 Feb.—A combined team comprising

members of local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force and Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, on 15 February intercepted a Mark II saloon with number plates 2 Kha/9287 near Nandaw Bus Terminal on Pyidaungsu Highway in Muse, Shan State (North) and opened fire at the vehicle as the driver tried to flee.

The authorities arrested Haw Kwe Chan, son of U Rauk Si, of Yan Kya Kyaing Village, Kutkai Township and Ngao Al, son of U Moe Wint Chin, of Panpheik Village, Kutkai Township together with 74 blocks of heroin weighing 25.9 kilos, three assorted arms, six assorted magazines, 125 rounds of ammunition and two hand grenades. The driver managed to escape, fleeing to Jiekong region, the People's Republic of China.

Action is being taken against the two according to law.

MNA



Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe speaking at the ceremony to donate cash and kind to MWAFF.—MNA

MWAFF explains its functions in Pyay

YANGON, 27 Feb.—The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation held the ceremony to explain functions of the federation to members of Bago Division (West) Organization for Women's Affairs in Pyay on 25 February afternoon.

Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win gave a

speech, saying that concerted efforts are to be made to gain success in implementing the lofty aims of the federation.

Joint-General Secretary Daw Khin Htar May, Working Group leaders Daw Kyi Kyi Mya and Rector Dr Daw May Win Aung Khin explained their respective sectors. Next, Patron of the Bago

Division (West) Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Naing Naing Maw and wellwishers presented cash to Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win.

Later, the Vice-President gave a concluding remarks and cordially conversed with those present.

MNA

Israeli tourism entrepreneurs arrive

YANGON, 27 Feb.—Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and arrangements of the Asian Trails Tours Ltd, 56 tourism entrepreneurs from Israel arrived here by air yesterday.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of Myanmar

Hotels and Tourism Services and the Asian Trails Tour Ltd and members of the cultural troupe.

During the stay in Myanmar, they will make tours of Yangon, Heho, Pintaya, Inlay, Bagan and Popa and will leave here on 4 March.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets new Military Attaché Sr Col Le Van Thanh of Vietnam at Zeyathiri Beikman. (News on page 1)—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Military Attaché Sr Col Le Van Vy of Vietnam who had completed his tour of duty. (News on page 1)—MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than...

(from page 16)

reported on progress of works. Then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected upgrading tasks and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at the construction site of Pathein-Dhaka-Thongwa section, District Senior Engineer U Myint Thein reported on tasks being carried out. The 12 feet wide road section is being extended into the 24 feet wide one. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Koehsu Village in Pathein Township where they met with local farmers and inspected thriving model summer paddy plan-

tations. Officials reported on cultivation of summer paddy in 2003-2004 and future tasks. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on cultivation matters. In 2003-2004, a total of 46,613 acres of land has been so far put under summer paddy against the target of 61,152 acres in Pathein Township.

On 27 February, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe and officials, went to the construction site of Pathein Bridge across Ngawun River. At the briefing hall, officials reported on construction of the approach bridges (Mayanchaung) and (Kanni), the main bridge and approach roads. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than

gave instructions on timely completion of construction tasks meeting the set standard and worksite safety.

Pathein Bridge crossing Ngawun River is located on Pathein-Shwemyintin-Wayachaung Road to link Mayanchaung Village on the eastern bank of Ngawun River and Kanni Village on the west bank. On completion, the bridge can contribute to not only better transport and regional development of Ngaputaw and Thabaung townships including Ngwe Hsaung and Chaungtha beaches which are on west bank of Ngawun River but also smooth transportation of fisheries, agricultural produce and commodities from that region to Yangon and other regions.—MNA

Ministry of Commerce holds coordination meeting

YANGON, 27 Feb—The Ministry of Commerce held the second and third four-monthly coordination meeting for 2003 at the meeting hall of the ministry this morning.

Present were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Director-General U Nyunt Aye of Directorate of Trade, Director-General U Nay Win of Border Trade Department, Managing Director U Min Hla Aung of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading and officials.

Officials reported on accomplishment of their tasks. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun gave a supplementary report.

Before concluding the meeting, the minister gave a speech. —MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects upgrading of Pathein-Monywa Road.—MNA

Women's football tournament held

YANGON, 27 Feb—Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy inter-district women's football tournament for 2004 was opened at the sports ground of Myanmar Railways in Insein Township, Yangon North District at 3.30 pm today, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Patron of Yangon Division Organization for Women Affairs Daw Khin Thet Htay. First, Maj-Gen Myint Swe made a speech. Next, athletes took a sports oath. In the opener, Yangon South District women's team played against Yangon North District women's team.—MNA

Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport meets

YANGON, 27 Feb—Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held the coordination meeting at the hall of All Bus Lines Control Committee (Yangon Division) in Tamu Township this afternoon, attended by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, military region commanders,

station commanders, divisional authorities, members of the supervisory committee, registrars and officials of universities and colleges, chairmen and officials of bus lines.

The commander gave instructions on tasks of the supervisory committee for passengers who are travelling from Yangon City to various regions of the country by car, by train, by boat and by plane daily and those in Yangon City.

Next, the supervisory committee members, the registrars and chairmen of bus lines reported on supervision for ensuring smooth

and secure transport in Yangon City.

The commander then gave a speech, saying that though accidents of buses could be reduced as a result of supervision of officials at different levels, it can be seen that accidents of private car, taxi and ferry have been occurred because of lack of following traffic rules. Officials are to take deterrent action against those who broke traffic rules. And, officials at different levels should supervise reduction of traffic accidents in Yangon City. Later, the commander attended to their needs. MNA

First day session of Tenth...

(from page 16)

Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara chaired the meeting and Joint-Secretary of the SSMNC Sayadaw of Zawtikayon Pali Takkatho Monastery in Pyay, Bago Division, Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kundalajoti acted as master of ceremonies. The master of ceremonies announced the number of the Sayadaws present and the meeting valid.

Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Sayadaw of Maha Aungmye Bonsan Monastery in Bahan Township, Yangon Division, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Paninda Bhivamsa read the Ovadakatha of Chairman of the SSMNC Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Myingyan Koehsaung Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita.

The minister for Religious Affairs supplicated on religious matters. In his sup-

plication, the deputy minister said that during the time of the State Peace and Development Council, great success has been achieved in the religious sector. For instance, respective religious titles have been conferred on title-recipient Sayadaws well versed in religious affairs who lead a life of virtue and wisdom, magnificent religious buildings have emerged and abbots training schools and hilly region missionary schools have been opened in the entire nation.

In cooperation with Japanese Buddhist Association, Myanmar is taking preparatory measures to host the Fourth World Buddhist Summit in the nation in 2004. In conclusion, the minister said that the Government will continue to join hands with members of the Sangha in carrying out tasks for purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana.

The master of ceremonies presented the brief report on tasks carried out during the third term of the

fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (First Branch).

Next, respective Sayadaws presented Vinicchaya, Sasana and academic matters.

In the afternoon session, Vinicchaya, Sasana and academic matters were discussed. The second day session of the meeting continues tomorrow.

Wellwishers U Kyaing-Daw Khin Kyi Aye and family, U Tin Moe-Daw Aye Shin and family, U Sein Wan-Daw Myintu Tun and family, on 26; and Daw Myint Myint Thein and Daw Khin Win Myint, on 27 February.

MNA



59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

Power drain threatening "opportunity's" lifespan

LOS ANGELES, 27 Feb— Engineers must replace software in the Mars rover *Opportunity* to stop a power-draining malfunction that could cut short the robot geologist's life on the Red Planet, a NASA official said on Wednesday.

