

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 324

Fullmoon Day of Tabaung 1365 ME

Friday, 5 March, 2004

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and Tatmadaw families offer 'soon' to Sayadaws



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party share merits gained at the ceremony to offer 'soon' to Sayadaws.—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



YANGON, 4 March—Under the patronage of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, the State Peace and Development Council and families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) offered 'soon' to State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, member Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and title recipient Sayadaws at Tatmadaw Dhammayon on Azani Road in Bahan Township at 9.30 am today.

Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaing Kyaing and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Paññindabhimvamsa of SSMNC.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, member Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and title recipient Sayadaws and nuns, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-

in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Lt-Gen Tin Oo's wife Daw Khin Than Nwe, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife, members of the State Peace and Development Council and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and

Development Council and wife, ministers and their wives, the Attorney-General, the Yangon Mayor, senior military officers and their wives, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and guests.

Adviser U Arnt Maung who acted as master of ceremonies read the agenda of the ceremony. Next, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. Members of the Sangha recited *Parittas*.

Afterwards, the Senior General and wife offered provisions such as robes, bowl and others to the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw.

Next, Vice-Senior Gen-

eral Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

Secretary Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara delivered a sermon and the Senior General and wife and party shared merits gained.

Later, the ceremony ended with three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Çiram Tithatu*.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and wife and party offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws.—MNA

INSIDE

Perspectives

Fullmoon Day of
Tabaung
(Page 2)

Regional development
mainly relies on efforts
of local people
Senior General Than
Shwe inspects develop-
ment of Ye in Mon State
(Page 16)

Article

"Is that so, Maung Ka
Lu?" "It's more than
that"
(Page 7)

Circulation

22,654

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 5 March, 2004

Fullmoon Day of Tabaung

Myanmar people are well known for their generosity and it is their lovely custom to make donations and do good deeds on days of special significance. Today is the fullmoon day of the month of Tabaung in Myanmar lunar calendar. In Myanmar it is one of the occasions set aside for doing meritorious deeds, especially offering of alms and provisions to the monks. As is customary, lay Buddhists here in this country or in lands all over the world where His Teachings thrive, offer the Four Essentials or the basic needs of monks, viz, the monastery, robes, food and medicine for sustenance so that they may be able to conveniently practise, propagate and perpetuate the Sasana.

It is on this day that hundreds of monks receive provisions donated by thousands of the laity. Here it is to be noticed that the term "receive" means the act of receiving the offerings that enables the Buddhist faithful to do such offering. The relationship between the donor and the recipient is unique, for without the recipient there can be no donor and vice versa. It must, of necessity, apply to all donors and recipients, for those who are involved in the propagation of a faith are committed to their mission. If they had to go around in search of alms food or provisions all the time, the effectiveness of their mission would be diminished, or they may not be as fully capable of carrying it out. That is why the laity, individually, or in groups, or as organizations, or as government departments, organize alms-offering ceremonies so that those in missionary service may enable the donors to donate and thus gain merit. The government organizes some of these alms-offering ceremonies occasionally and also subsidises missions and homes for the aged and the needy.

Today, the Fullmoon day of Tabaung, religious titles are presented to Sayadaws, nuns and lay persons on a grand scale on Kaba Aye Hillock in Yangon. Indeed it is a remarkable contribution towards propagation and promotion of Buddha Sasana. We wish all the citizens to pay attention to making donations, keeping precepts, dispensing metta and practising meditation.

UMFCCI President receives guests

YANGON, 4 March — UMFCCI President U Win Myint and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing met with Japanese Chamber of Commerce Yangon (JCCY) President Mr Takehiko Arai and his successor Mr Katagiri Kiyoyoshi at the UMFCCI head office here yesterday afternoon. They discussed matters on promotion of trade and investment and enhancing cooperation. — MNA



The meeting on holding the 6th Asian Wushu Championship in progress.

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'

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 4 March — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Aung Myo	Director-General National Archive Department Ministry of National Planning & Economic Development
(b) U Po Myint	Rector Mandalay University of Foreign Languages Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) Ministry of Education

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

Short-term course on sales promotion

YANGON, 4 March — A short-term course on sales promotion jointly sponsored by UMFCCI and Youth Force Group of Companies was opened at the UMFCCI training school on Bo Sun Pet Street in Pabedan Township here yesterday. UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and Youth Force Group Chairman U Thein Lwin spoke on the occasion. The 12-day course will be conducted by U Moe Naing Myint and Daw Tin Moe Lwin.

MNA

Course on fundamental IT

YANGON, 4 March — Eleven trainees attended the training course for instructors on fundamental IT for Myanmar, jointly sponsored by Myanmar Computer Federation and the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship at MICT Park in Hline Township here. The course conclusion ceremony was held at 4 pm today. — MNA

MWF readying for 6th Asian Wushu Championship

The Myanmar Wushu Federation is taking preparatory measures to host the 6th Asian Wushu Championship in November this year. It will be the second Wushu Championship. The first international event was held in 1999. In the competition, Myanmar won 11 gold, 8 silver and 1 bronze.

The MWF has got an opportunity to host Asian level Wushu competition for the first time. The MWF took part in the 4th Asian Wushu Championship held in the Philippines in 1996 and the 5th Asian Wushu Championship held in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 2000. In these two competitions, Myanmar won only six silver and one bronze. It has never won a gold medal in the Asian Wushu Championship. Thus, it is making arrangements to the best of its ability to host the competition

on a grand scale as well as to win greater victory.

Asian Wushu Federation General Secretary Mr Kyuhei Muraoka (Japan), AWF Joint-Secretary Mrs Li Yapei (China), President of the AWF Technical Committee Mr Chen Gudong (China) and World Wushu Federation Technical Committee member Mr Yosuhiko Ishihara (Japan) inspected Myanmar's preparations for the championship from 8 to 12 February.

In an interview with Kyemon daily, the AWF General Secretary said that he learnt that Myanmar is

Article by Ngi Htut;
Photos by Ko Ko Soe Nyunt



President of Myanmar Wushu Federation
U Khin Maung Lay.

marked.

He said that the number of contestants is expected to increase to around 400 from over 25 countries. Systematic measures will be taken for successful holding the competition in cooperation with the People's Republic of China. During the period of ten years, the MWF has made cumulative progress, penetrating the international Wushu world. In conclusion, he expressed his belief that Myanmar will achieve greater success in the competition.

Then, Myanmar Wushu Federation President U Khin Maung Lay said that the Asian Wushu Championship is held once four years. The meeting (2002) reached an agreement to hold the Sixth Wushu Competition in Myanmar for four days from 20 to 28 November.

Over 40 Myanmar athletes will be sent to the People's Republic of China to undergo training. And Myanmar new Wushu generation youths will be trained under Chinese coaches in the country. Myanmar will contend with its rivals in the first World Youth Wushu Championship to be held in France this September. He disclosed that he wished Myanmar to be the best in Wushu after China. He pledged that the Myanmar Wushu Federation will continue to make strenuous efforts to achieve greater success.

The MWF has bagged gold, silver and bronze medals in the competitions. However, it is making strenuous endeavours with added momentum in order to win more gold medals.

(Translation: MS)
Kyemon: 4-3-2004



Asian Wushu Federation
General Secretary Mr
Kyuhei Muraoka (Japan)

making endeavours with might and main for the championship. It is heartening to know that Myanmar leaders and the Sports Minister are rendering special assistance for successful holding of the competition, he added. The gymnasium of the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna is larger and better than any other ones of the nations in which previous Wushu competitions were held, he re-

Iraq guerillas launch attack on US base

TIKRIT, 4 March— Guerillas launched four mortars at the 4th Infantry Division's base in Tikrit on Wednesday, including one that landed near a dining hall during supper time. No one was hurt.

Five large explosions also rumbled through the centre of Baghdad Wednesday night, and sirens sounded from the Green Zone where the headquarters of the US-led occupation authority is located. The US military press office said it had no information about where the blasts occurred.

In Tikrit, the 4th Division's commanding officer, Major General Raymond Odierno, told The Associated Press mortars were fired at the riverfront base from the opposite side of the Tigris River.

One of the mortars landed yards from the base's crowded dining facility

but didn't explode. The other two exploded in unoccupied areas.

Bomb disposal soldiers defused the unexploded shell, along with another that failed to explode.

Soldiers saw three men running from the vicinity the mortars were fired from and into a house in a village near Ajel, a town about a mile from Tikrit, according to Lt Col Steve Russell, commander of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division.

Soldiers surrounded the house but it wasn't immediately clear if any arrests were made, Russell said.

Tikrit is the hometown of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and is located in the Sunni triangle, a hotbed of anti-American activity.

The 4th Infantry Division, which has operated in Tikrit and throughout most of northern Iraq for about a year, has launched an aggressive campaign to root out insurgents and destroy stockpiles of weapons believed to be used in attacks against coalition soldiers.

The division is in the process of redeploying to the United States and is being replaced by the 1st Infantry Division, in Germany.

Internet

ထိုက်ထိုက်နက်နက် ခိုမှီးနေကြ

Iraq Council head says 271 killed in two cities blasts

BAGHDAD, 4 March— The head of Iraq's Governing Council said Wednesday that the death toll from attacks in Baghdad and Karbala had risen to 271.

"The number of death toll from the two cities as of this afternoon is 271," Governing Council President Mohammed Bahr al-Uloom told a news conference in Baghdad.

But Iraq's Health Minister, Khudier Abbass, said 71 people had been killed in Baghdad and 98 in Karbala, adding that establishing a conclusive toll was hard because many of those killed had been dismembered and their remains collected in bags. —Internet

China, Vanuatu reiterate one-China policy

BEIJING, 4 March— Senior government officials of China and Vanuatu on Tuesday reiterated the common stance of the two countries that there is only one China.

Visiting Vanuatu Deputy Prime Minister Ham Lini said the Vanuatu Government and the National United Party of Vanuatu would adhere to the one-China policy and firmly support the Chinese Government's stance and position on the Taiwan issue.

He made the remarks during his meeting with Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Huang expounded China's principled stance on the Taiwan issue, and thanked the National United Party of Vanuatu for its firm adherence to the one-China policy.

Before the meeting, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing also met with the National United Party delegation headed by Lini. Representatives of the two governments also signed an agreement on economic and technological cooperation. China was ready to deepen bilateral relations with Vanuatu, Huang said.

