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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Must have the firm determination to develop every region

As Tatmadawmen are born of the people they are Tatmadawmen of the people. Therefore, they are to serve the interest of the people if they have no combat and training. You will have to engage in the community welfare tasks in wherever regions you are, regarding those regions as your natives.

You will be sent the length and breadth of the nation to discharge duties for the prevalence of peace and stability in the nation. You must have the firm determination to develop wherever regions you are.

Senior General Than Shwe

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address at the graduation parade of 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy)



Prime Minister previews Myanma Gems Emporium

YANGON, 12 March — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt previewed the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium (2004) this afternoon.

Accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Prime Minister ar-

rived at the Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here. The Prime Minister was welcomed there by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council

Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the attorney-general, deputy ministers, members of the Central Committee for the exhibition and officials.

The Prime Minister and party viewed gems shops of the Myanma Gems Enterprise and private gems shops on the ground floor of Myanma Gems Mart. Officials concerned conducted the Prime Minister and party round

the emporium.

Next, the Prime Minister and party observed uncut jade in the compound of the Myanma Gems Mart. They also inspected the gem lots and pearl lots on the top floor and jade lots on the first floor.

Patron of the Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on facts about the emporium. The Prime Minister gave instructions.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects a raw ruby stone for Myanma Gems Emporium at Myanma Gems Mart.— MNA

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Measures for ensuring secure and smooth Transport co-ordinated

YANGON, 12 March — The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held its work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of All Private Bus Lines Control Committee on Laydauntkan Road in Tamwe Township at 6 pm today with an ad-

dress by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present were Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Way Lwin, military region command-

ers, station commanders, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, members of the Supervisory Committee, departmental personnel, local authorities the chairmen of bus lines that are running in Yangon Division and guests. —MNA



Pearl lots prepared for 41st Myanma Gems Emporium.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 13 March, 2004

To make use of favourable agricultural and livestock conditions

At a time when the Government is striving day in, day out for harmoniously development of all regions in the country, Rakhine State, where there is poor transport due to barriers posed by many rivers and creeks, is no exception and thanks to the Government's efforts, people living in the state are now witnessing rapid development of the state.

On 29 February and 1 March, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected development undertakings in Taungup Township, Kyaukpyu District and An Township in Rakhine State. In meeting with local authorities, departmental personnel and members of social organizations at Rammawady Hall in Kyaukpyu, the Prime Minister gave instructions saying that officials and departments concerned are to take a leading role in providing agricultural methods and assistance for effective utilization of the resources. Kyaukpyu District is blessed with marine resources which can be exploited on a commercial scale. Therefore efforts are to be made to use the resources effectively. Besides, cultivable land are to be reclaimed for agricultural development. In this regard, officials are to organize the farmers to introduce high-yield paddy strains for boosting agricultural production and make them known that using quality strains will benefit them immensely.

To ensure food sufficiency in the region, emphasis is to be placed on realization of the goal of projects. Model fish and prawn breeding farms are to be established in the region for promotion of the livestock breeding sector.

Organizing measures are to be taken in the interest of local people who are engaged in agriculture and livestock breeding, and assistance is to be provided to them.

A new natural gas deposit has been discovered in the sea adjacent to Kyaukpyu region, and so the region will be prosperous with oil production process soon. Besides, being blessed with good conditions to establish a deep sea port, Kyaukpyu region will be a prosperous one.

At a time when the Government has been making efforts for raising the economic and living standard of the people, the latter, on their part, are to make endeavours for regional development and enhancing their socio-economic life. Officials concerned are urged to take a leading role in endeavours for regional development and raising the living standard of the people so as to win the trust of the people.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ

လစဉ်လစာ ခုတ်ယူပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တို့သည် ရှုလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ် မနေ သွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ ဖြစ်သည်။

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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'

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



Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects the practising of marching by parade columns. —MNA

Chief of Armed Forces Training inspects practising of marching by parade columns

YANGON, 12 March—Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected practising of marching by parade col-

umns from Myoma Ground to the Resistance Park this morning.

Also present together with the Chief of Armed Forces Training were Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Ad-

jutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe and senior military officers.

Tatmadaw men, members of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade and Red Cross Brigade of Anawrahta, Kyansittha, Bayintnaung, Nawade, Aungzeya, Hsinbyushin, Bandoola, Myawady and

Aung San Columns led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein and Reserve Parade Commander Col Nyi Tun participated in the practising of marching. Next, the Chief of Armed Forces Training gave necessary instructions to Tatmadawmen of the columns.— MNA

Deputy Minister inspects Tachilek TV relay station, District IPRD

YANGON, 12 March—Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, accompanied by Col Myint Han of Tachilek, Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department, Deputy Chief Engineer U Myint Aung of Myanma Radio and Television, Chairman of Tachilek District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye and officials, inspected TV re-transmission station and Tachilek District Information and Public Relations Department Office on 10 March.

Next, the deputy minister saw over the community-based drug addict treatment camp being built by Akha national race



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein inspects the community-based drug addict treatment camp being built in Tachilek.

leader U Ar Zi of Lwedawkhaw Village-tract, five miles west from Tachilek, with the assistance provided by Triangle Region Command and

Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association. The camp will complete on 15 March 2004 and provide medical treatment to the drug addicts beginning April. Altogether

20 patients will be given treatment one month for a course under the supervision of the surgeon from Tachilek District Hospital, one assistant surgeon and two nurses will perform health care service to the drug addicts.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and party attended the ceremony to pay homage to two religious title recipient Sayadaws at Maha Myatmuni Pariyatti Monastery in Tachilek.

— MNA



Myanmar Archery Federation President Dr Khin Shwe speaks at the meeting.— MAF

Archery Federation holds meeting

YANGON, 12 March—The Myanmar Archery Federation held its meeting 1/2004 at its meeting hall here at 9 am today. Patrons of MAF Daw Khin Hla Hla, Daw Khin Aye and Daw Nilar Thaw, MAF President Dr Khin Shwe, vice-chairmen and executives attended the meeting. Matters relating to construction of buildings, major repairs to training ground and building, training conducted for 23rd SEA Games, formation of executive committee were discussed at the meeting. — MNA

US military deaths in Iraq rise to 554

BAGHDAD, 12 March—As of Thursday, 11 March, 554 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 380 died as a result of hostile action and 174 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, 416 US soldiers have died — 265 as a result of hostile action and 151 of non-hostile causes, according to the military. Since the start of military operations, 2,777 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department's figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 424. The latest death reported by US Central Command:

— A Task Force Ironhorse soldier was killed Wednesday when an explosive hit a convoy near Baqouba. The latest identifications reported by the military:

—Army Spc Edward W Brabazon, 20, Philadelphia; died Tuesday in Baghdad, Iraq, from a non-hostile gunshot wound; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division; Fort Bragg, NC.

—Army Sgt 1st Class Richard S Gottfried, 42, Lake Ozark, Mo.; killed by an explosive Tuesday in Iraq; assigned to the 1st Division Support Command, 1st Infantry Division; Kitzingen, Germany.—*Internet*

US breaks deficit records

WASHINGTON, 12 March—A fall in dollar's value has not stopped growing deficit. The US trade deficit has hit an all-time high of \$43.1 billion, disproving forecasts that a recent fall in the dollar would help exports.

Figures for January show that imports stayed close to historic highs after a rise in imported oil prices.

Even the politically sensitive trade deficit with China increased to \$11.5bn, up from \$9.9bn in December.

"To me this is very worrisome. The trade deficit is not improving. It is getting worse despite the dollar depreciation," said Wells

Fargo Banks chief economist Sung Won Sohn.

In theory, a weakening dollar should have made US exports cheaper and thus more competitive in overseas markets.

The idea was that it should make imports more expensive, reducing demand for foreign goods.

However, analysts noted there were some one-off factors behind the worse-than-expected figures.

Wells Fargo Bank Imported oil prices during January were at their highest level since March 2003, which led to a 10% rise in the US's petroleum deficit.

Also, exports were hit by restrictions on meat exports following outbreaks of mad cow disease and bird flu.

The trade deficit with China rose after imports from the country grew by 6.6%.

The US government has been placing pressure on China to revalue its currency against the dollar.

The yuan is currently pegged at 8.28 yuan to the dollar, but US manufacturers have complained the currency is undervalued by as much as 40% giving Chinese exporters an unfair advantage.

America's total outstanding debt now stands at over \$7,112,000,000,000, which means that every single US citizen has a share of just over \$24,000.

Internet

Chinese, Israeli entrepreneurs hold business seminar

BEIJING, 12 March—The government of Heilongjiang Province in northeast China and the Israeli Embassy in China jointly held a business seminar here Wednesday evening. "Heilongjiang is rich in natural resources, energy, skilled workers, well equipped state-owned enterprises and a good environment for foreign investment," Heilongjiang Governor Zhang Zuoji said, welcoming Israeli entrepreneurs to find partners in the province.

Thousands of Jews were saved in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang, during World War II, said Yehoyada Haim, Israeli ambassador to China, noting that Israel and Heilongjiang share long-term friendship and cooperation.

Representatives from over 40 enterprises in Heilongjiang and nearly 30 companies from Israel, mostly in agricultural and high-tech sectors, attended the seminar. — *MNA/Xinhua*



An Iraqi policeman tries to restore order from the top of a pickup truck which was damaged by a roadside explosion in the restive town of Falluja, 65 kilometres (40 miles) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, on 11 March, 2004. — *INTERNET*

ထိုက်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ ခိုးမြဲမြဲ



Spanish soldiers walk back to their base in Diwaniya, 100 miles (160 kms) south of Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday 11 March, 2004. — *INTERNET*

Eight killed in fresh Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, 12 March— Eight people, including a US soldier, were killed yesterday in a continuing wave of violence directed against people linked to the US project of installing a pro-Western and democratic government in Iraq.

Two Iraqi sisters working as laundrywomen for US contractors were gunned down on their way home from work in Basra, relatives and a UK official said.

The women were working for Kellogg Brown & Root, which handles a range of logistics and support services for US-led forces.

In Samarra, 100km north of Baghdad, two policemen were killed when attackers opened fire on their car, a regional police spokesman said.

A US soldier and an Iraqi civilian were killed in separate roadside bombings, while, for the first time, a top US general complained about the Pentagon's failure to

fully equip Iraqi security forces.

A Sunni Muslim cleric was wounded in what he claimed was an assassination attempt against him that killed his son and son-in-law. Nazem Khalaf, a cleric at the Rahman mosque in Abu Dsheer, a suburb in southwestern Baghdad, said that assailants drove up next to his car and opened fire.

He was wounded in the head and hand, and his 21-year-old son and 37-year-old son-in-law were killed.

Police in Karbala confirmed that six men arrested in connection to the killing of two US government employees and their interpreter were police officers.

Internet

Austria-China air flights expanded

SHANGHAI, 12 March — Austrian Airlines Group announced it would include Shanghai in its flight service network beginning from April 29 with the operation of three flights a week from Pudong International Airport to Vienna.

In the meantime, the number of flights from Vienna to Beijing will also be increased from four to six this summer, said Josef E. Burger, chief commercial officer of the Austrian Airlines Group, who made the announcement in Shanghai on Tuesday.

According to Burger, 120,000 tourists from China visited Austria last year. "The figure is expected to rise 20 per cent annually with the opening of the European tourism market to China," said Burger. "I believe scheduled flights to China will be very important to our long-distance flight service network."

In accordance with an MoU signed by the China National Tourism Administration and the European Union on February 15, Chinese tourists may apply for a special tourist visa known as ADS via designated travel agencies and will be allowed to travel freely within 12 nations in Europe if they are granted the visa. The agreement will come into effect on May 1.

The World Tourism Organization predicts that China will be the fourth largest source of tourists in the world by 2020, and the number of people traveling overseas will reach 100 million by then.

Chinese tourists made 20.22 million

journeys overseas last year, up 20 per cent from 2002, said statistics provided by tourism administrative departments of China.

