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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views the production line of the factory of Myanmar Asia Optical International Co Ltd in Mingaladon Industrial Zone.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views lens factory of Myanmar Asia Optical International Co Ltd

YANGON, 31 March— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at the factory of Myanmar Asia Optical International Co Ltd in Mingaladon Industrial Zone, here, at 9 am today.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, departmental heads, Chairman of Asia Optical Company Inc Group Mr Robert Lai, Managing Director of Myanmar Optical International Co Ltd Mr Eric Chen and officials.

At the briefing hall, Chairman of Asia Optical Company Inc Group Mr Robert Lai reported that as construction of the factory of Myanmar Asia Optical International Co Ltd has completed, commercial-scale production will be carried out soon.

Asia Optical Company Inc Group is manufacturing over 50 per cent of worlds' lens demand and also producing optical apparatuses, electronic apparatuses and other apparatuses. The group formed joint ventures with famous

camera companies to produce brand products. The company also manufactures OEM/ ODM optical products for other global companies.

The group carries out production of office machine, cameras, optical components, rifle-scopes, prisms, laser range finders, plastic injections, cases & bags, DVD, micro motors and SMT electronics. Furthermore, the company runs moulding, precision, pressing, coating and printing businesses.

The company chose Myanmar among the FDI-inviting Asian countries as the most suitable country for investment for her human resources, stability and investment opportunities.

If Myanmar Asia Optical International Company Ltd can realize the aims of the initial stage, it will make arrangements to set up the largest lens factory in the world employing about 5,000 workers and manufacturing about 10 million units of lens monthly within a five-year period by gradually promoting investment in Myanmar and by channelling investment from other countries into Myanmar.

(See page 8)

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

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The factory of Myanmar Asia Optical International Co Ltd seen in Mingaladon Industrial Zone.— MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 1 April, 2004

Towards speedy implementation of national development plans

Adhering to "Our Three Main National Causes", which is the national policy, the Government of the Union of Myanmar is making every endeavour for the speedy implementation of the plan for development of border areas and national races, the 24-region development plan and the five rural development tasks, aiming at the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Respective regions and departments are implementing the special projects for the speedy and harmonious development of the entire Union.

The Special Projects Implementation Committee held its coordination meeting 1/2004 at the meeting hall of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) in the afternoon of 30 March. Chairman of the Special Projects Implementation Committee Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe attended the meeting and delivered an address.

In his address on the occasion, Senior General Than Shwe said that, to be able to modernize our nation and catch up with the development of other industrialized nations of the world, it was required to speedily implement the national development plans. The earlier the projects are completed, the sooner the people will be able to enjoy the benefits of these projects and the State will be developed, he added.

The plans are too enormous for the respective ministry to carry out alone and the implementation of them requires the support and assistance of other related ministries. Therefore, the Special Projects Implementation Committee was formed to enlist the assistance and coordinate the efforts of all the related ministries.

In executing the plans, it is very important to be cost-effective and to avoid unnecessary delays. Moreover, it is essential to implement them systematically and complete them in time. Of all the special projects, the electric power projects are the most important and special emphasis should be placed on the speedy implementation of them.

We would like to call upon all those responsible to put their energies into the national development plans so that they can be completed earlier than schedule. Only then will the people be able to enjoy the benefits of these projects sooner.

သတိ

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း ဟွန်းမတီးရ။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

Applications to be submitted for MBA course

YANGON, 31 March — Institute of Economics (Yangon) opens full time two-year course for Master of Business Administration at international level every year. Those wishing to sit the entrance examination must have a degree from any university for the first year course for MBA. Those who are qualified will be chosen for an interview.

As of 30 May, application forms may be bought and submitted not later than 10 April at Ruby Hall, Hlaine Campus, Institute of Economics (Yangon). — MNA

ကုသကာကွယ် မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်

၁။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲလျှင် အသက်ရှောင်အသားဝါရောဂါ၊ အသက်ရှောင်ရောဂါ၊ အသက်ရှောင်ရောဂါ၊ သွေးဆိပ်တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ အဆုတ်ရောဂါများ၊ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုရောဂါ (AIDS) နှင့် စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာရောဂါများ စသည့်တို့ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည့်အပြင် စီးပွားရေးနှင့်လူမှုရေးများ ထိခိုက်ပျက်ပြားခြင်း၊ ဥပဒေအရယူခံရခြင်းတို့ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။
၂။ ထို့ကြောင့် အဆိုပါဒုက္ခများမှ ကင်းဝေးစေရန် မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးကို လုံးဝရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
၃။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲသူများသည် သတ်မှတ်ဆေးရုံများတွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Shanghai-Copenhagen air route launched

SHANGHAI, 31 March — An Airbus A340 from Scandinavian Airlines arrived in Shanghai at 7:35 am Monday, opening a direct flight linking this eastern metropolis with Copenhagen of Denmark.

Danish and Chinese celebrities such as Princess Alexandra, Danish Transportation Minister Flemming Hansen, Scandinavian Airlines president Jorgen Lindegaard and Zhen Jianguo, Chinese Ambassador to Denmark, were on board the plane to honour the virgin flight of the route.

Officials from the Shanghai Municipal Government and Ole Lonsmann Poulsen, Danish Ambassador to China, also attended Monday's virgin flight ceremony.

The plane leaves at 10:30 am Beijing Time on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Shanghai Pudong International Airport and arrives in Copenhagen Airport the next day at 3:40 pm local time.

The return trip starts at 3:15 pm local time from Copenhagen Airport on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday and arrived in Shanghai Pudong International Airport at 7:35 am the next day.

MNA/Xinhua

Seminar on developing production of wood furniture held

YANGON, 31 March — A seminar on developing the production of wood furniture was held under the joint sponsorship of Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Society and JETRO (Japanese External Trade Organization) at the Traders Hotel here at 10 am today. Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Society Chairman U Aung Lwin, Japanese expert Mr Motoyasu Yoshifumi spoke at the seminar. Managing Director of JETRO Mr Tomohiro Ando spoke words of thanks. — MNA



The seminar on developing production of wood furniture in progress. —MNA

သတိ

(၁) လေပေါင် (၁၀၀) မှ (၁၅၀)အထိ အတင်အချ လျှော့ချရသည့် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များဖြင့် ရေပတ်ကစားခြင်းကြောင့် ရေစူးအားပြင်းလွန်၍ ရေပတ်ခံရသူတွင် အသားရေများ ပွန်းပဲ့ စုတ်ထွက်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ မျက်စိ၊ နားများအားထိုးမိပါက မျက်လုံး၊ နားတန်းနိုင်ခြင်း၊ အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေနိုင်ပါသဖြင့် ရေကစားမဏ္ဍပ်များ၊ ရေပတ်ကစားများတွင် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များ အသုံးပြု၍ ရေပတ်ခြင်းမပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။

(၂) သကြံရေပတ်ကစားခြင်းအား သကြံရန်များအတွင်း နေ့စဉ် နံနက် (၀၇၀၀) နာရီမှ (၁၈၀၀) နာရီအတွင်းသာ ရေပတ်ကစားကြရန်နှင့် (၁၈၀၀) နာရီနောက်ပိုင်း ရေပတ်ကစားခြင်း မပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။

(၃) တားမြစ်ချက်အား ဖောက်ဖျက်ပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူခံရမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

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



DONATION FOR HOME FOR THE AGED: Wellwisher Sayadaw U Seindasiri of UPyaewa Thukha monastery of ward 10, Thaketa Township, Yangon, donated K 200,000 for the Hnizigon Home for the Aged recently. The Sayadaw seen handing over the cash donation to Treasurer of the Home Lt-Col Thet Tin (Retd). — (H)

Explosive hurled at Australian Embassy in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 March — A small explosive device was hurled outside the Australian High Commission building in Malaysia's capital on Tuesday but caused no injuries or damage, officials said.

It was the first such incident involving a foreign embassy in mainly Muslim Malaysia and comes a week after Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi scored a landslide win against the Islamist opposition in general elections. No one claimed responsibility and no arrests were made, police said. The device was hurled from a passing car at around 4:50 am (2050 GMT). "It was such a small device that it didn't leave any burn marks at all," Australian Deputy High Commissioner Simon Merrifield said. A police intelligence officer initially described the device as a small plastic explosive. But a high-ranking official later said it was a "big firecracker". "It was firecracker components put together and not explosive components," the official told Reuters. "It was hurled by someone driving alone." "It was more of a mischievous act and there was no thorough planning of sort," he added. Malaysia has tightened security around several Western embassies, including those of Australia, the United States and Britain, since the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington. — MNA/Reuters

သတိပြုရန်

- (၁) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု မဟာသကြံနံကာလအတွင်း ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများ လိုက်နာရန်
- (က) မူးယစ်သောက်စား ယာဉ်မောင်းသူ
- (ခ) အပျော်လွန်ကျူးစည်းကမ်းမဲ့ ပြိုင်မောင်းသူ လူမောင်းသူ
- (ဂ) မော်တော်ယာဉ်၊ မော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ်များတွင် အိတ်စောပိုင်နံ ဖြုတ်မောင်းသူ
- (ဃ) ယာဉ်နံပါတ်ပြားမပါရှိဘဲ မောင်းသူ
- (င) ယာဉ်နံပါတ်အတုများ၊ အခြားယာဉ်နံပါတ်များတပ်ဆင်ခြင်း လုံးဝမပြုရ။
- (စ) ယာဉ်၏ဘေးတစ်ဘက်၊ နောက်ဖုံးများဖြုတ်၍ မောင်းနှင်ခြင်း မပြုရ။
- (ဆ) ယာဉ်မောင်းလျင်စနစ်နှင့် ယာဉ်မှတ်ပုံတင်(ဒီဂရီတက်) မပါဘဲမောင်းသူ
- (ဇ) ဖျက်သိမ်းထားသော ယာဉ်အို/ယာဉ်ဟောင်းများနှင့် ပြုပြင်ဆင်ယင်မှု မမောင်းသူ
- (ဈ) နိုင်ငံတကာအလံများ ယာဉ်တွင်တပ်ဆင်၍ မောင်းနှင်ခြင်း မပြုရ။
- (ည) ဟွန်းသံကင်းမဲ့မှုများအတွင်း ဟွန်းလုံးဝမတီးရ။
- ၂။ ကျူးလွန်ပါက တည်ဆဲပဒေအရ ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူမည်။
- ၃။ "သင်ကြောင့် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု မဟာသကြံကို အကျဉ်းတန် မညစ်နွမ်းပါစေနှင့်"

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြပ်မူကော်မတီ

Watchdog agency faults lack of Iraqi oil metering

UNITED NATIONS, 31 March— The US-led authority in Baghdad is failing to meter Iraq's oil production, leaving a door open to smuggling, an international watchdog agency said on Tuesday, calling for urgent steps to address the problem.

The International Advisory and Monitoring Board, set up by the UN Security Council to watch over Iraq's oil production in the post-war era, said the Coalition Provisional Authority informed it two weeks ago that crude oil was unmetered.

Metering production, referred to by the monitoring board as a standard oil industry practice, allows the producer to verify that no oil is diverted between from time it is taken out of the ground to the time it is marketed.

The absence of metering "represents an internal control weakness which needs to be addressed urgently," the board said in a notice posted on its web site (www.iamb.info).

"As an interim step to strengthen controls over oil extraction and limit possible diversion, the IAMB welcomes steps taken by the CPA to curtail smuggling activities," it said. "The IAMB recommends the expeditious installation of metering equipment in accordance with standard oil industry practices."

Iraq has exported more than 6.9 billion US dollars in crude oil since Saddam Hussein's government fell nearly a year ago, the coalition authority reported on its own web site (www.iraqcoalition.org/budget/DFIintrol.html).

The authority had deposited 6.93 billion US dollars in its Development Fund for Iraq as of last Thursday, it said. A total of 335 million US dollars was deposited in the fund during the week ending last Thursday, compared to 205 million US dollars the

previous week, it added.

Beyond the weekly figures on oil proceeds deposited in the development fund, the CPA provides no public information on sales of Iraqi oil, such as volume or price data or the reasons for weekly fluctuations in deposits into the fund.

Under a resolution adopted by the Security Council last May, the authority is required to deposit all the proceeds of Iraqi oil exports into the fund.

MNA/Reuters

Afghanistan's neighbours plan joint drug offensive

BRUSSELS, 31 March — Afghanistan's neighbours are drawing up a plan to tackle the flow of heroin from the world's top producer of opium poppy into Russia and Europe, the US State Department's Afghan coordinator said on Monday.

The Central Asian nations' initiative, which will complement a drive by Kabul to destroy poppy fields and heroin factories, is likely to be signed at the international conference on Afghanistan which opens on Wednesday in Berlin.

"Neighbours have both a responsibility and a concern that opium poppy and opium and heroin are leaking through their countries," William Taylor told a video-linked news conference from Berlin. "If the neighbours can join together and begin to shut off that flow this will be an important commitment."

Diplomats say, however, that persuading some of these countries to put action behind a written commitment may be difficult as the heroin trade is a hugely lucrative business.

Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran are the main transit states for opiates from Afghanistan, whose output has soared since the 2001 ouster of the hardline Taliban regime.

The Taleban had almost eradicated opium production during its final year in power. But output has since taken off and — according to UN estimates — last year reached 3,600 tons, more than three-quarters of global supply.

Five of Afghanistan's six neighbours participate in "Operation Topaz", an International Narcotics Control Board monitoring operation to track the flow of acetic anhydride, a key chemical used in the manufacture of heroin.

Turkmenistan, which shares a 435-mile border with Afghanistan, has not joined the operation. It was criticized by the United Nations this month for not cooperating. Taylor gave no details of the coordination plan, but said Washington would provide some 40 million US dollars over two years to support the establishment of special Afghan police units that, starting next month, would start to eradicate opium poppy fields before they were harvested.

"What needs to happen... is a signal to farmers and others that growing poppy is illegal and the law that makes it illegal will be enforced," he said. "There is going to be for the first time some risk associated with growing poppy in Afghanistan."