MNA/Xinhua

550 US service members killed since the beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 March—As of Wednesday, 3 March, 550 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 379 died as a result of hostile action and 171 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, Estonia and Poland have reported one each.

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 412 US soldiers have died — 264 as a result of hostile action and 148 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,731 U.S. service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department's figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 419. — Internet

China, Portugal to strengthen economic cooperation

BEIJING, 4 March— China and Portugal will make more efforts to strengthen their economic and trade cooperation, officials from the two countries said here Tuesday.

Vice-Minister of Commerce Zhang Zhigang said at the fifth Sino-Portuguese trade fair that China's economy has developed rapidly since the reform and opening policy was implemented.

Economic and trade cooperation between China and Portugal face great opportunities and the two sides have potential in promoting exchanges of trade and investment, he said.

"We welcome Portuguese entrepreneurs to invest in the west and northeast of China," he said.

Franquelim Garcia Alves, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economy of Portugal, said the fifth Sino-Portuguese trade fair falls during the 25th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries and when Portu-



An officer from the US Army 1st Armoured Cavalry Division orders his men to pull back to their base from the site of several explosions in Baghdad on Tuesday, 2 March, 2004. — INTERNET

Indo-Pak business ties benefit both

NEW DELHI, 4 March— Describing economy as the biggest unifying factor, the Indian Government Tuesday emphasized that business to business interactions between India and Pakistan were a win-win for both countries.

"The need of the hour is for businessmen to come face to face with governments acting as the facilitator.

The need today is how can roadblocks to trade be eliminated while improving and enhancing these avenues. There have been delegation after delegation since improvement in relations.

These initiatives will go a long way in bringing peace," Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Arun Jaitley said here Tuesday.

Terming bilateral trade as a win-win for both countries because of common geography, historic legacy, common language among others, he said both nations together could change the economic history and geography of the globe.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepal's tourist arrivals surge in February

KATHMANDU, 4 March— The total number of tourists visiting Nepal last month increased significantly by 44 per cent over the same period of last year, the Nepal Tourism Board said Tuesday.

Altogether 24,456 visitors from different parts of the world came to Nepal by air in February this year, against the arrival of 16,960 tourists into this country in February 2003, according to a Press release issued by the government bureau. The number of Indian tourists arriving in Nepal grew by 35 per cent to 6,777 visitors, while tourists from other countries recorded an overall increase of 48 per cent to 17,679 visitors. Tourist arrivals from Nepali tourist industry's traditional markets, namely the United States, Britain, Japan and Germany recorded increases of 72 per cent, 49 per cent, 15 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively. While the number of visitors from China decreased by 3 per cent to 355 visitors in this month. Tourist operators here said the unavailability of enough flights has hindered the increase of the number of Chinese tourists. — MNA/Xinhua



Smoke billows in the distance as an ambulance evacuates people wounded in an explosion in Baghdad's Shiite neighbourhood of Kazimiyah. — INTERNET

US-led coalition under fire for failing to stop deadly attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 March— The US-led coalition in Iraq is under fire from angry Iraqis who blame their occupiers for failing to keep the peace almost a year after ridding the country of Saddam Hussein.

And officials warn the violence may rise as Iraq continues along the road to democracy, with US overseer Paul Bremer due to transfer sovereignty on June 30.

Many people in Baghdad and Karbala, where a series of coordinated blasts on Tuesday killed more than 180 people and injured hundreds of others, blamed the United States for failing to protect them.

"The Americans are the cause of all the trouble and I want them to leave," declared Khalil Ismail, a 35-year-old decorator in the Iraqi capital.

"It is true that there are some terror-

ists who want to create trouble but they will fail. Iraqi people can secure a stable future on their own," he said.

Following Iraq's deadliest day of violence since the fall of Saddam, senior Shiite Muslim clerics, whose followers make up more than 60 percent of the population, also pointed the finger at the United States.

"We hold the occupying forces responsible for being unwilling to control the borders of Iraq and stop intruders," said a statement from the office of the country's leading Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali Sistani.

"We are occupied by the Ameri-

cans but they are not helping us," said Moki Abu Daga, an ice cream and candy shop owner in the holy city of Karbala, south of Baghdad.

He shut his shop minutes before explosions destroyed the dreams of hundreds of thousands of Shiites the previous day who had gathered in the city to mark the climax of the solemn 10-day Ashura festival for the first time in decades.

"Two days ago their (US) helicopters were flying around in the night. When the attacks happened we saw nobody," he said.

Internet

ဝက်မုခ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

Turkish fighter jets collide in mid-air

ISTANBUL, 4 March — Two Turkish F-4 fighter jets collided in mid-air on Tuesday, and at least one pilot parachuted to safety, the state-run *Anatolian* news agency said.

Local television channels earlier reported that all four pilots on board had been killed in the collision, which occurred in the central province of Konya.

It was not clear what caused the crash or if any other airmen had survived.

Military helicopters were searching for other survivors in the area where the planes crashed, *Anatolian* said.

The jets crashed into a mountainside, sparking a fire in the wooded area, the agency said. The pilots were on a training flight.— *MNA/Reuters*



An Iraqi man pushes his wife on a cart as they pass by a blood-stained plastic bag outside a hospital in the Kazimiya neighbourhood in Baghdad, Iraq, on 3 March, 2004.

INTERNET

Annan summons British envoy on bugging scandal

UNITED NATIONS, 4 March— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called the British ambassador to a meeting on Thursday after his spokesman said he wanted a fuller explanation of alleged British bugging of his office.

The meeting, set on Wednesday, falls a week after Clare Short, Britain's former international development secretary, disclosed that British intelligence agents spied on Annan ahead of the US-led invasion of Iraq last March.

UN spokesman Fred Eckhard responded at the time by saying the bugging, if true, violated international law and should immediately be stopped.

Eckhard later added, "I think it's probably safe to say that he would like a fuller explanation," when asked if Annan was waiting for the British government to contact him to offer an explanation or assurances there would be no more spying.

Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry had telephoned Annan, on behalf of Prime Minister Tony Blair, immediately after the bugging

allegations became public. But diplomatic sources said their initial conversation had not directly addressed the bugging issue.

The world body was clearly startled by Short's claims as she was a high-ranking official at the time the alleged bugging took place. Short resigned from the government after the war.

Short told BBC radio she had read some of the transcripts of the bugging of Annan's office, on the 38th floor of the UN complex in Manhattan facing East River. "In the case of Kofi's office, it was being done for some time," she said.

A British translator had earlier leaked a top-secret US document to the media seeking London's help in bugging UN Security Council members in the run-up to the Iraq war.— *Internet*

Malaysian Prime Minister calls for national unity

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 March— Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Tuesday called for national unity among various races and love for the nation.

"If we don't have a love for the nation, surely we will be easily 'bought' by parties out to undermine the peace that we have," the Prime Minister said at the launching of "Saya Anak Malaysia (I'm a Malaysian)" campaign here.

As such, efforts to enhance unity, like Tuesday's campaign, must be stepped up periodically by taking in account changes in the environment, he said.

His speech was delivered by National Unity and Social Development Minister Siti Zaharah Sulaiman.

The campaign organized by the ministry is a platform to enhance unity among school children, including those at the kindergarten level. Over 10,000 students and children attended the launching ceremony.

"All parties must continue with these efforts to generate the spirit of love for the nation and enhance national unity," Abdullah said.

He believed that the country would continue to be peaceful and prosperous if the spirit of unity and patriotism continued to be fostered and the close ties among Malaysians continued to be strengthened.

"The multiracial people of Malaysia must realize that Malaysia that they live in now does not belong to just one party but to us all and we must defend it," he said.

He said the occurrence in some countries of racial riots among people of common background and religion just because of ethnic differences should serve as a lesson so that such things would not happen in this country.

He said nationalism was not something that came spontaneously but was inherent in an individual through living in society. This process must start early and as such, the young generation must be exposed to positive values like respect for others, irrespective of their colour or religion, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

China has about 30 million obese people

BELING, 4 March — The number of overweight people in China has topped 200 million, at least 30 million of whom are obese.

Li Chunsheng, a doctor with the Xiyuan Hospital affiliated to the Chinese Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, said obesity was more common among people over the age of 50, with the ratio standing at 43.1 per cent among males and 55.43 per cent among females.

Doctor Li said obesity had become one of the serious diseases threatening the lives of Beijingers, especially primary and middle school students.

The ratio of obese children in Beijing had climbed to 18.17 per cent in 2002 from

10.61 per cent in 1991.

The doctor warned that obesity increased the risk of developing high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes. "The life expectancy of people who are overweight by 30 per cent is four years shorter than that of normal groups."

However, he said, binge eating and dieting that lead to repeated increases and decreases in weight was also harmful to health.

Some experts suggest people should give up lifestyles that lead to obesity and do more exercise. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Carl-Peter Forster, Chairman and Managing Director of Adam Opel AG introduces the TRiXX, an ultra-compact city car concept at the Geneva Motor Show on 2 March, 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland.— *INTERNET*

Shanxi Province stresses safety in public places

TAIYUAN, 4 March— The northern China province of Shanxi has suspended the operation of 13 businesses and 317 other units due to potential fire risks between mid-February and early March, an official with the provincial fire-fighting department said Wednesday.

The move demonstrates the provincial government's determination to guarantee the safety of people in public places, the official said.

The province's fire departments and public security departments at various levels have jointly made safety inspections at a total of 5,600 public places such as conference centres, hotels, large shopping centres, cinemas, schools and kindergartens.

The official said that the enterprises which go into operation without approval of the authorities will be ordered to stop operation again and root out fire risks.

MNA/Xinhua

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



Moments after the attacks, a youth runs past the victims and burning debris at the site of several bomb blasts in Karbala, Iraq, on 2 March. —INTERNET



An Iraqi shouts slogans as a funeral of Tuesday's suicide attacks turns into an anti-American protest, on Wednesday, 3 March, 2004 —INTERNET



A wave of suicide bombings and mortar attacks has killed at least 271 people in Baghdad and Karbala, Iraq's bloodiest day since Saddam Hussein's fall. Picture shows Iraqis rushing injured away from a blast after explosions rocked Karbala. INTERNET



Hundreds of Iraqis march in Baghdad's Shiite neighbourhood of Kazimiyah to protest against the US-led coalition and against the violence that hit the Shiite community on 2 March. —INTERNET



Iraqi women mourn the victims of the bomb attack in Baghdad, on 3 March, 2004. INTERNET



Iraqis burn a US flag during a rally on 3 March, 2004 in Karbala, 110 kilometres south of Baghdad, Iraq, blaming the US for the latest suicide attacks both in Karbala and Baghdad that killed at least 271 people and injured hundreds more. INTERNET

Remission of Customs duties extended in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 March — Iraqi Minister of Trade Ali Allawi announced that remission of Customs duties are to be extended once more till the end of March, and even till June, newspaper *Iraq Today* said Wednesday.