Before the Austrian Airlines Group, other European airlines such as Air France and Lufthansa also decided to launch or add flights to cater to the craze for tourism to Europe in China. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Toyota to commercialize humanoid robot by 2010

TOKYO, 12 March— Toyota Motor Corp aims to commercialize humanoid robots around 2010 by establishing a section specializing in their development early next year, a major Japanese business daily reported Thursday.

The leading automaker will consolidate the resources of group companies and business partners to achieve the objective, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

The section will be established within Toyota's production technology headquarters and staffed with several hundred people, including robot engineers from the automaker's technology headquarters and those from Toyota's technology lab in Shizuoka Prefecture. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Ex-congressional aide accused of spying for Iraq

MARYLAND, 12 March—A Maryland woman who is a cousin of White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card and once worked for three members of Congress was arrested Thursday and charged with spying for Saddam Hussein for nearly three years.

Susan Lindauer, 41, who law enforcement officials said is Card's second cousin and whose father ran for governor of Alaska as a Republican, is accused of accepting \$10,000 from Saddam's Iraqi Intelligence Service as payment for her work and expenses.

In an indictment unsealed in federal court in Manhattan, Lindauer was charged with acting and conspiring to act as an unregistered agent of the Iraqi Intelligence Service. She was also accused of engaging in prohibited financial transactions with the Iraqi government.

FBI agents arrested Lindauer Thursday morning at her home in Takoma Park, Md. She was expected to be presented late Thursday before US Magistrate Judge Susan Gaubay in Baltimore, said a spokesman for the Manhattan US Attorney's Office.

"I'm an anti-war activist, and I'm innocent," Lindauer told WBAL-TV outside the Baltimore FBI office. "I did more to stop terrorism in this country than anybody else. I have done good things for this country. I worked to get weapons inspectors back to Iraq when everyone else said it was impossible. I'm very proud, and I'll stand by my achievements." Lindauer is scheduled to appear before US District Judge Michael Mukasey in Manhattan Monday.

Prosecutors said Lindauer, who was known by the code name "Symbol Susan," was charged in an expanded indictment filed last year against two sons of a former Iraqi diplomat accused of spying on Iraqi dissidents living in the

United States.

The two men, Wisam Noman Al-Anbuke and Raed Noman Al-Anbuke, have pleaded not guilty and are awaiting trial.

The Manhattan US attorney's office declined comment when asked to describe what relationship, if any, Lindauer had with the Al-Anbuke brothers.

However, the indictment charges she met with an Iraqi intelligence officer in Manhattan at least eight times between October 1999 and March 2002. She also accepted a task given to her by an Iraqi officer in October 2001, the indictment said.

She is accused of travelling to Baghdad as a guest of the Iraqi Intelligence Service.

Lindauer allegedly met in Iraq with several intelligence officers at the Al-Rashid Hotel, accepting cash payments of about \$5,000. On her return, Lindauer allegedly met with an Iraqi officer in Manhattan.

The indictment further accuses her of delivering a letter "to the home of a Government official" on January, 8, 2003. Prosecutors contend that in the letter Lindauer "conveyed her established access to, and contacts with, members of the Saddam Hussein regime." The indictment described the letter as an "unsuccessful attempt to influence US foreign policy."

If convicted of acting as an unregistered agent, Lindauer could face up to 10 years in prison and up to five years if convicted of conspiracy. —Internet

ဝတ်မှုမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



Members of the media look into the yard of Susan Lindauer's home in Takoma Park, Md, on Thursday, 11 March, 2004. Lindauer, a former journalist and ex-press secretary for two members of Congress was arrested on March 11, on charges she acted as an Iraqi spy before and after the US invasion of Iraq. —INTERNET

British envoy warns of 'spectacular' suicide attacks in Iraq

LONDON, 12 March —The greatest danger to Iraq currently comes from foreign "terrorists" who may be planning spectacular suicide bombings, Britain's top envoy to the country warned.

"That is the most lethal threat at this moment—spectacular attacks by suicide bombers coming out of this area," Sir Jeremy Greenstock told parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee in London.

"The more sophisticated planning and operations have been done by imported terrorism, not all of it Al-Qaeda, but people who have learned from the experience of international terrorism," said Greenstock, a former British ambassador to the United Nations.

Iraq's US civilian administrator, Paul Bremer, Thursday warned the likelihood of terror attacks there will increase as the June 30 date for a handover of sovereignty approaches.

"I think we will have more of a threat from terrorism as we go toward the June 30 handover because the terrorists clearly understand that once there is democracy here, there is no pretext for attacking anymore," Bremer said in Iraq.

Last week Iraq's Shiite Muslims were targeted in bombings in Baghdad and the holy city of Karbala that killed more than 170 people. —Internet

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 March—Two US occupation soldiers have been killed in volatile Iraq after their vehicle hit a roadside bomb.

A statement from the US Central Command said another soldier was wounded in the blast that hit their convoy at Habbaniyah, 60km west of capital Baghdad.

The soldiers were from the First Brigade Combat Team of Task Force All American.

The attack came on a day when Iraqi police detained six police officers suspected of involvement in Tuesday's killing of two US government employees in Karbala.

"They are from our police department. They are suspected of being involved. The case is under investigation, but they are innocent until proved guilty," Karbala police spokesman Rahman Al-Mussawi Diab told AFP.

US investigators were looking into whether two US nationals and their interpreter were killed by Iraqi police officers or impostors in a carefully plotted assassination.

The two employees of the occupation administration and their female interpreter were shot dead at a checkpoint by men in police uniform late on Tuesday night as they headed to their offices in Hilla, 100km south of Baghdad, from Karbala. —Internet

Vietnam exports rice to China

HANOI, 12 March — Vietnam is to export 250,000 tons of rice to China this month, said the Trade Information Centre under the Vietnamese Trade Ministry on Wednesday.

"China has started buying rice from Vietnam and Thailand, and can become a rice-importing country this year, because rice stock has decreased due to bad crops for years," the centre stated.

At least 200 tons of Vietnamese rice was daily exported to the China's Guangxi via the Mong Cai border gate in the Vietnamese northern province of Quang Ninh late last month.

Vietnam shipped 304,000 tons of rice worth 67 million US dollars in the first two months of this year to foreign markets, year-on-year falls of 44.1 per cent and 29.7 per cent, respectively. It is expected to export around 3.8 million tons of rice in 2004, of which 46 per cent are to the Asia-Pacific Region, mainly Indonesia and the Philippines.

Vietnam exported 3.86 million tons of rice worth 727 million US dollars last year, up 19.2 per cent and 0.2 per cent, respectively, according to the country's General Statistics Office. — MNA/Xinhua



Spanish soldiers watch as newly-trained Iraqi Army frisk motorbists at a mobile checkpoint in Diwaniya, 160 kilometres south of Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday, 11 March, 2004.

INTERNET

Possible grain markup expected to do good to farmers' income

BEIJING, 12 March — China is likely to see a grain markup in the next few months, hoped to do good to income growth of farmers this year, said economists here.

The grain price in 2004 will be at a high level and there is room for the price to rise a further 5 per cent, said Qi Jingmei, a senior economist with the State Information Centre, quoted by Wednesday's China Daily.

China's grain price has increased since October last year but the impact of the price rise remains slight on ordinary people's life.

The price of a 10-kilo bag of rice increased from 32 yuan (3.86 US dollars) to 40 yuan (4.8 US dollars) within one week at a local Haode convenience store in Shanghai.

The grain supply shortage indicated that there is still room for further price increases, said Zhang Xueying, another economist with the State Information Centre.

The grain output will slump in the summer, he added.

Grain price, up from 10 to 20 per cent last

year, has not caught up with the level in 1996. The government should allow the price to resume to a rational level, said Chen Xiwen, deputy director of the Office of Central Financial Work Leading Group.

Around 60 to 70 per cent of Chinese farmers feed on income from growing crops, which means the grain price hike is a good news for them.

Rural residents' per capita net income notched up a 4.3 per cent year-on-year rise to 2,622 yuan (315.9 US dollars) last year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

The growth is much lower than the 9.3 per cent increase in urban areas.

"The slow income growth will hinder the overall economic development and even undermine social stability," Qi said.

MNA/Xinhua

Bomb injures one at office in Iraq

BAQUBA (Iraq), 12 March—A bomb exploded beside Shi'ite Party offices in the Iraqi town of Baquba on Wednesday, injuring at least one person and badly damaging the building, police and witnesses said.

The blast just after 6 am (0300 GMT) shattered windows and doors at the offices of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), one of the main Shi'ite parties, in Baquba, 40 miles north of the capital. Shi'ite leaders, including the head of SCIRI, have criticized a transitional Constitution signed on Monday, saying that a clause relating to minority rights could jeopardize the natural dominance of Iraq's 60 per cent Shi'ite majority.

Shi'ites were largely excluded from power under the rule of Saddam Hussein, a Sunni. Baquba is in a largely Sunni Muslim area, where guerillas have often targeted US troops or those they see as cooperating with them. US officials accuse guerillas of trying to divide Iraq's various communities, saying foreign terror networks — and more specifically a Jordanian al-Qaeda operative Abu Musab al Zarqawi — want to target Shi'ites to provoke a civil war.—MNA/Reuters

Second UN assessment team visits southern Iraq

GENEVA, 12 March—A joint United Nations assessment team visited Basra on Sunday, which is the second time that UN expatriate staff have been to southern Iraq since most international personnel's withdrawal following last August's devastating bombing, a UN agency said Tuesday.

The mission came at the request of the UN Secretary-General's Acting Special Representative Ross Mountain, said Ron Redmond, spokesperson of the UN refugee agency UNHCR.

After crossing over from Kuwait, the team spent a day in Basra to assess the security situation and overall con-

ditions on the ground and met with partner agencies.

The team reported that Basra appears busier, in part due to the return of many Iraqis to the south, said Redmond.

According to the Iraqi Ministry of Trade, over 122,000 refugees have returned to the nine southern governorates since last year.

With so many refugees going back to communities impoverished by decades of conflict and sanctions, the UN team warned that if the flow of people is not regulated, economic hardship and social unrest will increase.

MNA/Xinhua

India exempts Zanzibar from import duty for cloves

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 12 March—India has agreed to abolish import duty for cloves imported to India from Zanzibar, the Indian Ocean isles of Tanzania, officials said Tuesday.

Sources with the Zanzibar Government said the decision was reached by Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Zanzibar President Amani Abeid Karume, who is on a visit to India.

The move will help increase the competitiveness of Zanzibar's clove products, which are crucial to the island's economy, they said.

Clove export has long been the most important source for Zanzibar to earn foreign currency, but it came into difficulties last year due to the price drop in the world market.—MNA/Xinhua



Worker holds a household robot guardian that notify its master via mobile phone of burglars, fires and gas leaks at the MOSTiTECH headquarters in Seoul, on 2 March, 2004.—INTERNET

Japan changing oil supplies from its Gulf importers

ABU DHABI, 12 March—Japan slashed its oil imports from the United Arab Emirates in November because of a resumption of Iraqi crude supplies and a decline in domestic seasonal demand, the English-language daily *Gulf News* reported Wednesday.

The UAE's crude oil exports to Japan slumped by 19.5 per cent to nearly 793,000 barrels a day in November from around 987,000 BPD in the previous month, according to a report of the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

From zero supplies during most of 2003 and 2002, Japan imported around 125,655 bpd of Iraqi crude in November, the report showed. During the first nine months of 2003, the UAE was the top oil exporter to

Japan, supplying it with around 1.03 million bpd, the report said.

Although oil imports from Saudi Arabia also receded, the sharp decline in UAE supplies pushed the emirates back to the second place after the kingdom on the list of oil exporters to the eastern Asian industrial gi-

ant. Japan's crude oil imports from Iran also tumbled by nearly 25 per cent last year while supplies from Kuwait surged by more than 37 per cent, according to the report.