A switch that operates an onboard heater has been stuck in the "on" position since shortly after the golf cart-sized rover landed at the Meridiani Planum near Mars' equator on 24 January.

The malfunction has not affected the rover's ability to move or do science experiments but is a constant drain on the vehicle's solar-powered batteries, project manager Richard Cook told reporters on Wednesday.

"The amount of power per day is slowly dropping," Cook said. "(The switch) consumes a sizable amount of energy every day. *Opportunity* is shortening down its day of operations as we move forward."

Cook said engineers planned to upload new software to *Opportunity* in about a

month that will shut off a few minor systems that now stay on during its overnight "sleep" mode.

"We essentially are removing the power source from this... heater. We will turn it off by removing the power source it uses," Cook said. The new system will recapture about two-thirds of the energy now lost to the malfunction, he added.

Opportunity is examining an outcrop of finely layered bedrock that scientists believe holds clues to the planet's composition.

The rover spent its 31st martian day, or sol, ending early Wednesday, charging its batteries and beaming back scientific data about a rock it drilled into one sol earlier to scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. — MNA/Reuters

Canada receives less overseas visitors

OTTAWA, 27 Feb— Canadians made more trips and spent more money out of the country in the third quarter of 2003, but the number of overseas visitors to Canada dropped sharply, Statistics Canada reported Wednesday.

According to the report, overnight travel by Canadian residents to overseas countries hit a new peak between July and September last year, with 1.2 million people taking trips, up 6 per cent from the same period in 2002. Spending on those trips was also up 5 per cent to over two billion Canadian dollars

(about 1.5 billion US dollars).

Statistics Canada attributed the decline in the number of overseas visitors to the fallout of the September 11 attacks in 2001 in the United States and the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Press centre for China's annual NPC, CPPCC sessions begins operation

BEIJING, 27 Feb— The Press centre for the upcoming annual sessions of China's top legislature and a national advisory body began operation Thursday.

Located in the Great Hall Hotel near the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing, the Press centre consists of Press desks for media from the Chinese Mainland, Hong

Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and those outside China.

A spokesman for the Press centre said their staff began to receive journalists and make interview appointments

for them as of Thursday. The services available at the Press centre include documents from the sessions, background materials, session agenda and information enquiry. The Second Session of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC) opens on 5 March and the Second Session of the 10th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) will begin on 3 March.

The NPC is the top legislative body in China, while the CPPCC is a broad-based national advisory organization consisting of experts and citizens from all walks of life. The CPPCC plays a supervisory role and accepts suggestions and criticisms which relate to major state affairs and policies and other important issues. — MNA/Xinhua



World number one and Dubai Duty Free Women's open defending Champion Justine Henin-Hardenne return the ball to USA Meghann Shaughnessy during their semifinal of Dubai Duty Free Women's open at Dubai Tennis Stadium on 27 February, 2004. — REUTERS

Trade representative says US cannot close door to China goods

NEW YORK, 27 Feb— US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick took aim on Wednesday at growing protectionist sentiment against China, while insisting Beijing live up to the commitments it has made to open its markets.

"Just (when) the Chinese are learning the win-win nature of trade, Americans should not forget how the idea works," the chief architect of the Bush Administration's trade policy said in a speech to the Asia Society. "There is much at stake for both countries, and the world, in how China and the United States exercise power and responsibility."

With the US presidential election looming, President George W Bush has been on the defensive because of the loss of some 2.6 million manufacturing jobs since he took office.

White House economic advisor Gregory Mankiw recently gave Democrats new ammunition to attack the Administration's trade policies when he said the movement of some jobs overseas was probably good for the US economy in the long run.

The manufacturing sector's struggle to climb out a prolonged slump has focused congressional attention on China, which ran a record 125 billion US dollars trade surplus with the United States in 2003.

Leading Democratic presidential candidate Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts has faulted the Bush Administration for not being more aggressive in dealing with China.

Zoellick painted a different picture of the trade relations with what the World Bank has said is now the world's second largest economy in terms of purchasing power.

He criticized Beijing for not honoring all the commitments it made when it joined the World Trade Organization in December 2001. But he also said Americans have benefited from being able to

sell more products to the China, as well as from being able to buy low-priced Chinese goods.

"China is not another 'Japan Inc.' — an export-driven machine that shunned imports and the participation of foreign business. China sells, but it also buys," Zoellick said.

However, he warned Beijing's failure to enforce copyright and patent protections on goods ranging from music CDs to manufacturing equipment threatens to subvert knowledge industries and innovation around the world.

Zoellick, who visited Beijing on a recent nine-country trip to boost troubled world trade talks, said China had a special responsibility to help revive and conclude those negotiations because of growing importance in the world economy.

MNA/Reuters



Ireland's Padraig Harrington tees off the 10th hole during second round match against Bob Estes, of the US, at the Accenture World Golf Championship in Carlsbad, California, on 27 February, 2004. Both the second and third rounds of the tournament are being played today due to a rain-out Thursday. — REUTERS

China, Philippines sign loan agreement on railway project

MANILA, 27 Feb— The Chinese and Philippine governments Thursday signed here a 400-million-US-dollar loan agreement on a railway project to promote economic development north of Metro Manila.

"The project aims to provide an effective transport system in central and northern Luzon (in the northern Philippines), including a modern computer railway system, and promote the economic development in the region," Philippine Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said at the signing ceremony in the Philippine Presidential Palace.

Amatong, who signed the loan agreement with Yang Zilin, chairman and president of the Export-Import Bank of China, expressed the gratitude to the Chinese Government for its efforts in making the project possible and help-

ing improve the living standard of the Filipinos in the area. Wang Chungui, Chinese Ambassador to Manila, congratulated on the successful signing of the loan agreement, and assured the Philippine people that the project contractor Chinese Machinery and Equipment Group Corp. "has the capability to fulfill the task with high efficiency and high quality".

The railway project, which, with a length of about 32 kilometres, will stretch from Caloocan, Metro Manila to Malolos, the capital of the northern Philippine province of Bulacan, is the biggest Chinese loan project in

the Philippines up till now. The Caloocan-Malolos segment is Phase I, Section I of the Northrail Project, which was approved by the Philippine Investment Coordination Committee-Cabinet Committee with the total project of 503 million US dollars in December 2003.

Also present at the signing ceremony were Philippine Secretary of Executive Alberto Romulo, Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Delia Albert and Chinese Embassy Economic and Commerce Counsellor Yu Shizhong and other Chinese and Philippine officials.

MNA/Xinhua



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung delivers an opening address of the cultural paper-reading session at National Theatre on Friday. — MNA

Cultural paper-reading session commences

YANGON, 27 Feb — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung formally opened the cultural paper-reading session at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this morning.

Present were Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, directors-general of departments under the ministry and faculty members of Yangon and Mandalay Universities of Culture and guests.

The minister gave a speech.

At the paper-reading session, resource persons U Hla Kyaing (Paragu), Adviser U Arnt Maung (Maung Arnt) (MA-Bombay), U Kyaw Swa (Chit Oo Nyo) and Philosophy Department of Yangon University Professor U Thein Zan (Nanda Thein Zan) read out their papers and answered the queries raised by those present.

The paper-reading session will continue tomorrow.

MNA

Russian cafe blast death toll rises to 17

Moscow, 27 Feb — The death toll from Thursday's cafe blast in Russia's Eastern Siberia has so far reached 17, an official of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said.

The blast took place at 10:50 am. Moscow Time (0750 GMT) in the city of Chita, killing 17 and injuring 19, said ministry official Irina Anriavova.

"Among the injured, 15 have been hospitalized," she said, adding that seven of those hospitalized are in grave condition.