The announcement replaces another one made by Iraqi Minister of Interior Noori Al Badran two weeks earlier that Iraq would charge a 5-per-cent Customs tariff starting March 1, said the local newspaper.

Coalition authorities had cancelled Customs duties after the war in April in an attempt to revive the Iraqi economy. The implementation of Customs was supposed to be in January, but was postponed because of

the insufficient security on the Iraqi borders.

"Our business has taken off, and we can import as much as we can sell as there are no Customs, and this has improved the economy as well," said Ahmed Mohamed, owner of an electronics shop in Karada.

"Before I couldn't even afford an old car, because the prices were so high. But recently I went to Amman and bought a used car for a good price," said Bakir

Hussein, an employee at the Ministry of Industry. "I now have a good car, a new TV, and a satellite receiver," he added.

Other Iraqis complain that the absence of Customs has flooded the Iraqi market with cheap, inferior-quality goods.

"They only send us bad and obsolete goods," complained Na'eem Radhi, who was shopping in Shorgga, main market in central Baghdad. — *MNA/Xinhua*

S American countries call for flexibility in FTAA negotiations

BUENOS AIRES, 4 March — The foreign ministers of 10 South American countries met here and agreed that the negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) "must have flexibility".

This flexibility should consider "the needs and sensitivities of all the countries involved, especially small economies", the ministers stated in a joint communique. The foreign ministers of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela also vowed to coordinate their positions on the FTAA for the summit to be held on March 18 and 19 in Puebla, Mexico.

After the meeting, Argentine International Trade

Secretary Martin Redrado said the meeting aimed to analyse the negotiating process.

He praised the "position of flexibility that the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) shows in this negotiating process".

It would be a precondition for any FTAA negotiation that the US Government agrees to speed up a tariff cut to open the way for the quick access of regional agricultural products to the US market.

Redrado said, "It is not feasible to request the elimi-

nation of agricultural subsidies in an election year." He warned however that "we will never stop demanding the elimination of subsidies for agricultural production and exports."

The ministers and representatives of the 10 Latin American countries also reaffirmed their commitment to "accelerate the negotiations of bilateral and regional accords that facilitate free trade and deepen the process of economic integration".

— *MNA/Xinhua*

New Taxi Tourist Guide scheme introduced in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 4 March — Singapore on Wednesday introduced a new Taxi Tourist Guide scheme as part of efforts to liberalize its tourist guide sector.

This came after the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and the Singapore Taxi Academy (STA) signed on Wednesday an agreement, which enables both sides to collaborate and leverage on each other's resources and expertise to institutionalize the Taxi Tourist Guide scheme within a formalized training and regulatory framework, according to a joint Press release issued by the STB and the STA.

The scheme, the first of its kind in the world, enables visitors to experience and tour Singapore in a taxi driven by a licensed professional tourist guide.

The purpose of the scheme is to encourage creativity, entrepreneurship and vibrancy within the tourism industry and provide visitors with a wider range of tourism products and services. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Tianjin to position itself as container hub for N-E Asia

TIANJIN, 4 March — Tianjin, a leading international port city in north China, is striving for the status of a world-class container hub in northeastern Asia in the next decade, with an annual container handling capacity of 17 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) targeted for 2015.

An international business

harbour, Tianjin Port currently operates 68 regular ship routes and does business with more than 300 ports around the world.

According to sources with the Tianjin port authorities, the port handled 3,015,400 TEUs of containers in 2003, placing itself in the fourth position among Chinese coastal ports, next only to Shanghai, Shenzhen

and Qingdao.

To lure more overseas shipping carriers and meet challenges from the top three and other domestic container ports, including Ningbo and Guangzhou, Tianjin completed a wharf upgrading project at a cost of 1.855 billion yuan (223.49 million US dollars) in 2003.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



Chippy, an adult California sea lion, makes its way down Drake's Beach toward the ocean after being released at the Point Reyes National Seashore on 3 March, 2004. Chippy, who made headlines when he was found atop a California Highway Patrol car near Los Banos, Calif, on 9 Feb, has been recuperating since then at the Marine Mammal Centre in Sausalito, Calif. — INTERNET

မြို့ခြံရွှေတာ၊ ဆိပ်ပါးလေ့ရှိ၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်



Falah Hassan, 35, lies injured inside a hospital in the Kazimiya district of Baghdad, Iraq, on 3 March, 2004. Falah was injured in the suicide attacks on Tuesday. — INTERNET

Arroyo sees stronger Philippine-Papua New Guinea ties

MANILA, 4 March — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo eyes stronger bilateral ties between the Philippines and Papua New Guinea which is set to popularize the use of Philippine-made jeepneys to address its mass transport problem.

"I am looking forward to the expansion of our bilateral relations because we are neighbours in the Asia-Pacific Region," Arroyo told visiting Papua Transportation and Civil Aviation Minister Don Poyle who called on her at Malacanang (the presidential palace) Wednesday.

Arroyo thanked the Papuan official for tapping the uniquely Filipino jeepney as a solution to their mass

transport problem.

Arroyo recalled that increasing trade and relations was part of the bilateral agreement forged with Papua New Guinea during the last Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2003.

For his part, Poyle said the "Philippine jeepney is one of the solutions in our transportation problems as replacement to our ailing mass pub-

lic transport."

He said his country is buying 4,000 jeepneys at 500,000 pesos (8,890 US dollars) per unit.

He concurred with Arroyo's observation that the jeepney is a much cheaper mode of transportation than the taxi. Poyle also said some 7,000 Filipinos are currently working in Papua New Guinea.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

HK launches logistics services expo in Mainland

HONG KONG, 4 March — Hong Kong staged on Wednesday a logistics services expo in China's Mainland to introduce the city to potential investors.

The three-day Hong Kong Logistics Services Expo is organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Guangzhou City, with the objective of promoting Hong Kong's role as an international logistics and transportation centre in the region.

Invest Hong Kong's transportation and logistics team attended the expo to meet with representatives from Mainland companies in the related industries, including freight forwarding, shipping, express services, land transportation, logistics and supply chain management related services.

The head of transportation and logistics of Invest Hong Kong Benjamin Wong said, "Through our participation in this high-profile trade fair, we will communicate our key messages to potential investors — setting up business in Hong Kong is their natural choice, and Invest Hong Kong is here to provide assistance."

Wong said, with the implementation of CEPA (the Chinese Mainland/Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement) in January 2004, the business flow between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta in China's Mainland has intensified. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government is committed to continuously enhance the software and hardware necessary to meet the rapidly growing demands.

Invest Hong Kong is the investment promotion arm for the HKSAR government. The United Nations has forecast that, by 2006, Chinese Mainland will become Asia's largest market in terms of container shipping volume—and that a significant portion of this trade will be moved through Hong Kong. The supporting services offered by Hong Kong will play an important role in this development. — *MNA/Xinhua*

“Is that so, Maung Ka Lu?” “It’s more than that”

Maung Ka Lu

(Continued from yesterday)

Grandpa: You are right. After restoring stability and bringing progress, the Tatmadaw has tried to achieve cent per cent peace in the whole nation. Our nation has been able to move a step forward because of the efforts to further develop the political and economic sectors.

Maung Ka Lu: A step forward? What do you mean, Grandpa?

Grandpa: You are so naive, although you look quite clever. It is none other than the road map to build a genuine democratic nation. Concerning the matter, the Prime Minister has already laid down the seven-point future programme of the State.

Maung Ka Lu: The National Convention will be reconvened. Necessary steps taken will be for the flourishing of democracy. A new Constitution will be drafted in accord with the basic principles laid down by the National Convention. The Constitution must be approved through a referendum. The Pyithu Hluttaw elections will be held in accord with the Constitution. A Hluttaw meeting will be held with the participation of the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives. The Hluttaw will elect the head of state and the cabinet. Is it correct Grandpa?

Grandpa: Yes. After the election of the head of state and the cabinet, the final touches in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation will be carried out. The seven stages of the road map have been drawn in the interest of every person. The seven-point policy programme has been unanimously approved by the entire people. It is also welcomed and supported by all the ASEAN nations, all the neighbouring nations and all the regional countries. It is drawn by the State in accord with the aspiration of the people of Myanmar, and supported by many countries. Except for a handful of external and internal destructive elements, the road map is welcomed by the entire Myanmar and the whole world.

Maung Ka Lu: Oh Grandpa, those destructionists from inside and outside the nation are worthless. They cannot hide their evil mind, and are talking in a random way. The more they hold negative views, the more loathsome they become for the people.

Grandpa: Every country has the media for propaganda network. Most try to advertise their efforts and accomplishments through the media. In other words, they are conducting ordinary media services. But some are different. They are shamelessly trying to float slanders to interfere in the affairs of other countries and to dominate them.

Maung Ka Lu: I have also heard their slanders. They are talking ill of the emergence of over 150 new dams, over 150 bridges whose lengths exceed the 180-foot mark, institutions of higher learning, schools, hospitals and dispensaries in our country. They are saying that the Government is not able to lower the commodity prices; that the price of rice is too high. But when the price of rice falls, they begin to say that farmers are facing troubles because of the fall of rice prices. They are always talking ill of others from the negative point of view.

Grandpa: I wonder they dare say shamelessly that the commodity prices rise due to the increase in the price of rice and that the fall in the price of rice causes hardships to farmers.

Maung Ka Lu: Every time an armed group tries to hold peace talks and to reach a ceasefire agreement with the Government, they are raising questions — Why does the armed group easily return to the legal fold after launching the armed opposition for many years? Are its 50-year-old aspirations fulfilled?

filled? They are trying to stop the armed group from making peace with the Government. They are trying to ask endless questions from the destructive point of view.