The report said the oil shipments from Iraq in November were the first in nearly 19 months as crude production in the Arab coun-

try had been disrupted for several months due to UN sanctions before it was occupied by a US-led coalition in April. Japan has assured Gulf producers it will remain heavily reliant on their crude given their large oil reserves, strong political ties and its proximity to the region.

MNA/Xinhua

Digital R&D base to be built in hi-tech park in Beijing

BEIJING, 12 March—Dubbed China's Silicon Valley, Beijing's Zhongguancun hi-tech park plans to invest 30 million yuan (3.62 million US dollars) to build a base for digital research and development, according to the park's administration committee.

Promoting digital industry and aiding related enterprises are listed as key projects in the development schedule of the government-run hi-tech park.

"In recent years, digital appliances such as palmtop

computers, cellphones and digital cameras have gained popularity in China," said Xu Feng, a technical supervisor of the base.

"One of our plans to promote digital products is to encourage the use of High Defi-

nition Television (HDTV)," Xu said. "However, HDTV works to its full potential only if it is showed with high definition TV programmes tailored for it. And China has very limited such programmes," Xu said.

MNA/Xinhua

China to host WPC Youth Forum

BEIJING, 12 March—The World Petroleum Congress (WPC) First Youth Forum is scheduled to be held in Beijing between October 17-20 this year.

According to Wang Tao, Chairman of the WPC Chinese National Committee, the noted experts, scholars and senior executives from the world petroleum industry will be invited to deliver keynote addresses on the latest scientific and technological achievements of the petroleum industry as well as its future development. The theme for the forum is

"Youth and Innovation — the Future of the Petroleum Industry".

The main six topics in the forum include petroleum refining and petrochemical technology in the new century, the rapid development of alternatives for petroleum, IT and other new technologies leading the industry into a new epoch of development and youth.

The chairman added that six technical sessions under the six major topics will also be held during the forum. The sessions include the present status and perspective of petroleum exploration and development, the petroleum industry and environment/social responsibility, as well as management, human resources and the contribution of youth.—MNA/Xinhua

မြို့ခြံရွှေတာ၊ ဆိန်းပါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်



A man stands outside of the damaged headquarters of the Shi'ite Party in Baquba, 65km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, on 10 March, 2004.—INTERNET

Iraq accepts invitation to attend Arab Summit in Tunisia

BAGHDAD, 12 March—Iraq has officially accepted an invitation from Tunisia to attend an Arab summit later this month, the local newspaper Al Sabah reported on Wednesday.

Mohamed Bahr Al-Uloom, the rotating President of the interim Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) for March, received the invitation from Tunisian President Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali, which was delivered by Tunisian Minister of Youth and Sports Ali Al-Kaabi.

Al-Uloom welcomed Al-Kaabi's visit to Iraq and the invitation, saying Iraq will participate in the summit that is due to be held on March 29-30, said the newspaper close to the coalition authority.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe to resume exports to Zambia

HARARE, 12 March—Zimbabwe will resume exports to Zambia of a range of products which were recently banned by Lusaka on grounds of dumping, Sindiso Ngwenya, assistant secretary-general of The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) said here Thursday.

He said that a solution was in sight after his meeting with Zambian and Zimbabwean authorities over the issue.

Both countries are members of COMESA, which permits duty-free access to each other's markets for certain goods.—MNA/Xinhua

Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion

Children deaths

Children deaths in Iraq

Date	Location	Target	Death toll
26-3-2003	Rutbah	Children's hospital bombed	2
5-4-2003	Karbala	10-year old boy shot	1
28-4-2003	Outside school in Fallujah	demonstrators including pre-teen children shot	15
3-5-2003	Basra	14-year old boy shot	1
6-5-2003	Tikrit	a child run over by US convoy	1
28-6-2003	Basra Highway	a child run over by US convoy	1
22-7-2003	Mosul	a child shot	1
12-9-2003	Fallujah	3-year old bystander shot	1
16-10-2003	Tikrit	4 years old boy hit	1
24-10-2003	Mosul	two children hit	2
27-10-2003	Police station, Baghdad	children hit	15
2-11-2003	Near Fallujah	11-year old boy caught in crossfire	1
5-11-2003	Mosul town centre	ten-year old boy killed	1
11-11-2003	Fallujah	children killed	5
12-11-2003	Nasiriyah	children among dead	13
17-11-2003	gun market in Baghdad	11 year old among dead	3
19-11-2003	Ramadi	a 9-year old boy among dead	2
26-11-2003	Hay Masraf district, Mosul	12-year old boy in crossfire	1
28-12-2003	Karada district, Baghdad	two Iraqi children killed	2
1-2-2004	Arbil	car bomb	9
10-2-2004	Iskandhariya	car bomb	5
2-3-2004	Karbala	car bomb	10
Total			93

More and more Iraqi children are becoming victims of the US-led invasion against Iraq.

Wounded people, including children, were rushed to hospitals by ambulances, which were not enough to carry children and others injured. It remains unknown how many children fell victim to US-led invasion.



An Iraqi girl, Heba Hachem Hussein, injured in clashes between Iraqis and US troops, is held by her mother in a Baghdad hospital on 16 February, 2004.

Haidar Aziz, 11, injured in the leg in an explosion in a crowded shopping centre in south Baghdad, leaves the al-Kindi hospital after receiving treatment.



Wissam Ali, right, aged 7, and his sister Gezek, 6 months old, are treated at a hospital in Hillah, Iraq after they were injured when two explosives-laden trucks were detonated outside a Polish military camp in Hillah, south of Baghdad on Feb. 18, 2004. The two children survived but both their parents were killed in the blast.



An Iraqi girl lies in the Central Children's Hospital in Baghdad, capital of Iraq, on 15 Feb, 2004.



An unidentified Iraqi father carries his son for treatment at Samawa General Hospital in southeastern Iraq, on 19 Feb, 2004.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Nation-building tasks carried out by the Tatmadaw and the people



Tatmadaw, the tenacious and persevering force

Railroads constructed in the entire nation

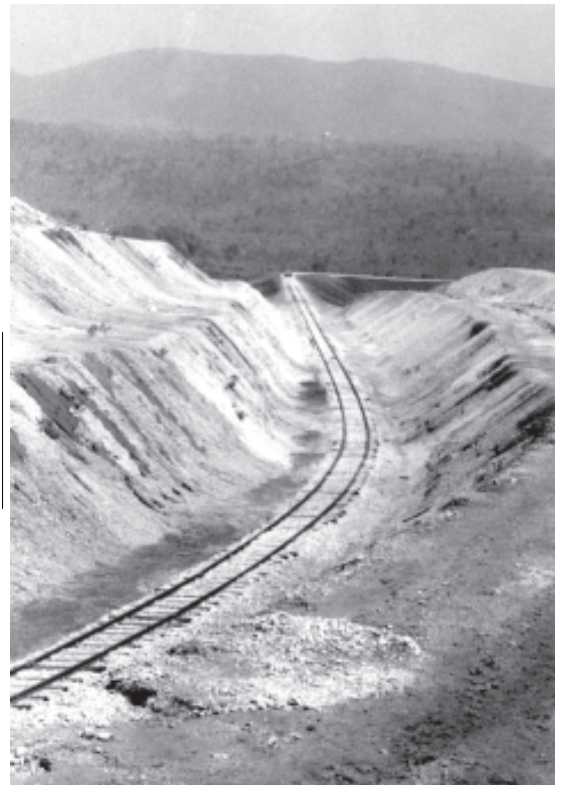
No	Subject	1988	Extension	2004
1.	Railroad (mile)	1976.35	1022.01	2998.36
2.	Railway line (mile)	2793.86	1113.39	3907.25
3.	Railroad being built (mile)			145
4.	Railroad in the process (mile)			515.05



Pyintha-Htiri Section of Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad is now ready to be opened with new railway station in Shan State (South).

Tatmadaw carrying out tasks for development of the nation hand in hand with the people

Budalin-YeU-KhinU Railroad Section constructed by Tatmadaw members was inaugurated with the people.



Pyintha-Htiri section of Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad under construction in Shan State (South) with Shan Mountain Range in the background.



Tatmadaw members of the Eastern Command Headquarters participating in constructing Htiri-Htihtehtone section for timely completion of the Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad Project.

Railroads constructed by Tatmadaw members

No	Part of the nation	Railroad	Railroad mile
1.	North-West	ChaungU-Pakokku	277.34
2.	East	Shwenyaung-Yaksawk	37.50
3.	East	Aungpan-Loikaw	101.92
4.	East	Shwenyaung-Namhsan	165
5.	South	Ye-Dawei	101.47
6.	Central	Pyay-Aunglan-Taungdwingyi	90.35

The Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) in perpetual service of the people



The course of history of efficient Tatmadaw

The Union of Myanmar became a sovereign state on 4 January of 1948. It is not that Myanmar regained her independence easily. The regaining of independence cost the Tatmadaw comprising sons and daughters of national people and patriots a lot of lives, blood and sweat.

A look at the history of Myanmar independence struggle will reveal the important role of the Tatmadaw vividly. The Tatmadaw, which is founded with a diversity of national races, which is founded with the determination to sacrifice even their lives without taking into consideration the money and privilege and which is founded with the belief that independence could be won back at any rate, played a leading role energetically in the independence struggle. As a result, Myanmar could regain its independence at last.

It can be found in Myanmar historical events the crucial role of the

Tatmadaw in safeguarding the independence after independence had been regained.

Just a few months after the regaining of independence in 1948, Myanmar encountered for the first time a situation in which independence might be lost again.

After independence, there were splits in the AFPFL government. It was on 28 March of 1948 that BCP went under-

Therefore, the Myanmar Tatmadaw comprising army, navy and air force had to crush the insurgency in cooperation with the national people.

BCP, which went underground at the end of March in 1948, and PVO, which also went underground in July the same year, gathered in central Myanmar and plotted to seize Yangon.

After their revolts in Madaya, Myingyan,

occurred near Nattalin.

The time was at about 7 pm on 19 August of 1948. The Myanmar Tatmadaw under the command of Commanding Officer Major Aye Cho stationed in Nattalin bravely resisted the insurgents whose strength was far greater than his from Pho-tha-aung overpass. The insurgents could not advance and had to withdraw as they were no match for the bravery of the Tatmadawmen who

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day



Maj Aye Cho, who received 'Aung San Thuriya Medal' for his valour.

1949, the insurgents taking a strong hold in the vicinity of Insein came to threaten the capture of Yangon. Beginning 31 January of 1949, the Tatmadaw and the insurgents engaged in numerous fights on Insein battleground. The Tatmadaw (Navy) also helped with supporting fires by cannons from the embankment of Inya Lake. So did the Tatmadaw (Air) from the air.

In Insein battle, the

ties on Insein battleground. The structural pattern of U Sakkein monastery seemed to be something like a fortress built systematically. The insurgents were using those monasteries on the hillock as their stronghold. Therefore, the insurgents in those monasteries took advantage of the position and opened fire on the Tatmadaw. Lieutenant Taik Chun and four pri-

Myint Thu Yein

ground. So did People's Volunteer Organization (PVO) in July. At the dawn of 1949, KNDO also rose in revolt taking up arms.

Insurgents staged armed revolts in Mandalay Division, Magway Division, Bago Division, Shan State, Kayah State, Ayeyawady Division, Rakhine State, Mon State and so on and nearly all over the country.

Pakokku, Chauk, Yenangyoung, Minbu, and nearby areas of Magway in mid-1948, the insurgents came down to Yangon along Pyay-Yangon motor road. In the third week of August the same year, the insurgents got close to Nattalin and engaged in serious fights with the Tatmadaw.

One of the prominent fights was Pho-tha-aung overpass battle which



Tatmadawmen seen in action in the battle of U Sakkein monastery on Insein front.

were determined to give up their lives for their country and race. Severely wounded in the fight, Major Aye Cho later sacrificed his life for the country on 21 August.