Rescuers had found four exploded gas tanks. "The most probable cause is the gas explosion," she said.

Prosecutors are investigating allegations of violation of fire safety rules.

The cafe was an annex to a five-storey brick house. The explosion completely destroyed the cafe, but did not damage the house. — MNA/Xinhua

Macedonian PM appeals for national unity

TIRANA, 27 Feb — Macedonian Premier Branko Crvenkovski said on Thursday that the Republic of Macedonia had suffered a huge loss, whereas these were moments when the nation's unity was more necessary, the MIA news agency reported.

Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski and eight other staff members were killed Thursday morning when their plane crashed in the mountainous terrain near Mostar in the south of Bosnia and Herzegovina on their way to a international economic conference scheduled in Mostar.

"The eyes of the entire world are set on us. I am convinced that even in these tragic circumstances, we will confirm our statehood capacity, democratic maturity and high social consciousness. The state institutions will continue to function in a normal and responsible manner, according to the Constitution and the laws," said Crvenkovski when he intermitted his visit in Dublin and returned immediately to Macedonia after the tragic air crash.

"The loss is huge, we need to mourn, but not fear. Macedonia is firm and stable state and will continue on its path," Crvenkovski said.

Crvenkovski convened an extraordinary session on Thursday evening to make decisions about necessary measures in such circumstances. The session of the Security Council was held afterwards. — MNA/Xinhua

ပျားရည်နှင့် အစွမ်းသတ္တိ

- * ပျားရည်သည် အင်အားဖြည့်တင်းပေးရာတွင် အသုံးစင်ဆုံး အာဟာရဓာတ်မျိုး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် သတ္တိဓာတ်၊ အင်ဇိုင်းနှင့် အာဟာရဓာတ် အများအပြားပါဝင်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်သည် သစ်သီး၊ သကြားဓာတ် အဓိကပါဝင်သော သကြားဓာတ်ပေါင်း တစ်မျိုးဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် ဘက်တီးရီးယားပိုးများ သန့်စင်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် ပဋိဇီဝ ဓာတ်များပါရှိသဖြင့် အနာဒဏ်ရာများ အနာကျက်မြန်စေပြီး လျင်မြန်စွာ ပျောက်ကင်းစေပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်စားသုံးပြီး မိနစ်ပိုင်းအတွင်း စွမ်းအားတိုးတက်လာစေနိုင်ပါသည်။

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

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့် ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကဲစွာသုံးစွဲလျက်ရှိသောကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများမှာ အသည်းရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည်းခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအန်ခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြော ထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါများဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ —

၁။ ကယောင်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremers)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်၊ နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်းနိုင်စွမ်း မရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများမြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံလေးများ ကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုးများ၊ နွားကိုယ်ပေါ် ရွှံ့စိုက်သွားသလို ခံစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန့်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သည့်အခါတွင် လူမရှိပဲ နားထဲတွင် ခေါ်သံများ၊ မြီးခြောက်သံများ၊ စော်ကားမော်ကားသံများ ကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinoses)။

၃။ အတက်ကြီးရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits) (ဝက်ရုပြန် ရောဂါ ကဲ့သို့တတ်ခြင်း)။

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Depressive Illness)။

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)။

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချို့ယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ်သောက်ရုံဖြင့် ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)။

၈။ မိမိ၏ဇနီးကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲမှားခြင်းများဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Morbid Jealousy)။

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှု ကျူးလွန်သည့်အထိဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။

အထက်ပါဆိုကျိုးများကို မခံစားရစေရန် အရက်သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အထူးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကို စွဲလန့်စွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန်တိုက်တွန်း အပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေး ဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေးဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျ ကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

French wine producers battle sales slump

PARIS, 27 Feb — French wine producers, faced with competition from new world producers and a health-conscious nation that is drinking less, launched a battle to halt a slump in sales on Wednesday after a less than vintage year.

Wine producers demanded looser alcohol advertising laws before a meeting with Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, who wants to head off protests threatened by wine growers before regional elections next month.

A 3.4-per-cent fall in wine exports last year has left a bitter taste and government campaigns against drunk driving have contributed to a drop in consumption — which producers put at 58 litres per head in 2002 after 100 litres in the early 1960s.

"It's disguised prohibition because any product not able to advertise is dead," said Roland Ferejd of the CIVB interprofessional Council for Bordeaux wines, putting the case for a change in the advertising law.

The wine producers say the government has tightened the interpretation of a law which forbids wine advertising on television and the sponsoring of sports events. "We want rules that are able to distinguish," said Jerome Agostini, director of the CNTV wine association.

"It is absurd to have alcohol ads at sports events, telling young people to drink more. But I don't see any health concerns in a campaign on a cable TV channel mostly watched by adults."

Wine producers cite many factors behind the drop in sales and exports. They say the fall in consumption could partly be due to health concerns and the fact many French today opt for takeaway lunches rather than sit-down meals with wine. They also refer to a heatwave last summer which cut production, the strength of the euro which dented exports, and competition from new, cheaper wine producers from other parts of the world such as South America, Australia and South Africa. They will not have it their own way as they take on the advertising law. Some French doctors want stricter rules limiting the promotion of wine, such as the introduction of health warnings on wine bottles similar to cigarette packs. They say opinion polls suggest a majority of respondents support this. The CNGOF association of gynecologists and obstetricians wants a label telling pregnant women not to drink alcohol because they risk neurological defects and other health risks. — MNA/Reuters

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းစွာ သာမက ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခ ဖြည့်ဝခြင်းတို့ကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရဖြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များကို စားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုစွမ်းအားရရှိရန် သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာ ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင့်တင့်မျှတသော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့ရုပ်သိမ်းကွယ်ရန် ခြင်္သေ့ရုပ်သိမ်းခြင်းပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်ကျေးမှုဘဝကိုသုံးစွဲပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက်မွေးမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

“သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား မြို့တွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတိမှတ်ခေါ်တရားနှင့်အညီ စက်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ပေးထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတိမှတ်နှုန်းထားများအတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်စီးခနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက်တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင်ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနည်းတို့ကို တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

- (၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉)
 - (၂) ကြိုမဲကြေးနန်းနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့မှ (ဖုန်း ၂၉၁၂၅၇/၂၉၁၂၅၈)
 - (၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ (ဖုန်း ၅၄၁၉၀၅/၅၄၁၉၀၄)
- ယာဉ်စီးခထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြိုကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့
ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၁၀/၂၀၀၄
(၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ၊ ၁၈ ရက်)
လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ပို့ဆောင်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရေကြောင်းပညာတက္ကသိုလ်တွင် လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရာထူးများအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများအလို့ရှိပါသည်-