NATO has come under fire from some non-governmental organizations for not using its 6,300-strong peace-keeping force in Afghanistan to tackle poppy cultivation and trade.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi men fight with British troops in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 29 March, 2004. The clashes followed the eviction of anti-coalition activists from a government building they were occupying. —INTERNET

Indonesia plans compulsory military service for youths

JAKARTA, 31 March — Claiming that the number of military personnel remains far from enough to guard Indonesia's vast territory, the Ministry of Defence is drafting a bill that would require youths to perform military service.

The ministry's director general for defence strategy, Major-General Sudrajat, has said that under the civilian participatory defence concept, the youths would be recruited and trained to support the Army's strike force, a local newspaper reported Monday.

He said the lack of military ground weaponry was the reason why the ministry was not focusing on maritime defence, despite the fact that Indonesia is an archipelagic country.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam likely to raise foreigners' share cap

HANOI, 31 March — Vietnam is set to raise the cap on the stake that foreign investors is allowed to hold in a listed company within a couple of months.

A draft to raise, or even remove the current 30 per cent cap on foreign share-

holders is being developed, local newspaper *Vietnam Investment Review* quoted Pham Phan Dung, head of the ministry's Finance and Banking Department as saying on Monday. "We might raise the cap for foreign shareholders in those areas in which

joint ventures or fully foreign-invested enterprises are already allowed to be established. We might also consider completely removing the cap in non-strategic areas such as tree plantation and confectionery production," Dung said. — MNA/Xinhua



An American soldier drives past the scene of an attack on US transport trucks in Baghdad on Monday, 29 March, 2004. No one was injured in the attack. —INTERNET

Ireland leads the world by going smoke-free

DUBLIN, 31 March — Ireland became the first country in the world to outlaw cigarettes in all its restaurants and pubs on Monday, to the delight of non-smokers but the dismay of some publicans who say they will have to police the ban.

From midnight on Sunday it became illegal to smoke in virtually all workplaces, closed public spaces and on public transport, with fines of up to 3,000 euros for transgressors. While similar bans have been imposed in cities and states elsewhere in the world, including in California and New York, Ireland is the first country to impose such a ban nationally.

Health Minister Micheal Martin marked the historic day by savouring a smoke-free breakfast in Bewley's Oriental Cafe on Grafton Street in the heart of Dublin.

Describing the law as "a no-brainer", he told reporters in the cafe, a hub of Dublin social life since the 19th Century, the argument against smoking in a country with Europe's highest rate of heart disease was overwhelming.

"We have to do something extra, go the extra mile, to get that rate down," Martin said. Anti-smoking group ASH said smoking kills six times as many people in Ireland each year than road accidents, work accidents, drugs, murder, suicide and AIDS combined.

"Earlier this year I referred to this legislation as the health initiative of the century," said Professor Luke Clancy, chairman of ASH Ireland. "I have no doubt that research will in time justify this statement."

But not everyone was convinced.

"For me personally, it's a bridge too far," smoker Shay Mahoney told *Reuters* as

the ban came into force. "I mean, what's next, compulsory haircuts?" asked Mahoney, who said he has smoked 20 cigarettes a day for the past 20 years but did not think the landlord at his local pub in north Dublin would enforce the legislation.

For thousands of office workers arriving at their desks on Monday morning, the new law will make little difference as their employers have already imposed their own smoking bans.

But the real test will come later in the day when the country's famously hospitable pubs open their doors. — MNA/Reuters

Poll shows Bush's security ratings slip after Clarke

WASHINGTON, 31 March — Voter approval for US President George W Bush's handling of homeland security has fallen since former counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke questioned Bush's commitment to fighting terror before the September 11 attacks, according to a *Newsweek* poll.

The survey found 57 per cent of voters said they approved of the way Bush had handled the war on terrorism and homeland security, down from a high of 70 per cent two months ago. The results of the poll were posted on *Newsweek's* web site.

The poll was conducted after Clarke's televised appearance before a 9/11 panel last week and the release of his book that details his allegations. — MNA/Reuters

British troops clash with Iraqi protesters in Basra

BASRA (Iraq), 31 March — British troops clashed with a crowd of demonstrators outside the offices of a religious organization in the southern Iraq city of Basra on Monday and at least one protester was wounded.

Reuters Television pictures showed a squad of British soldiers using riot shields and wielding batons to try to control the crowd of about 80 demonstrators, who threw stones and swung iron bars at the troops and set fire to several tyres.

One protester tried to snatch a rifle from a British soldier and was quickly beaten to the ground by other troops. At least four armoured British Land Rovers were at the scene. Pictures showed several objects burning and petrol drums scattered across the road.

Witnesses said one protester was wounded in the head by a rubber baton round fired by British troops. They said he had been taken to hospital.

The clashes took place in front of the office of the God's Revenge Islamic Organization, a militant Shiite Muslim group which is accused by some Iraqis of involvement in attacks against Sunnis and members of the former Ba'ath

Party regime.

It was not immediately clear what provoked the protests but locals said British forces had tried to force members of the God's Revenge Islamic Organization out of their building and had met with resistance.

British troops clashed with demonstrators in Basra last week. An armoured troop carrier was attacked with petrol bombs and several British soldiers were briefly set alight before the flames were doused. Thirteen soldiers were lightly wounded in the clashes, which lasted several hours.

Basra, Iraq's second largest city, and the rest of the southern Iraq region where British forces are responsible has been generally calmer than the rest of the country, although there have been several recent flare-ups.

Most of the demonstrations are held by former or current members of Iraq's security forces seeking payment of their pensions or monthly salaries. — MNA/Reuters

ဝက်မွန်အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Houston soldier dies in Iraq

HOUSTON, 31 March — Marine Pfc Leroy Sandoval Jr died last week fighting guerillas in Fallujah, Iraq.

He had been in the country for less than two weeks.

Sandoval, who grew up in South Houston and Pasadena, died of a gunshot wound Friday while manning a machine gun for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

He was 21.

Seven other Marines were wounded during the battle.

The Houston Chronicle reported the death.

Internet



Iraqi man Mohammad-Rahmani retrieves his belongings from his house, which he and neighbours said was destroyed by a tank the day before, in the northern town of Samarra on 29 March, 2004. —INTERNET

India, China agree to boost military ties

NEW DELHI, 31 March — India and China announced on Monday a series of proposals to strengthen ties between their Armed Forces to help bolster a new friendship between the world's most populous countries, who went to war decades ago.

The proposals were agreed during talks between Indian Defence Minister George Fernandes and his counterpart Cao Gangchuan, the first Chinese Defence Minister to visit New Delhi in a decade.

"Both sides presented new proposals to strengthen and develop defence exchanges and confidence building," the Indian Defence Ministry said in a statement.

"It was agreed that training, including

Chinese language training in defence institutions in India, sports and cultural exchanges and friendly interaction between border personnel...would be increased."

The two sides invited each other's officers to witness military exercises.

"This would be in the interest of building familiarity, trust and confidence so as to develop bilateral relations as a whole."

MNA/Reuters

AIDS in S Africa civil service hampers govt's functioning

JOHANNESBURG, 31 March — AIDS/HIV infection among South African civil servants threatens to hamper the functioning of government, according to a study reported on Sunday.

More than 100,000 civil servants out of over one million are estimated to be infected with the disease, the *Sunday Independent* newspaper said.

Up to 250,000 might die of the illness by 2012, it said, quoting a report from the Centre for the Study of AIDS at the University of Pretoria.

"How can the government be maintained and function effectively when many of its officials become ill with HIV and die of AIDS," the study said.

South Africa suffers the world's highest HIV/AIDS caseload, with an estimated 5.3 million people infected.

The newspaper said the report, commissioned by the Department of Public Service and Administration, was due to be released

this week at a population and development conference.

Neither the centre nor government officials were immediately available to comment.

The disease is already having an impact on education, where employment of teachers is down and sick leave increasing, a teachers' union official told the newspaper. Teachers make up nearly 40 per cent of civil servants.

HIV/AIDS has also been a factor in slowing enrolments of pupils starting school, the report said. The average rate of increase in enrolments slid to 0.05 per cent during 1995-2000 from 4.21 per cent in 1990-1995.

The drop was due to declining fertility rates and rising infant mortality, mainly because of HIV/AIDS, it added.

MNA/Reuters

HK starts building of AsiaWorld-Expo

HONG KONG, 31 March — Hong Kong started Monday the construction for a AsiaWorld-Expo — a world-class centre that will contribute significantly to Hong Kong's position as Asia-Pacific's convention and exhibition hub.

The first phase is expected to absorb 295 million US dollars of the project, which is expected to generate economic benefits of more than 1.28 billion US dollars over a 25-year period.

AsiaWorld-Expo will provide the largest column-free exhibition hall in Hong Kong. Its phase 1 development of 66,000 square metres will be completed for full operation in the first quarter of 2006. The facility is capable of further expansion to 100,000 square metres of exhibition space in response to future market demand.

Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology John Tsang said at the Ground-breaking Ceremony for AsiaWorld-Expo Monday morning that AsiaWorld-Expo is a joint venture between government, Airport Authority and a private sector consortium led by Dragages.

He said it is an excellent example of public-private partnership that promises to

provide enormous benefits to the economy of Hong Kong. The government and the private sector participants will pay for the construction costs, while the Airport Authority will contribute the land for the new exhibition centre.

Together with other planned or proposed large-scale infrastructure projects on Lantau, such as Disneyland, the Tung Chung Cable Car, the HK-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and a Value Added Logistics Park, AsiaWorld-Expo will transform this island into the prime location for sustainable economic and infrastructure developments in the coming decade.

Tsang said Hong Kong is the premier location for international exhibitions in the region. "I am sure that AsiaWorld-Expo will take HK's convention and exhibition business to a new level of excellence, and it will cement HK's position as the trade fair capital and the best international business centre in the Asia-Pacific." — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia's leading airlines eyes Asian market

JAKARTA, 31 March — Indonesia's national flag carrier Garuda Indonesia planned to expand its markets in Asia this year, with more flights to and from China particularly in mind, amid tougher global competition.

"We will be concentrating on the Asian market for now. As for other markets, like the European market, we will simply maintain cooperation with other airlines," Marketing Director Bachrul Hakim was quoted Monday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

Besides sales mission to China's capital, Garuda kicked off its expansion project by opening two new flights on Sunday between Singapore and local cities Yogyakarta,

Padang and Pekanbaru.

"Later on, we will also work on our market in India, the Philippines, and the Middle East," said Bachrul, who was on a promotional tour to Beijing. Data from Garuda shows that the Asian market contributed at least 30 per cent to the company's revenue from international flights, and up to 18 per cent of its total revenue last year.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi youth, armed with a truncheon, runs from British Army soldiers during a violent protest in the southern Iraq city of Basra on 29 March, 2004. —INTERNET

UN leader says security vital for Iraq vote

BAGHDAD, 31 March—The head of a UN team said Monday that better security in Iraq is vital for elections to take place by a Jan 31 deadline. A US soldier was killed in a bomb west of Baghdad and British troops in the south fired rubber bullets to disperse anti-coalition activists.

The UN team met with members of the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council to discuss setting up an interim government before the US-led coalition transfers power to the Iraqis by 30 June, and plans for general elections after that.

A bomb explosion near a US military convoy west of Baghdad killed an American soldier, a US official said. The attack occurred northwest of the restive city of Fallujah.

Late Monday, residents in Fallujah reported heavy gunfire in the city's al-Askari neighborhood. Fighting in the same area on Friday killed a US Marine and at least five

Iraqis, including an ABC News cameraman.

In the southern city of Basra, British troops in riot gear fought with dozens of anti-coalition Iraqis who resisted eviction from a government-owned building. At least four Iraqis were injured. Two British soldiers suffered injuries.

Iraqis threw stones and bricks at the soldiers and set fire to tires in the streets. Associated Press Television News footage showed two soldiers with plastic shields and wooden batons struggling with an Iraqi who grabbed one of their weapons.—*Internet*

German clerk catches thief with own stolen card

BERLIN, 31 March — A German man was arrested for credit card theft after trying to buy 76 euros worth of beer and cigarettes at a gas station with a stolen card that belonged to the cashier, Berlin police said on Monday.

"When I looked at the credit card I saw it was my name," the 33-year-old named Heiko told Berlin's *BZ* newspaper. He locked the man inside the shop and called the police. He said he had recently ordered a credit card but it never arrived in the post.

"It was not a common name, so there was no chance of coincidence," a police spokeswoman said.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam's woodwork export soars in first quarter

HANOI, 31 March — Vietnam made woodwork export turnovers of 194 million US dollars in the first quarter of this year, a year-on-year rise of 48 per cent.

Local wooden products, the country's fifth biggest hard currency earner in the period, were mainly exported to the European Union, Japan and the United States, according to the Ministry of Trade on Monday.

Vietnam plans to reap woodwork export turnovers of 750 million US dollars in 2004 and one billion US dollars in 2005, up from 563 million in 2003. To this end, it will boost exports to such new markets as South Africa, Kuwait, Chile and Peru, besides the three biggest markets.

The country currently houses over 1,200 local woodwork businesses, including more than 300 exporters, and 49 foreign-invested projects valued at 105 million US dollars. It imported over one million cubic metres of timber worth 250 million US dollars in 2003, the ministry said.

MNA/Xinhua



A wounded Iraqi man runs during a fight with British troops in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 29 March, 2004. The clashes followed the eviction of anti-coalition activists from a government building they were occupying.—INTERNET

Foreign investment in Vietnam up in first quarter

HANOI, 31 March — Vietnam licensed 120 foreign-invested projects worth 420 million US dollars in the first three months of this year, down 27 per cent in project number, but up 11 per cent in capital over the same period last year.

Meanwhile, an addition of 290 million US dollars was poured into 29 operational projects, a year-on-year increase of 51 per cent, according to the Foreign Investment Department under the Ministry of Planning and Investment on Monday.