He was therefore awarded 'Aung San Thuriya Medal', the highest medal given by the State for great valour, for his courage and determination and for the sacrifices he made for the country at the cost of his life during the fight.

At the dawn of

army, navy and air force of the Tatmadaw with full support of the national people launched attacks on the insurgents.

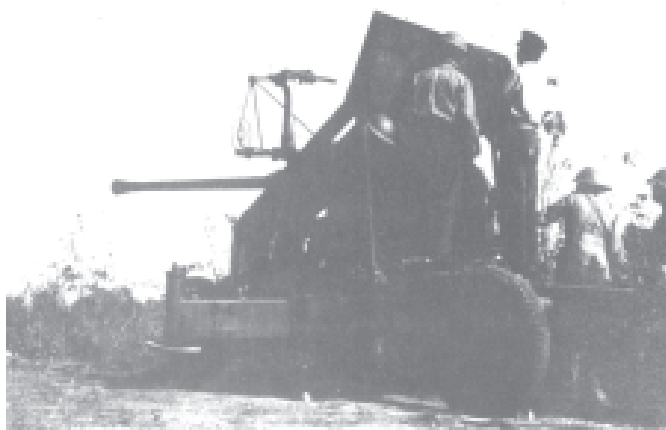
Housewives, associations and organizations, the general public, and artistes assisted the Tatmadawmen by sending rice packs, tea and other eatables to them, while the Tatmadawmen were engaging in the fight on the front.

The battle near U Sakkein monastery was one of the prominent bat-

les raided the monasteries and killed numerous insurgents on 16 April 1949.

The State therefore awarded 'Aung San Thuriya Medal' to Lieutenant Taik Chun for his exemplary bravery and honourable sacrifices.

It can be said that Insein battle was at its peak in March and April 1949. While the Tatmadaw (Army) was fighting tooth and nail to be able to recapture Insein (See page 9)



Tatmadaw (Navy) seen giving supporting cannon fires in the battle of Insein.



Aung San Thuriya Medal



Thiha Thura Medal



Thura Medal



Gallantry Medal

(from page 8)

from the hands of the insurgents, the Tatmadaw (Air) gave supporting fire by dropping bombs from the air. For the same reason, Mayyu and Hsinmin, naval vessels of the Tatmadaw (Navy), also provided shellfire from the river. The combined efforts exerted by the army, navy and air force of the Tatmadaw risking their lives for the country and the people resulted in the

ficed his life for the country and the people. Therefore, 'Aung San Thuriya Medal' was awarded to him for his unusual bravery.

The Tatmadaw could successfully crush the internal insurgencies at such places as Pho-thaung overpass, Wetkaw bridge, Bago Phayagyi, Insein and Thazi. The Tatmadaw also managed to recapture Gyobingauk on 13 May 1949; Zigon

It is a proof that the Tatmadaw is of great importance in a nation.

What can be found here is the patriotism, unity and selflessness of the Tatmadaw.

Also significant are the extraordinary performance of the Tatmadaw (Navy) in quelling the internal strifes in the post-independence period. Not only did Mayyu and Hsinmin warships of the Tatmadaw (Navy) provide

fight, Commanding Officer of Shwepazun Lt Tun Tin was wounded in the face severely, but he put up a strong resistance against the insurgents. Moreover, he could save the watercraft loaded with supplies and arms from the danger. Therefore, the State awarded 'Thiha Thura Medal' to Lt Tun Tin and 'Thura Medal' each to Sub-Lt Khin Aung Din and leading Seaman Khin Maung Gyi.

As members of the Tatmadaw (Navy) possessed valour and were prepared to make supreme sacrifices they could overcome any difficulties, and thus won the victory. Moreover, the Tatmadawmen also received medals awarded by the State. The brilliant services of the Tatmadaw (Air) in safeguarding independence were of great help to land operations.

The endeavours made by the Tatmadaw (Air) in March 1949 were prominent in the history of the Tatmadaw.

The Oxford aircraft of the Tatmadaw (Air) helped Tatmadaw (Army) with supporting fire in the latter's quelling the insurgents near Bilu island on 31 March 1949. The warplane piloted by 2nd Lt Aung Myat gave supporting fire amid the bad weather. Later, the plane dived into the water as it was hit. 2nd Lt Aung Myat could rescue his companion L/Cpl Olivary while the plane was sinking. The State awarded 'Thura Medal' to him for his outstanding service. Furthermore, the State also awarded 'Thiha Thura Medal' to Major Thura Aung Myat who could carry out the assigned duties well amid hardships in the 1960 Sino-Myanmar demarcation.

Thus, the Myanmar Tatmadaw quelled internal insurgencies following the independence and safe-

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Poem

Chronology of March, Chronology of Summer

- * Colour's emerald, like the Payit buds
Blooming anew, in the fickle wind
'Tis recalled by the Koel
History of March, History of Summer.
- * Regalia destroyed, under them
We've been, Our Nation Our People
In tears, not enough to wear
Forlorn, broken, in that period.
- * By suffering we were
In life's station, the dark path
We wouldn't be able to cross
Our Myanmar born ancestors
Were aware of their correct stance.
- * On hills and plains throughout nation
Organized and in unity and bravely
The intruders who insulted our land
Those colonialists
Alert and with proud of roots
We rose in Resistance.
- * Like the crimson flowers, our heroes
Marched and confronted, unforgetably
From sovereign land that's ours
Those power-crazy, colony-crazy
We drove in Resistance, helter-skelter
To be remembered by new generation
Most be coming of patriotic heroes.
- * O, when emerald green Payit buds
Are in bloom, teased by the frickle wind
The golden koel recounts
Chronology of March, Chronology of Summer.



Khun Ye Thway (Aye Tha Ya) (Trs)

Thus, the Myanmar Tatmadaw quelled internal insurgencies following the independence and safeguarded the nation for the first time when the independence was almost lost. In this process, what can be found is the Tatmadaw's fine traditions such as immense patriotism, courageous acts in the fights and preparedness to sacrifice their lives for the country and the people, discipline, bravery, unity, efficiency, selflessness, noble mind, ability to take great pains, industry and perseverance, and the keeping of our three main national in the fore.

recapture of Insein on 22 May 1949.

At the time when Insein battle was going on, the Tatmadaw was simultaneously crushing the insurgents on the fronts in Bago, DaikU and Thayawady regions. In a fight on DaikU battlefield, the base of the Tatmadaw was surrounded by the insurgents. At that time, Private Hla Thauang courageously fought back the insurgents killing many of them. To be able to do so he stayed behind firing his bren gun at the insurgents so that his comrades could leave the place without being injured. And he sacri-

and Nattalin on 14 May; Pyawbwe, Yamethin, Tatkon and TadaU on 22 May; Kyaukse, NyaungU, Chauk and Yenangyoung on 12 June; Thaton on 25 June; Thayawady on 13 July; Myingyan on 24 July; Lashio on 1 September; Taunggyi on 21 November; and Htongyi village in December 1949. Later, Yangon-Bago railroad had been reopened.

Even after the regaining of independence, the Myanmar Tatmadaw which was born together with the independence struggle safeguarded the independence by engaging in above-mentioned bat-

supporting shellfire during the fights on Insein battlefield, but the Tatmadaw (Navy) also bravely crushed the rise of insurgencies in the delta region.

At the start of 1949, Pathein was recaptured after Mayyu and Inma, and warships Nos 1299, 1369 and 1478 had attacked the insurgents taking strongholds there. On 25 April 1949, naval vessel Shwepazun and warship No 1456 came under fire while they were on their way to supply food and ammunition to Tatmadawmen who had been surrounded by the insurgents in Maubin. In that



Sherman tank that is of great use in Insein battle in March and April 1949.



People seen supplying food to front-line Tatmadawmen in the battle of Insein.

guarded the nation for the first time when the independence was almost lost. In this process, what can be found is the Tatmadaw's fine traditions such as immense patriotism, courageous acts in the fights and preparedness to sacrifice their lives for the country and the people, discipline, bravery, unity,

efficiency, selflessness, noble mind, ability to take great pains, industry and perseverance, and the keeping of our three main national causes in the fore. They are in fact the fine traditions of the Myanmar Tatmadaw that has been highly efficient throughout different eras.

(Translation: KTY)



Raw ruby found in alabaster. (News on page 1)—MNA



Imperial jade priced Euro 398,000 at the Empto.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt previews the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium on Friday. (News on page 1) MNA

Kanbawza Football Team honoured

YANGON, 12 March— Kanbawza Football Team which stood first in the First Division Soccer Tournament for 2003-2004 was honoured with a dinner at Theinbyu Tennis Centre, here, this evening.

At the dinner, Kanbawza Football Team

Chairman U Zaw Win Naing presented K 100,000 cash prize each to the players, the manager and the coaches.

Then, Patrons of the team Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and U Aung Ko Win urged them to strive for gaining more success in the soccer matches of the Premier

League.

The team was established in 2002 and it participated in the first division matches of Myanmar Football Federation. In 2003-2004, Kanbawza Football Team emerged champion in the first division.

MNA

Myanmar Tennis C'ship 2004 concludes

YANGON, 12 March — The final matches of Myanmar Tennis Championship 2004, organized by the Myanmar Tennis Federation, was held in conjunction with the prize presentation ceremony at Theinbyu Tennis Plaza here this evening.

MTF Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, executives of MTF, guests and enthusiasts watched the matches.

In the men's duel at the age group of 60 and above, first prize went to Harbert and Khin Maung Win while second prize went to Ye Myint and Pein Yi. In the men's single match, Kyaw Maung and Hauk Kho Pao stood first and second respectively.

In the men's doubles at the age group of 55 and above, first prize went to MTF Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and Maung Maung Lay while second prize went to Tin Maung Lwin and Ko Kyi. MTF General Secretary Dr Tin Aung Lin presented awards to winners. In the men's singles matches, Tin Maung Lwin and Maung Maung Lay stood first and second respectively.

In the men's doubles at the age group of 45 and above, Khin Win and Tin Maung Lwin stood first while Sai Kauk and Khin Maung Cho stood second. For the men's single match, Aung Moe and Man Pao stood first and second respectively.

In the men's duel at the age group of 35 and above, Kyaw San Win and Aung Moe won first prize while Tin Aung Lin and Maung Maung stood second. For the men's singles match, first prize went to Zaw Lin Naing, and second to Aung Moe.

In the women's professional duel, Amy Tun and Kyi Mya Zaw stood first while Moe Chit The and Khine Nyein Tha stood second. Hta Hta Lwin and Zin Ma Htwe held third position together with Thanda Aung and Thet Ma Tun. In the women's singles match, Amy Tun, Kyi Mya Zaw and Moe Chit The stood first, second and third respectively.

MTF Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win presented awards to Zaw Zaw Lat and Tu Maw, who stood first in the men's professional duel; to Khin Maung Win and Thet Lwin, who stood second; and to Myat Khine and Phyo Min Tha, who shared third prize with Min Min and Man Lian Sein. He also presented first prize to Tu Maw, second prize to Zaw Zaw Lat, and third prizes to Min Min and to Khin Maung Win for the men's professional singles match. Maj-Gen Kyaw Win also presented Championship Cup to Tu Maw. MTF executives also presented awards to winners. Afterwards, MTF Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win posed for a group photo together with the winners.

MNA



Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win presents the trophy to Tu Maw. — MNA

Secretary-1 attends cash donation...

(from page 16)

Association, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs also cooperate with the ministry in the rural water supply task.

Next, the cash donation ceremony followed.

The Secretary-1 accepted K 40 million donated by Sibin Thayayay Bank Ltd; K 2.5 million by the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and wife Daw Myint Myint Aye and family; K 3.5 million by Myanmar-ASEAN Women's Friendship Association; 10,000 FECs by Miss YVE Callebaut President Support Fund Myanmar Belgium; and K 3.5 million by U Lin Win-Daw Yi Yi Sein.