စဉ်	ရာထူး	ပညာအရည်အချင်း	လစ်လပ်
(က)	နည်းပြအရာရှိ (ရေယာဉ်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပညာဌာန)	အနိမ့်ဆုံးစက်မှု/မြို့ပြ/သတ္တုဓာတ် အင်ဂျင်နီယာဘွဲ့ရရှိပြီး မဟာအင်ဂျင်နီယာ သင်တန်းတက်ရောက်ရန်အဆင်မီသူ	၃ နေရာ
(ခ)	နည်းပြအရာရှိ (ရေကြောင်းအင်ဂျင်နီယာ ပညာဌာန)	M.Sc (MET) Marine Engineering	၃ နေရာ
(ဂ)	နည်းပြအရာရှိ (ဆိပ်ကမ်းအင်ဂျင်နီယာ ပညာဌာန)	အနိမ့်ဆုံးမြို့ပြအင်ဂျင်နီယာဘွဲ့ ရရှိပြီး မဟာအင်ဂျင်နီယာတန်း တက်ရောက်ရန်အဆင်မီသူ	၄ နေရာ
(ဃ)	နည်းပြအရာရှိ (မြစ်ချောင်းနှင့် အတ္ထဝါ အင်ဂျင်နီယာပညာဌာန)	အနိမ့်ဆုံးမြို့ပြအင်ဂျင်နီယာဘွဲ့ ရရှိပြီး မဟာအင်ဂျင်နီယာတန်း တက်ရောက်ရန်အဆင်မီသူ	၃ နေရာ
(င)	နည်းပြအရာရှိ (ရေကြောင်းလျှပ်စစ်နှင့် အီလက်ထရွန်းနစ်အင်ဂျင် နီယာပညာဌာန)	အနိမ့်ဆုံးလျှပ်စစ်ဓာတ်အား/အီလက်ထရွန်းနစ်အင်ဂျင်နီယာဘွဲ့ ရရှိပြီး မဟာအင်ဂျင်နီယာတန်း တက်ရောက်ရန်အဆင်မီသူ	၄ နေရာ
(စ)	နည်းပြအရာရှိ (ရေကြောင်းသိပ္ပံပညာဌာန)	M.Sc (MET) Nautical Science	၅ နေရာ
(ဆ)	နည်းပြအရာရှိ (အလုပ်ရုံနည်းပညာဌာန)	အနိမ့်ဆုံးစက်မှု/လျှပ်စစ်ဓာတ်အား အင်ဂျင်နီယာဘွဲ့ ရရှိပြီး မဟာအင်ဂျင်နီယာတန်း တက်ရောက်ရန်အဆင်မီသူ	၄ နေရာ
(ဇ)	လက်ထောက်အင်ဂျင်နီယာ (သင်တန်းကူ ပစ္စည်းပြင်ဆင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး ဌာနခွဲ)	စက်မှုအင်ဂျင်နီယာဘွဲ့ (သို့မဟုတ်) လျှပ်စစ်ဓာတ်အား အင်ဂျင်နီယာဘွဲ့ရရှိသူ	၂ နေရာ
၂။	လျှောက်ထားသူသည်-		
(က)	ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။		
(ခ)	၁၈-၃-၂၀၀၄ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၃၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါကအသက် ၄၀ နှစ်) ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။		

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၁၈-၃-၂၀၀၄ နေ့အရောက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။
၄။ ရာထူးတစ်မျိုးထက်ပို၍ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းလိုပါက ရာထူးတစ်မျိုးစီအတွက် ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၅၆/-ကို သီးခြားပေးသွင်းပြီး ရာထူးအလိုက် လျှောက်လွှာသီးခြားတစ်စောင်စီ တင်သွင်းရမည်။
၅။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ၊ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့်စာရွက် စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၅၆/- ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နည်းလမ်း၊ ချေးငွေ၊ နှုတ်ငွေ စစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန် လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့ကကြေညာချက်အမှတ် ၁/၉၁ ဖြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာခေါ်ယူသော ရာထူးများသို့ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများအတွက် လမ်းညွှန်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက် ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၆။ ရန်ကုန်မြို့နှင့် မန္တလေးမြို့များတွင် ရေ၊ ဖြေစာမေးပွဲစာစစ်ဌာနများ ထားရှိမည်။ မိမိဖြေဆိုလိုသောစာစစ်ဌာနကို လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ရှင်းလင်း တိကျစွာ ဖော်ပြရမည်။

၇။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိတာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအမှတ်ဆိုင် ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ နှစ်ပြုချက် ရယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၁၈-၃-၂၀၀၄ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို ဓာတ်ပုံနှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ တိုက်ရိုက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၈။ ၂၄-၄-၂၀၀၄ နေ့နှင့် ၂၅-၄-၂၀၀၄ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ် ရေးဖြေ စာမေးပွဲကျင်းပမည်။ ၂၂-၄-၂၀၀၄ နေ့မှစ၍ မန္တလေးတိုင်း အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနရုံးနှင့် ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးတို့တွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့် ကတ်ပြားများကိုထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၉။ စုံစမ်းစစ်မြန်းလိုပါက ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း၊ ခရိုင်နှင့် မြို့နယ် အေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မရှင်းများ၊ ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း၊ မြို့နယ် အလုပ်သမားညွှန်ကြားရေးဦးစီးဌာနများတွင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်း အမှတ် (၃၇၈၀၆၃)သို့ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

China bans imports of two types of Isuzu automobiles

BEIJING, 27 Feb — China on Wednesday imposed a ban on the imports of two types of Isuzu automobiles from Japan after detecting a flawed design in their steering system that may be a hidden factor for accidents.

According to a circular issued jointly by the Chinese State Administration

of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and State Regulatory Commission of Certification and Accreditation on Wednesday, the border inspection and quarantine bureau of south China's Guangdong Province has found that the steering systems of some of the Isuzu CXH50S and CXH50T au-

tomobiles cannot function smoothly, failing to measure up to the safety requirements.

Check-ups and experts' analysis have confirmed that there are problems in the design of the two types of vehicles, which can be a hidden factor leading to trouble, the circular said.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့
ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၁၁/၂၀၀၄
(၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ ၁၈ ရက်)
လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ တိုင်းရင်းဆေးပညာဦးစီးဌာနအောက်ရှိ တိုင်းရင်းဆေးတက္ကသိုလ်နှင့် တိုင်းရင်းဆေးသိပ္ပံဦးစီးဌာနရုံးများတွင် လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါရာထူးများအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများအလို့ရှိပါသည်-

စဉ်	ရာထူး	ပညာအရည်အချင်း	လစ်လပ်
(က)	ဦးစီးအရာရှိ (ဆေးဝါး)	ဆေးဝါးကျွမ်းကျင်မှုပညာဘွဲ့	၂ နေရာ
(ခ)	ပြတိုက်မှူး	တက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုခုမှ ဘွဲ့ရရှိသူ၊	၂ နေရာ
(ဂ)	စာကြည့်တိုက်မှူး	တက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုခုမှဘွဲ့ရရှိပြီး စာကြည့်တိုက်ဒီပလိုမာရရှိသူ	၂ နေရာ
(ဃ)	ဌာနစုမှူး (ငွေစာရင်း)/ဦးစီးအရာရှိ (ဘဏ္ဍာ)	ဝါထိဇွဲဘွဲ့	၂ နေရာ
(င)	ဌာနစုမှူး (ကွန်ပျူတာ)	ကွန်ပျူတာသိပ္ပံဘွဲ့	၁ နေရာ
(စ)	ဦးစီးအရာရှိ (အင်ဂျင်နီယာဌာနခွဲ)	စက်မှုအင်ဂျင်နီယာဘွဲ့	၁ နေရာ

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည်-
(က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။
(ခ) ၁၈-၃-၂၀၀၄ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၃၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါက အသက် ၄၀ နှစ်)ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၁၈-၃-၂၀၀၄ နေ့အရောက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။
၄။ ရာထူးတစ်မျိုးထက်ပို၍ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းလိုပါက ရာထူးတစ်မျိုးစီအတွက် ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၅၆/-ကို သီးခြားပေးသွင်းပြီး ရာထူးအလိုက် လျှောက်လွှာသီးခြားတစ်စောင်စီ တင်သွင်းရမည်။
၅။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ၊ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့်စာရွက် စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၅၆/- ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နည်းလမ်း၊ ချေးငွေ၊ နှုတ်ငွေ စစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန် လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့ကကြေညာချက်အမှတ် ၁/၉၁ ဖြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာခေါ်ယူသော ရာထူးများသို့ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများအတွက် လမ်းညွှန်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက် ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၆။ ရန်ကုန်မြို့နှင့် မန္တလေးမြို့များတွင် ရေ၊ ဖြေစာမေးပွဲစာစစ်ဌာနများ ထားရှိမည်။ မိမိဖြေဆိုလိုသောစာစစ်ဌာနကို လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ရှင်းလင်း တိကျစွာ ဖော်ပြရမည်။