Grandpa: Yes, I am also thinking about it. They do not wish to see any of the one or two unlawful groups, a band of expatriates, and one or two remaining armed groups, return to the legal fold because they are using the latter as the launching pad to interfere in others' affairs and to manipulate others. If all return to the legal fold, the colonialist group will lose its supporting stick and fell to the ground like an old and feeble man.

Maung Ka Lu: When the armed groups were making peace with the government one after another, they were expressing their great expectation, saying that the armed groups would go underground again soon. And when the peace groups are striving for the progress of their regions, their people and the nation, the colonialists accuse them of running a big narcotic business.

Grandpa: In collusion with a group of expatriates, the radio stations under their influence are broadcasting programmes against the road map, much valued and desired by the people. They are airing more slanders, saying that Myanmar is the country most opposed to democracy, the country which violates human rights most, the country with least religious freedom, and the country that produces the largest volume of narcotic drugs. They are saying that the road map will not mean anything without the participation of the person in their favour; and that certain persons should be included in the delegates to the National Convention.

Maung Ka Lu: Forgive them, Grandpa. The one who has the habit of talking gossips will stand in front of a mirror to slander himself if there is no one to discredit. And a person who is fond of telling lies will lie himself if there is no one to lie.

Grandpa: Whatever they are saying, it is sure that the 53 million people of the nation will try to implement the road map, they desire much, without fail. And the colonialists will continue to harm our country, and that is their job. On the other hand, Myanmar will strive for perpetuation of the Union and independence, further raising the momentum of the development, and emergence of a discipline-flourishing nation.

Maung Ka Lu: Only the Myanmar people will have to choose the type of democracy they desire most for their nation. The design of democracy system the west is promoting is an undisciplined and indecent one. And even in their country the system is not practised. In reality, their democracy is like the sugar-coated poison. It is designed to enslave others. The sufferings and the evil consequences the peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq are facing are the fine examples of their sugar-coated democracy which smells their evil will to enslave others.

Grandpa: Is that so, Maung Ka Lu?

Maung Ka Lu: It's more than that.

(Translation: TMT)

(Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 3-3-2004)

Minister meets Korean guest

YANGON, 4 March — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung met Head of the Buddhist Broadcasting Department of the Republic of Korea Ven: Kim Do Hu at his office at 7.30 am today.

Also present at the call were Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin and officials. — MNA

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

International Women's Day

8th March 2004

ကမ္ဘာ့အမျိုးသမီးများနေ့

၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ် မတ်လ (၈)ရက်

Ovadas sought from State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws

YANGON, 4 March — Member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee gave Ovadas to laity at a ceremony held at Kanmyint Monastery in Sangyoung Township, here, this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay.

Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Aungmyebonsan Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panindabhivamsa, Secretary Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and members of the Sangha graced the ceremony by their attendance. The Magway Sayadaw administered the Five Precepts to the congregation. Members of the Sangha recited *parittas*. Next, the commander and wife presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

The vice-chairman Sayadaw of the SSMNC gave Ovadas and delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. — MNA

National Tennis C'ship 8-12 March

YANGON, 4 March — The Myanmar Tennis Federation will conduct National Tennis Championship at Theinbyu Tennis Plaza here from 8 to 12 March. The tournament comprises men's singles and doubles events (open), women's singles and doubles events (open), men's singles and doubles events (aged above-35), men's singles and doubles events (aged above-45), men's singles and doubles events (aged above-55), and men's singles and doubles events (aged above-60). Those wishing to take part may enlist at the MTF by 10 am on 7 March. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Buddha images at Kyaikthanlan Pagoda in Mawlamyine.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress in laying reinforced concrete floor for motorway of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine).—MNA

Regional development...

(from page 16)

encouragement should be given to increase income from the meat and fish sector which has high potentials for development.

Boosting of the production, with the natural resources as the base, will ensure the economy of Mon State stand on a firm foundation. The Government has already set up infrastructures in various sectors.

After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe and party proceeded to Mawlamyine University where they were welcomed by Minister for Education U Than Aung and officials.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party met with rector, pro-rectors, professors, associate professors, lecturers, assistant lecturers, tutors and demonstrators of Mawlamyine University, Mawlamyine Education College, Government Technical College and Government Computer College at the Convocation

Hall of Mawlamyine University.

At the meeting, Rector of Mawlamyine University U San Tint, Principal of Mawlamyine Education College Daw Yin Yin Myat, Principal of Government Technical College U Win Maung and Principal In-Charge of Government Computer College reported on brief history, location and area of the university and colleges, courses conducted and subjects, population of students, academic and administrative staff and acquisition of teaching and learning aids.

In response to the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave instructions, saying that the earlier education standard of Myanmar lagged far behind when compared with that of international community, adding that at a time when there have been changes and developments in leaps and bounds in the field of world education there should not

be a series of weak points in Myanmar education. There will be no progress in Myanmar education if review and reform are not made in an effective way in the education system in time.

The vision of ASEAN is "all member nations must become modern and developed ones in 2020", and it is imperative to swiftly reform the Myanmar education system and efforts are to be made for development in the field of education.

Therefore, transformation is being introduced with added momentum in the education system under the motto "building a modern and developed nation through education" and education infrastructures were established after laying down the national education promotion special 4-year project.

Universities and colleges were set up in the 24-development zones and opportunities to pursue the higher learning within the reach were created. Human

resources needed for the region will emerge if the opportunity to pursue education is created in the region, thereby contributing to ensuring regional development and narrowing development gap between one region and another.

Intellectuals and intelligentsia play a crucial role in building a modern and developed nation. The government is doing its best in promoting the national education standard and continued efforts are to be made for successful realization of the national education promotion goal.

In the process, the qualified teachers are to provide well-rounded education with the effective use of teaching aids in accord with the curricula. The government will provide necessary assistance with goodwill and the teachers, on their part, are to strive to become highly qualified ones while teaching the students to become outstanding ones.

The teachers are to teach the students who will build

and safeguard the nation in future to become new generations of international level.

Next, the Senior General inspected progress made in construction of the convocation hall of Mawlamyine University and the small scale model of the convocation hall and gave necessary guidance to officials.

On arrival at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), the Senior General and party were welcomed by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, the Chief Engineer, senior engineers and engineers of Public Works.

At the briefing hall, the Senior General heard reports on progress in building the bridge by Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave guidance that as Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) now under construction is the longest and biggest of the State, it will be the pride of the State as well as symbol of Mawlamyine. And emphasis is to be laid on timely completion of the bridge meeting the set standard.

Then, the Senior General and party inspected progress in construction of the bridge.

Next, the Senior General and party went to the part of the bridge on Mawlamyine Bank and saw over the laying of concrete floor for the motor road and the preparation for laying of the railroad.

Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), 11,575 feet

long, will be one railroad with two motorways running parallel. Efforts are being made to complete the bridge at the end of this year.

After inspecting the bridge, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed greening tasks along Strand Road and development of Mawlamyine.

In the evening, the Senior General and party proceeded to historic Kyaikthanlan Pagoda and paid homage to Buddha Images at the northern prayer hall.

Next, the Senior General presented cash donations for the pagoda and signed in the visitors' book.

They then went round the pagoda clockwise.

On 3 March morning, the Senior General and party paid homage to State Ovadaçariya Agga Maha Pandita Kawhlar Pariyatti Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Obhaya and members of the Sangha at Mon State and township levels at Thantithukha Dhammayon of South-East Command in Mawlamyine and offered provisions to the Sayadaws.

Then, the Sayadaw dispensed Metta to the Senior General and party.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, who accompanied the Senior General, inspected Dawei District Information and Public Relations Department Office on 29 February evening and Mawlamyine District IPRD Office on 3 March.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets staff of Dawei District IPRD Office.—MNA





Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Sayadaws at Thantithukha Dhammayon of South-East Command Headquarters in Mawlamyine. (News on page 16)—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects lay-out plan of convocation hall of Mawlamyine University. (News on page 16)—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe offers provisions to a Sayadaw at Thantithukha Dhammayon of South-East Command Headquarters in Mawlamyine. (News on page 16)—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe cordially converses with departmental personnel and Tatmadawmen in the local battalion in Ye. (News on page 16)—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets faculty members at convocation hall of Mawlamyine University. (News on page 16)—MNA



Head of State Senior General Than Shwe being welcomed by officials in Ye, Mon State. (News on page 16)—MNA

Pantanaw test well, Nyaungdon oil field inspected

YANGON, 4 March—Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay arrived at the site of test well in Pyindongale Village, Pantanaw Township, this morning. Officials reported on preparations for drilling the test well, arrival of heavy machinery and construction of roads. The minister gave necessary instructions and inspected preparations for drilling the test well and road construction. On arrival at Nyaungdon Oil Field, Chief Engineer (Drillings) U Ye Khaung reported on production of oil and gas and construction of oil tank. The Deputy Minister then proceeded to the site for the installation of Nyaungdon-Ywama natural gas pipeline and gave necessary instructions to officials.—MNA

Greening of 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport all the year round coordinated

YANGON, 4 March—The coordination meeting on greening 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport all the year round was held at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters yesterday evening, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that as arrangements are being implemented for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, pulses and beans, edible oil crops, vegetables and other crops on a commercial scale for greening 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport all the year round, there are five zones for greening tasks at the

environs of the airport and the way to landing area. Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Vice-Mayor

Col Maung Pa and officials submitted reports on cultivation, water supply and extension of cultivation in coming season. —MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann gives instructions to departmental personnel and Tatmadawmen in the local battalion in Ye. (News on page 16)—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and Tatmadaw families offer 'soon' to Sayadaws



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party offer 'soon' to Sayadaws. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer provisions to Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donate offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe present offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, offers provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet present offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife donate provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife present offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA



The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

Britain's house prices continue to rise

LONDON, 4 March — Britain's housing market showed no signs of easing off and the prices are still rising strongly despite interest rates having been pushed up twice by the Bank of England, according to the country's biggest mortgage lender Wednesday.

Halifax said that the current average price of a home rose 1.6 per cent during February, to 148,089 pounds or 275,445 US dollars, taking the year-on-year prices rise to 17.8 per

cent, up from 16 per cent in January and 15.4 per cent in December.

However, Halifax's monthly rise at 1.6 per cent is only half that reported last week by the Nationwide Building Society, which claimed that house prices rose by 3.1 per cent in February.