The industry sector lured most foreign direct investment (FDI), accounting for 80 per cent of the total registered capital and 65 per cent of the project number between January and March.

Localities with most FDI the period included Hanoi capital city, northern Thai Nguyen Province, southern

Binh Duong Province, southern Dong Nai Province and Ho Chi Minh City.

Foreign-invested enterprises obtained export turnovers of 1.7 billion US dollars and import turnovers of two billion US dollars in the first quarter of this year, year-on-year rises of 26 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively.

Vietnam has targeted to lure 3.3 billion US dollars worth of FDI this year. By late March, it had 4,462 operational FDI projects with total registered capital of more than 42 billion US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran dramatically revises Bam earthquake death toll

TEHERAN, 31 March—Iran has dramatically revised the death toll of a strong earthquake, which destroyed south-eastern Iranian city of Bam on 26 December last year, from previous 43,000 people to over 26,200.

The devastating quake measuring 6.8 on the open-ended Richter Scale actually killed 26,271 people, not the previous official toll of 43,000 announced by Bam Governor Ali Shafii in February, the country's official statistics centre said on Monday.

"The final and definite number of people dead from the Bam earthquake stands at 26,271, and there are 525 people still missing," state media quoted chief of Iran's statistics centre, Abbas Ali Zali, as saying.—*MNA/Xinhua*

သားငါးပွဲဖြိုး ပြည်အကျိုး

Jordan ready to return stolen antiquities to Iraq

AMMAN, 31 March — Jordan is ready to return to Iraq more than 700 stolen antiquities that were seized from smugglers, the official news agency *Petra* said on Tuesday.

Quoting the director-general of Jordan's Department of Antiquities, Fawaz Khreisha, *Petra* said the pieces, confiscated by security and Customs authorities, were well preserved, scientifically documented and ready for delivery upon the request of the Iraqis.

The department has sent

a compact disc with pictures of the artefacts to the Iraqi authorities renovating the National Museum in Baghdad which was looted after the fall of Saddam Hussein last year.

Iraqis then blamed invading US troops for not protecting the museum as treasures dating back thousands of years were plundered.

Khreisha said Jordan had previously handed to Iraq 1,000 pieces of antiquities.

MNA/Reuters

India fights anthrax that killed two elephants

BANGALORE, 31 March — Anthrax has killed two elephants in southern India, spurring health authorities to vaccinate cattle as they try to stamp out the deadly disease.

The alert was sounded after tests confirmed that two recent elephant deaths in the state of Karnataka were caused by the anthrax germ, G Krishnappa, director of the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, said on Monday.

The elephants died about two months ago in a remote village near a forest in Heggadadevanakote, 110 miles southwest of Bangalore, the state capital, and the bacterium was confirmed by a medical team two weeks ago after a visit to the area. "All precautions were taken and they are going for vaccination of domestic cattle in the area," Krishnappa said. "Anthrax is not unusual in cattle. It is unusual for elephants but they are also susceptible."—*MNA/Reuters*

Philippine medium-scale businesses pessimistic about 2004

MANILA, 31 March — A latest survey showed medium-scaled Filipino businesses are "slightly pessimistic" about 2004's prospect because of pre-election uncertainty, increasing competition and tight government regulations, a local newspaper reported Tuesday.

Philippine Daily Inquirer quoted the International Business Survey conducted by research firm Grant Thornton as saying that 53 per cent of the 150 respondents from all industries are negative of increased revenue in 2004, when the economic environment will be negatively effected by the political uncertainties before

and after the May elections.

The survey also found 34 per cent of respondents consider increasing market competition from local or foreign counterparts to be a major threat to their businesses, while 40 per cent cited tight government regulations and red tape as the biggest stumbling blocks to smooth business operations.

Other constraints mentioned included shortage of working capital and increasing cost of financing, the survey said.

To maintain or improve profitability, 93 per cent of the respondents said they had been improving cash and clients management and reducing cost.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis holding a poster of cleric Moqtada Al-Sak at rear, demonstrate near the US Green Zone in Baghdad, on 30 March, 2004, in response to the closure of the Al Hawza newspaper.—INTERNET

Paris, Berlin seek 50% Iraq debt write-off

BERLIN, 31 March— France and Germany have agreed to push for a 50-per-cent reduction in Iraq's debts to sovereign country creditors, sources familiar with the negotiations said, in a move that may disappoint supporters of a bigger write-off.

Iraq owes about 42 billion US dollars to the Paris Club, a group of 19 creditor states including all of the world's industrialized economies, according to Paris Club estimates.

In a bid to rebuild Iraq's war-torn economy, major creditors have spoken of the need for a "substantial" debt cancellation for Iraq, seen by analysts as anything up to 80 per cent.

One official closely following the stance of France and Germany said, "Fifty per cent is what they are looking at".

France and Germany, which are increasingly trying to take joint stands on European and international issues, are among the bigger creditors in the club behind Japan and Russia, and are owed almost 6 billion US dollars and 5 billion US dollars respectively.

Russia has spoken of a 65-per-cent write-off of debts owed to it, but officials have said this promise is far from

definitive and linked to demands for confirmation of business contracts for Russian oil and gas exploration in Iraq.

Analysts also believe the United States will push for a greater reduction in the Iraqi debt burden. Former US Secretary James Baker has been touring foreign capitals drumming up support for move to cut the amount of money Baghdad owes.

Sources watching the deal say progress on tackling Iraq's debts is slow, partly because the International Monetary Fund is finding it harder than expected to come up with a calculation of what could be considered a bearable level of debt for Iraq. Iraq is estimated to owe about 120 billion US dollars in all, of which much of the non-Paris Club debt is owed to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia as well as countries like China and Bulgaria.

MNA/Reuters



British Army soldiers, part of a "snatch squad", move in to detain an Iraqi man during a violent protest in the southern Iraq city of Basra on 29 March, 2004.

INTERNET

Jiangsu rescues cultural relics for water diversion project

NANJING, 31 March— Jiangsu Province has begun to explore and rescue cultural relics in areas where China's huge south-north water diversion project will be built, a provincial cultural department official said Monday.

The Jiangsu section of the water diversion project involves the four cities of Xuzhou, Yangzhou, Hui'an and Suqian. A preliminary inspection shows at least 110 cultural relics or historical sites need protection in the four cities.

Rescue efforts will concentrate on the exploration, excavation and protection of underground historical sites and ancient graves, said Gang Liang, director of cultural relics protection under the provincial cultural de-

partment.

The place covering Jiangsu today was one of the prosperous areas in ancient China, and archeologists believe that many valuable cultural relics were buried deep under the ground in northern Jiangsu as a result of floods from the Yellow River in ancient times.

The construction of the water diversion project provides a good opportunity to unearth these cultural relics, said the official.

A plan for permanent

protection of the cultural relics would be drawn out later this year, he added.

The south-north water diversion project, expected to require a total investment of about 486 billion yuan (60 billion US dollars), is aimed to relieve the country's drought-ridden north by diverting water from the Yangtze River in the south.

On 27 December, 2002, the first-phase construction of the eastern section began, with a long-term goal of providing water for Jiangsu and Shandong provinces.—MNA/Xinhua

Africa loses some \$500m by technology transfer due to migration

ADISS ABABA, 31 March— Africa is losing annually an amount of some 500 million US dollars by reverse technology transfer due to the increasing of migration from the continent, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said here Monday.

The continuing migration of highly skilled and trained Africans has left many African countries with insufficient human resources either to sustain economic development and growth or to rebuild communities and societies in post-conflict conditions, said Ndioro Ndiaye, deputy director general of the IOM at a two-day experts

group meeting on policy framework on migration in Africa. According to Ndiaye, the problem is likely to get worse as demand for skilled workers in developed countries is likely to increase over the coming years.

She said that in Africa, about 13 million refugees and asylum seekers, 21.8 million internally displaced persons

and 20 million labour migrants are estimated to live on the continent, which constitute for one fifth of the global total. The prevalence of conflicts, strong democratic institutions, and natural disasters, are among others which the director mentioned as a problem to the migration of African citizens.—MNA/Xinhua



Anthrax-like contagious disease kill 6 in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 March— Six Iraqis died last week of a serious skin disease, which workers at the Republican hospital in Mosul, 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, said looks like the anthrax, local newspaper *Azzaman* reported Monday.

Workers at the hospital confirmed that highly secretive health and security procedures were taken in the burns department in the past three days.

A small girl was brought to the hospital by her father two weeks ago to treat her from what was thought a sun

burn on her hand, and was discovered later to be the source of the disease.

The girl is thought to have transferred the disease, which is being kept a secret, to other people and patients in the hospital. The sources said that all workers in the hospital were injected with a vaccine against the anthrax, to prevent any infection whatsoever, which is the same vaccine given to US soldiers for protection of the chemical weapons.

The burns department in the hospital was closed and an extensive and concentrated process of sterilizing was conducted, and the officials at the hospital refrained from discussing the issue or giving any media announcements about the kind of the disease and its source.

MNA/Xinhua

Saudi FM ends visit to Egypt

CAIRO, 31 March— Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal left here on Monday after wrapping up a short visit to Egypt, Egypt's official *MENA* news agency reported.

During his stay, Faisal met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak over Egypt's offer to host an aborted Arab summit, originally due in Tunisia on 29-30 March.

"The meeting is part of Egypt's contact and consultations with other Arab countries to host the summit at the Arab League headquarters as soon as possible after Tunisia's sudden and unilateral decision to postpone the summit," *MENA* said earlier.—MNA/Xinhua

Oil prices rise after Saudi Arabia backs OPEC output cut

LONDON, 31 March— Oil prices rose on Tuesday after OPEC's most influential member Saudi Arabia threw its weight behind imminent supply cuts, though divisions within the cartel prevented a steeper rally, analysts said.

US light crude was trading 25 cents higher at 35.70 US dollars, while London's Brent crude climbed to 31.97 US dollars, up 23 cents.

US prices had fallen to a session low of 35.25 US dollars a barrel, but rallied after Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi stated his opposition to relaxing supply curbs.

Naimi dismissed suggestions that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, which meets in Vienna on Wednesday, was to blame for prices that earlier this month hit a 13-year high.

Instead, he said speculators, economic growth and US refinery problems, as opposed to a shortage of OPEC crude, were the reasons behind high oil prices.

"As far as Saudi Arabia is concerned April 1 has been implemented and I believe others have done so as well," Naimi told reporters.

"Throwing more oil on the market, because of prices where they are today, would be destructive," he added. "That would make a glut and there is already a surplus on the market."

Some other OPEC ministers have suggested that a one million barrels per day output cut from April 1 should be delayed.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd al-Sabah said on Tuesday OPEC should postpone the cut and reconsider it at the group's next planned meeting in Beirut on June 3.

"I think as the Kuwait position that at this stage we should continue in cutting the overproduction but postpone the decision on the one million (barrels per day) until the Lebanon meeting, unless there is an emergency," the minister told reporters before leaving for Vienna.

MNA/Reuters



A US Marine fires a rocket at a target on the opposite bank of the Euphrates River south of Nasiriyah during last year's fighting. A military investigation has blamed a forward air controller for a US air attack that mistakenly struck US Marines in Nasiriyah a year ago in the worst friendly fire incident in the US-led invasion of Iraq.

INTERNET

Valuable gas discovery in the Golden Land

Maung Phyu (Energy)

Myanmars value gold and highly regard it as a valuable jewel. They even name their country 'the Golden Land' and themselves 'the Golden People'.

The year 2004 in the Golden Land was blessed with the news of the discovery of a new natural gas deposit at block No A1 off Rakhine coast on 7 January 2004 (oil and natural gas are referred as black gold).

Before going into detail about the new gas deposit, I would like to present the Yadana and Yetagon natural gas projects first. Myanmar, rich in underground and aboveground natural resources, has been exploring and producing oil and gas since many years ago. Oil has been found in Yenangyoung, one of the oldest oil fields in the world, since 1887. Yenangyoung still yields oil till today. Oil and gas have also been found and produced in Ayadaw, Chauk, Phayagon, Myanaung, Pyay, Shwepyitha, Pyaloh, Mann, Lepanto, Petpe, Htaukshabin, Htantabin, Kani, Aphyauk, Kyaukkwet, Sabe, Thagyitaung, Indaing and Nyaungdon.

The country is exploring, drilling and producing offshore oil to the utmost of her capacity. But offshore oil business needs much capital. In this regard, the Ministry of Energy since 1989 has been inviting foreign companies to do business in Myanmar under the production sharing contract in accord with the objective — Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad.

Thanks to the invitation, the nation discovered two offshore oil fields — Yadana and Yetagon — that are contributing much towards the nation's economy.

The State-owned enterprise, the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, found an oil reserve at block M-5 and block M-6 off Mottama coast in 1983. Total Company of France, UNOCAL of the US and PTTEPI of Thailand developed the oil field together with MOGE of Myanmar under the production sharing contract. The estimated yield of the Yadana reserve is up to 6.52 trillion cubic-feet of natural gas. From the gas field a 36-inch diameter pipe was laid under water and on land and 525 million cubic feet of gas per day is sold to Thailand beginning 1 July 1998.

Similarly, Yetagon gas field is located in blocks M-12, M-13 and M-14 off Taninthayi coast. And beginning 1 April 2000, 200 million cubic feet of gas is being piped to Thailand daily. In addition to natural gas, the Yetagon also yields condensate crude oil. The estimated reserve of Yetagon is 3.167 trillion cubic feet of gas and 84.6 million barrels of oil. The foreign oil companies that are running the Yetagon field together with the MOGE are Petronas of Malaysia, the Nippon Oil of Japan, and the PTTEPI of Thailand.

The combined reserve of the Yadana and Yetagon

is 9.687 trillion cubic feet of gas and 84.6 million barrels of oil.