၇။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိတာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအမှတ်ဆိုင် ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ နှစ်ပြုချက် ရယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၁၈-၃-၂၀၀၄ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို ဓာတ်ပုံနှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ တိုက်ရိုက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၈။ ၂၄-၄-၂၀၀၄ နေ့နှင့် ၂၅-၄-၂၀၀၄ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ် ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲကျင်းပမည်။ ၂၂-၄-၂၀၀၄ နေ့မှစ၍ မန္တလေးတိုင်း အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနရုံးနှင့် ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးတို့တွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့် ကတ်ပြားများကိုထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၉။ စုံစမ်းစစ်မြန်းလိုပါက ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း၊ ခရိုင်နှင့် မြို့နယ်အေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မရှင်းများ၊ ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း၊ မြို့နယ် အလုပ်သမားညွှန်ကြားရေးဦးစီးဌာနရုံးများတွင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်း အမှတ် (၃၇၈၀၆၃)သို့ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

Pet cat kills woman owner in N-E China

SHENYANG, 27 Feb— A woman in northeast China's Liaoning Province was killed by her pet cat after she locked it in the kitchen to block out its noise, police said Tuesday.

The woman, surnamed Wang, died of gas poisoning in her sleep after the overactive cat ruptured the indoor gas pipeline.

Wang's daughter, sleeping with her in the same room, had a narrow escape and is receiving treatment in hospital, said police officers who learned of the accident during a routine inspection of Wang's home while her family was preparing the funeral.—MNA/Xinhua

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV “MANDALAY” VOY NO 120/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “MANDALAY” Voy No 120/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 1-3-2004 and will be berthing on about 2-3-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
Phone : 293147, 296507, 295754

သစ်တောသစ်ပင် ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး
သစ်ပင်ကို နှစ်စဉ်စိုက် ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုး

သန္ဓာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

New protein blocker of HIV replication identified

LONDON, 27 Feb— Scientists have identified a protein in monkeys that blocks the replication of the HIV virus that causes AIDS and could provide a new method to stop the deadly infection in humans.

Although a similar protein in people is less potent than it is in monkeys, researchers at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts said it could be a potential new weapon against the illness that afflicts 40 million people worldwide.

"The discovery is important not only because there is a new way to intervene in HIV infection but there is also a sense that we have suddenly got some insight into a potential role for what have previously been very mysterious cell components," Dr. Joseph Sodroski said in an interview on Wednesday.

The protein, called Trim5-alpha, prevents HIV from shedding a protective coating and inserting its genetic material into the infected cell, combining with the cell's own DNA. If the virus does not complete this integration process relatively quickly it decays and becomes non-infectious.

Trim5-alpha is a very specific inhibitor of HIV. Sodroski and his colleagues believe its potency may differ in individuals, which could explain why some people infected with the virus proceed to AIDS more quickly than others. It may also be possible for scientists to find a way to increase

its potency.

The researchers also suspect it could be the first of more Trim proteins in humans which determine the susceptibility of cells to viruses and other infectious agents.

"We may be tapping into a system of innate or intrinsic resistance to viruses," added Sodroski, who reported the finding in the science journal *Nature*.

If a treatment targeting the protein is developed, the researchers envision it being used along with existing AIDS drugs that work at different points in the replication process. "It could be used in various settings," said Sodroski. — MNA/Reuters



An employee of Panasonic, a Japanese consumer electronics manufacturer, shows off the world's smallest and lightest digital video camera, the 'DIGICAM NV-C1'. Japan's economy is gathering strength on the back of strong demand abroad and at home for digital cameras, semi-conductors and mobile phones.—INTERNET

Primitive man's remains from 10,000 years ago found in China

CHANGSHA, 27 Feb—Almost-fossilized remains, believed to belong to a primitive pithecanthropus man who lived over 10,000 years ago, have been discovered in a cave in central China's Hunan Province.

Before this discovery, archaeologists unearthed the stone tools two kilometres from the cave, and they were digging to find out the possible users of the ancient stone tools.

The Paleolithic Age is the period beginning with the earliest chipped stone tools, about 750,000 years ago, to the beginning of the Mesolithic Age, about 15,000 years ago.

The skull was largely calcified, an indication that it is in the process of fossilizing, experts said.

The operation of a local hydropower reservoir, in Longshan County, pushed the water level of the Youshui River up to 10 metres below the cave in the cliff, making access to the cave easier. The water level was previously 30 metres below the cave.

Pithecanthropus man was the creature having characteristics of both apes and humans. It also refers to various extinct primates and sometimes is considered intermediate in evolution from anthropoid apes to modern human beings. —MNA/Xinhua

Six persons charged over cannabis crops seizure in Australia

CANBERRA, 27 Feb—Police have seized 500 cannabis crops worth about one million dollars (780,000 US dollars) in Tasmania, Australia, and six people were charged with drug trafficking, Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio reported Wednesday.

The cannabis plants were discovered growing in two separate lots in northeast Tasmania and the seizing operation began from last Friday and ended on Tuesday, local police said.

All the six people would reappear in court in April.

The plants would be destroyed after tests were done, according to the police.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV QING CHUN MEN VOY NO (063)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN Voy No (063) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone : 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GEE HONG VOY NO (404)

Consignees of cargo carried on GEE HONG Voy No (404) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION

Phone : 256908/378316/376797

TRADE MARK

CAUTION

HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY of # 140-2, Ke-Dong, Chongro-Ku, Seoul, Korea, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-



Reg. No. 5656/1995
HYUNDAI COUPE

Reg. No. 684/1996

in respect of "Apparatus for locomotion by land including passenger cars, trucks and buses; parts and fittings thereof, components and accessories for all the aforesaid goods included in Int'l Class 12"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trademarks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for HYUNDAI MOTOR
COMPANY

P.O. Box 60, Yangon:
Dated: 28 February 2004

Bank Holidays

All Banks will be closed on 2nd March (Tuesday) and 5th March (Friday) 2004, being Public Holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Winds delay "Ariane" rocket launch

KOUROU (French Guiana), 27 Feb—High winds have delayed for at least 24 hours the launch of an Ariane-5 rocket with a probe designed to try to unlock mysteries of the solar system by studying a comet, officials said on Thursday.

The Rosetta comet-chasing probe had been set for launch from French Guiana.

"We have a weather no-go because of high altitude winds," Ariane space president Jean-Yves Le Gall said 15 minutes before planned lift-off from the European Space Agency (ESA) launch centre in French Guiana on South America's northeast coast.

"It's not possible to go ahead. It's not possible to do anything except come back tomorrow same place and same time to try again," Le Gall said.

The Rosetta probe is designed to chase and then land on the comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko after a scheduled 10-year voyage. Rosetta was initially scheduled to have been launched in early 2003. But the mission was postponed after an upgraded version of Ariane-5 exploded on its maiden flight in December 2002. — MNA/Reuters

60% of US adults drink, 23% smoke

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb—Sixty per cent of US adults drink alcohol and up to 20 per cent are binge drinkers, according to a new comprehensive report of American habits and vices released on Wednesday.

About 23 per cent are smokers, and half have never touched a cigarette, according to the survey from the National Center for Health Statistics.