There are some differences of timing of data collection between the two lenders and economists say the Christmas period could have distorted the figures.

According to Halifax, the house market is being propped up by a strong labour market, low rates and a shortage of new homes being built.

"The ongoing strength of the housing market is underpinned by the favourable combination of a strong labour market, historically low interest rates and low mortgage payments in relation to earnings," said Shane O'Riordain, general manager of group economics at Halifax.

The Bank of England is concerned and wants to engineer a slowdown in the growth in the housing market for fear that a credit crunch would lead to a crash.

MNA/Xinhua

German celebrity jungle show probed for cruelty

BERLIN, 4 March — German prosecutors said on Wednesday they were investigating a celebrity reality television show set in the Australian jungle for cruelty to people for making contestants eat live insects.

Prosecutors in Cologne said they were investigating producers of Germany's "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!" on the RTL network after a viewer complained it was cruel and dangerous to make the contestants complete challenges such as eating insects and bathing with creepy crawlies.

The show pitches B-list celebrity contestants into the Australian jungle to fend for themselves while carrying out arduous and often distasteful tasks to win daily food rations.

"The stars themselves haven't made any complaints, but a private individual said they were mistreated," Chief Prosecutor Regine Appenrodt told Reuters.

She said the person also complained goldfish were killed in a challenge where 18-year old pop singer Daniel Kuehlboeck was urged to put his head in an aquarium.

MNA/Reuters

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့် ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကျွံစားနှင့် စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့်ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများမှာ အသည်းရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည်းခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအန်ခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြောထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါများဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ —
၁။ ကယောင့်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremers)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်၊ နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်းနိုင်စွမ်းမရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများမြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံဗလများကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုမိုများများ ခန္ဓာကိုယ်ပေါ် ရုစိစိ သွားသလိုခစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သည့်အခါတွင် လူမရှိပဲ နားထဲတွင်ခေါ်သံများ၊ ခြိမ်းခြောက်သံများ၊ ခော်ကားခော်ကားသံများကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinoses)။

၃။ အတက်ကြီးရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits)

(ဝက်ရူပွန် ရောဂါ ကဲ့သို့တတ်ခြင်း)။

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း

(Depressive Illness)။

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)။

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချို့ယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ်သောက်ရုံဖြင့် ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)။

၈။ မိမိ၏ခန့်ကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲမှားခြင်းများဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Morbid Jealousy)။

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှု ကျူးလွန်သည့်အထိဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။

အထက်ပါဆို ကျိုးများကို မစားရစေရန် အရက်သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အထူးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကိုစွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန်တိုက်တွန်း အပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေး ဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေးဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျ ကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းစွာ သာမက ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခမြည့်ဝခြင်းကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များကို စားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုများကင်းစင်၍ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာ ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင့်တင့်မျှတသော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့ရုပ်သိမ်းကုသမှုရန် ခြင်္သေ့ရုပ်သိမ်းခြင်းအပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်ကျေးမှုကိုသက်သွယ်ပါ။
- (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

ပျားရည်နှင့် အစွမ်းသတ္တိ

- * ပျားရည်သည် အင်အားပြည့်စုံစွာပေးရာတွင် အသန့်စင်ဆုံး အာဟာရတစ်မျိုး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် သတ္တိဓာတ်၊ အင်ဇိုင်းနှင့် အာဟာရဓာတ် အများအပြားပါဝင်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်သည် သစ်သီး၊ သကြားဓာတ် အဓိကပါဝင်သော သကြားဓာတ်ပေါင်း တစ်မျိုးဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် ဘက်တီးရီးယား၊ သန့်စင်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် ပဋိဇီဝ စွမ်းရည်သတ္တိပါရှိသဖြင့် အနားထိရမှုများ အနာကျက်မြန်စေပြီး လျင်မြန်စွာ ပျောက်ကင်းစေပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်စားသုံးပြီး မိနစ်ပိုင်းအတွင်း စွမ်းအားတိုးတက်လာစေနိုင်ပါသည်။

“သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား ဖြိုဖျက်သို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတိပေးချက်အရ စက်သုံးစီးထုတ်ပေး ထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတ်မှတ်နှုန်းထားများ အတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက်တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင်ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိုရောက်ရှိအရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနည်းတို့ကို သတိပြုကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

- (၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတစ်ဝှမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉)
- (၂) ကြိုးမဲ့ကြေးနန်းနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့ (ဖုန်း ၂၉၁၂၈၇/၂၉၁၂၈၇)
- (၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆိုင်ရာဦးစီးဌာန (ဖုန်း ၅၄၁၉၀၅/၅၄၁၉၀၅)

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

Aussie golden fleece locked up in bank vault

SYDNEY, 4 March — Two Australian sheep farmers have produced the world's finest wool, a mere 11.9 microns thick or about one-fifth the diameter of human hair, with a bale of the super fine wool now under armed guard inside a bank vault.

The bale of wool is valued at more than one million Australian dollars (752,000 US dollars) and when sold in coming weeks is probably destined for a fashion house in Paris, Milan, New York or Tokyo.

"It's a world record that highlights the amount of research and development put in by Australian farmers," said Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson on Wednesday in congratulating the sheep farming brothers Bim and Richard Goodrich.

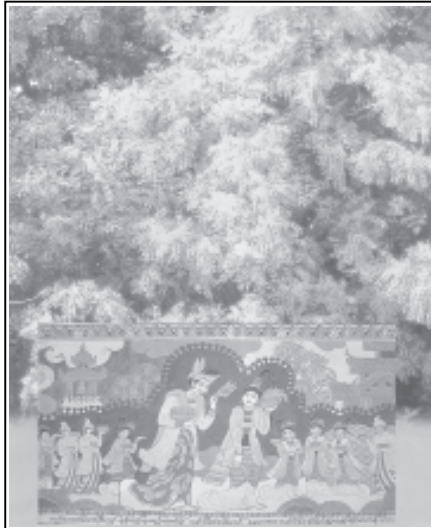
One micron is a thousandth of a millimetre and 14-16 micron wool is normally used for cashmere clothing. The average wool produced in Australia is 20 microns.

To grow the world's finest wool, the Goodrich brothers built a luxurious shed dubbed the "Wooldorf Astoria" for the prized sheep on their Warroo Station property in northern New South Wales State.

Life for the pampered sheep inside the large shed, unlike those left in open paddocks, is stress-free with the climate controlled and special feed. — MNA/Reuters

76 poisoned after wedding feast in S-W China

KUNMING, 4 March — Seventy-six people in Luxi County in southwest China's Yunnan Province were poisoned after attending a wedding feast at a local restaurant Monday, officials with the county health bureau said Wednesday. "All the victims are out of danger and the restaurant has been closed for examination," said Wang Zefang, director of the bureau. Wang said Luxi People's Hospital reported Tuesday that it had treated dozens of people for nausea, vomiting, fatigue, headaches and diarrhoea and the number of victims had climbed up to 76 by Wednesday afternoon. The bureau immediately carried out an investigation and found out that all the victims had attended a wedding feast at a local restaurant called "Yipingxian" on Monday afternoon, said Wang, who said the hospital has set up a special team to take care of the victims. — MNA/Xinhua



Thingyan. Water Festival @ Myanmar New Year Come and enjoy our Water Festival Thingyan Holiday Packages available right now!

* Chiang Mai/ Bangkok/Singapore - Yangon-Mandalay -Yangon-Singapore/Bangkok/ Chiang Mai

- 6 Days/ 5 Nights { 13th to 18th April '04 }

- 5 Days/ 4 Nights { 11th to 15th April '04 }

- 3 Days/ 2 Nights { 13th to 15th April '04 }

* Chiang Mai- Mandalay- Yangon - Chiang Mai

- 4 Days/ 3 Nights { 15th to 18th April '04 }

* For further information, please kindly contact:

Myanmar Travels & Tours (M.T.T)

Tel: 95-1-252859, 378376, 371910,

374281

Fax: 95-1-254417

Email: mtt.mht@mptmail.net.mm

Website: www.myanmartravels.com/mtt

Union of Myanmar Travel Association

Tel: 95-1-559672, 559673

Fax: 95-1-545707

Email: umta@mptmail.net.mm

Website: www.umtaset.com

Myanmar Hoteliers' Association

Tel: 95-1-245323, 241905, 254812

Fax: 95-1-252806

Email: aone@mptmail.net.mm

Website: www.myanmarhoteliers.com

Djiboutian FM in Ankara for bilateral ties

ANKARA, 4 March —

Djiboutian Foreign Minister Ali Abdi Farah arrived here Tuesday for talks with his Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gul on ways to improve bilateral ties, as well as on international issues of common concern.

Turkey and Djibouti will also sign an agreement for cooperation in the fields of cultural, education, science, Press and sports during Farah's three-day visit, according to a statement issued by the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "BAGO" VOY NO BG 764/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "BAGO" Voy No BG 764/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 7-3-2004 and will be berthing on about 8-3-2004 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 the vessel.