Now, I would like to present the latest discovery of the gas reserve off the Rakhine coast in block No A-1. In exploring oil and gas, all places with high potentials are labelled with numbers. There are 47 onshore blocks, seven offshore blocks in Rakhine coastal area and 18 offshore blocks in Mottama and Taninthayi coastal areas totalling 72.

A production sharing agreement was reached with Daewoo International Corporation of the Republic of Korea on 4 August 2000 to explore oil and gas in the block A-1. Acting as the operator, the ROK company owns 60 per cent of the shares of the A-1. Another Korean company, Korea Gas Corp, owns 10 per cent stake in the business, while two Indian companies, ONGC Videsh Ltd and GAIL (India) Ltd hold 20 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. After conducting the seismic survey up to 3,552.75 line kilometres in 2001, calculations and follow-up measures were taken.

After the completion of follow-up procedures, experts of Daewoo Corporation and MOGE decided to drill the first test well — the Shwe-1 (Gold-1) — in the A-1 block.

The offshore drilling machine, Energy Searcher, started drilling the test well on 21 November 2003, and struck a large gas deposit on 26 December 2003 at the G-5 sand layer 10,588 feet below the sea-bed. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended the spud-in ceremony of the test well. The results of a geological experiment showed that the sand layer holds a commercial-scale gas deposit. Further experiments have shown that the reserve may yield from 4.2 trillion cubic feet to 5.8 trillion cubic feet of gas.

According to the promising geological condition, the gas deposit of the whole A-1 block is estimated at 14 trillion cubic feet, larger than the combined deposit of Yadana and Yetagon which is only 9.687 trillion cubic feet. As the nation is the owner of the world-class gas deposit, it has the right to enjoy the proportionate share of the benefits which will be larger than both Yadana and Yetagon.

But, what is more important than the financial benefit is the Tatmadaw Government's efforts to stand on its own strength that has contributed much to the discovery of the gas field. Despite the hindrances, the Ministry of Energy is making efforts, based on self-reliance, in accord with the economic objectives, and its discovery of the gas field will provide invaluable assistance to the nation's march toward modernization and development.

(Myanma Alin: 31-3-2004)
(Translation: TMT)

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition

Defence Services Museum
on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon.
26-3-2004 to 4-4-2004 (Free admission)

မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်္ကြန်

- * အမျိုးသားယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ။
 - * သရုပ်ဖော်ယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 - * အမျိုးဂုဏ်ဓာတ်ဂုဏ်ကို မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်္ကြန်ဖြင့် မြှင့်တင်ပါ။
- ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မီ

ရေစဲထုပ်၊ ရေပူဖောင်း၊ ဆင်ပြာရည်ဂတ်စ်ဘူးဖြင့်ကစားက

- ၁။ လက်ဝယ်တွေ့သူ - ထောင် (၁)နှစ်
 - ၂။ ကစားသူ - ထောင် (၃)နှစ်
 - ၃။ ထုတ်လုပ်ရောင်းချသူ - ထောင် (၅)နှစ်နှင့်ပစ္စည်းကိုသိမ်း
- ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မီ

မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုဗဟုသင်္ကြန်ဆင်နွှဲသူများ လိုက်နာရန် တိုက်တွန်းနှိုးဆော်ချက်

- (က) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုဗဟုသင်္ကြန်နှင့်ပီလာဆန်ကျင့်ပြီး မြန်မာလူမျိုးများ၏ အမြင်တွင် မတင်တယ်သည် ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်မှု ပြုမူပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်၊
- (ခ) ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအဆုံးအမနှင့် ပီလာဆန်ကျင့်သည် အပြုအမူ၊ ပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်၊
- (ဂ) အချင်းချင်းဒဏ်ရာအနာတရဖြစ်စေပြီး အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေသည့် ကြိုးတမ်းသည် ရှေးကစားမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်၊
- (ဃ) တိုင်းရင်းသားစည်းလုံးညီညွတ်မှုကို ဖျက်ပြားစေပြီး ဆူပူမှုကို ဖြစ်စေနိုင်သည့် လူဆော်ဖန်တီးပြုမူပြောဆို၊ ကြိုးပမ်းမှုများကို မပြုလုပ်ရန်။

ဗဟုသင်္ကြန်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

အပူဒဏ်အန္တရာယ်ကာကွယ်ရေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ယခုအခါတွင် နွေရာသီရောက်လာပြီဖြစ်သဖြင့် ရာသီဥတု ပူပြင်းလာပြီ ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ထိုအပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် ရွေးကောက်လွန်ပြီး ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အတွင်းရှိ ရေနှင့်ခါတ်ဆားများ ဆုံးရှုံးမှုများပြားပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ဆုံးရှုံးမှုကြောင့် မိတ်နင်ယားဖုများထွက်လာခြင်း၊ ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်ခြင်း၊ ဖူးမော်ခြင်း၊ ကြွက်တက်ခြင်း၊ ရွေးခြောက်ပြီး ကိုယ်အပူချိန်တက်ခြင်း၊ သတိလစ်ခြင်းတို့အပြင် အသက်အန္တရာယ် စိုးရိမ်ရသော အခြေအနေ အထိဖြစ်တတ်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် မလိုလားအပ်သော အကျိုးဆက်များ မဖြစ်ပေါ်စေရန်အောက်ပါအချက် အလက်များကို လိုက်နာ ကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

- (၁) နံနက် (၁၀)နာရီမှ ညနေ (၅)နာရီအတွင်း လွင်တီး ခေါင်ပြင်း ဖြစ်ကမ်းနား ရေဆိပ်စေသည်တို့တွင် ရေချိုးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်၍ အရိပ်ရ အေးမြသောနေရာများတွင် နေပါ။
- (၂) နေပူထိမှပြန်လာပြီး ချက်ချင်းရေချိုးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၃) နေပူထိတွင် ပြင်းထန်သောကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုများ မပြုလုပ်သင့်ပါ။
- (၄) အရက်သောက်ခြင်းသည် အပူဒဏ်အန္တရာယ်ကို ဖြစ်ပေါ်လွယ်စေခြင်းနှင့် ဖြစ်ပွားပါက ပြင်းထန်စွာ ခံစားရခြင်းကြောင့် ရှောင်ကြဉ်သင့်ပါသည်။

- (၅) နေ့ခင်းဘက် အပြင်ထွက်သည့်အခါတိုင်း အရိပ် လုံလောက်စွာ ရရှိနိုင်သည့် ထီး၊ ဦးထုပ်များ ဆောင်းပါ။
- (၆) အလင်းရောင်ပြန်သော အဖြူရောင် သို့မဟုတ် အရောင်မျောမျော အဝတ်အထည်များကို ဝတ်ဆင်ပါ။
- (၇) ပွပျော့ရောင်ချောင် ချည်ထည်များကို ဝတ်ဆင်ပါ။
- (၈) ရွေးကောက်လွန်ပါက ကိုယ်တွင်းရှိရေနှင့်ခါတ်ဆားဆုံးရှုံးမှုကို ပြန်လည်ဖြည့်တင်းနိုင်ရန် ဓာတ်ဆားရည် သောက်ပါ။
- (၉) ကိုယ်အပူချိန်တက်ပါက ရေအေးဖတ် နိုင်နိုင်တိုက်ပါ။
- (၁၀) ဆီးချိုရောဂါ၊ နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ သွေးတိုးရောဂါ အခံရှိသူများ၊ ကလေးသူငယ်များနှင့် သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများအနေဖြင့် နေ့လည်နေ့ခင်း တွင် အရိပ်ရ၍ လေဝင်လေထွက် ကောင်းသော နေရာမျိုး၌ နားနေပါ။
- (၁၁) မိတ်ဖုယားနာများထွက်ပါက ရေအေးဝတ်ကပ်ခြင်း၊ သနပ်ခါး လိမ်းခြင်းတို့ကို ပြုလုပ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်ခြင်း၊ ကိုယ်အပူချိန် တက်ခြင်း၊ သတိလစ်ခြင်းနှင့် အတက်ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ပါက နီးစပ်ရာ ကျန်းမာရေးဌာန တွင် ပြသပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Work Committee for National Electricity ...

(from page 16)

Vice-Chairman of Work Committee Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said the government formed the leading committee for electric power development projects and work committees. Tasks are to be implemented in two parts—power grid and regional projects. He said the Head of State gave guidance on completion of the projects in four years.

He said two power grid projects—west Yoma and east Yoma are to be carried out systematically.

Next, those present took part in the discussions and the meeting ended at 7.30 am.—MNA

CPT Minister receives Thai guests

YANGON, 31 March — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw received Thai delegation led by Chairman of Shin Satellite Co Ltd Dr Nongluck Phinainitsart at his office at 11 am today.

Also present on the occasion were officials concerned of the Myanma Posts and Telecommunications. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views lens factory ...

(from page 1)

For the first step, lens will be manufactured and then, production of optical apparatuses and electronic apparatuses such as lens units and digital camera will be extended. Skilled personnel for production and management sectors are required. The company will cooperate with universities in Myanmar to meet requirement of technicians because the company is carrying out high-tech works.

In addition to emergence of many job opportunities at technician level, it will contribute much towards technological development of Myanmar.

Documentary video tapes on production works of Asia Optical Company Inc Group was presented to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party.

Next, the Prime Minister and party went to the work site of the factory and viewed moulding of lens, finishing works of lens, polishing and inspection tasks.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister signed in the visitors' book and left the factory later in the morning. On completion, the factory will manufacture optical apparatuses, camera, digital camera, laser range finder, various kinds of rifle-scope, lens and prisms. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Vietnamese Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Nguyen Dy Nien. MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hears reports on factory of Myanmar Asia Optical Interantional Co Ltd by Asia Optical Co Group Chairman Mr Robert Lai.—MNA

Transport Minister inspects prevention of bank erosion in Nyaungdon

YANGON, 31 March — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than and officials of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, this morning inspected measures for prevention of bank erosion in Nyaungdon. Deputy Minister U Pe Than gave a supplementary report.

They saw over dredging of sandbank and change of direction of the current.

At the briefing hall, Director U Hla Myint Thein of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems reported on tasks being carried out and future plans. The deputy minister gave a supplementary report. The minister attended to their needs and inspected prevention of bank erosion tasks. — MNA

Panasonic Professional Video Systems Road Show 2004 demonstrated

YANGON, 31 March — A demonstration on Panasonic Professional Video Systems Road Show 2004, jointly-organized by Trinity Systems & Supplies Pte, Ltd, Singapore and Panasonic Singapore was held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing, the Commandant of Tatmadaw Broadcasting Unit, directors, the chief engineer and departmental personnel of departments and enterprises, member reporters of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, films companies and directors, officials of Trinity Systems & Supplies Pte, Ltd, Singapore and guests. First, resident representative U Soe Soe of Trinity Systems & Supplies Pte, Ltd, Singapore explained the purpose of the demonstration.

Next, executive manager U Khin Maung Win demonstrated work process of film cameras such as DV, DVCPRO 50 and HD Cinema manufactured with advanced technologies, distinctive situation of movies and advertisement shot by Varicam HD camera in Asian countries, editing operation by using Varicam camera, computer graphic which is used in movies and advertisement. Officials concerned replied to queries raised by those present. — MNA

e-Procurement to be launched on 2 April

YANGON, 31 March — e-ASEAN agreement on information and communication technology was signed by ten ASEAN nations at the ASEAN Summit held in Singapore in November 2000.

The agreement covers five major tasks, one of which is to be implemented to help e-Governments more efficiently carry out duties in the interest of the people. Under the e-ASEAN agreement, Myanmar has formed e-National Task Force consisting of work committees so as to accomplish the tasks.

In the process, it has been implementing pilot projects including e-Visa, e-Passport, Smart Card, Smart School and Certification Authority (CT). In addition to these projects, e-Procurement, e-Government Pilot Project that contributes towards speedy implementation of tasks, will be launched with a ceremony to be held at the main hall of the MICT Park at 8 am on 2 April.

Respective departments and enterprises under the nine ministries will take part in the pilot projects. In this regard, departmental heads and CIOs concerned from the ministries, local and foreign companies which are selling

Rural gravel roads, water supply canals opened to hail 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 31 March — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the opening of Sinhe-Hsele rural gravel road which was one mile and five furlongs in length and 12 feet in width constructed by Taunggyi Township Development Affairs Committee took place at the archway of the road in Sinhe village on 17 March morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, senior military officers, local authorities, departmental heads, members of social organizations and locals totalling about 5,000.

Similarly, the opening of water supply canal undertaken by Kengtung Township Development Affairs Committee for Yanlue Lankhwe village in Kengtung Township was held at the village on 23

goods to ministries have been invited to the ceremony. And companies interested may also attend the ceremony. Arrangements have been made for supplier registration of interested companies. Contact Tel: 652236, 652237 and 652240 for details. — MNA

March morning, attended by Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Director of Shan State (East) Development Affairs Committee U Tin Soe and Secretary of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw cut the ribbon to open the facility.

Likewise, the opening of 11,200-foot-long water supply canal to hail the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day undertaken by Kyaukme Township Development Affairs Committee took place at the Hukwut village on 23 March morning.

The chairman of Kyaukme District Peace and Development Council, the deputy superintending engineer of Shan State Development Affairs Committee and the chairman of the village Peace and Development Council formally opened the facility.

The opening of Launglon-Anaukpyay-Sanhlant rural gravel wash held at the top of the road in Launglon Township on 19 March morning.

Bilin Township hailed the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day by opening of

Bilin Ahsei Mingalar tarred road on 26 March. Secretary of Township Peace and Development Council U Tin Hsan Oo and Township Development Affairs Committee Executive Officer U Yan Myo Aung formally opened the road.