Then, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone accepted K 3 million donated by Thiha Thudhama Theingi Daw Tin Myaing; K 3 million by Nihon Sogyo Co Ltd and Silver Wave Trading Ltd; K 2.5 million, US\$ 3,468 and euro 270 by the women's association of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; K 1.4 million by Col Ba Hein (Retd)-Daw Htay Htay and family; K 1 million each by Aung Chan Tha family TV, Video, Audio Trading; Mr Daniel, Lynda and Valerie Liu; U Kyaw Sein-Daw Khin Aye; U Myint Thein (15)-Daw Thi Thi Khaing; and Daw Kyin Mya and family.

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa accepted K 1 million donated by U Myint Han of Shwe Nan Thit Construction Co; K 800,000 by Dr Daw Khin Khin Ni and Dr Daw Khin Khin Phyu in memory of the late parents Dr U Maung Galay and Daw Saw; K 600,000 by U Ba Sein-Daw Ti of Mahlaing; K 500,000 each by Supreme Court Justice U Myint Thein-Capt Daw Hla Ngwe (Retd)

and family; Daw Mya Sein and siblings, U Hla Pe and family; U Min Thein-Daw Yu Le Tun and family; U Kyaw Aung and family; and officers of 23rd Intake of Defence Services Academy.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein accepted K 500,000 each donated by U Aung Moe-Daw Naing Naing Aung; U Thein Nu-Daw Khin Mya; Academy Textile Shop of Bogoyoke Aung San Market of Yangon; Hajima Daw Khin Yi; executives of CMA social organization; U Win Pe-Daw Aye Aye Myint; U Aung Thu-Daw Thet Thet; Maj Myat Hla (Retd)-Daw Aye Aye and U Nyan Hlaing-Daw Kyi Nyunt; and Daw Hla Kyi and family.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint accepted K 500,000 each donated by U Sein Myint; U Thein Lwin-Daw Kathy Hlaing; CMA social organization; U Ye Win-Daw Khin Myint Myint; Col Tin Shwe-Daw Ngwe Yin and sister Daw Than Shwe; Capt San Lwin-Daw Amar Sein; U Myint Lwin-Daw Thein Thein; Dr U Kyi Paul and family; and U Maung Maung Yi-Daw Khin Aye and family.

Later, Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Col Tin Ngwe accepted K 500,000 each donated by U Ye Myint-Daw Nan Ei Ei Zar; Dr Sein Tin-Daw Nyunt Nyunt Swe and family; U Hsaing and family; and U La Min-Daw Tin Tin Win and family; K 405,500 by Headmistress Daw Khin May Myint, teachers and students of Botahtaung BEHS-4; K 271,805 by 121 staff of the State Peace and Development Council Office; K 250,000 by Pro-Rector U Kyaw Mya Thein (Retd)-Daw San San Myint

and family; and K 250,000 by U Nyan Lin Htet-Daw San Thida Naing and U Phyo Hla Myint-Daw Mi Mi Naing. Then, a wellwisher explained the purpose of the donations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that thanks to the participation of the organizations and the public, the Government's drive to develop the various sectors of the nation is achieving success in every aspect. In accord with the Head of State's guidance, efforts are being made for further improvement of the social living standard of the rural people, who are the majority of the nation's population, and to reduce poverty in launching the development drive. Dam projects, underground water tapping projects, and water pumping projects are fulfilling the clean water requirement of the rural areas. But there are rural areas which are not covered by the projects yet.

In April 1999, the Head of State gave guidance to implement long-term plans to supply potable water to villages lying in the dry zones of Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway divisions. In accord with the guidance, 1,169 tube-wells have been sunk in the three divisions and other states and divisions to supply clean water to the people, with the harmonious strength of the State, the donors, the NGOs and social organizations. The potable water supply projects directly benefit the people. Thus, making contributions towards the projects amounts to carrying out the public welfare service. Total of the donations at the ceremony amounted to K 13,125,305, 4,468 US dollars, 270 euros and 10,000 FECs. — MNA

မိုးဘေးရှောင် မလောင်ခင်တား

Homage paid to two title recipient Sayadaws at Tachilek Airport

YANGON, 12 March— A ceremony to pay homage to Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title recipient Tachilek Macaokham Ward Maha Myatmuni Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannasami and Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title recipient Aungmyingala Tawya Monastic Education School Headmaster Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandita was held at Tachilek Airport on 9 March morning. Present were Naga Hnakaung Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammasiri and 300 members of the Sangha, Col Myint Han of Tachilek, Chairman of Tachilek District peace and Development Council Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye and departmental officials and local people totalling about 5,000. On 10 March, the two Sayadaws were reordained at the Dhammayon of Maha Myatmuni Monastery. Present were Kengtung Dhammawdhaya Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ajeya and members of the Sangha, local authorities and departmental officials and local people.

On behalf of Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and family, the District Chairman donated robes and provisions to Naga Hnakaung Sayadaw. After the ceremony, Aswedaw Mini Mart and Shwe Nga Construction Material Trading proprietor U Maung Lay-Daw Nan Kein and family of Macaokham Ward, Tachilek, offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws.— MNA

Press conference on holding Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open

YANGON, 12 March— Tiger Beer announced the sponsorship of the 5th Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, at the Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel today.

Present were MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing, officials of the Ministry of Sports, MPGA General Secretary U Chan Han and journalists.

At the press conference,

Maj-Gen Win Hlaing gave a speech. The Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open will be held at Yangon Golf Club from 23 to 26 March.

There will be many activities leading up to the event, such as a Longest Drive Contest, a Tiger Invitation Match and a unique Putting Challenge. The Longest Drive Contest will be held at Pun Hlaing Golf Course on 22 March 2004 starting at 10.30 am. Top 8

Amateur players have been invited to put in their best efforts to be this year's long drive champion.

The Tiger Invitational match will be held at Pun Hlaing Golf Course on 22 March and tees-off at 12.30 pm. The co-sponsors will be Kodak, Canon, Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel, Ping Golf, Air Mandalay, Wilson and Maruman and Han Event Management.—MNA



MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing delivers an address at the press conference. — MNA

Opium, speciosa seized in Ywahtaung, Myeik

YANGON, 12 March— While discharging security duty on Mandalay-Myitkyna Up train, members of No 2 Company of Railways Police Force, Ywahtaung, searched suspect passenger Law Hsan (a) Maung Myo on arrival at Ywahtaung Station on 14 January. They seized 4.081 kilos of opium from his two boxes.

Similarly, a combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit, Kawthoung Special Anti-Drug Squad, Bureau of Special Investigation, Criminal

Investigation Department, Special Investigation Department and local police station, acting on information, raided the house of Daw Shu Kyi of Shwenatha Street, Myothit Ward 6, South Myeik, and seized 14 packets of speciosa weighing 0.9 kilo.

Respective police stations are taking action against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— MNA



Law Hsan (a) Maung Myo seen with seized drugs. MNA



Daw Shu Kyi seen with seized drugs. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of condolence to his Spanish counterpart

YANGON, 12 March— General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of condolence to His Excellency Mr Jose Maria Aznar, Prime Minister of Spain, for the loss of innocent lives in the bombing incident in Madrid, Spain, on 11 March 2004.— MNA

Minister U Win Aung sends message of condolence to Spanish FM

YANGON, 12 March— U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of condolence to Her Excellency Mrs Ana Palacio, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain, for the loss of innocent lives in the bombing incident in Madrid, Spain, on 11 March 2004.

MNA

“သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား ဖြိုတွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတ်မှတ်ခေါက်ရောင်းအညီ စက်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ပေး ထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတ်မှတ်နှုန်းထားများ အတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက် တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင်ပို့မိတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ပို့မိတောင်းခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနံပါတ်များ သို့တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

(၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉)

(၂) ကြိုခဲကြေးနန်းနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့ချုပ်(ဖုန်း ၂၉၁၅၅/၂၉၁၅၄)

(၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

(ဖုန်း ၅၄၁၉၀၅/၅၄၁၉၀၄)

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

Minister receives PRC delegation

YANGON, 12 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received a delegation of Chinese writers led by visiting Chairman of the Writers Association of the People's Republic of China Mr Wang Chonglu at his office on Theinbyu Road here at 11 am today.

Present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, the chairman and officials of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, PRC Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar Mr Pan Feng, and Third Secretary Mr Zhang Zhongming. — MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives the PRC delegation. — MNA

Chinese delegation continues tour

YANGON, 12 March — The visiting Chinese writers delegation led by Chairman of the Writers Association of the People's Republic of China Mr Wang Chonglu visited the Union National Races Village of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Thaketa Township here this morning.

In the afternoon, they visited the Drug Elimination Museum in Kamaryut Township. Deputy Director of the museum Police Lt-Col Hse Maung and officials briefed the Chinese visitors on anti-drug efforts made in successive periods of Myanmar, implementation of the 15-year Drug Eradication Plan laid down by the State Peace and Development Council and achievements. — MNA

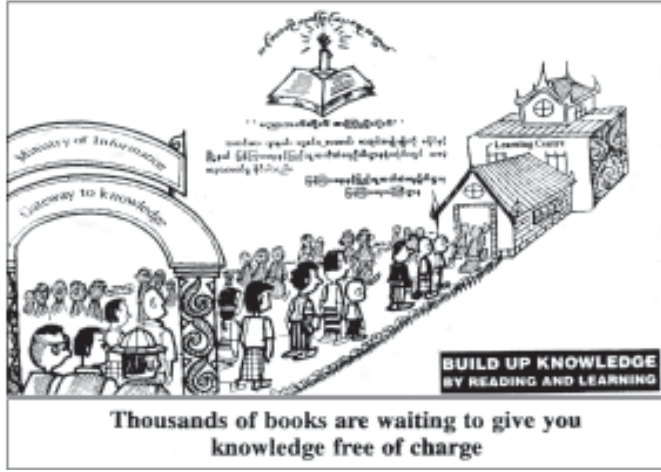
Heroin seized in Namkham

YANGON, 12 March — Action on a tip-off, a combined team made up of members of local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force and Anti-drug Squad, searched the house of U Lu Yan Shin of Naungsangon village, Namkham Township, on 25 February. And the authorities seized 30 blocks of heroin weighing 10.5 kilos hidden in the mustard plantation in the compound, and arrested drug possessor Kyaw Tun, son of U Lu Yan Shin.

In connection with the case, action is being taken against Kyaw Tun under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA



Kyaw Tun seen with seized heroin. — MNA



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MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL TERMINALS THILAWA LTD. BERTH 5-9, THILAWA, KYAUKTAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON. INVITATION OF SEALED TENDER FOR DERRICK BARGE

MITT INTENDS TO SELL ONE DERRICK BARGE IN A AS IS CONDITION AND INVITES SEALED TENDERS FOR SALE.

SPECIFICATION:

TYPE	: LL II DUMB STEEL LIGHTER ONE HOLD/SINGLE DERRICK
GROSS/NET TONNAGE	: 1388 TONS/ 971.6 TONS
LENGTH OVERALL/BREADTH	: 44.50 METERS/ 16.15 METERS
ENGINES	: (1) MAIN DERRICK ENGINE-GARDNER 240 HP (2) MOORING/WINCH ENGINE-GRANDER 150 HP (3) GENERATOR ENGINE-GRANDER 60 HP
LIFTING GEAR	: ONE SINGLE DERRICK WITH SWL 40 TONS
BID BOND	: FEC 1000 (MUST BE DEPOSITED BEFORE CLOSING TIME)
CLOSING DATE/TIME	: 19 MARCH 2004 (FRIDAY), 5:00 P.M.

BIDS IN SEALED ENVELOPS MARKED AS "TENDER FOR BARGE" MUST BE REACHED TO MITT OFFICE BEFORE TENDER CLOSING TIME. TENDER FORMS AND DETAILED INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT MITT OFFICE. PLEASE CONTACT PHONE NO. 056-25250, 056-25252 IF FURTHER INFORMATION IS REQUIRED.