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

**CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone : 293147, 296507, 295754

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV UNICORN JOY VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNICORN JOY Voy No (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-3-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ILSUNG SHIPPING LTD,
KOREA**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE "MV DAWEI VOY NO (25)"

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAWEI Voy No (25) arrived on 5-3-2004 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone: 295279, 295280, 295281, 295658, 295659

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (497)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (497) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-3-2004 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 up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (347)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR Voy No (347) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-3-2004 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 up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MAS SUTRA VOY NO (054)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAS SUTRA Voy No (054) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-3-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပအသံအသံ

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Notice is hereby given that MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD., a corporation incorporated and existing under the Laws of Japan and having its office at 1006, OaZa Kadoma, Kadoma-Shi, Osaka 571 8501, Japan is the sole owner and proprietor of the following Trade Mark:-

Panasonic

The said Trade Mark is used in respect of the following goods:-

Surgical, medical, dental and veterinary apparatus and instruments; artificial limbs, eyes and teeth; orthopedic articles, suture materials; electronic blood pressure meters; electronic clinical thermometers; laser medical treatment devices; ultrasonic diagnostic equipment; hearing aids; laser scalpels; electric hand massagers; electric massage chairs; electric massage beds; handheld vibrators for medical use; electric beds for medical use; electric low frequency therapeutic apparatus; electric high frequency therapeutic apparatus; electric air mats for bedsores-preventing; steam inhalers for medical use; electric heating pads; dental CCD sensor system; medical bone densitometer; electric massagers; electric vibrators; electric air mat for medical purposes; sphygmomanometers; electric inhalers; insufflators. (Class - 10) [Reg. No. IV/ 4090 / 2003]

Vehicles; electric wagons for factory use; bicycles; bicycle tires and tubes; electric power assisted bicycles; motors, for land vehicles; anti-theft alarms for vehicles. (Class - 12) [Reg. No. IV/ 4061 / 2003]

Horology and other Chronometric Instruments; Watches; Clocks; Chronographs for cooking use. (Class - 14) [Reg. No. IV/ 4062 / 2003]

Musical instruments; electronic organs; electronic pianos; keyboards for musical instruments; music synthesizers; electric drums; electric effect apparatus for musical instruments, namely sequencers; parts and accessories for electric and electronic musical instruments, namely sound modules, keyboard amplifiers and external memories. (Class - 15) [Reg. No. IV/ 4063 / 2003]

Office requisites; electric paper shredders; electric staplers; battery-operated letter openers; electric pencil sharpeners; electric hole punches; electric print boards; electronic typewriters; ribbon cassettes for electronic typewriters; thermal papers. (Class - 16) [Reg. No. IV/ 4064 / 2003]

Plastic materials in the form of sheets; rods, and foils; molding materials; electric insulating sheets; acoustic boards; sound insulating boards. (Class - 17) [Reg. No. IV/ 4065 / 2003]

Any imitation or fraudulent use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

U OHN MAUNG, B.Sc., B.L.
Advocate & Notary Public
No. 3, 34th Street, Yangon.

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

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒ်တိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

ASEAN seeks ways to boost intra block cooperation

HANOI, 4 March—The upcoming Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministerial Meeting (AMM) Retreat will discuss important issues to boost intra-ASEAN cooperation and solidarity.

At the retreat, which will be held on Thursday in Ha Long City of northern Quang Ninh province of Vietnam, foreign ministers of Southeast Asian countries will seek more ways to implement the 9th ASEAN Summit's resolutions as well as the block's external relation strategy, local newspaper *Labour* on Wednesday quoted Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien as saying.

The coming retreat takes place at a time when ASEAN is facing a number of opportunities and major challenges. Firstly, the

group's international image and prestige are increasing thanks to the success of the 9th ASEAN Summit last October and other summits with China, Japan and India, Nien noted.

Secondly, external relations with ASEAN partners, especially the three Northeast Asian nations of China, Japan and South Korea, and India have made huge steps forward in economics, politics and transnational issues. China and Japan have become ASEAN's strategic partners, he added.

However, numerous

problems and major challenges are ahead. Economically, many countries in the region are battling bird flu, a complicated development which followed soon after SARS was contained. Meanwhile, cooperation within the block in certain fields is still limited as the cooperation mechanism has not yet worked as effectively as expected, he said.

Member countries have, therefore, seen the necessity to sit down and openly and frankly discuss the issues of cooperation within the block. And the upcoming AMM Retreat will provide them

with opportunities to seek effective solutions to outstanding problems.

At the retreat, ASEAN members will discuss concrete steps to put into practice two initiatives which were launched by Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai at the 9th ASEAN Summit.

One is to hold a meeting for leaders of ASEAN's poor localities in Vietnam, to exchange experiences in poverty reduction and narrowing the development gap, and the other is to organize a festival to promote tourism in East Asia, said Nien.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to take measures to boost birth rate

SINGAPORE, 4 March—With a continued decline in the birth rate over the past years, Singapore is now anxious to look into ways to address such a problem.

According to a joint statement by the government ministries on Tuesday, the Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Lim Hng Kiang said that despite measures that had been taken by the government, the total number of births per resident woman in the island state has fallen by more than 30 per cent since 1980, hitting an all-time low of 1.2 last year.

"We had only 36,000 resident babies born in 2003, and that's far below the number of babies that we need each year to replace ourselves," the minister said.

Lim complained that Singaporeans are getting married later and having smaller families, more are staying single and the population is aging.

While urging Singaporeans to provide feedback and suggestions on how to encourage marriage, parenthood and citizenship, he said that the government will announce a package of new measures targeting the birth of Singapore citizen babies by August.

Increasing the number of births is one way to ensure the future generation of Singaporeans, he said, adding that a supplementary strategy is to woo immigrants who can contribute to the well-being of Singapore.

MNA/Xinhua

China works out first computer for the blind

HARBIN, 4 March—Two companies based in the northeastern China province of Heilongjiang have worked out a computer that allows the blind and those with eye diseases to access the cyberspace with a Chinese-Braille keyboard, a mouse and two ears.

The new Tongchuang Blue Sky computer is installed with a special input system that codes and decodes the Chinese and Braille languages, as well as a voice software to read the screen for the users, said Chen Weigang, General Manager of the E-Times Co. based in the provincial capital Harbin. "It can read out texts, menus and names of icons wherever the cursor goes for the convenience of a computer operator," said Chen.

The computer is a joint product between Chen's company and the Tongchuang Information Industry Group based in the oil rich Daqing City. "The blind do not fall behind the seeing people at all in terms of intelligence, but have much fewer opportunities for training and employment," said Hou Qingyou, a teacher with a Harbin-based school for blind students who invented the Chinese-Braille keyboard.

"With this computer, the blind users can learn to send and receive emails within two days," said Hou, who has poor sight himself. Figures show China has around nine million people suffering from eye diseases, more than five million of whom are blind. As digital technology and networking have become a major source of information, blind people are eager to update their knowledge and improve their lives.

MNA/Xinhua

HK's first domino liver transplant successful

HONG KONG, 4 March—Hong Kong's first domino liver transplant was successfully performed at Queen Mary Hospital on February 19, saving two patients' life.

The hospital said at a Press conference on Tuesday that two patients were benefited from a 50-year-old female liver donor, who died of multiple injury after a traffic accident. The woman's liver was transplanted to a 30-year-old female patient, Ms Leung, who suffered from Familial Amyloidotic Polyneuropathy and Liver Transplantation (FAP), while her own liver was trans-

planted to a 62-year-old patient, Mr Wong, with liver failure from cirrhosis and liver cancer. The operation lasted for 12 hours and involved two teams of surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses from the liver transplant team of Queen Mary Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong (HKU).

According to the hospital, this is the first operation

of such kind in Asia apart from Japan. As introduced by Dr. Chan See-Ching, medical officer of the hospital's Surgery Department, FAP patients lack an enzyme which can help detoxicate a substance in the liver. This will result in progressive accumulation of the toxic substance, amyloid in nerves, heart and other internal organs from the time of birth.

MNA/Xinhua

Study shows "AIDS" blamed for big jump in S Africa deaths

JOHANNESBURG, 4 March—South Africa's adult death rate has jumped by almost 50 per cent over the past six years and the country's devastating AIDS epidemic is probably the primary cause, researchers said on Wednesday.

"There is a distinct rise in deaths in the younger, sexually-active age groups. It is our view that this is mainly due to AIDS," said Ria Laubscher, a statistician at South Africa's independent Medical Research Council (MRC).

South Africa has the world's single highest AIDS caseload, with an estimated

5.3 million of its 45 million people infected.

Despite the epidemic's punishing human and economic toll, President Thabo Mbeki's government has moved slowly in fighting AIDS — a sluggish response which critics blame on a political disputes over the cause, severity and treatment of the disease.

Mbeki, who in the past has questioned the link between HIV and AIDS, angered activists last month when he said South Africa had few reliable statistics on AIDS deaths and could not assess the real extent of the epidemic.

Activists blame the government for underreporting AIDS deaths, noting that many people die of HIV-related

causes such as tuberculosis or other opportunistic illnesses.

Laubscher said the MRC's study, based on official death statistics from 1998 to 2003, was aimed at providing concrete information to show that South Africa's overall death toll had leapt in six years.

"We thought we really must respond (to Mbeki),"

Laubscher said. "We said: 'Let's just put it to them in plain numbers.'"

The study, which has been submitted for publication in the *South African Medical Journal*, follows earlier MRC research which estimated that in 2000, AIDS accounted for about 40 per cent of the deaths of South Africans aged between 15-49.—MNA/Reuters



The world's second-largest reinsurer Swiss Re warned on 3 March, 2004, that the economic costs of global warming are threatening to spiral out of control and could double to \$150 billion (81 billion pounds) a year in 10 years. This file photo shows the world's highest ski slope, located in the Bolivian Andes, where scientists say the ice cap that attracts hundreds of tourists each year will disappear in less than five years, likely due to global warming. —INTERNET

Insurer warns of global warming catastrophe threat

GENEVA, 4 March — The world's second-largest reinsurer Swiss Re on Wednesday warned that the costs of global warming threatened to spiral out of control, forcing the human race into a catastrophe of its own making.

In a report revealing how climate change is rising on the corporate agenda, Swiss Re said the economic costs of global warming threatened to double to 150 billion US dollars a year in 10 years, hitting insurers with 30-40 billion US dollars in claims, or the equivalent of one World Trade Center attack annually.

"There is a danger that human intervention will accelerate and intensify natural climate changes to such a point that it will become impossible to adapt our socio-economic systems in time," Swiss Re said in the report.

"The human race can lead itself into this climatic catastrophe — or it can avert it."

The report comes as a

growing number of policy experts warn that the environment is emerging as the security threat of the 21st Century, eclipsing terrorism.

Scientists expect global warming to trigger increasingly frequent and violent storms, heat waves, flooding, tornadoes, and cyclones while other areas slip into cold or drought.

"Sea levels will continue to rise, glaciers retreat and snow cover decline," the insurer wrote.

Losses to insurers from environmental events have risen exponentially over the past 30 years, and are expected to rise even more rapidly still, said Swiss Re climate expert Pamela Heck.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Brazilian Alex joins PSV at end of season

AMSTERDAM, 4 March — Defender Alex will join PSV Eindhoven from Brazilian side Santos on a five-year contract from the end of the season, the Dutch First Division club said on Tuesday.

PSV's acquisition of Alex follows their sale of forward Arjen Robben to English premier league club Chelsea for 12 million pounds, also for five years from the end of the season, which was announced earlier on Tuesday.