To hail the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Naungpein-Htantabin-Mawma-Mawauk village-to-village earth road with seven miles and four furlongs in length and 30 feet in width constructed by Kyaukme Township Development Affairs Committee was held at Naungpein village on 25 March morning. Chairman of District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Soe Win, Township Development Affairs Committee Executive Officer U Win Naing and Chairman of village Peace and Development Council U Ar Law formally opened the road.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Kawgot gravel road undertaken by Mongyawng Township Development Affairs Committee in Shan State (East) in 2003-2004 fiscal year was commissioned into service on 19 March morning. The road is 1,150 feet long and 12 feet wide. MNA

LatAm nations rally behind Brazil and Argentina against IMF

LIMA (Peru), 31 March — Latin American nations are rallying behind an initiative to press the International Monetary Fund to relax rules on accounting for infrastructure projects, and to recommend Spaniard Rodrigo Rato for the Fund's top job.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Argentina's Nestor Kirchner called on the IMF earlier this month to relax the accounting rules in a proposal aimed at making it easier for countries to meet IMF fiscal targets without jeopardizing growth or spending on roads, ports and bridges. Mexico, Chile, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay and Ecuador backed the call in Lima.

"The governors argue... that (infrastructure) investments should have a different treatment in the calculation of parameters for current spending," the 11 Latin American nations said in a declaration released at an Inter-American Development Bank meeting in Peru.

Earlier, Brazil's Planning Minister, Guido Mantega, said that all but one of the Latin American countries were supporting the proposal, but eventually all of Latin America's biggest economies came on board.

Spending on infrastructure like roads and bridges would normally be classed as a capital outlay on the balance sheet

in corporate accounting and not as an expense. But because governments use "cash accounting" and do not produce balance sheets, they tend to mix expenses like defence and education spending with spending on assets in their fiscal statements.

This means their budget deficits are larger than they might otherwise be and so they might run into difficulties meeting their IMF loan criteria.

Supporters say this change would make it easier to spend on infrastructure without compromising fiscal targets or economic growth.

"Investment in infrastructure is considered spending today. We have discovered this is a problem that is common to all our countries and we took a joint initiative which appears unprecedented in the last few years," Mantega said.

An IMF official said the Fund had no official position but would discuss the subject at a board meeting next month.

MNA/Reuters

Venezuela pledges oil to help alleviate Argentine energy crisis

BUENOS AIRES, 31 March — The Venezuelan state-run oil company PDVSA pledged to send oil to Argentina in an effort to help alleviate the energy crisis afflicting the country, local Press reported Tuesday.

Argentine Planning, Public Investment and Service Minister Julio de Vido said at a Press conference that some 700,000 tons of fuel oil and approximately 250,000 cubic metres of gas oil would arrive in the following days, which would be paid with agricultural food.

Based on the swap of "absolutely necessary elements," the fuel shipments would guarantee gas supply for the system, the minister assured.

Experts estimated however that the volumes

promised could only cover the needs of a month.

Facing a gas shortage to supply power plants, Argentina has been exercising internal supply rationing, and power companies began an energy reduction Monday afternoon without completely cutting service.

Dependent on Argentine oil and gas supply, Chile and Uruguay also sustained fallout of the energy crisis, with both scrambling to seek solutions to weather the supply shortage.

MNA/Xinhua

43% of Italians use Internet

ROME, 31 March — Some 21 million Italians use the Internet, equal to 43 per cent of the country's population, according to results of a poll conducted by the ISPO research group for the 2004 annual report on digital publishing from the Association of Italian Publishers (AIE).

The report said that almost half of those who use the Internet are willing to pay to have access to news and published works.

Another 85 per cent of Internet users said that in the past six months they have consulted at least one news or information web site, with more than half of them willing to have faster access and updates, the report said.

According to the AIE study, 43 per cent of the Italian teachers were willing to

pay for special access and this percentage would jump to 70 per cent if such payments were to be tax-deductible.

The AIE report said 47 per cent of Internet users were "traditional" surfers who flipped through the Web as if it were a book, while 17 per cent were "tech freaks" who were so involved with the Web that they have begun to think and speak using information technology terms and slang.

MNA/Xinhua

Japanese fashion company expands retail business in HK

HONG KONG, 31 March — Famous Japanese fashion retailer Tokyo Style Hong Kong Co Ltd announced Tuesday the opening of its first two overseas retail outlets in Sogo Store in Hong Kong.

The retail outlets will sell two of its ladies' wear labels—"22 OCTOBRE" and "AYLESBURY."

Managing Director of Tokyo Style Hong Kong Co Ltd, Takahisa Hirohama, said, "I am very excited about our expansion in Hong Kong with the opening of two new stores. Having been doing business in Hong Kong for more than 15 years and witnessing the ever-growing market, I have strong confidence on Hong Kong's retail business."

"Hong Kong is the most sophisticated retail market in the world. We are also impressed by the unique character of this city—full of dynamism and international cultural influence.

With free trade, low tax regime, and language capabilities of Hong Kong people, we see no barrier in doing business here. Tokyo Style simply cannot think of a better gateway to expand our retail business overseas," he said.

According to Hirohama, the company plans to open four more shops in Hong Kong this year.

The company's Hong Kong office, Tokyo Style Hong Kong Co Ltd, was established in 1989 as a subsidiary of Tokyo Style Co Ltd. Tokyo Style Co Ltd is one of the largest apparel manufacturers in Japan, and has been listed in the Tokyo stock exchange since 1975.

At present, there are more than 185 "22 OCTOBRE" retail stores and more than 180 "AYLESBURY" stores in Japan.

Within this year, the company plans further expansion in the region, with eight new shops in Shanghai and six shops in Taiwan.

The associate director-general for investment promotion at Invest Hong Kong, Simon Galpin, welcomed the company's decision to open new shops in Hong Kong.

He said, "We are pleased to see Hong Kong being selected by a leading Japanese fashion company as the

springboard to expand outside of Japan.

The promising investment made by Tokyo Style in Hong Kong has clearly demonstrated the company's confidence in our city as the retail business centre in Asia."

MNA/Xinhua



MYANMAR DELEGATION LEAVES FOR INDIA: Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun and party left here by air for India on 30-4-2004. The Myanmar delegation being seen off at the airport. — MNA

Five killed as helicopter crashes in Spain's Canary Island

MADRID, 31 March — A rescue helicopter evacuating tourists injured in a highway accident on Spain's Canary Islands crashed on Tuesday, killing all five people aboard the aircraft, police said.

The helicopter, carrying two Dutch tourists and three crew members, hit power lines after picking up the two Dutch women who were injured when their tour bus veered off an embankment on the island of Gran Canaria.

On the bus were 36 tourists, including 28 Dutch, four French, two British, one Spanish and one German.

After the bus accident occurred, two

helicopters flew to the scene, and one of them struck power lines and burst into flames on impact, killing the two Dutch women, the helicopter pilot, a doctor and a nurse, a government statement said.

Twenty-seven of the passengers on the tour bus were taken to hospital, some of whom were seriously injured, the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua



GIFTS PRESENTED TO CHILDREN: Early Childhood Development Centre held the concluding ceremony and school concert for 2003-2004 academic year on 30-3-2004. Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presents gifts to a child. — MNA

Italian police arrest 15 in anti-drug operation

ROME, 31 March — Fifteen people, including five women, were arrested by Italian police Tuesday on charges of drug trafficking, local media reported Tuesday in Milan.

About 150 police participated in an anti-drug operation called "Opera Prima" in Lombardy, northern Italy, and Calabria and Sicily in

southern Italy. Twelve of the arrested were also charged with collaborating with the Mafia besides drug trafficking. The five women, all of which are reported as Italian, were involved alongside the alleged head of the drug trafficking organization, described as a 40-year-old Italian with a long criminal record. — MNA/Xinhua

မိုးယစ်အန္တရာယ် လူရန်စွယ်
ကာကွယ်တိုက်ဖျက် လက်ချင်းဆက်။

Profit of China's machinery industry breaks record

BEIJING, 31 March — China's machinery industry posted a profit of 153.1 billion yuan (18.5 billion US dollars) in 2003, up 48.7 per cent over the previous year and setting a historical record.

Figures released Tuesday by the China Machinery Industry Federation (CMIF) showed that the machinery industry witnessed rapid growth in production, sales, export and profit last year, with production of electricity generating equipment, numerical control machine tools, automobiles and other major machinery products setting their respective records.

The machinery industry also encountered four fresh features in recent years, said CMIF Chairman Yu Zhen at the CMIF congress held Tuesday.

First, the successive start of the nation's major and long-lasting projects like the Three Gorges Project drives a strong demand for heavy equipment, creating a sound market for the industry's development.

Vigorous demand for automobiles has become the driving force for the industry's rapid growth. Statistics showed that China produced 4.44 million automobiles in 2003, up 35.2 per cent over the previous year, accounting for 37 per cent of the whole machinery industry in sales volume, and 48

per cent in profit.

Individuals and private companies purchase increasingly more machinery equipment. Heavy equipment and new-type agriculture equipment enjoy an especially broad market along the fast-growing private steel plants and the industrialization of agriculture.

Private enterprises and joint-ventures begin to produce more machines than the state-owned enterprises, and make an overwhelmingly larger part of the profit. Therefore, Yu said, CMIF began to welcome enterprises, including joint-ventures and private ones, to be its direct members from 2004.

Yu also predicted a continuous high growth of the industry and new records for the major products in 2004. He said the industry will produce 5.1 to 5.3 million automobiles, including 2.5 to 2.6 million cars, over 40-million-kilowatt electricity generating equipment, and over 40,000 numerical control machine tools this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Nokia snatches lead in camera-phone market

WASHINGTON, 31 March — Nokia corp, facing intense competition from Asian consumer-electronics companies, has snatched the lead in the red-hot market for camera phones, *The Wall Street Journal* reported Monday.

In the fourth quarter last year, the Finnish company accounted for 14 per cent of global shipments of mobile phones with built-in cameras, compared with 12 per cent for Samsung Electronics Co, South Korea, and 12 per cent for Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications Ltd, said the report citing a research firm Strategy Analytics.

Sony Ericsson is a joint venture of Sony Corp, Japan and Telefon AB LM Ericsson, Sweden.

Still, Neil Mawston, a British analyst with Strategy Analytics, said he is confident Nokia will be the leading camera-phone supplier this year thanks to growing demand for the devices in Europe and the United States.

"We definitely expect them to retain that lead through 2004," he said. "But Samsung may run them close

in quarter one and quarter two." Samsung is the third-largest mobile-phone maker, by shipments, behind Motorola Inc of the United States. Camera-phone shipments already outstrip shipments of digital cameras by some distance thanks to falling prices and improving capabilities.

Strategy Analytics said 49 million digital cameras were shipped worldwide last year. The average wholesale price of a camera phone fell to 310 dollars last year from 420 dollars in 2002, according to investment bank Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein.

Nokia has said that it plans to release about 40 new handset models this year, the same number as in 2003, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan's Fukui Prefecture approves two N-reactors

TOKYO, 31 March — A Japanese regional government approved on Monday the construction of two new nuclear reactors. Japan, the world's second-largest economy, has virtually no sources of crude oil or coal and relies on nuclear power for more than 30 per cent of its power needs.

The governor of Fukui Prefecture, in western Japan, approved a plan by Japan Atomic Power Co to build two new reactors at a power station in the city of Tsuruga, a Fukui official said. "The go-ahead was given to build the Number 3 and Number 4 reactors," the official added. The reactors would go on-line in 2013 and the following fiscal year. The decision came only ten days after Fukui approved plans for Kansai Electric Power Co Ltd to use controversial mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel in two nuclear reactors at its Takahama plant in Fukui. Japan relies mainly on imported energy — 52 per cent of it oil, virtually all of which comes from the volatile Middle East — and policy framers have long emphasized nuclear power as one way of reducing this dependence. — MNA/Reuters

Ecuador, Colombia, Peru to hold joint FTA talks with US

QUITO, 31 March — Ecuador, Colombia and Peru are to hold joint negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States in May, Ecuadorian Central Bank Governor Mauricio Yopez said.

"The announcement of the US authorities tells us to be ready and that they want to negotiate as of May 18," Yopez was quoted by Monday's *Expreso* daily as saying. The chief Ecuadorian negotiator said the aim of the three country's launching of joint talks is to save logistic costs and time.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam declares bird flu over

HANOI, 31 March — Vietnam declared on Tuesday it had stamped out the bird flu epidemic, which killed 16 people in the country and wiped out millions of poultry, following more than one month of no new outbreaks.

"As of today we are free of bird flu," Bui Quang Anh, director of the Animal Health Department of the Agriculture Ministry, told *Reuters*.

The announcement drew wary reactions from the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization, particularly since a 12-year-old boy died just two weeks ago from the H5N1 virus in Vietnam.

"A lot of caution is required. There's still a lot of potential for a new outbreak," said Peter Horby, epidemiologist at the United Nations' health agency.

The WHO has not received official confirmation from the Ministry of Health about the

တကောင်းမြို့ ရှေးဟောင်း လေးမျက်နှာတုရားကြီး ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင်
တည်ဆောက်ရာတွင် ကုသိုလ်ယူ ဝါဝင်လှူဒါန်းနိုင်



အခမဲ့ (ဝခ) ရာစု အခမဲ့ရထားပေါ်ကြီးတောင်းပေးတော်
ပြန်ဆောင်ပေးမျက်နှာတုရားကြီး သည် ဝါဝင်လှူဒါန်း
ရာသီဥတု ဝက်တို့ကြောင့် ဖြိုကျ ယုတ်စီးခဲ့ရပြီး
နှစ်စဉ် မိုးရာသီတွင် တောကြီးများအုပ်စုလျက် အုတ်ကုန်းကြီး
တဝေရောက်ရှိ ရသည့်ကုန် ယဉ်ကျေးမှု ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏
ကြီးကြပ်မှုဖြင့် တကောင်းမြို့ဟောင်းတွင် ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင်
တည်ဆောက်မည်၊
ဧတဒေသရာတွင် ကုသိုလ်ရှိသူများ သဒ္ဓါတရားထက်သန်စွာဖြင့်
ကုသိုလ်ယူ ဝါဝင်လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

အုတ်တစ်စု (၁၂ x ၉ x ၃)	-	၄၆/-
တိလင်မြေတစ်ခဲတစ်	-	၄၀၀/-
သစ်တစ်ကျင်း	-	၆၀၀/-
မြစ်ကျောက် (အသေး) တစ်ကျင်း	-	၂၀၀၀/-
ထုံး (တစ်ခဲတစ်)	-	၁၀၀၀/-
သစ်ကျောက်ပြား တစ်ချင်း (၁၂ x ၁၂)	-	၅၀၀/-

ယဉ်ကျေးမှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန (ဝန်ကြီးရုံး) မုန့် ၅၄၂၂၇၀၊ ၅၄၂၂၇၁
 ရှေးဟောင်းသုတေသနနှင့် ဝန်ကြီးရုံး (ရုံးချုပ်) မုန့် ၅၁၂၁၄၀၊ ၅၁၂၁၄၁
 ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအမွေအနှစ်စောသဌာနနှင့် (မန္တလေး) မုန့် ၁၂ - ၃၆၃၅၅၊ ၁၂ - ၃၆၃၅၆
 တကောင်းမြို့ ဝေးမျက်နှာတုရားဝေါဟာရအဖွဲ့ရုံး

Microsoft finds hard to recruit software engineers in China

BEIJING, 31 March — Microsoft has found it difficult to satisfy its goal of recruiting 100 software engineers in China, sources with the Microsoft Research Asia Advanced Technology Centre (ATC) said.