More than 60 per cent claim to get some sort of leisure time exercise, and one in four say they work out with weights or do some other form of strength training.

About 22 per cent were obese, meaning they are 20 per cent or more overweight, and an additional 35 per cent were overweight in the 1999-2000 study period.

About 40 per cent were in a healthy weight range and despite fears about media images contributing to unhealthy expectations about thinness, just 2 per cent were underweight, the report found.

The NCHS, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the fact sheet released on Wednesday is the most detailed look yet at the health habits of

Americans.

It said six in 10 US adults were current drinkers in 1999-2001 and about 25 per cent said they were lifetime abstainers. "Nearly one-third of adults were classified as light drinkers (3 or fewer drinks per week)," the NCHS said in a statement.

Just 5 per cent were classified as heavier drinkers, which for a woman means seven or more drinks per week and 14 a week for men.

But 20 per cent said they sometimes drank five or more drinks a day, which qualifies as binge drinking.

Among all adults, about 19 per cent said they smoked daily, taking in on average one pack a day. More than 40 per cent of smokers said they had tried to quit in the past year.

The study found that men and women are equally likely to be obese, and men were more likely than women to be physically active in their leisure time. —MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Resolute Arsenal take nothing for granted after 3-2 win

VIGO (Spain), 27 Feb— Manager Arsene Wenger is refusing to take anything for granted after Arsenal's 3-2 win at Celta Vigo in the Champions League first knockout round.

"The tie is far from over. Our mental approach will be vital in the second leg," Wenger said after Arsenal's first competitive win in Spain following five defeats and a draw.

"Celta Vigo made us work very hard tonight and we will have to be as determined in the second leg to make sure we go through."

The battling victory capped a momentous few days for the London club during which they moved seven points clear in the race for the English title and unveiled plans for a new stadium.

Arsenal were far sharper than Celta and but for two uncharacteristic lapses in defence, the English side would have won by a far greater margin.

"I think we will have to defend better in the second leg to go through," said Wenger. "I think they played well going forward but in the second half when we had more space we knew we could score more goals.—MNA/Reuters



Juventus's Pavel Nedved, left, fights for the ball against Deportivo de la Coruna's Mauro Silva during their Champions League soccer match in La Coruna, Spain, on 25 Feb, 2004. Deportivo de la Coruna won the game 1-0.—INTERNET

McCarthy double sinks United as Keane sees red

PORTO (Portugal), 27 Feb — Two superb goals by striker Benni McCarthy gave Porto a deserved 2-1 win over Manchester United as they celebrated the first Champions League match in their new Estadio do Dragao in style on Wednesday.

A night that began well for the English champions when Quinton Fortune scored after 14 minutes ended badly when skipper Roy Keane was shown a straight red card after 87 minutes for a late challenge on Porto goalkeeper Vitor Baia.

Keane will miss the second leg of the first knockout round tie at Old Trafford when Porto will defend a slender lead thanks to South African McCarthy.

The first was an adroitly executed low volley on the turn after 27 minutes and the second audacious header when he out-jumped Wes Brown and Gary Neville to loop the ball over United keeper Tim Howard 12 minutes from time.

Although United settled first with Fortune's goal, the balance immediately tilted Porto's way in terms of invention and possession. By the end the Portuguese team had 21 attempts on goal to only four from United.

Unbeaten domestically in 27 league and cup matches all season and not having lost any match since Real Madrid beat them 3-1 in the first phase of the competition last October, Porto dominated United for long periods.

Young Brazilian striker Carlos Alberto, signed in the winter break from Fluminense, and the wily Russian midfielder Dimitri Alenitchev were involved in most of Porto's creativity while Deco Sousa and Nuno Valente did their jobs superbly.

United, missing defenders Rio Ferdinand (suspended) and Mikael Silvestre (injured) were hesitant at the back and impotent in attack, where Ruud van Nistelrooy and Louis Saha, making his

Champions League debut, made little impact.

United battled gamely in midfield but appeared content to leave with a draw until McCarthy struck his second to end United's run of four successive Champions League victories without conceding a goal since last October. It was only their fifth defeat in 33 matches in Europe's premier competition.

United, playing their 100th Champions League match, had looked the more composed side at the start and deserved their lead which came after Porto skipper Jorge Costa tripped Ryan Giggs 25 metres out to concede a free kick.

Giggs played a short one to Paul Scholes whose blistering shot was only parried by goalkeeper Baia into the path of South African Fortune who made no mistake. It was Fortune's first goal since scoring against Panathinaikos in the Champions League last September. That goal spurred Porto into life and they almost equalized when Carlos Alberto nearly marked his Champions League debut with a goal but his long-range shot hit the roof of the net.

Porto only had to wait another 12 minutes before pulling level when Alenitchev sent in a low cross for McCarthy who swept in a low volley on the turn at the near post to give Howard no chance. McCarthy wrapped up the match when he was first to react to Nuno Valente's lofted cross, heading home above Howard's out-stretched arms.

The game was never a classic but Porto did enough to gain a glimpse of the Champions League quarterfinals and United will have to play far better in the return to reach the last eight. — MNA/Reuters

Own goal gives Chelsea precious 1-0 win

STUTTGART (Germany), 27 Feb— A VfB Stuttgart own goal gave visitors Chelsea a precious 1-0 win and their coach Claudio Ranieri a breathing space on Wednesday in the first knockout round of the Champions League.

The solitary goal of a tight if unspectacular first leg came from unlucky Portuguese defender Fernando Meira who intercepted a Glen Johnson cross into his own net.

The 1-0 scoreline was a repetition of the 1998 European Cup Winners' Cup final which Chelsea won in Stockholm with a Gianfranco Zola goal.

The win eases pressure on Ranieri whose side are out of the FA Cup and are a distant third in the Premier League despite an outlay of some 230 million US dollars on players this season. The victory makes them clear favourites to advance to the quarterfinals.

Ranieri, who shouted instructions to his team throughout the match, had half-fit keeper Carlo Cudicini to thank for several good saves. The Italian, who could not take goal kicks because of a groin strain, dived low twice to keep out first-half headers from Zvonimir Soldo, the only survivor from the Cup Winner's Cup final, and Marcelo Bordon.

Silvio Meissner and Kevin Kuranyi also had shots cleared off the line.

The single goal, in the 12th minute, came from Chelsea's first real attack. Without Meira's interception, Chelsea might well have opened their account as Argentine striker Hernan Crespo was waiting to pounce

on Glen Johnson's long curved ball.

However it could have been a more comfortable night for the Londoners if Iceland striker Eidur Gudjohnsen had not skyed a neat pass from Crespo in the 32nd minute.

Stuttgart forced a few goalmouth scrambles in the second half as they pressed to equalize and Chelsea dropped back, but failed to make any pressure tell.

"After 20 minutes we showed our football but we were anxious and nervous before that," Ranieri said. "It wasn't easy to play. Stuttgart are a good team. It was important to close all the space, not to allow them to counter-attack."

Stuttgart will rue their inability to convert possession into goals, a failing in recent games. Belarussian midfielder Alexander Gleb had a busy time in midfield, but Chelsea seemed to neutralize the Stuttgart playmaker after the break.

Stuttgart, who went 15 games unbeaten at the start of the Bundesliga season, have now won only one of their last eight league games.

They face two tough games, at home to Schalke 04 and away to Borussia Dortmund, before they travel to Stamford Bridge for the return leg on March 9.

Chelsea have an away match at struggling Manchester City before they entertain the German side. — MNA/Reuters

Luque strike gives Deportivo win over Juventus

LA CORUNA (Spain), 27 Feb— A sweet strike from Albert Luque gave Deportivo Coruna a 1-0 home win over unambitious Juventus in the opening leg of their Champions League first knockout round tie on Wednesday.