TENDER COMMITTEE (MITT)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV GEE HONG VOY NO (405)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG VOY No (405) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-3-2004 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/SEAGLE CORPORATION**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV QING CHUN MEN VOY NO (065)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN VOY No (065) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-3-2004 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/SAVANCE
CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

AIDS is a national concern.

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "MANDALAY" VOY NO 121/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MANDALAY" VOY No 121/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 13-03-2004 and will be berthing on about 14-03-2004 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 by laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

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

**CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
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S Korea designate special disaster zones

SEOUL, 12 March—South Korean Government designated Wednesday areas badly affected by last week's record snowfall as special disaster zones so that residents in those areas can be eligible for state subsidies and compensation.

The zones include all regions, except for southeast part in the country's South Gyeongsang Province, that endured the snowstorm late last week, South Korean Yonhap news agency reported.

The government plans to offer the state subsidies and financial assistance to the residents starting from March 19 at the earliest.

Residents of special disaster zones are eligible for

260 kilos of heroin seized in Turkey

ANKARA, 12 March—Turkish Gendarme teams and police have separately seized 260 kilos of heroin in two regions in Turkey in the past two days.

Anatolia news agency reported that acting on a tip-off, gendarme teams on Wednesday captured six persons who were coming to Gurpinar Town of eastern Van Province on horses and seized 90 kilos of heroin put on two horses in two sacks.

MNA/Xinhua

Colombian police grab \$100m in drug properties

BOGOTA (Colombia), 12 March—Colombian police said on Wednesday they seized houses, ranches, apartments and other property worth 100 million US dollars that they believe belongs to one of the country's most wanted cocaine traffickers. Backed by helicopters, members of the police "Search Bloc" swooped on properties they say belong to Luis Hernando Gomez Bustamante, one of the fugitive heads of the Norte del Valle drug cartel, based in Cali, a police spokesman said.

Gomez Bustamante, who is known by the nickname "Rasguno", or "Scratch," is wanted for extradition to the United States and is responsible for between a third and half of the Colombian cocaine exports to that country, the spokesman said.

MNA/Reuters

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WARNING is hereby given that any fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Mark in any manner whatsoever will be dealt with according to Law.

Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for Allianz

Aktiengesellschaft
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 13 March, 2004

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ လေလံကြေငြာ

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီမှ ၂၀၀၄-၂၀၀၅ ဘဏ္ဍာရေးနှစ်အတွက် ရှင်းသာ အခန်းမြေဥယျာဉ်နှင့် ကန်တော်ကြီး Relaxation Zone ရှိ လုပ်ငန်းများအား ဈေးမြှင့်စေရန်ဖြင့် လေလံတင်အား ချထားခြင်းကို ၂၉-၃-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္လာနေ့) ၀၅:၀၀နာရီတွင် မြို့တော်ခန်းမ၌ ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အဆိုပါလေလံတွင် ၁-၃-၂၀၀၄ မှ ၈-၃-၂၀၀၄အထိ မြို့တော်ခန်းမ၌ ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်ခဲ့သော လေလံတွင် လေလံအောင်မြင်သော ကျန်ရှိနေသည့် အခွန်ဌာနမှ လုပ်ငန်းများ၊ အင်ဂျင်နီယာဌာန (လမ်းနှင့်တံတား)မှ ယာဉ်ရပ်နား၊ ကောက်ခံခြင်း လုပ်ငန်းများ၊ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးနှင့် သန့်ရှင်းရေးဌာနမှ သန့်စင်ရေးများ၊ ဈေးများဌာနမှ သန့်စင်ရေးများ၊ ပန်းဥယျာဉ်နှင့် အားကစားကွင်းများဌာနမှ ပန်းခြံ ဝင်ရံလုပ်ငန်းများ၊ ဈေးများဌာနမှ ဘုရင့်နောင်ဈေး(၂)ထပ်ရုံ ဆိုင်ခန်းများ၊ အခွန်ဌာနမှ ဒဂုံဈေးပွဲရုံနှင့် အဆေးပြေးဆိုင်ခန်းများ၊ ကျိုက္ကစ် ယာဉ်အုပ်စုဌာနမှ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေး ဆိုင်ခန်းများ၊ ဒဂုံမြို့သစ်(တောင်ပိုင်း) အမှတ်(၃) စီးပွားရေးမြို့နယ်မှ ဆိုင်ခန်းများ နှင့် ပစ္စည်းဟောင်းများကိုပါ ထည့်သွင်း၍ ဈေးမြှင့်စေရန်ဖြင့် လေလံတင်အားချထားခြင်း၊ ဈေးခွန်မြှင့်များကို ထပ်မံကျင်းပပြုလုပ်ပေးမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

လေလံလျှောက်လွှာတင်ပြမှုများနှင့် စည်းကမ်းချက်များကို ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၊ မြို့တော်ခန်းမအနီးရှိ ဆယ်တပ်ရုံး [အင်ဂျင်နီယာဌာန (အဆောက်အအုံ)] ပဌမထပ်တွင် ရှိချိန်အတွင်း ဝယ်ယူလျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။ လေလံလျှောက်လွှာတင်ပြရန်မှာ ၂၆-၃-၂၀၀၄ (သောကြာနေ့) ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များသိရှိလိုပါက အင်ဂျင်နီယာဌာန (အဆောက်အအုံ) (ဖုန်း- ၂၄၅၇၂၅၊ ၂၄၈၁၂- လိုင်းနံ့၂၅၇၂)သို့ ဖော်ပြနိုင်ပါသည်။

လေလံတင်ဆောင်သူချမှတ်ချက်

Latin America's first contagious disease centre set up in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 12 March—The construction of the Mexican contagious disease research centre, the first of its kind in Latin America, was completed here, according to local reports on Wednesday.

Reports said that the centre was funded from both national and private sources, totalling 25 million US dollars, and was equipped with the most advanced facilities, by which Mexican research staff are able to study patho-

gens leading to AIDS, pneumonia, tuberculosis, SARS, bird flu and other diseases.

Reports said that this centre will especially help researchers study the development of AIDS in patients and test its drug-resistance. In the face of the situation that the number of HIV/AIDS people is increasing at a fast pace in Mexico, the centre is expected to play an important role in fighting the fatal disease.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Kerry slams Bush economic record, meets rival Dean

CHICAGO, 12 March—Democratic White House candidate John Kerry on Wednesday slammed George W Bush for giving average Americans “the short end of the stick” and said the Republican President’s tax cuts were digging the US economy into a deeper hole.

Before heading to Washington for talks with former rival Howard Dean, Kerry told the AFL-CIO labour federation’s winter meeting that Republicans would run a campaign of “fear and blame” but that he was ready for it.

“It must be getting lonely for George Bush. It seems he’s the last person in America who actually believes his failed policies will ever work,” Kerry told the umbrella group of more than 60 unions representing 13 million workers. He spoke by satellite from a factory in

Chicago to the meeting in Bal Harbour, Florida.

Borrowing from Dean’s rhetoric, Kerry argued that there really was no middle class tax cut under Bush. When the President’s economic policies were added up then the burden on the middle class was effectively increased by a “Bush tax”.

Unlike Dean, the four-term Massachusetts senator did not advocate rolling back all of Bush’s tax cuts, only the breaks for those earning more than 200,000 US dollars a year. He said he supported targeted tax breaks

for the middle class for college, education and health care.

“Everywhere I’ve been in this campaign, I’ve met working Americans who are getting the short end of the stick,” Kerry said. “Jobs on the run. Wages and salaries dead in the water.”

Since Bush took office, Kerry said the country had shed almost three million jobs, families had been taxed more through higher college tuition, higher health costs and higher prices for gasoline and also were paying more in state, local and prop-

erty taxes.

He called the president too “stubborn” to admit his policies were not working and said Bush’s economic prescription “begins and ends with tax giveaways”.

“When you’re...in the hole, step number one is pretty simple: stop digging.”

Bush, on a trip to Ohio, an important battleground state that has been hard hit by manufacturing job losses, fought back with a strong defence of his economic policies, accusing his opponents of having a “tired defeatist mind-set”. —MNA/Reuters



Toyota Motor Corporation’s new rolling partner robot waves as it goes on stage at a news conference in Tokyo on 11 March, 2004. Toyota announced on Thursday a project to develop partner robots functioning as personal assistants for humans. The 100cm, 35-kg rolling model robot zooms along quickly, with artificial lips moving with the same finesse as human lips, enabling the playing of the trumpet, together with mobility control technology, and is to be exhibited at the Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan. —INTERNET

Parasitic twin removed from newborn baby boy

WUHAN, 12 March—Doctors in the central China Province of Hubei have successfully removed a rare parasitic twin from a four-day-old baby boy.

The surgeons said they had to remove the underdeveloped “sibling” that was conjoined to Chen Maomao from hip to breast because it threatened the newborn’s survival.

The parasitic twin, slightly smaller than Chen himself, was only partially formed, with no head and arms but well-formed legs, said Professor Ruan Qinglan, one of the surgeons with the Union Hospital based in the provincial capital Wuhan, who operated on Chen Monday.

It was the first success-

ful removal of such a big parasitic twin ever reported in China, she said.

But she said the baby needed further treatment to repair his bulgy navel and skin damages on the belly. “This has to wait until he becomes stronger because any further operation at this moment could cause him breathing difficulty.”

Chen was born on March 5. He was in a critical condition when he was sent to the Union Hospital 10 hours after birth.

The hospital has not re-

leased any information about the baby’s parents.

Professor Ruan said this was the second pair of conjoined twins she had treated during her 40-year practice as a paediatrician. “The first one was a well-formed pair who were born five years ago, joined at the belly and liver. Only one of them survived after they were separated.”

Conjoined twins form exactly like identical twins.

“But at some point during the stage where the single egg splits, the process stops and the twins become attached to one another,” said Tang Shaotao, an associate professor who participated in Chen’s operation.

“No one knows why conjoined twins occur, although genetic and environmental factors have been explored,” said Tang.

MNA/Xinhua

WHO holds photo contest on, reproductive health

GENEVA, 12 March—The World Health Organization (WHO) said Wednesday that it is inviting photographers from around the world to submit images under the theme of sexual and reproductive health that capture four key stages in the “River of Life: Love, Life, Illness and Death”.

The contest, which runs until April 13, is open to both amateur and professional photographers, the agency said.

The winning photographs will be displayed at the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May, and used in a WHO campaign on

sexual and reproductive health, it said.

The competition is part of WHO’s broader effort to raise public awareness of the importance of sexual and reproductive health and the challenges the international community faces in this area. —MNA/Xinhua

US sailor from “Kitty Hawk” dies in HK

HONG KONG, 12 March—A sailor from the aircraft carrier *USS Kitty Hawk* died Tuesday night in Hong Kong after drinking too much alcohol in the street, said the local police Wednesday.

Kitty Hawk ported in Hong Kong on March 6. Local news media quoted the police as saying that the sailor, Thomas Doughty, 23, passed out and died during his shore leave.

Police spokesman Edwin Hung said that Doughty and a friend had been drinking alcohol in the Tsim Sha Tsui tourist district and when later getting out of a taxi he fell to the ground unconscious.

The sailor was taken to a hospital and confirmed dead on Tuesday night, said the police. —MNA/Xinhua

New smallpox vaccine looks safe, effective

WASHINGTON, 12 March—An experimental smallpox vaccine may provide a solution for US health officials seeking a safe protection against biological attack for the millions of people who cannot risk the current immunization, US researchers said on Wednesday.

The vaccine protected monkeys against a virus related to smallpox, and created a strong immune response, the researchers reported. Past study has shown the vaccine, called Modified Vaccinia Virus Ankara, or MVA, is safe for people.