To satisfy the demand of its ongoing ten programmes, the ATC hoped that it could recruit about 100 software managers, architects and testers before this July. It has received more than 120,000 resumes, mainly from college students, after it released the advertisements through the media.

After strict selections, the ATC only found 70 people who met the post's requirements, said Shang

Xiaoli, public relations manager of ATC. She said that because there were too many candidates, only about 3,000 got the chance to take part in the preliminary exam, followed by a series of professional interviews.

The outcome of the selection shows that most candidates are good at coding, but only a few of them have the abilities to transfer research innovations into products or incubate new innovative products, which

are indispensable skills of software managers or architects, said Dr Zhang Hongjiang, president of the ATC.

"It is hard to find a qualified manager from those candidates. By now, all software managers in ATC are ones who once worked for Microsoft or from other Microsoft departments," said Zhang.

He said the outcome, which has seriously delayed the ongoing research programmes, shows that there are some erroneous ideas on the software industry in students' minds.

"What we need most are engineers with abilities to transfer the demands of consumers into the functions of our products, not single-minded programme writers," said Zhang. Zhang and his colleagues have planned to give lectures at more than ten universities, aiming to tell what kind of talents they want and how the students should improve.

As one of the most well-known transnational companies, Microsoft attracts thousands of college graduates every year, who go after several hundred posts in its Chinese departments. The ATC, founded in Beijing in November 2003, is a new division of Microsoft Research Asia that will focus on further development of innovations produced in the labs. — MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

Russia proposes longer space trips to save cash

Moscow, 31 March — Astronauts could soon double the time they stay in orbit under a cash-saving plan announced on Tuesday by Russia's impoverished space agency.

Russia's rockets have been the only link between the *International Space Station* and Earth since the space shuttle *Columbia* broke up on re-entry 14 months ago, prompting Washington to ground its remaining space fleet.

Russia can ill afford the role, and making astronauts' missions longer would cut the frequency of costly manned launches, which Russia undertakes twice a year. "The Russian side has sent a suggestion to NASA to prolong the work of the main crew from six months to a year," Sergei Gorbunov, spokesman for Russia's space agency, said by telephone.

"After the loss of the shuttle, Russia lost a part of its extra-budget funds, therefore we are suggesting this option," Gorbunov said astronauts would benefit from spending longer on the orbital platform and their health would not be damaged.

"The crew does not have enough time to carry out all their tasks in six months. That is why the term should be extended," he said. "Doctors allow people to spend this much time in space. It does not affect health in any way."

The record for the longest time spent in space is held by Valery Polyakov, who spent 438 days on board *Mir* in 1994-5.

If NASA agrees to Russia's proposals, crews will begin training for a year-long stay. NASA was not immediately available to comment. — *MNA/Reuters*

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 31 March — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming.

Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. Poultry farming and fish breeding are also exhibited there.

Booklets and pamphlets on utilization of natural and chemical fertilizers, modern scientific cultivation methods, pest control, application of insecticides, etc are available at the Nursery Market Festival.

Educative books on landscaping, floral arrangements, nurturing of shady trees and flowering plants can also be bought there. — *MNA*

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းရုံ သာမက ကိုယ်၏ ကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခ ပြည့်ဝခြင်းကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များကို စားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုစွမ်းဆောင်ရည်ရှိသော ရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာ ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင့်တော်မျှတသော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့ရယ်မှကကွယ်ရန် ခြင်္သေ့ခြင်္သေ့အိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသဘောတရားကို စွဲပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက်မွေးမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Space station technique expands use of ultrasound

WASHINGTON, 31 March — Hockey players on a roadtrip, soldiers at the battlefield and rural trauma patients could all benefit from a NASA ultrasound technique developed for astronauts on the *International Space Station*, doctors said on Tuesday.

The technique involves portable ultrasound machines, which are becoming increasingly common diagnostic tools, and a NASA training regimen that teaches medical novices the basics of an operation in a matter of hours or even minutes.

Station astronauts get two hours of training, six months before their trip to the orbiting outpost, where long-duration space flight raises the possibility of injury or illness, said Dr Scott Dulchavsky, a surgeon at Henry Ford Hospital who works with astronauts on the ultrasound programme.

Once aboard the station, the astronauts practise using the ultrasound machine, scanning fellow expedition members with a wand while a medical doctor on the ground guides them through the procedure, with the help of a video link.

So far, the ultrasound technique has only been used for practice in space, Dulchavsky said at a briefing, but if needed to examine an ailing astronaut, the Earth-based doctor would make a diagnosis based on the video image.

"The images are of excellent diagnostic quality," Dulchavsky said. "We could use them to exclude a whole variety of conditions that might occur going to Mars or on a long-duration space flight."

Ultrasound technology, which uses sound waves to look inside the body, is most familiarly used to examine pregnant women for signs of foetal problems. It is also used in the treatment of ailments ranging from gallbladder disease to kidney stones — and Dulchavsky said this list could expand to include broken bones, abdominal trauma and some

infections. Dulchavsky applied the NASA technique to members of the Detroit Redwings National Hockey League team, where a portable ultrasound device in the locker room allowed quick checks of on-ice injuries, according to team physician Dr David Collon. It also permits fast decision-making when the team goes on the road, Collon said. He

cited the case of Redwing Derian Hatcher's shoulder injury.

A portable ultrasound exam, monitored by hospital experts, was able to rule out a rotator cuff injury — which could have been serious enough to require surgery — and diagnose a more minor injury that needed only time to heal, Collon said.

MNA/Reuters

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့် ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကျွံကျွံနှင့် စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများမှာ အသည်းရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည်းခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအန်ဒြိုင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြော ထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါများဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ —

၁။ ကယောင့်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremors)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်၊ နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်းနိုင်စွမ်း မရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများမြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံလေးများ ကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုမိုများများ နွှော့ကိုယ်ပေါ် ရွံစိစိ သွားသလို ခံစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သည့်အခါတွင် လူမရှိပဲ နားထဲတွင် ခေါ်သံများ၊ ခြိမ်းခြောက်သံများ၊ စော်ကားစော်ကားသံများ ကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinoses)၊

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

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Depressive Illness)။

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)။

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချို့ယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ်သောက် ရုံဖြင့် ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)။

၈။ မိမိ၏ဇနီးကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲမှားခြင်းများ ဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Morbid Jealousy)။

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှု ကျူးလွန်သည့်အထိဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။ အထက်ပါဆို ကျိုးများကို မခံစားရစေရန် အရက်သောက် သုံးခြင်း၊ အထူးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကို စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန်တိုက်တွန်း အပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေး ဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေး ဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျ ကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 31 March — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657). — *MNA*

Annual traffic death toll reaches 1.2 million worldwide

ROME, 31 March — Traffic accidents worldwide claim some 1.2 million lives a year and between 20 to 50 million people are seriously injured, according to the report by World Health Organization (WHO) issued here Monday.

WHO coordinator for accident prevention Margie Peden presented the WHO report at the opening of the fourth European Conference on Travel Medicine held at Italian National Research Council on Monday.

It was also released ahead of World Health Day, April 7, which WHO this year has dedicated to road safety.

Peden said 90 per cent of the accident victims live in medium-to-low income nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and most of them are either pedestrians or people travelling on bicycles and motor bikes. In the wealthier nations cars are the preferred means of transport.

The study found that most road victims are between the ages of 15 and 44 and three out of four of them are men. Since road deaths have reached epidemic proportions, Peden said, WHO is trying to work on two fronts. The first is to make people aware that driving involves both risks and responsibilities, and the second is to pinpoint places with the highest risks of accidents. WHO will focus on five key areas in prevention campaign, including road speed, the use of seat belts and car seats, helmets for those on two-wheeled vehicles, alcohol consumption and proper clothing, Peden added.

MNA/Xinhua

“သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်”

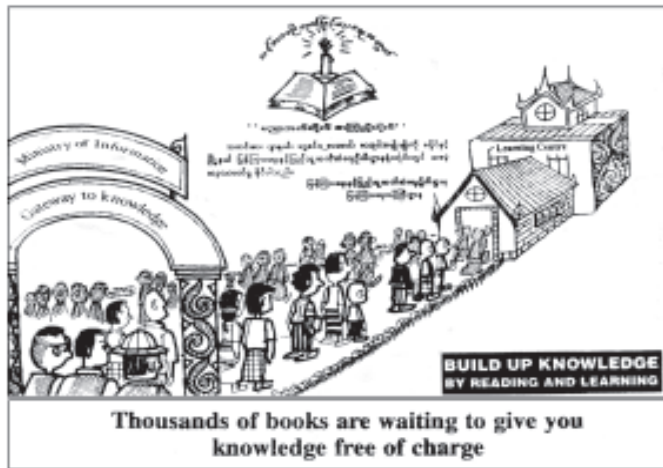
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- (၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

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ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြပ်မက်မှုဓာတ်

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ADVERTISEMENT

Brazil to export electricity to Argentina, Uruguay

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 March — The Brazilian Government announced Tuesday that it will export electricity to Argentina and Uruguay, which are currently suffering energy shortage.

Brazilian Energy and Mining Minister Dilma Rousseff denied that the energy export might affect domestic supply. She made it clear the government would use surplus for this aim.

She added that the technicians of the three countries were studying all the aspects of the process as even though it is a routine to send energy from Argentina to Brazil, the inverse process is completely new.

As a consequence of 0.2 per cent economic slump in 2003, Brazil now has excessive energy supply while Argentina needs more electricity because its gross domestic product (GDP) jumped 8 per cent in the same year.

Brazil's energy export capacity stood at 2,000 megawatts, but the three nations decided to begin with smaller volumes, said Rousseff. Argentina will purchase 300 megawatts and Uruguay 70 megawatts.

MNA/Xinhua

French rocker Cantat jailed for actress death

VILNIUS, 30 March — A Lithuanian court sentenced French rocker Bertrand Cantat to eight years in jail on Monday for beating his actress girlfriend Marie Trintignant to death in a hotel room row.

Trintignant, a member of one of France's most famous acting families, died last August of head injuries sustained during the fight, which happened as she was shooting a film in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital. She was aged 41.

MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV BADULU VALLEY VOY NO (16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BADULU VALLEY Voy No (16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-4-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bylaws 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: MM SHIPPING SINGAPORE
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Australia Govt takes control of live animal exports

CANBERRA, 31 March — The Australia Government will take control of licencing exports of live animals, a one-billion-Australian-dollar (752-million-US-dollar) annual trade, after a dispute with Saudi Arabia left 58,000 sheep stranded at sea for two months.

Agriculture Minister Warren Truss said on Tuesday a national standard for livestock exports would be introduced after a study found five years of self-regulation had not worked in the industry.

Australia, the world's largest livestock exporter, shipped six million live sheep, mainly to the Middle East, and one million live cattle in the year ended June 2003.

The government suspended exports to Saudi Arabia and undertook the review after the Saudis rejected last August a shipment of 58,000 sheep on health grounds.

The cargo was stranded at sea for two months, during which 5,000 of the rejected sheep died from heat exhaustion, before Eritrea accepted the animals with an Australian cash payment. The government said it planned more audits and quarantine inspections and exporters would lose their licence if there were serious breaches of animal welfare standards.

"The industry must accept the responsibility for meeting the strict standards

the Australian community expects on animal welfare and product quality," Truss said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam's crude oil exports up in first three months

HANOI, 31 March — Vietnam shipped abroad 5.05 million tons of crude oil worth 1.18 billion US dollars in the first quarter of this year, year-on-year rises of 16.2 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively.

In March alone, the country exported 1.75 million tons worth 402 million dollars, up 20.7 per cent and 13.2 per cent, respectively, over last March, said the General Statistics Office on Tuesday.

Key importers of local crude oil include the United States, China, Singapore, Japan and Britain.

Vietnam plans to export 17.5 million tons of crude oil this year. Of the amount, 25 per cent are expected to go to the United States, 24 per cent to China and 19 per cent to Singapore, according to the Trade Ministry.

MNA/Reuters

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon. Dated: 1 April 2004

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV "BAGO" Voy No BG 766/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 31-3-2004 and will be berthing on about 1-4-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the 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 the vessel.

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

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China calls for greater stress on eco, social, cultural rights

GENEVA, 31 March — The Chinese delegation on Monday called on the international community to respond positively to the legitimate demand of the developing countries for greater prominence to be given to economic, social and cultural rights so as to promote fuller enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all peoples.

"Economic, social and cultural rights, together with civil and political rights, are the two pillars of the international human rights regime," said Liu Zhenghua of the Chinese delegation to the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

He urged the international community to take measures to correct the prevailing imbalance between the two categories of human rights. "The responsibility of realizing economic, social and cultural rights falls first and foremost on national governments. But international cooperation is indispensable," he said.