Deportivo, who were eliminated by Juventus in the second group phase of last season's competition, got the only goal seven minutes before halftime when Luque capitalized on a bad mistake from the Juve defence.

Lilian Thuram had plenty of time to clear Lionel Scaloni's cross but the French defender's header went straight up in the air and fell for Luque to sweep the ball past Gianluigi Buffon with a low volley.

Smith double puts Sunderland into FA Cup quarters

LONDON, 27 Feb — Two extra-time goals from substitute striker Tommy Smith gave Sunderland a 2-0 upset victory over Premier League Birmingham City in their FA Cup fifth round replay on Wednesday.

Victory for Mick McCarthy's side at St. Andrews lined up a Cup quarterfinal at home to First Division rivals Sheffield United on March 7. Deadlocked at 0-0 after 90 minutes — the same score as the original match at Sunderland — Smith poached his first goal from point-blank range in the ninth minute of extra time after a Kevin Kyle effort came back off the woodwork.

Smith followed up in the 115th minute with a superb solo effort, starting his run from the halfway time and galloping through to steer a shot past Birmingham keeper Maik Taylor.

MNA/Reuters

The Spanish side's determined midfield denied Juventus on the ball and last season's beaten finalists had just a couple of clear chances, Alessandro del Piero missing the best of them when put clean through in the 31st minute.

Deportivo's bid to avenge last season's defeat almost got off to the perfect start as Juan Carlos Valeron stole the ball from a careless Nicola Legrottaglie after just four minutes and teed up Diego

the ball clear.

Deportivo's midfield bite brought them several more chances in the first half but Sergio, Victor and Valeron all failed to hit the target with shots from around the edge of the box.

The only early threats from Juventus came from a couple of promising runs by Pavel Nedved before del Piero let fly with a 25-metre blast that was well over in the 28th minute.

In the 31st minute, Juve finally managed to spring the Depor defence but del Piero's attempt to lift the ball over Jose Molina brought a fine save.

MNA/Reuters



Chilean striker Sebastian 'Chamagol' Gonzalez of Atlante (R) in action against Veracruz's players Joel Sanchez (L) and Andres Perez (right rear), during the first half of their Mexican league championship soccer match at the Azteca stadium in Mexico City, on 25 Feb, 2004. —INTERNET

9:00	Signature Tune Greeting
9:02	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Pano- rama & Myanma Sen- timent"
9:06	Fantastic Scenic Sunsets of Myanmar
9:10	Headline News
9:12	Traditional Rakhine Wrestling
9:15	National News
9:20	Usefulness of Nipa Palm
9:25	Myanma-ah-hla-Yat- taung-Ahka
9:30	National News
9:35	Architecture of the Great Ananda
9:40	Song "Mesmerize Your Longing Wish"
9:45	National News
9:50	Child Art Competition
9:58	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

15:30	(15:30 - 17:30) Signature Tune Greeting
15:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Pano- rama & Myanma Sen- timent"
15:36	Fantastic Scenic Sunsets of Myanmar
15:40	Headline News
15:42	Traditional Rakhine Wrestling
15:45	National News
15:50	Usefulness of Nipa Palm
15:55	Myanma-ah-hla-Yat- taung-Ahka



1. နေ့စဉ်စုစုပေါင်းထွန်းအဆရာတော်
ထူးစူးကြွေးကြွယ်ဝ်တော်ယံဖာ
စာယကကစူ့အကျွမ်းတော်ဆောင်ရွက်
အသိစေမဟာဂ္ဂဗူ အသိစေအ
မဟာသန္ဓေစောတိတိ ဝိပိဋ္ဌာစရ
အက္ခရာတိအရာတော်အန္ဓိ ပိတိ
အာရာဝိသမာဏိရိတိတရာတော်
- 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
5. Delicacies
- 8:05 am
6. အစုစုပြိုင်
- 8:15 am
7. ဂုဏ်းရစေထုတ်တံ
- 8:30 am
8. International news
- 8:45 am
9. Grammar made easy
- 11:00 am
1. Martial song

16:00	National News
16:05	Architecture of the Great Ananda
16:10	Song "Mesmerize Your Longing Wish"
16:15	National News
16:20	Child Art Competition
16:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
16:30	National News
16:35	Artist Maung Kyaw Nyunt "Cover Poster and Creative Painting"
16:40	Dry Dockyard in Pattet Island, Taninthayi Division
16:45	National News
16:50	Myanmar Movie Impact "Dream Angel"
17:00	Weekly News Highlight
17:20	The King of Musical Instrument
17:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

19:30 Signature Tour
Greeting

19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

19:36 View Point Amuse-
ment Park

19:40 National News

19:42 The National
Museum (III)

19:45 National News

19:50 Off-shore Fishing Boat
Construction

19:55 Kayah Dance

20:00 National News

20:05 Unforgettable Customs
of the China

20:10 Song "Be Back To
Neem Lane"

20:15 National News

20:20 Precious Myanmar
Lacquerware

20:25 Songs on Screen: "The
Brightly Shining
Moon"

20:30 National News

20:35 Myanmar Coffee

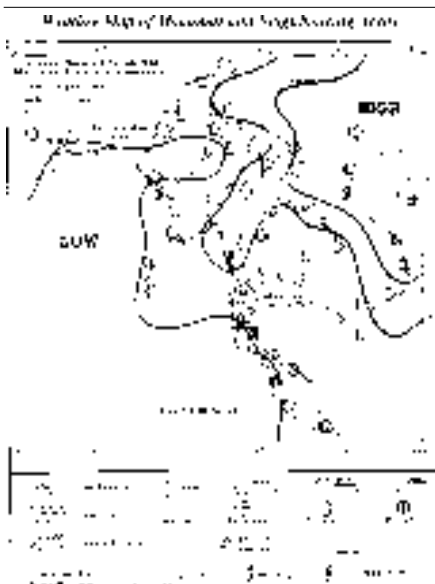
20:40 A Short Introduction to
Myanma Saing Waing
(or) Myanmar Orches-
tra

20:45 National News
20:50 Myanma Gem Mosaic
20:55 Sagaing Hill
21:00 National News
21:05 The Art of Making
Paper Toys
21:10 Song "Peace Be with
You"
**21:15 Weekly News High-
lights**
21:20 Travelogue (Inlay)
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
21:35 Fantastic Scenic Sun-
sets of Myanmar
21:40 Headline News
21:42 Traditional Rakhine
Wrestling
21:45 National News
21:50 Usefulness of Nipa
Palm
21:55 Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taung-Ahka
22:00 National News
22:05 Architecture of the
Great Ananda
22:10 Song "Memserise
Your Longing Wish"
22:15 National News
22:20 Child Art Competition
22:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Dakukuku"
22:30 National News
22:35 Artist Maung Kyaw
Nyunt "Cover Poster
and Creative Painting"
22:40 Dry Dockyard in Pattet
Island, Taninthayi Divi-
sion
22:45 National News
22:50 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact "Dream Angel"
23:00 National News
23:05 Marquetry
23:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Glory of
Myanmar"
**23:15 Weekly News High-
lights**
23:20 The King of Musical
Instrument
23:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
**28-2-2004 (Saturday) &
29-2-2004 (Sunday)**
**Evening & Morning
Transmission**