The same team tested MVA on immune-compromised mice. Writing in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, they said the mice remained healthy even when given 1,000 times the usual MVA dose.

This might offer new

hope for US health officials who have been trying, with only limited success, to vaccinate hundreds of thousands of health and emergency workers in case of a smallpox attack.

“The issue is not only health workers who might be absolutely much more amenable to getting vaccinated but also those people in the population who, if ever there was a smallpox attack, you’d want to get vaccinated,” said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. —MNA/Reuters

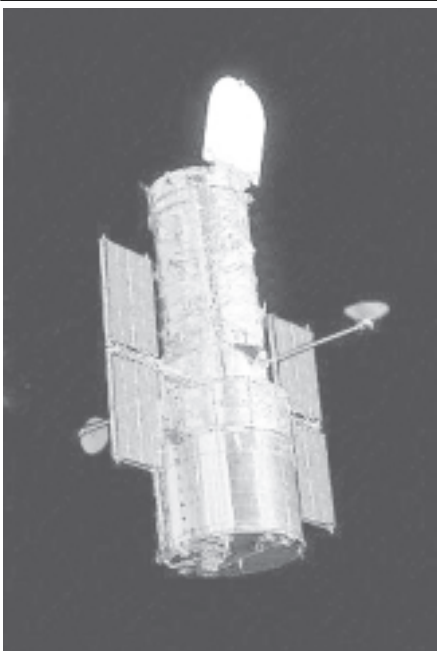
China steps up crackdown on counterfeiting currency

BEIJING, 12 March—The People’s Bank of China, the central bank, said Thursday that China stepped up efforts on combating currency counterfeit in the past year, confiscating 656 million yuan and 5.05 million US dollars in counterfeit notes.

Meanwhile, banknote management was strengthened and a total of 9,007 financial institutions were found violating cash management regulations last year, according to background materials released Thursday by the central bank at a Press conference.

The Press conference was sponsored by the Press centre of the ongoing Second Session of 10th National People’s Congress and Second Session of the 10th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference.

MNA/Xinhua



The Hubble Space Telescope. NASA may send a robot to service the Hubble Space Telescope instead of astronauts in a bid to save the telescope from abandonment, the US space agency said. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Toldo helps Inter to goalless draw at Benfica

LISBON, 12 March — Inter Milan were indebted to their goalkeeper Francesco Toldo as they drew 0-0 at Benfica on Thursday in the first leg of their UEFA Cup fourth-round tie.

Toldo was in inspired form for the three-times winners of the competition as Benfica dominated the match, helping Inter recover from their 4-1 mauling by Italian Serie A rivals AS Roma at the weekend. Just before the end of the match Toldo made two excellent saves, blocking a long shot from Armando Petit and turning aside an effort by Croatian striker Tomislav Sokota.

Benfica captain Simao Sabrosa set up several probing attacks in the first half but the Lisbon side failed to convert two golden opportunities.

Defender Armando Sa was unmarked in front of the goal after 15 minutes but Toldo cleared his shot with his foot and Argentine defender Javier Zanetti scrambled the ball away following a strike by Ricardo Rocha just before half-time.

Inter were without their leading forward Christian Vieri who was suspended after being sent off in the last round against French side Sochaux. — MNA/Reuters



Marseille's Didier Drogba (R) beats Liverpool's goalkeeper Chris Kirkland (L) and Stephen Finnan to score during their UEFA Cup fourth round, first leg soccer match at Anfield, Liverpool, on 11 March, 2004. The match finished 1-1. —INTERNET

10-man Celtic beat nine-man Barcelona 1-0

GLASGOW, 12 March — Ten-man Celtic beat a Barcelona side reduced to nine courtesy of Alan Thompson's second-half strike in the first leg of an ill-tempered UEFA Cup fourth round match on Thursday.

Both teams went down to 10 men after home goalkeeper Robert Douglas and Thiago Motta were red-carded at half-time.

Argentine striker Javier Saviola was then sent off for a late lunge on Thompson four minutes into the second half.

The English midfielder made Barcelona pay when he volleyed home the winner on 59 minutes.

Celtic — beaten finalist in last season's UEFA Cup — will be happy to avoid conceding against a Barcelona side who squandered a number of clear chances.

Ronaldinho posed problems as early as the fifth minute with a shot that deflected wide but an injury-depleted Celtic, without injured strikers Chris Sutton, John Hartson, and Shaun Maloney, were keen to make a contest of the evening.

Stephen Pearson was unlucky to thrash

a volley wide on 11 minutes but Barcelona wasted three great opportunities to carve out a lead with Saviola and Ronaldinho missing the target when clear on goal.

David Marshall, 19, replaced the sent-off Douglas and was almost picking the ball out of the net when Saviola knocked wide after racing clear on 46 minutes.

That was Saviola's last involvement as three minutes later he was sent off for a late stamp on Thompson.

Barcelona remained dangerous even with nine but Celtic made their advantage count when Stilian Petrov threw a cross into the area for Larsson to head down and Thompson to finish in plenty of space. Both sides threatened towards the end but Celtic — who are now 74 matches unbeaten at home — held firm ahead of the second leg at the Nou Camp on March 25. — MNA/Reuters

Six tied for lead after Qatar Masters opening round

DOHA, 12 March — A group of six players fired four-under-par 68s for a share of the lead after the opening round of the European Tour-sanctioned Qatar Masters on Thursday.

British trio Matthew Blackey, Andrew Oldcorn and Paul Broadhurst are tied with Japan's Nobuhito Sato, Sweden's Pierre Fulke and Austria's Martin Wiegele, one stroke clear of a group of eight players in the 1.5-million-US-dollar event.

Blackey peppered the pin with his approaches and the five birdies in his round came in the final eight holes.

Broadhurst scored 34 on both nines although the former Ryder Cup player admitted that he had not slept well over the last two weeks but was glad to be back after missing the first two months of the season.

Like Blackey, Oldcorn favoured the

back nine, where he recorded four birdies.

After a strong second place finish last week, Ireland's Paul McGinley opened with a battling 72, recovering from a two-over-par front nine with a pair of late birdies to bring him back to even par.

Former US Masters champion Ian Woosnam, who played the back nine first, was left to rue several missed short putts and had to settle for a three-under-par 69 for a share of seventh. Defending champion Darren Fichardt of South Africa finished on two-under-par 70 while another former champion Andrew Coltart had a disastrous six-over-par 78.

MNA/Reuters

Ferdinand talks of suspension agony

MANCHESTER, 12 March — Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand says training and watching his teammates play is helping him cope with his ban for missing a drugs test.

"It has been important to stay among the boys and train and be among the banter. That is keeping me afloat," Ferdinand has told Manchester United radio.

"It has been very disappointing to say the least. It is frustrating. I would be lying if I said I was enjoying my time. I would much rather be out there playing.

"I have to feel lucky that I am not injured and I can keep training. It has been a difficult few months for me but I get my kicks out of watching the boys play."

Ferdinand was given an eight-month suspension in December for failing to take a drugs test at United's Carrington training ground last September.

United appealed against the verdict and the hearing is due to be heard next Thursday and Friday.

However, the England international agreed to start a ban in January and has missed United's last 10 matches.

During Ferdinand's absence the United defence has kept only one clean sheet, against Northampton Town in the FA Cup.

The 25-year-old has had to watch as his club has gone out of the Champions League to Porto this week and slipped nine points behind leaders Arsenal in the Premier League.

Ferdinand hopes to have the length of his ban reduced, but admits he will need

time to get back to his best.

He added: "People will say I'm having a holiday but I'm not. I am working to stay fit.

"I won't have a problem with ballooning up. I'm a slim lad so I don't put weight on.

"But keeping match fit is a totally different ball game. No matter what training I do, it will take me a good few weeks and a few games to get match fit again."

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea goalkeeper Cudicini suffers hand injury

LONDON, 12 March — Chelsea goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini faces a spell on the sidelines after suffering a hand injury in training, the Premier League club said on their web site on Thursday.

The 30-year-old Italian, who has been outstanding in goal for Roman Abramovich's club this season, badly bruised a finger and cracked a bone in his hand during a training session.

Chelsea's web site said Cudicini was definitely out of Saturday's trip to Bolton Wanderers but was hopeful of resuming training once the bruising went down.

Cudicini kept a clean sheet in Chelsea's 0-0 home draw with German side VfB Stuttgart on Tuesday to help secure his team a place in the Champions League quarter-finals. Neil Sullivan is his likely replacement against Bolton.

MNA/Reuters

Villarreal claim convincing 2-0 UEFA Cup win over Roma

CASTELLON, 12 March — UEFA Cup debutants Villarreal claimed a convincing 2-0 victory over injury-hit Italian side AS Roma in the first leg of their fourth-round tie on Thursday.

First-half strikes from Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson and Spanish forward Jose Mari left the Spanish side on course to book their place in the quarter-finals.

Villarreal, who had beat Turkish side Galatasaray 5-

2 on aggregate in the last round, took the early initiative with Sebastian Battaglia imposing himself at the centre of the midfield.

The former Boca Juniors player went close to putting the home side ahead when he skimmed the bar

with a fierce drive on 25 minutes after fellow Argentine Juan Roman Riquelme had darted into the area.

It came as little surprise when the home side took the lead three minutes later, Anderson scoring with a neat angled shot after a fine through ball from Jose Mari.

Seven minutes later the former AC Milan forward grabbed one for himself to put his side 2-0 up when he headed in unmarked at the far post after a well-struck corner from midfielder Roger.

Villarreal had several chances to extend their lead, Roger going close before the break and Riquelme twice forcing sharp saves from Roma keeper Carlo Zotti early in the second half.

Roma coach Fabio Capello, who was without the injured Francesco Totti and Marco Delvecchio, among others, brought on in-form striker Antonio Cassano to try and spark the attack, but the Italians rarely managed to threaten the Villarreal goal.

As a mark of respect for the victims of the bomb attacks in Madrid that killed nearly 200 people earlier on Thursday both sides took to the field wearing black armbands before observing a minute's silence.

MNA/Reuters



Japan's Riko Higashio watches her tee shot on the third hole during the first round of the LPGA Welch's/Fry's Championship in Tucson, Arizona, on 11 March, 2004. Higashio, a rookie on the LPGA tour, finished the round with a three under par 67. —INTERNET

9:00	Signature Tune
9:02	Greeting Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Pano rama & Myanma Sen- timent"
9:06	Opium Substitute Cul- tivation & Livestock Breeding (Northern Shan State)
9:10	Headline News
9:12	Production of A Deli- cious Seafood
9:15	National News
9:20	A Rural Village
9:25	Rattan Wares and Bamboo Strip Hat
9:30	National News
9:35	Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species In- habiting in Fresh And Saltwaters (V)
9:40	Song "Welcome to Myanmar"
9:45	National News
9:50	Novitiation Ceremony
9:58	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

15:30	Signature Tune
	Greeting
15:32	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights*Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment*
15:36	Opium Substitute
	Cultivation & Livestock
	Breeding (Northern Shan State)
15:40	Headline News
15:42	Production of A Delicious Seafood
15:45	National News
15:50	A Rural Village
15:55	Rattan Wares and Bamboo Strip Hat
16:00	Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (V)
16:05	Song "Welcome to Myanmar"
16:15	National News
16:20	Novitiation Ceremony
16:25	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights "Mingalabar"
16:30	National News



7:00 am
1. ဂေဟဗုဒ္ဓ၏ မင်းကုန်သမားတော်
အကျဉ်းချုပ် နိုင်ငံတော်သစ်ဖွဲ့
နာဂါက အစိုးရအဖွဲ့တော်အစီအစဉ်
ယာဘာသို့တော်တော် ညီညွတ်စွာ ဖွဲ့
စည်းထားပါသည်။ အရာတော်သို့သို့
တော်တော်တော် ပိုမိုတော်တော်
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
5. Delicacies
8:00 am
6. အစီအစဉ်
8:15 am
7. ဂေဟဗုဒ္ဓ၏ နိုင်ငံတော်
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Grammar made easy
11:00 am
1. Martial song
- ဂေဟဗုဒ္ဓ၏ နိုင်ငံတော်သစ်ဖွဲ့
နာဂါက အစိုးရအဖွဲ့တော်အစီအစဉ်
ယာဘာသို့တော်တော် ညီညွတ်စွာ
ဖွဲ့စည်းထားပါသည်။ အရာတော်
သို့သို့တော်တော် ပိုမိုတော်တော်
11:10 am
2. Musical programme