Media reports have said the deal for Alex is worth 6-8 million euros.

The 21-year-old Brazilian underwent a medical at the weekend and PSV were initially concerned about an old knee injury.

After studying his medical files, however, club doctor Rein van den Hoogenband, father of Olympic swimming champion Pieter, gave the transfer the green light.

"Alex is known as a strong and modern full back," said Frank Arnesen, who is in charge of scouting and transfers.

"He has proved his skills so far on several levels. He played 80 matches for his team Santos and also matches for the Copa Libertadores and Brazilian national youth teams."



Carlos Tevez, left, of Argentina's Boca Juniors, battles for the ball with Moises Villarroel, of Chile's Colo Colo, during their Libertadores of America Cup first round soccer game on 3 March, 2004 in Buenos Aires.—INTERNET

Bates resigns as Chelsea chairman

LONDON, 4 March — Ken Bates has resigned as chairman of Chelsea, the club said on Tuesday.

"At an emotional 'last' Chairman's Supper Club attended by over 300 people, he (Bates) expressed 'no blame' as he said that the intended period of hand over from himself to the new regime had not gone as he had anticipated, and that the differences of Eastern and Western cultures perhaps resulted in his decision," the club said on its web site.

There had been speculation about the position of the 72-year-old since Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich bought the Pre-

mier League club last July, which intensified with the arrival of former Manchester United chief executive Peter Kenyon in February.

Bates had retained the title of chairman of the football club but he was replaced as chairman of Chelsea's parent company by Abramovich associate Bruce Buck earlier this year. Kenyon's arrival put paid to a club institution with the axing of Bates' acerbic column in the club's matchday programme.

"Bruce Buck told me Peter Kenyon would be doing

a profile piece and it would be better if I didn't do my notes. I told him he could shove it and I wouldn't be doing them again," newspapers quoted Bates as saying at the time.

Bates bought the ailing club for one pound in 1982 and took the team back into the top flight. He invested heavily in the southwest London stadium, adding restaurants, a hotel and leisure complex. Under Bates and benefactor Matthew Harding, who later died in a helicopter crash, Chelsea pioneered the importation of foreign talent.

Dutch coach Ruud Gullit brought Chelsea their first honour for 26 years when they lifted the FA Cup in 1997. He attracted top Italians Gianluca Vialli, Gianfranco Zola and Roberto Di Matteo to the club.

Vialli replaced Gullit as coach in 1998 and guided the team to victories in the English League Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup. A second FA Cup success followed in 2000.

But Bates had stretched his business financially and, with an enormous wage bill and the bottom falling out of the European television rights market, Chelsea were in trouble again.—MNA/Reuters



Chile's Nicolas Massu returns a forehand to Jeff Salzenstein of the United States during their Mexican Open tennis championships match in Acapulco on 3 March, 2004. Massu won 6-1, 6-3.—INTERNET

Ronaldo hoping to finish career at Real Madrid

MADRID, 4 March — Ronaldo signed a two-year extension to his Real Madrid contract on Tuesday and said he expected to close out his career at the Spanish club.

"I had no doubts about this extension, from the moment Real Madrid expressed their interest," said the Brazilian striker, whose new deal runs until the end of the 2007-08 season.

"Between now and 2008 I've got time to think but I assume I'll finish my career at Real Madrid. It would be spectacular to do that."

Ronaldo joined Real from Inter Milan for 45 million euros (56 million US dollars) in 2002, signing a four-year deal with an option for one further season.

Real announced on Tuesday that the two parties had agreed to prolong the contract for two further years.

Ronaldo, who has been the subject of speculation linking him with moves to England or back to Italy, said his first choice would be to remain at Real.

"Interest from other clubs is always nice but I'm at the best club in the world, playing with the world's best players," said Ronaldo, who was speaking at a news conference at Real's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

"I'm planning on spending a lot of years here and going on to be an ambassador for the club."

Ronaldo is the second of Real's world-renowned players, the so-called "galacticos", to agree to a new longer-term deal following Zinedine Zidane's decision last month to extend his contract to 2007.

Spanish players Raul, Guti and Michel Salgado have also signed new contracts recently as part of the club's strategy to keep the first team squad as stable as possible.

"We're trying to maintain the nucleus of the side for years to come," Real director Emilio Butragueno told reporters. "This is great news for Real Madrid fans."

Ronaldo emerged from four years of career-threatening injury problems to help Brazil to victory in the World Cup in 2002, scoring two goals in the final to finish the tournament as top scorer with eight.

After a protracted transfer battle, he secured his move to Real and enjoyed an outstanding first season, scoring 23 league goals to lead his side to the league title. He was named FIFA's World Player of the Year for the third time in 2002.

Ronaldo is comfortably the leading scorer in the Primera Liga this season, with his 22 goals helping Real build an eight-point lead at the top of the table. —MNA/Reuters

Inter, Liverpool, Barca reach UEFA Cup last 16

LONDON, 4 March — Former UEFA Cup winners Inter Milan, Liverpool and PSV Eindhoven reached the last 16 on Wednesday but Parma and Galatasaray bowed out after being thrashed 3-0 in third round, second leg ties.

Barcelona saw off Denmark's Brondby and fellow former European champions Benfica will also be in Thursday's draw after scraping through on away goals against Rosenborg Trondheim.

Italian soccer needed a tonic after a nationwide fraud probe was launched this week and three-times winners Inter and AS Roma just about delivered it.

Inter battled to a goalless draw against French side Sochaux that sent them through on away goals,

though their Italy striker Christian Vieri was sent off four minutes from time after appearing to elbow an opponent.

Parma, UEFA Cup winners in 1995 and 1999, faced an uphill struggle after losing the first leg 1-0 at home to Genclerbirligi and their hopes of rescuing the tie effectively ended when goalkeeper Sebastien Frey was sent off in the 37th minute.

Filip Daems converted the penalty and late strikes by Matteo Ferrari and Ali Tandonan completed a miserable week for financially troubled Parma.

Roma, second in Serie

A, had better luck in turning around their tie against Turkish opponents after trailing 1-0 from the first leg at Gaziantepspor, strikes from Brazilian Emerson and Antonio Cassano sending them through.

Galatasaray, the first Turkish winners of a European trophy when they lifted the UEFA Cup in 2000, were knocked out by Spanish side Villarreal.

Spectacular strikes from Sonny Anderson and midfielders Roger Garcia and Juan Roman Riquelme helped the Spaniards seal a comfortable 5-2 aggregate win.

MNA/Reuters

Inter's Stankovic, Recoba banned for two games

ROME, 4 March — Inter Milan's Dejan Stankovic and Alvaro Recoba have been banned for two matches for their roles in a scuffle during Sunday's 3-1 home defeat to Brescia.

Midfielder Stankovic was sent off in the 86th minute of Inter's third successive defeat in Serie A for a wild challenge on Brescia's Simone Del Nero.

Uruguayan striker Recoba was handed his suspension after the Italian Football League's disciplinary commission viewed video evidence of his clash with Brescia midfielder Markus Schopp in the scuffle that ensued from the Stankovic challenge. Both players will now miss Sunday's Serie A game with Roma in the capital and the home fixture with Chievo Verona.

Inter said on their website they will appeal.

MNA/Reuters



Marta Marrero of Spain celebrates her victory against Amanda Koetzer, during their Mexican Open tennis championships match in Acapulco, Mexico, on 3 March, 2004. Marrero won the game 7-5, 6-3.—INTERNET

MRTV-3


**5-3-2004 (Friday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Tabung Festival
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Pagodas in Yangon,
The Shwedagon Pa-
goda
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 A Peaceful Place of
Mind
- 9:25 Lumbini — Birth Place
of Buddha
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 The Alaungdaw
Katthapa National
Park
- 9:40 Song "Sagawa Flowers
Land"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (III) (Awadam
Village- Ziadam Vil-
lage)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**5-3-2004 (Friday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 15:36 Tabung Festival
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Pagodas in Yangon,
The Shwedagon Pa-
goda
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 A Peaceful Place of
Mind
- 15:55 Lumbini — Birth Place
of Buddha
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 The Alaungdaw
Katthapa National

- 16:10 Park
Song "Sagawa Flowers
Land"
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (III) (Awadam
Village- Ziadam Vil-
lage)
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Special Teak Planta-
tion Programme in
Myanmar
- 16:40 Myanmar Traditional
Flower Arrangements
(Harp)
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Shwezawar Lacquer-
ware
- 16:55 Pakhanthar Myin Nyo
Shin
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Colourful Garden City
of Yangon
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Towering
Flower"
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 Mother O'pearl Mosaic
Painting
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Shwesaryan Pagoda
Festival
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 The Wonderful
Peikchin Ravine
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Novitiation of 1000
novices in Myan Aung
Lon Yui Festival
Dance
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 The Art of Stone
Sculpture
- 20:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "A Compassion-
ate Love Boat"
- 20:12 Hot Springs in Lashio
and Nam-Kham
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (II) (Upper
Shangaung - Awadam)
- 20:25 Song "Shadow of
Love"
- 20:30** **National News**

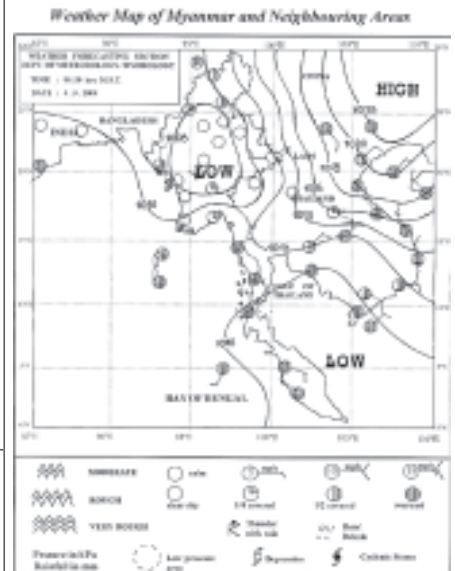
- 20:35 Gold Honey, Honey
Gold
- 20:40 Lacquerware in Bagan
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 The Ancient City
MraukU
- 20:55 Long Drum Folk Song
& Dance
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Thihathana Throne
- 21:10 Song "Saying with the
Eyes!"
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 Tour In Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 21:35 Tabung Festival
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Pagodas in Yangon,
The Shwedagon Pa-
goda
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 A Peaceful Place of
Mind
- 21:55 Lumbini — Birth Place
of Buddha
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 The Alaungdaw
Katthapa National
Park
- 22:10 Song "Sagawa Flowers
Land"
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (III) (Awadam
Village- Ziadam Vil-
lage)
- 22:25 Song "Pleasant and
Greenish Lake"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Special Teak Planta-
tion Programme in
Myanmar
- 22:40 Myanmar Traditional
Flower Arrangements
(Harp)
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Shwezawar Lacquer-
ware
- 22:55 Pakhanthar Myin Nyo
Shin
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Colourful Garden City
of Yangon
- 23:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Towering
Flower"
- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 Mother O'pearl Mosaic
Painting
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**5-3-2004 (Friday) &
6-3-2004 (Saturday)**