	(23:30-1:30)
23:30	Signature Tune Greeting
23:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Pano- rama & Myanma Sen- timent"
23:36	Fantastic Scenic Sunsets of Myanmar
23:40	Headline News
23:42	Traditional Rakhine Wrestling
23:45	National News
23:50	Usefulness of Nipa Palm
23:55	Myanma-ah-hla-Yat- taung-Ahka
24:00	National News
00:05	Architecture of the Great Ananda
00:10	Song "Mesmerize Your Longing Wish"
00:15	National News
00:20	Child Art Competition
00:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
00:30	National News
00:35	Artist Maung Kyaw Nyunt "Cover Poster and Creative Painting"
00:40	Dry Dockyard in Pattet Island, Taninthayi Di- vision
00:45	National News
00:50	Myanmar Movie Im- pact "Dream Angel"
01:00	Weekly News High- lights
01:05	Marquetry
01:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Glory of Myanmar"
01:15	Weekly News High- lights
01:20	The King of Musical Instrument
01:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
29-2-2004 (Sunday)	
Morning Transmission (03:30-07:30)	
03:30	Signature Tune Greeting
03:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalar"
03:36	View Point Amuse- ment Park

03:40	Headline News
03:42	The National Museum (III)
03:45	National News
03:50	Off-shore Fishing Boat Construction
03:55	Kayah Dance
04:00	National News
04:05	Unforgettable Customs of the China
04:10	Song "Be Back To Neem Lane"
04:15	National News
04:20	Precious Myanmar Lacquerware
04:25	Songs on Screen: "The Brightly Shining Moon"
04:30	National News
04:35	Myanma Coffee
04:40	A Short Introduction to Myanma Saing Waing (or) Myanmar Orchestra
04:45	National News
04:50	Myanma Gems Mosaic
04:55	Sagaing Hill
05:00	National News
05:05	The Art of Making Paper Toys
05:10	Song "Peace Be with You"
05:15	Weekly News Highlights
05:20	Travologue (Inlay)
05:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights" Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
05:35	Fantastic Scenic

Sunstes of Myanmar
Headline News
Traditional Rakhine
Wrestling
National News
Usefulness of Nipa
Palm
Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taun-Ahka
National News
Architecture of the
Great Ananda
Song "Mesmerize
Your Longing Wish"
National News
Child Art Competition
Myanmar Modern
Song "Dakukuku"
National News
Artist Maung Kyaw
Nyunt "Cover Poster
and Creative Painting"
Dry Dockyard in Patte
Island, Taninthayi Di-
vision
National News
Myanmar Movie Im-
pact "Dream Angel"
National News
Marquetry
Myanmar Modern
Song "Glory of
Myanmar"
**Weekly News High-
lights**
The King of Musical
Instrument
Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"



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 Kayin, Chin and Rakhine States, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin State and lower Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 26-2-2004 was 35.0°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 27-2-2004 was 15.0°C (59°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 27-2-2004 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 26-2-2004 was (9.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 27-2-2004 was nil at Yangan Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangan. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangan Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangan. Maximum wind speed at Yangan (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours M.S.T on 26-2-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-2-2004: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-2-2004: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-2-2004: Fair weather.

(အနုပညာ)

5:10 pm

6. Musical programme

5:25 pm

7. နားဝင်ပီယသံ့လက်သံ

5:40 pm

8. "သင်မိမိဖူးစာ"
သွားညွှတ် မိုးနီ၊ မြန်မာ့နိုင်ငံ၊ စိန်ဖွန်းခေတ်
ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုးကျွန်း

5:55 pm

9. သိုင်းဒေါ်ခေလော့ဒ်တစ်

6:05 pm

10. Musical programme

6:15 pm

11. Delicacies

6:30 pm

12. Evening news

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. Discovery

7:25 pm

15. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတလမ်းထဲ
"မိုးမြေဆိုးခေလော့ဒ်တစ်"
(အပိုင်း-၂၂)

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. Myanmar video feature:
"မိုးမြေဆိုးခေလော့ဒ်တစ်"
(အပိုင်း-၁)
နိုင်းနိုင်း၊ ထက်ကော်ကော်၊
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်စိုး၊ ခန့်စိုက်)

21. The next day's
programme



8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music
9.10 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music
8.55 am National news/
 Slogan
9.05 am Music
9.10 am International news
9.15 am Music (Spotlight on
 a star)
 - Crystal Gayle
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Request
 -I let the music speak
 (ABBA)
9.00 pm ASEAN review
9.10 pm Article
9.20 pm Myanmar Culture by
 Dr Khin Maung
 Nyunt
 -Myanmar
 Lacquarwares
 Part III
21.30 pm Souvenirs
 -Knee deep in the
 blues
 (Guy Mitchell)
 - Moonlight
 gambler
 (Frankie Laine)
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

First day session of Tenth 47-member plenary meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee meeting held

YANGON, 27 Feb — The first day session of the Tenth 47-member plenary meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee meeting took place at Vijaya Mangala Dhamma Thabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

It was attended by member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen

Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin, Protector (Admin) of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Dr Hla Pe, Deputy Direc-

tor-General of the RAD U Htin Myo, Deputy Director-General of DPPS U Tun Mya Aung, departmental officials, and state, division and district religious affairs department heads.

Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Sayadaw of Aungmingala Monastery in Thayet, Magway Division, Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma

(See page 9)



Tenth 47-member Plenary meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee in progress.— MNA

Myanmar's trade deficit with foreign countries falls thanks to introduction of more systematic import and export programmes Ministry of Commerce holds work coordination meeting

YANGON, 27 Feb — The Ministry of Commerce held a work coordination meeting at its meeting hall this morning, with an address delivered by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

The Secretary-1 said Myanmar's trade deficit with foreign countries falls thanks to more systematic import and export programmes, introduced since fiscal 1999-2000 in a bid to increase the nation's trade volume annually.

He then elaborated on the functions of the ministry, saying that its motto is "Leap forward through trade and commerce".

Because of the relationship between the production sector and the trade sector in the nation's economy, the volume of trade grows depending on the production sector covering the agricultural, fish and meat and industrial businesses, and in reciprocation, production sector sees progress in all aspects owing to the increase in the trade.

In addition to maritime trade, the State has already permitted the land trade, running five border trade centres at the border with China, four at the border with Thailand, two at the border with Bangladesh, and two at the border with India. Arrangements are under way to open more

border trade centres in the future. Thus, efforts will have to be made in time to effectively handle with the growing border trade.

Myanmar enjoyed surplus in border trade during the second and third four-month periods of 2003 and in 2002. The Commerce Ministry has formed joint trade committees, holding meetings to boost trade, share information, exchange delegations and organize trade fairs to increase the nation's trade with neighbouring countries.

Cooperation will have to be made with international organizations including WTO, World Bank, UNCTAD

(See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses coordination meeting of Ministry of Commerce.— MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Bo Myat Tun Bridge, road sections of Patheingyi-Monywa Road

YANGON, 27 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, left here by car on 26 February afternoon and arrived at Bo Myat Tun Bridge in Nyaungdon Township

where they were welcomed by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and departmental officials.

At the briefing hall, Assistant Director U Saw

Aung Lwin of Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on preventive measures being taken against bank erosion, flow of water in the river and dredging of sandbank and

Maubin District Senior Engineer U Sai Kyaw Moe and officials on maintenance of the bridge. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended to their needs and gave instructions on

plans to be drawn for maintenance of the bridge for long-term existence and preventive measures to be taken against bank erosion.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected upgrading of

Kankalay section of Patheingyi-Monywa road between mile posts 30 and 33 being undertaken by Road Special Group-16. Deputy Chief Engineer U Ye Myint Swe and Superintending Engineer U Soe Tint

(See page 9)



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects progress in construction of Patheingyi Bridge across Ngawun River.— MNA

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Perspectives

For regional rice
sufficiency
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Only in the interest of
the nation
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