"Enhanced international cooperation, and in particular greater assistance and support from the developed countries to the developing

ones to help the latter create necessary conditions for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, would usefully complement national efforts in this area," he added.

He expressed the Chinese delegation's view that, compared with civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights are more dependent on conditions which can only be secured by economic growth and can therefore only be realized gradually.

He also briefed the Commission on China's significant progress during the past year in promoting economic, social and cultural rights.

"In 2003, China's GDP totalled 1,400 billion US dollars and its per capita GDP reached for the first time 1,090 dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Nine still missing after fierce Brazil storm

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), 31 March — The Brazilian Navy searched on Monday for nine missing fishermen whose boats sank in a rare storm that left thousands homeless.

As debate grew over whether the country had been hit by its first ever hurricane, officials said two missing fishermen were found alive, boosting fading hopes of finding other survivors.

"It would be over 27 hours in the water, but there are still hopes," said Civil Defence Captain Marcio Luiz Alves.

Two people died in incidents on land in the weekend storm.

Authorities in the southern state of Santa Catarina, which was hit hardest, said 80 people were injured and 2,100 lost their homes.

On Monday about a dozen municipalities still had no water or energy supplies. A hospital in one town was completely destroyed, but there were no victims there. About 80 people had been injured in Santa Catarina.

MNA/Reuters

China to launch world's longest inland water cruise route

WUHAN, 31 March — China on Saturday will offer a service for tourists to cruise a total 2,399 kilometres on the Yangtze River from Chongqing in the southwest to Shanghai in the east, the world's longest inland water cruise route.

The cruise service is operated by the Changjiang Cruise Overseas Travel Corporation (CCOTC), based in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province.

The route will sail through five provinces in the country, with more than 300 renowned scenic spots along the way.

Tourists will spend nine days and eight nights on the voyage going downstream, and ten days and nine nights going upstream from Shanghai to Chongqing.

CCOTC is the largest yacht company operating on the Yangtze River with its fleet of more than 20 luxury cruisers. With more than 20 branches set up across the country, CCOTC now offers cruise services on separate sections of the Yangtze.

MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

China plans regulation to guide beauty industry

BEIJING, 31 March — The Chinese Ministry of Commerce plans to make public a regulation to govern the booming beauty and cosmetics industry, *China Daily* reported Tuesday.

The ministry is circulating a draft regulation, which will soon appear on its official web site for public comment.

Pan Xiaoming, president assistant of China Beauty and Cosmetics Chamber (CBCC), said Monday that the regulation will play a big role in the sector.

Some 120 million people now work in the industry which involves investment of over 200 billion yuan (24 billion US dollars), the paper said.

With larger pockets since the 1980s, many Chinese are willing to spend more on hair and beauty products. Streets in some cities are filled with salons and parlours. Statistics show that each urban resident currently spends an average of 30 yuan on cosmetics every month.

However, there have been more than 200,000 malpractice lawsuits filed in the

last decade, according to the China Cosmetology and Hairdressing Association.

Statistics show only 11.7 per cent of practitioners have a higher education. Most have not even attended qualified training programmes.

The State Administration for Industry and Commerce last year found that the cosmetic-surgery sector is one of the four industries beset by problems, the paper said.

Luo Feng, a 30-year-old company staffer in Beijing, said the regulation is expected to act as a weapon for customers.

"The cosmetics industry has big potential for profits, and as a result, practitioners try to make money by any means, legal or illegal," said Luo, adding there should be an organized institution to issue standards and regulations.

MNA/Xinhua

Judge tosses out Pooh lawsuit in key Disney win

LOS ANGELES, 31 March — A California judge on Monday threw out a lawsuit that could have cost Walt Disney Co hundreds of millions of dollars from Winnie the Pooh product sales, saying Disney's foes lied and stole evidence.

Stephen Slesinger Inc., the family firm suing Disney, "is dishonest and shows no remorse," Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Charles McCoy wrote in his decision. He ruled that Slesinger's actions threatened the integrity of the legal system and the 13-year-old case should be dismissed as punishment.

The Slesingers, who had won sanctions earlier in the case against Disney after it destroyed documents, promised to appeal and said they were considering a new case.

But two outside lawyers agreed the decision would be hard to overturn and that a new case would be difficult at best.

Disney attorney Daniel Petrocchi was categorical. "It

is all over. After 13 years the Winnie the Pooh case is finally over," he told *Reuters*.

The legal victory comes as Disney executives, including Chief Executive Michael Eisner, are drawing fire over claims they mismanaged the company. Disney had said a loss in the Pooh case could have cost it hundreds of millions of dollars.

Literary agent Stephen Slesinger bought US merchandising rights to the honey-loving bear from British author A.A. Milne in 1930, and his family later partnered with Disney to build the character into a lovable icon whose merchandise outsells Mickey Mouse, with more than 5 billion US dollars of sales yearly.

In 1991 the family sued

Disney saying the Burbank, California media company had reneged on a promise to pay royalties on Pooh videos and short-changed it on other fees.

McCoy did not address Slesinger's charges, saying instead in a 28-page opinion that the case was so tainted by the Slesingers' conduct that it should not go to trial.

"I have seldom ever seen an order this harshly worded, this strongly written, this much of an indictment against a party in a lawsuit," said trial lawyer Michael Lee, a partner at Beirne, Maynard & Parsons in Houston. "Wow."

He said he would be very surprised if the appellate court overturned the opinion. — MNA/Reuters

Cambodia to ban tobacco ads

PHNOM PENH, 31 March — Public cigarette advertisements will be removed from Phnom Penh municipality starting this week, *The Cambodia Daily* reported Tuesday.

The Ministry of Health last week asked the city to remove billboards and other print advertisements for tobacco in a bid to comply with the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, though Cambodia has yet to sign the agreement.

"When the cigarette advertisements are removed, we can reduce the number of smokers, too," Ung Phirun, secretary of state of the Ministry of Health, was quoted as saying.

According to a WHO statement last week, the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control aims to reduce tobacco-related deaths worldwide by setting guidelines for tobacco promotion. The removal will begin on Thursday, but radio and television advertisements will not be affected at present. — MNA/Xinhua

Dengue fever cases in Vietnam up in first quarter

HANOI, 31 March — Vietnam had 5,300 dengue fever patients in the first quarter of this year, a year-on-year rise of 91 per cent, mainly due to climatic changes and complex development of fever-causing viruses.

Of the patients, ten died of the disease in the period, *Vietnam News* on Tuesday quoted the country's Pasteur Institute as saying.

Up to 93 per cent of dengue fever sufferers come from the south, whose weather is favourable for the development of mosquitoes that are the disease's transmitter.

To curb the spread of the disease, medicine prevention centres of localities nationwide have called for local people to use mosquito nets and intensify mosquito-killing activities.

MNA/Xinhua

China's fertilizer maker earns great profit from exports

GUIYANG, 31 March — China's largest phosphate fertilizer producer, the Hongfu Industrial Development Company, based in southwest China's Guizhou Province, earned a record 128 million US dollars from exports in 2003.

The figure was a rise of 46 per cent year-on-year, said He Haoming, general manager of Hongfu.

Hongfu tops the list of similar companies in the country in foreign exchange gained from exports, said He.

During the first two months in 2004, Hongfu registered more than 10 million dollars from exports, and the total amount for this year is expected to keep the same level as that in 2003, added He.

Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and expertise, Hongfu has an annual production capacity of 3.5 million tons of phospho-

rus ore and 1.68 million tons of ammonium phosphate, exploiting local rich phosphorus resources with proven reserves exceeding 800 million tons.

Hongfu is a strong competitor in world markets with its products selling well in more than 10 countries and regions, said He.

In 2003, Hongfu exported 400,000 tons of diammonium phosphate, a highly valuable product, to Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Singapore, the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia, accounting for more than half of China's total exports of the item. — MNA/Xinhua

China cracks down on electricity theft

BEIJING, 31 March — The Chinese State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) announced Tuesday that it has cracked a number of major criminal cases of electricity theft and sabotage of power grids in a joint raid with the Ministry of Public Security.

The SERC said in a joint raid in 15 provinces and autonomous regions around China, 10 of the 27 major cases directly handled by the Ministry of Public Security have been completed and that 87 of the 266 cases at provincial level have been solved.

According to SERC, nearly 50,000 cases of electricity theft and sabotage of power grids occurred in the 21 months before September 2003, incurring 200 million yuan (24 million US dollars) worth of direct losses.

A SERC spokesman said the commission will step up cooperation with other law enforcement departments and electricity enterprises to curb the

rampant theft of electricity and grid equipment.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian scientists invent fast new test for tuberculosis

ROME, 31 March — An Italian research team has come up with a new fast test for diagnosing tuberculosis, a disease that still infects a third of the world's population, Italian media reported on Monday.

The new method has been invented and patented by Rome's Spallanzani Hospital, which specializes in rare and infectious diseases.

The test has been developed by a team of researchers led by Dr Delia Goletti.

According to medical experts, the importance of the new test method is twofold in that it not only enables doctors to distinguish latent and active forms of the disease in just two days, but would also allow them to gauge the efficacy of therapy in patients with active form of the disease.

"With this discovery," said Spallanzani Hospital's chief Raffaele Donnorso, "the

Institute has responded once again to the needs of the scientific community."

"It has once more developed technologies that are essential in tackling infectious diseases," he said.

Each year there are some three million tuberculosis-linked deaths in the world, with an estimated one-third of the global population infected by the disease.

The ability to quickly and accurately detect the infection, experts say, is crucial for overall control of tuberculosis, especially in the case of patients who are HIV-positive.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand has world's highest road accident rate

BANGKOK, 31 March — Thailand had the highest road accident rate by international standard, the Deputy Transport Minister Nikon Chamnong on Tuesday was quoted by local Press as saying.

There were 6.6 people killed or injured in road accidents for every 10,000 registered vehicles, said Nikon, noting that the figure was drawn from the findings of a road safety programme jointly conducted with the Asian Development Bank.

Compared with other countries around the world, Thailand's road accident rate stood high.

In Europe, the corresponding figure was 1.8 people, while the same rate was only 4.9 in Malaysia.

Road safety has been a major concern of the Thai authorities for a long time, especially during public holidays when festival revellers are more likely to drive negligent for being

drunk or too tired.

During the New Year holidays, more than 500 people were killed by alcohol-related accidents in the 7-day vacation and tens of thousands were injured.

With the Thai New Year Songkran coming in mid April, the Thai Government has started to campaign for road safety during the holidays, during which large number of road accidents were reported annually.

Besides, the government was also working on better road design, correcting danger spots, educating young motorists, more vigorous testing of driving licence applicants, and law strict enforcement, according to Nikon. — MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Ronaldo heads for the golf course in Paraguay

ASUNCION, 31 March — Brazil striker Ronaldo shrugged off jet lag and searing heat and headed straight for the golf course after the world champions arrived in Paraguay for Wednesday's World Cup qualifier.

The Brazilian players, most of whom played for their European clubs at the weekend, crossed the Atlantic and arrived in Asuncion at midday on Monday after journeys of around 15 hours, had been advised to spend the afternoon resting.

But coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said that he was not upset that Real Madrid striker had joined AC Milan's Kaka for a 90-minute round on the golf course at the Brazil team hotel on the banks of the Paraguay river.

Ronaldo took up the sport when he was recovering from knee surgery and now lists it as his favourite past-time.

"There was no ban on players getting out of bed," Parreira told reporters.

"The rest was from training. There was a certain amount of freedom."

MNA/Reuters

Captain says S Korea must eliminate arrogant streak

YOKOHAMA, 31 March — South Korea must eliminate an "arrogant" streak in order to preserve their status as the best team in Asia, captain Yoo Sang-chul warned.

Yoo, who played a key role in South Korea's amazing run to the 2002 World Cup semifinals, has called on his teammates to stop dwelling on past success — or risk disaster.

"I don't think we have anything to prove after the World Cup," Yoo, who plays for Japanese champions Yokohama F-Marineros, told Reuters in an interview.

"But if you keep harking back to the 2002 World Cup, you will never win anything again."

South Korea suffered humiliating set-backs against Vietnam and Oman last year during the 2004 Asian Cup qualifying campaign — results that almost cost coach Humberto Coelho his job.

However, Yoo insisted it was the players, not Coelho, who were to blame and demanded that South Korea take Wednesday's 2006 World Cup qualifier in the Maldives seriously.

South Korea are also drawn alongside Vietnam and Lebanon in the qualifiers.

"We have to stop thinking these games are walk-overs and prepare properly," said Yoo, still recovering from a knee injury that will keep him out of the Maldives game.

"That's why we lost to Oman and Vietnam. At the Asian Cup, if we are arrogant enough to think we can automatically repeat what happened at the World Cup, we'll get beaten. Simple as that."

Yokohama and South Korea teammate Ahn Jung-hwan also gave Coelho his backing and promised there would be no mental let-ups at the Asian Cup in China, which begins on July 17.

"Last year, South Korea took things a bit easy and it was also hard to get our best team out with lots of players in Europe," Ahn told Reuters.

"It was difficult for Coelho because the players just didn't take it seriously enough. But this year, the motivation is back, the confidence has returned and the players are fired-up."

"We won't be taking it easy in the Maldives."

Both Ahn and Yoo acknowledge how important it is for South Korea to win the Asian Cup after failing to lift the trophy since the first two tournaments in 1956 and 1960.

"Winning the Asian Cup is our biggest goal this year," said the 28-year-old Ahn, who scored the golden goal that knocked Italy out of the 2002 World Cup.

MNA/Reuters

Crespo strike gives Argentina narrow win over Ecuador

BUENOS AIRES, 31 March — Striker Hernan Crespo struck on the hour to give Argentina a hard-fought 1-0 win over Ecuador in a World Cup qualifier on Tuesday.