- 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"
- 23:35 Tabung Festival
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Pagodas in Yangon,
The Shwedagon Pa-
goda
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 A Peaceful Place of
Mind
- 23:55 Lumbini — Birth Place
of Buddha
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 The Alaungdaw
Katthapa National
Park
- 00:10 Song "Sagawa Flowers
Land"
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (III) (Awadam
Village- Ziadam Vil-
lage)
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Special Teak Planta-
tion Programme in
Myanmar
- 00:40 Myanmar Traditional
Flower Arrangements
(Harp)
- 00:45** **National News**
- 00:50 Shwezawar Lacquer-
ware
- 00:55 Pakhanthar Myin Nyo
Shin
- 01:00** **National News**
- 01:05 Colourful Garden City
of Yangon
- 01:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Towering
Flower"
- 01:15** **National News**
- 01:20 Mother O'pearl Mosaic
Painting
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 6-3-2004 (Saturday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**
- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 03:36 Shwesaryan Pagoda
Festival
- 03:40** **Headline News**

- 03:42 The Wonderful
Peikchin Ravine
- 03:45** **National News**
- 03:50 Novitiation of 1000
novices in Myan Aung
Lon Yui Festival
Dance
- 04:00** **National News**
- 04:05 The Art of Stone
Sculpture
- 04:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "A Compassion-
ate Love Boat"
- 04:12 Hot Springs in Lashio
and Nam-Kham
- 04:15** **National News**
- 04:20 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (II) (Upper
Shangaung - Awadam)
- 04:25 Song "Shadow of
Love"
- 04:30** **National News**
- 04:35 Gold Honey, Honey
Gold
- 04:40 Lacquerware in Bagan
- 04:45** **National News**
- 04:50 The Ancient City
MraukU
- 04:55 Long Drum Folk Song
& Dance
- 05:00** **National News**
- 05:05 Thihathana Throne
- 05:10 Song "Saying with the
Eyes!"
- 05:15** **National News**
- 05:20 Tour In Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 05:35 Tabung Festival
- 05:40** **Headline News**
- 05:42 Pagodas in Yangon,

- The Shwedagon Pa-
goda
- 05:45** **National News**
- 05:50 A Peaceful Place of
Mind
- 05:55 Lumbini — Birth Place
of Buddha
- 06:00** **National News**
- 06:05 The Alaungdaw
Katthapa National
Park
- 06:10 Song "Sagawa Flowers
Land"
- 06:15** **National News**
- 06:20 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (III) (Awadam
Village- Ziadam Vil-
lage)
- 06:25 Song "Pleasant and
Greenish Lake"
- 06:30** **National News**
- 06:35 Special Teak Planta-
tion Programme in
Myanmar
- 06:40 Myanmar Traditional
Flower Arrangements
(Harp)
- 06:45** **National News**
- 06:50 Shwezawar Lacquer-
ware
- 06:55 Pakhanthar Myin Nyo
Shin
- 07:00** **National News**
- 07:05 Colourful Garden City
of Yangon
- 07:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Towering
Flower"
- 07:15** **National News**
- 07:20 Mother O'pearl Mosaic
Painting
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"


WEATHER
Thursday, 4 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan and Kayin States, Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was (40°C) in Aungmye.

Maximum temperature on 3-3-2004 was 35.8°C (96°F). Minimum temperature on 4-3-2004 was 17.9°C (64°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 4-3-2004 was 83%. Total sun shine hours on 3-3-2004 was (7.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 4-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from South at (18:30) hours MST on 3-3-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 5-3-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-3-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-3-2004:** Fair weather.


Friday, March 5
View today:
7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw U
Ottamathara

7:15 am

2. တိရစ္ဆာန်များအတွက် ဂရုစိုက်မှု
ပရိုဂရမ် (သောသရဇာတိ) မဟာကြီးတော်
အမည်ရှိသော ဝိသုဒ္ဓိတော်

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. သတ္တဝါတို့၏ နေ့စဉ်ဘဝ (မြို့ပေါ်)

8:00 am

5. Nice and sweet song

8:10 am

6. လှုပ်ရှားပြိုင်ပွဲတိုက်ပွဲ

8:20 am

7. အတိတ်နှင့်

8:25 am

8. မောင်းတော့ရေလှေသင်တန်း

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. English for Everyday
Use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold
National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in Reading

4:45 pm

4. Song of national races

5:00 pm

5. အထူးသတင်းစာအဖွဲ့
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား အင်းစိန်-
ဒုတိယ (သတ္တဝါအဖွဲ့)

5:15 pm

6. Religious song

5:30 pm

7. နည်းစနစ်နှင့် အားကစားအခြေခံ

5:45 pm

8. Songs of Yesteryears

6:00 pm

9. ဘိုးအိမ်တော် (ဝိသုဒ္ဓိ)

6:15 pm

10. Discovery

6:30 pm

11. Evening news

7:00 pm

12. Weather report

7:05 pm

13. နိုင်ငံတော်အားလုံး
"နိုးတိုက်" (အစိုးရ-၄)

7:40 pm

14. ဦးနုတို့၏ နေ့စဉ်ဘဝ

8:00 pm

15. News

8:05 pm

16. International news

8:10 pm

17. Weather report

8:15 pm

18. သီတင်းကျွန်းနေ့

8:20 pm

19. မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး

8:25 pm

20. The next day's
programme


Friday, March 5
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.50 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music
- 9.05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch time music
- Don't walk away
(Moffatts)
- Anybody seen my
baby (The rolling
stones)
- 9.00 pm** 59th Anniversary
Armed Forces Day
Commemorative
Talk "Tatmadaw for
the people"
- 9.15 pm** Article/Music
- 9.25 pm** Music at your
request
- Blue Bayou
(Linda Rodstadt)
- As long as you
love me (BSB)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

Regional development mainly relies on efforts of local people

Senior General Than Shwe inspects development of Ye in Mon State

YANGON, 4 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe arrived at Ye in Mon State on 2 March.

He was accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office.

On arrival in Ye, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Brig-Gen Ye Win of Ye Station and officials.

At the regional battalion, Senior General Than Shwe and party met with departmental personnel, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and Tatmadaw members and families of Ye Station.

General Thura Shwe Mann spoke on the occasion.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that in the past Ye was the end of railroad and

motor road running to the south in the coastal region. Now a motor road runs from Ye to Kawthoung via Dawei and Myeik. In addition the railroad in the area has now extended up to Dawei. As Ye has become one of the gateways to Taninthayi Division, it will achieve extra development in the future.

Apart from it, Ye has sound economic foundations, where agricultural business is good, and potentials are high for the growth of meat and fish industry. The improvement of roads between Mon State and Taninthayi Division has led to the development of the economy, trade and transport of Ye.

Anyhow, whatever condition a region may have, hard work of the local people is required for its progress. If the region has enough skilled human resources, it will actually gain progress.

The State has set up institutions of higher learning and schools region-wise for development of human resources region-wise. All need to strive hard as only hard work will bring prosperity. Harmonious efforts are required for development of Ye Township, Mon State and the Union itself. He then cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

After the meeting, the Senior General and party inspected rail-cum-road bridge built by Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation on Ye River, and the town.

Accompanied by Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura



Senior General Than Shwe views completion of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine).— MNA

Myint Aung, the Senior General and party helicoptered to Mawlamyine, where they were welcomed by Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Myo Hla and officials.

At the command, they met with Mon State, Mawlamyine District and township local authorities, division, district and township level officials, members of USDA and social organizations, and Tatmadaw members and their families of Mawlamyine Station and families.

At the meeting, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung reported to the Senior General on development of the agricultural, industrial and meat and fish sectors, monsoon and summer paddy cultivation, rice production, cultivation of beans and pulses and pepper, sown acreage of rubber and plans to extend rubber plantation, and implementation of the economic

plans.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha explained the national economic growth, increase in the per capita income, the economic volume of the nation, the ratio of Mon State contribution to the national economy, and sector-wise implementation for development of Mon State.

General Thura Shwe Mann also explained the aims of the entourage led by the Head of State to visit Mon State and Taninthayi Division, and the development of the entire nation including Mon State, speaking of the need to pay serious attention to the economic sector to boost production as peace and stability is prevailing in the whole nation due to harmonious efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw; to manufacture import-substitute goods; to switch to

Excerpts from Senior General's addresses

- * As Ye has become one of the gateways to Taninthayi Division, it will achieve extra development in the future.
- * Whatever condition a region may have, hard work of the local people is required for its progress.
- * All need to strive hard as only hard work will bring prosperity.
- * Effective use of natural resources is important for regional development.
- * The vision of ASEAN is "all member nations must become modern and developed ones in 2020", and it is imperative to swiftly reform the Myanmar education system.
- * Education infrastructures were established after laying down the national education promotion special 4-year plan.

mechanized farming; to minimize loss and wastage; and to increase exports.

In his guidance given at the meeting, Senior General Than Shwe said he has been visiting the regions with the goodwill to develop them and the wish to fulfil their requirements.

Regional development mainly relies on the efforts of the local people. In other words, the main strength for regional development is the people of that region themselves. The State can only create a better situation by providing proper encouragement and assistance.

Effective use of natural resources is important for regional development. Instead of expecting what is non-existent, efforts should be made to achieve progress and success, based on the objective conditions.

Mon State is fertile where agricultural business flourishes. Extra impetus should be made to extend cultivation of rice, and other crops including rubber and pepper in accord with the year-wise plans. Moreover,

(See page 8)



Progress in construction of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) seen on 2-3-2004.— MNA