16:35 Good Prospects for Myanmar Coffee
16:40 How to Make Chinlone
16:45 National News
16:50 Myanmar Movie Impact "Given the gift of life"
17:00 Weekly News Highlights
17:05 Myanmar Paintings of Successive Periods
17:10 Songs on Screen "Phenomena of Love"
17:12 Rafting and Kayaking in Maykha and Malika Rivers
17:15 Weekly News Highlights
17:20 Leisurely Cruise Along The Coast (Myeik to Kawthoung)
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

19:30	(19:30 - 23:30)	Signature Tune
19:32		Greeting Song of Myanmar
19:45		Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
19:36		Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw "Agriculture Sector"
19:40		Headline News
19:42		Fishery In Kayin State
19:45		Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species In- habiting in Fresh And Seawaters (IV)
19:55		Kachin Traditional New Crop Feast and Drum Dance
20:00		National News
20:05		Closure Of Cruise Along the Coast (Mawla- myaing to Myeik)
20:10		Song "Let go of me"
20:15		National News
20:20		From Poppies to Lu- scious Fields and En- terprises (Part-I)
20:25		Song "Loving Smile"
20:30		National News
20:35		Marine Products in Myeik
20:40		Progressing Cultivation in Northern Shan State
20:45		National News
20:50		Inlay Wild Bird Sanctu- ary
20:55		Brave Youth Showing His Strength & Abili- ty
21:00		National News
23:05		Myanmar Traditional Marionette "The Royal Paje Dance"
21:10		Songs on Screen "My Ardent Wish"
21:15		Weekly News High- lights
21:20		Pride of Place in Bagan (The Ananda Temple)
21:25		Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Pano-

21:35 Opium Substitute Cultivation & Livestock Breeding (Northern Shan State)

21:40 **Headline News**

21:42 Production of A Delicious Seafood

21:45 **National News**

21:50 Culture Stage "A Rural Village"

21:55 Rattan Wares and Bamboo Strip Hat

22:00 **National News**

22:05 Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (V)

22:10 Song "Welcome to Myanmar"

22:15 **National News**

22:20 Novitiation Ceremony

22:25 Songs On Screen "One And Only Yours"

22:30 **National News**

22:35 Good Prospect for Myanmar Coffee

22:40 How to Make Chinlone

22:45 **National News**

22:50 Myanmar Movie Impression "Given the gift of life"

23:00 **National News**

23:05 Myanma Paintings of Successive Periods

23:10 Songs on Screen "Phenomena of Love"

23:12 Rafting and Kayaking Along Maykha and Malikha Rivers

23:15 **Weekly News Highlights**

23:20 Leisurely Cruise Along The Coast (Meyik to Kathaung)

23:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

23:30	Signature Tune
	Greeting
23:32	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights "Myanmar Pa-
	nama & Myanma Pen-
	tainment"
23:36	Opium Substitute Cul-
	tivation & Livestock
	Breeding (Northern
	Shan State)
23:40	Headline News
23:42	Production of A Delic-
	ious Seafood
23:45	National News
23:50	A Rural Village
23:55	Rattan Wares and
	Bamboo Strip Hat
24:00	National News
00:05	Expedition of Rare
	Crocodile Species in-
	habiting in Fresh And
	Seawaters (V)
00:10	Song "Welcome to
	Myanmar"
00:15	National News
00:20	Novitiation Ceremony

	Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
00:30	National News
00:35	Good Prospects for Myanmar Coffee
00:40	How to Make Chionone
00:45	National News
00:50	Myanmar Movie Impact "Given the gift of life"
01:00	Weekly News High- lights
01:05	Myanmar Paintings of Successive Periods
01:10	Songs on Screen "Phen- omena of Love"
01:12	Rafting and Kayaking Along Maykha and Malikha Rivers
01:15	Weekly News High- lights
01:20	Leisurely Cruise Along The Coast (Myeik to Kawthoung)
01:25	Scenery of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

03:30	Signature Tune
03:32	Greeting
	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36	Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw "Agriculture Sector"
03:40	Headline News
03:42	Fishery In Kayin State
03:45	National News
03:50	Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (IV)
03:55	Kachin Traditional New Crop Feast and Drum Dance
04:00	National News
04:05	Leisurely Cruise Along the Coast (Mawla-myaing to Myeik)
04:10	Song "Let go of me"
04:15	National News
04:20	From Poppies to Luscious Fields and Enterprises (Part-I)
04:25	Song "Loving Smile"
04:30	National News
04:35	Marine Products in
04:40	Progressing Cultivation in Northern Shan State
04:45	National News
04:50	Inlay Wild Bird Sanctuary
04:55	Brave Youth Showing His Strength & Ability
05:00	National News
05:05	Myanmar Traditional Marionette "The Royal Page Dancer"
05:10	Songs on Screen "My Ardent Wish"
05:15	Weekly News Highlights
05:20	Bridge of Peace in Bagan

05:25	(The Ananda Temple) Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Pano- rama & Myanma Sen- timent"
05:35	Opium Substitute Cul- tivation & Livestock Breeding (Northern Shan State)
05:42	Headline News Production of A Deli- cious Seafood
05:45	Culture News
05:50	National Stage "A Ru- ral Village"
05:55	Rattan Wares and Bamboo Strip Hat
06:00	Exceptional News
06:05	Reproduction of Rare Crocodile Species In- habiting in Fresh And Seawaters (V)
06:10	Song "Welcome to Myanmar"
06:15	National News
06:20	Notification Ceremony
06:25	Songs "On Screen" "Phenomena of Love"

[illegible]

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, and Tanintharyi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Rakhine State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (40°C) each in Pinyinmana, Minbu and Aunglan.

Maximum temperature on 11-3-2004 was 37.6°C (100°F). Minimum temperature on 12-3-2004 was 19.8°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 12-3-2004 was 69%. Total sun shine hours on 11-3-2004 was (8.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 12-3-2004 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 15mph from Southeast at (00:30) hours MST on 12-3-2004. **Bay inference:** Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 13-3-2004:** Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely Lower Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-3-2004:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-3-2004:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%). **Weather outlook for second weekend of March 2004:** During the coming weekend, isolated rain or thundershowers are possibility in Mandalay Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon division.

Rev Ngun Su eldest son of (Pu Chiah Hai) and (Pi Dar Ki) of Hmnlunpi, Htan Tlang Township, Chin State, beloved husband of Pi Tla Tang (Ma Htar) No. 1094, Kanthayar 2nd Street, 35 Ward, N/Dagon, and father of Pa David Ka Lian Thang, Nu Tina Biak Hlei Rem (B.A. Hons-2nd year), Pa Ram Kul Thang (Bth 1st year), Nu Linda Biak Vel Mawi (IC 2nd year), Nu Tracy Biak Tin Thla 1st year - English), Nu Doris Biak Kil Par (V1st Year; No. (3) B.E.H.S, N/Dagon), eldest brother of Pi Ngun Pam, Pi Ni Reng, Pu Hmet Nun, (Pa Van Mawng), Pu Lal Thang and Pi Ca Lhan expired in 12 March 2004 at 8:40 am . Funeral service will be held on Sunday 14 March 2004 at Yeway Christian Cemetery at 2:00 pm Friends and relatives, this is the only intimation.

Buses will leave residence and 46 Ward bus stand at N/Dagon, Yuzana Myodaw, Hlaing Thiri, and LBC Centre, Insein, at 1:00pm.

Bereaved family

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General Thura Shwe Mann addresses coordination meeting on cultivation of 500,000 acres of oil palm in Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 12 March— Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann addressed the coordination meeting on cultivation of 500,000 acres of oil palm in Taninthayi Division held at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar here at 8 am today.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, entrepreneurs of the oil palm companies, businessmen who are interested in growing oil palm and owners of the crude palm oil factories.

In his address, General Thura Shwe Mann said that efforts are being made for extended cultivation of paddy, beans and pulses, maize and oil crops in strengthening the national economy, adding that although the country has been able to keep a surplus of rice it cannot grow and produce palm oil for self-sufficiency.

Therefore, systematic steps are being taken for cultivation of oil palm to ensure self-sufficiency in palm oil and to turn Taninthayi Division into an

oil bowl of the nation. Cultivation of 500,000 acres of oil palm in the division amounts to striving for ensuring import-substitute and



General Thura Shwe Mann addresses meeting to put 500,000 acres of land under oil palm in Taninthayi Division.— MNA

creating a condition in which palm oil can be exported. The amount of benefit gained in cultivation and production of palm oil can be seen through an observation of some neighbouring countries that are engaged in growing oil palm. Thus, cultivation of oil palm benefit not only growers but also the nation.

There have been those who are willing to grow oil palm but they are not able to grow it since they have

no capital and there have been those who are not able to grow oil palm although they are willing to grow it and are in good financial status.

The government has granted permit to reclaim land for cultivation of oil palm and provided necessary assistance including transport and it is learnt that those who are currently engaged in oil palm cultivation are making efforts to meet the target of growing

oil palm.

He said it is heartening to know that those who are willing to grow oil palm will invest in the oil palm project and he believed that cultivation of oil palm will meet with success through concerted efforts of the entrepreneurs, the local people and the government.

Next, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung reported on target for cultivation of oil palm, progress

in cultivation, requirements for extended cultivation and progress in establishment of crude palm oil factories.

Next, officials of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise and Land Records Department gave supplementary reports.

After that the companies that are engaged in cultivation of oil palm and the entrepreneurs reported on progress in oil palm cultivation, arrangements for extended cultivation of oil

palm, establishment of crude palm oil factories and potential for gaining benefit.

Next, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on assistance to be provided.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by General Thura Shwe Mann.

After the meeting, General Thura Shwe Mann greeted those present at the meeting.—MNA

Secretary-1 attends cash donation ceremony for supply of potable water in rural areas

YANGON, 12 March— The seventh cash donation ceremony for supply of potable water in rural areas of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was held at the meeting hall of the Development Affairs Department in Thanhlyetsoon, Botahtaung Township, this afternoon, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, Daw San Yon who is member of the Panel of Patrons of Myanmar-ASEAN Women's Friendship Association wife of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Vice-President of the Association wife of the Singaporean Ambassador Mrs Poh Choo de Cruz, Executive Committee member Philippines Ambassador Mme Phoebe A Gomez, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads of the

Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and wellwishers.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Col Tin Ngwe reported that in April 1999, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to implement the 10-year plan on supply of potable water in all villages of divisions in the tropical region where water is scarce.

From the 2000-2001 fiscal year to date, 60 per cent of tasks for supplying water have been completed as tasks of water availability have been carried out in 4,783 villages out of 8,042 villages in three tropical divisions.

Thanks to participation of the wellwishers in the tasks, momentum has been gained in the rural water supply tasks. In addition, in-

ternational organizations also provide assistance to the rural water supply projects.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has sunk 91 tube-wells out of 250 in the five-year plan in Shan State (North). As the master plan on supply of potable water in tropical region is being implemented, a total of 22 deep test-wells have been sunk in 11 townships, so far.

Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ) also is digging 48 4" and 6" tube-wells in Kyaukpadaung Township beginning 2001-2002. Similarly, UNICEF has been participating in 390 water supply tasks of the rural water supply project in three tropical divisions from 2001-2002 to date.

Likewise, the Union Solidarity and Development (See page 10)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win accepts cash donations from Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein for supply of potable water in rural areas.— MNA

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