The Chelsea player cut inside his marker and scored with a low shot from the edge of the penalty area to break the deadlock in the South American group match after the Ecuador defence had lost possession.

The goal was a relief for Argentina after their opponents had slightly the better of the first half and threatened to pull off an upset.

The visitors had two good efforts before halftime from full-backs Ulises de

Israeli adviser urges Athens to hone WMD response

LOD (Israel), 31 March — Greece needs to do more to prepare for any biological or chemical attack on the Athens Olympics and the mass casualties it could inflict, Israel's security adviser to the Games said on Monday.

Though he voiced no qualms about Israel attending the Olympics, opening on August 13 under record security, Major-General David Tsur urged Greece to hone the responses of emergency teams to save lives should al-Qaeda strike.

"The one main gap the Greeks have yet to bridge is in preparing for the sort of coordination demanded by major terrorist attacks, especially when there are biological or chemical agents involved," Tsur, one of seven international security experts advising Athens, told Reuters in an interview.

"In Israel, emergency forces close in on the site of suicide bombing within minutes, and clear it within hours. This is a function of hard experience," he said, referring to attacks in a more than three-year-old Palestinian uprising.

Osama bin Laden's global Islamist network has so far kept to similar suicide tactics, but security analysts believe it could soon turn to weapons of mass destruction.

"The Greeks still have to work on coor-

inating their response teams, medical facilities and security forces. They are in the midst of preparations which I expect will go on until the last minute," said Tsur, chief of Israel's paramilitary police.

Tsur said Israeli security forces had given "tens of millions of dollars" worth of advice to Athens.

Greece is staging the biggest security operation in the 108 year modern history of the Olympics at a cost of more than 650 million euros. More than 45,000 security staff, including 7,000 troops, will guard the Games and escort teams.

Experts have said they were increasingly concerned about the possibility of chemical or biological attacks.

"The Olympics are an ideal target because no other event enlists the entire civilized world and concentrates its representatives in one place," Tsur said. "Al-Qaeda thinks long-term, but as we have seen over the past few years, its terrorists can strike at short notice."

MNA/Reuters

Argentina to complain to FIFA about Inter

BUENOS AIRES, 31 March — Argentina are to complain to FIFA, saying Inter Milan failed to release Javier Zanetti and Cristian Gonzalez in time for Tuesday's World Cup qualifier with Ecuador, media reports said on Monday.

Inter included both midfielders in their squad for Sunday's Italian Serie A match against Reggina, making it impossible for them to arrive in Buenos Aires the stipulated 48 hours before kickoff.

Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa, who dropped both players as a result, attacked the Italian club, telling Argentine media that fixture congestion was killing the sport.

"They weren't going to be able to meet the demands of professional football," he said.

"They were willing to come but the situ-

ation was absolutely abnormal. They accepted the decision with sadness and disappointment because they have a great identity with the national team.

"But I told them that asking them not to travel in these circumstances showed that we value and recognize them as players."

Bielsa added that he considered even the regulatory 48 hours as insufficient.

"If a player is going to play in different continents, he should arrive five days before," Bielsa said.

"In this case, they did not even respect the 48-hour period. It makes me indignant that it has come to this. It's killing football. It's taking away from the public the possibility of seeing the spectacle they would wish for."

National teams are usually entitled to have their players five days before competitive matches but this week's World Cup qualifiers are taking place on a date allocated by FIFA for friendlies. As a result, the 48-hour rule applies. — MNA/Reuters

UEFA drop appeal over Keane ban

LONDON, 31 March — Roy Keane will be able to play in Europe next season after UEFA dropped an appeal against its own disciplinary committee over a ban handed to the Manchester United captain, United said on their web site on Monday.

UEFA had asked for Keane's one-match suspension for stamping on Porto goalkeeper Vitor Baia during United's 2-1 Champions League defeat in Portugal last month to be extended to at least three games.

European soccer's governing body wanted the incident to be considered as an act of assault.

"Given the actual situation in the UEFA Champions League competition, and taking into account that Manchester United have been eliminated, there is no reason to bring the case before the Appeals Body," UEFA disciplinary inspector Gerhard Kapl said.

United were knocked out of the Champions League by Porto after a 1-1 draw in the second leg at Old Trafford, which gave the Portuguese side a 3-2 aggregate win.

The defeat meant the English champions failed to qualify for the quarterfinals for the first time in eight seasons.

MNA/Reuters



Sebastien Michaud, of France, jumps over a cliff during the Xtreme freeride contest in Verbier, Switzerland, on Sunday, 28 March, 2004. For the first time skiers were admitted in the contest which was open to snowboarders only. —INTERNET

MRTV-3**1-4-2004 (Thursday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 King Alaung Min-
taya's Palace Site
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Myanma Green Tea
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
- 9:25 Kayan Dance
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Popa Flat-topped Hill
(Taung Ka Lat)
- 9:40 Song on Screen
"Where does love be-
gin?"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 The Art of Playing
Cane Ball
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**1-4-2004 (Thursday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 15:36 King Alaung Min-
taya's Palace Site
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Myanma Green Tea
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
- 15:55 Kayan Dance

- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Popa Flat-topped Hill
(Taung Ka Lat)
- 16:10 Song on Screen
"Where does love be-
gin?"
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 The Art of Playing
Cane Ball
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Attractive Myanmar
Snacks
- 16:40 Performance of King
Brahminy Bird Dance
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Native home of the
Kham
- 16:55 A Romantic Duet
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Cultural Museum
(Keng Tong)
- 17:10 Song "Welcome to
Treasure Land"
- 17:12 Community Based
Drug Control
Programme
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyaw) (Part-4)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

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

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Moringyil Wildlife
Sanctuary
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Kengtaung Waterfall
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Myanmar Jaggerly
- 19:55 Taking Shelter at Man-
dalay Hill
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Travelogue (Taunggyi)
- 20:10 Songs On Screen
"Creating a love-
like song"

- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 PaO Nationals' Tradi-
tional Long Drum
- 20:25 Song "Land of Beauty"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Myanmar Natural Re-
source Spirulina
- 20:40 Rope Painting
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Innwa Ancient Capital
- 20:55 Rakhine Traditional
Cultural Dance Hon-
ouring Buddha
- 20:58 Nan Pan Market Day
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Tour In Myanmar
"Bagan, Popa"
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Night
When We Celebrate
Donyein Dance"
- 21:12 Lei Gaing Monastery
with Wooden Statuettes
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyaw) (Part-3)
- 21:30 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 21:36 King Alaung Min-
taya's Palace Site
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Myanma Green Tea
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
- 21:55 Kayan Dance
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Popa Flat-topped Hill
(Taung Ka Lat)
- 22:10 Song on Screen
"Where does love be-
gin?"
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 The Art of Playing
Cane Ball
- 22:25 Song on Screen "The
Brightly Shining
Moon"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Attractive Myanmar
Snacks
- 22:40 Performance of King
Brahminy Bird Dance
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Native home of the

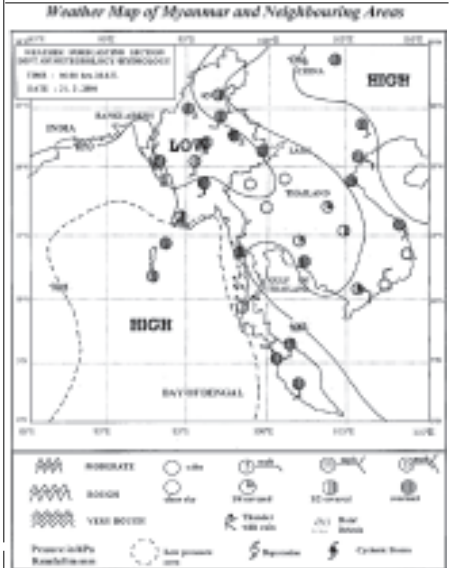
- Kham
- 22:55 A Romantic Duet
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Cultural Museum
(Keng Tong)
- 23:10 Song "Welcome to
Treasure Land"
- 23:12 Community Based
Drug Control
Programme
- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyaw) (Part-4)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**1-4-2004 (Thursday) &
2-4-2004 (Friday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 23:36 King Alaung Min-
taya's Palace Site
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Myanma Green Tea
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
- 23:55 Kayan Dance
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 Popa Flat-topped Hill
(Taung Ka Lat)
- 00:10 Song on Screen
"Where does love be-
gin?"
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 The Art of Playing
Cane Ball
- 00:25 Song on Screen "The
Rightly Shining Moon"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Attractive Myanmar
Snacks
- 00:40 Performance of King
Brahminy Bird Dance
- 00:45** **National News**
- 00:50 Native home of the
Kham

- 00:55 A Romantic Duet
- 01:00** **National News**
- 01:05 Cultural Museum
(Keng Tong)
- 01:10 Song "Welcome to
Treasure Land"
- 01:12 Community Base Drug
Control Programme

- 01:15** **National News**
- 01:20 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyaw) (Part-4)
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**WEATHER****Wednesday, 31 March, 2004**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Kachin, Chin States, scattered in Shan State, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Kachin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Chin, Kayin States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant day temperature was (42°C) in Magway.

Maximum temperature on 30-3-2004 was 36.5°C (98°F). Minimum temperature on 31-3-2004 was 20.5°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-3-2004 was 74%. Total sun shine hours on 30-3-2004 was (9.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 31-3-2004 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 10 mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 30-3-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1-4-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin, Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of isolated rain are likely in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-4-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon/evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-4-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely. Degree of certainty is (60%).

"Untimely rainfall warning"

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 31st March, 2004)

According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin, Shan States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions during the next (48) hours commencing noon today.

မေတ္တာစင်မြတ်ဗုဒ္ဓသိန်း (ခ) Barbie ခလေး**အသက် (၄) နှစ်**

ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ အမှတ်(၂၂၆) ရေညှိပင်လမ်း၊ သုဝဏ္ဏနေ
ဦးစင်မောင်သိန်း-ဒေါ်စုစုသိန်း (ဒုတိယဗိုလ်မှူးကြီးလှမောင်)-
ဒေါ်ဥဥခင်တို့၏ ချစ်လှစွာသောမြေး၊ ဦးထွန်းထွန်း
(ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သမ္မတရုံး)-ဒေါ်မာလာသိန်းတို့၏
ချစ်လှစွာသော သမီးလေး၊ မောင်အောင်စိန်သိန်း၏ချစ်လှစွာသော
ညီမလေး မေတ္တာစင်မြတ်ဗုဒ္ဓသိန်းသည် ၃၀-၃-၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ် နံနက်
၃ နာရီ ၃၅ မိနစ်တွင် ကလေးဆေးရုံကြီးတွင် ကွယ်လွန်သွားပါသဖြင့်
၁-၄-၂၀၀၄ (ကြာသပတေးနေ့) နံနက် ၁၁ နာရီအချိန်တွင်
ရေဝေးသုသာန်၌ ဂူသွင်းသင်္ဂြိုဟ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါကြောင်း ဆွေမျိုး
မိတ်သဟာ အပေါင်းအားအသိပေးအပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု

**Thursday, April 1****View today:**

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw U
Ottamathara
- 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. Dance of national races
- 8:00 am**
6. Dance variety
- 8:10 am**
7. အတိတ်ပြန်
- 8:20 am**

8. နတ်ပန်းချီအသံများစုဝတ်
မြန်မာ့သံဃာတော်တော်
- 8:30 am**
9. International news
- 8:45 am**
10. Let's go
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
5. အဆေးသင်ကြားသည့်လမ်းညွှန်
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနံပါတ်
(သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားထုတ်) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 5:15 pm**
6. Cute little dancer
- 5:30 pm**
7. "တနင်္ဂနွေ"
ညီညီမေမေ၊ လွမ်းမြဲမြဲလွတ်
(ဒေါ်နီတော-သတိတော်)

- 5:35 pm**
8. နိုင်ငံအဝန်းသစ်တောရင်းမြင့်
မိမိလမ်းစေရမည်
- 5:45 pm**
9. Musical programme
- 6:00 pm**
10. ရွတ်ဆိုရမည့်တော်ဓမ္မတော်တော်
မော်လမြိုင်အစိုးရ (၄-၄-၁၉၉၉)
- 6:30 pm**
11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
12. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းထွဲ
"နီနီနီနီ" (အပိုင်း-၁၁)
- 7:30 pm**
14. Musical programme
- 8:00 pm**
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. Myanmar video feature:
"အမြင်ချင်ဆုံးအရာ" (အပိုင်း-၁)
လှမ်းမီရိုးသောစွန်း
(ဒေါ်နီတော-သန့်မေလေး)
19. The next day's
programme

**Thursday, April 1
Tune in today:**

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.50 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music
-Hero (Mariah
Carey)
-I'll take the
rears (A1)
- 9:00 pm** Aspects of Myanmar
-Travelling around
Myanmar
- 9:15 pm** Article
- 9:20 pm** Pourri
-UNSGmeets special
envoys in fighting
-AIDS
- 9:30 pm** Favourite songs
chosen by music
lovers
-My love (Westlife)
Pretty boy (M2M)
- A long & lasting
love (Crystal
Gayle)
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Vietnamese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA

Work Committee for National Electricity Development meets

YANGON, 31 March — Work Committee for National Electricity Development held a coordination meeting at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta, here at 6.30 am today, addressed by Chairman of the work committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the work committee Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the committee Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Secretary of the committee Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Joint Secretary Deputy Minister for A & I U Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein and officials.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that as electricity is the basic requirement for national modernization

and development drive and regional development undertakings the Leading Committee for National Electricity Development led by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and the nine-member Work Committee for National Electricity Development have been formed to supervise and implement the power projects. The work committee has two sectors — the sector of supervising the power projects and the sector of approving the new projects. The meeting will explain the State's formation of the leading committee and the working committee, as it is giving priority to the electricity sector. The Ministry of Electric Power will brief the meeting on the situation of the nation's energy resources.

Energy including electricity is essential for national development, especially, in building a modern and developed nation enjoying industrial progress. Before 1988, electricity is generated and supplied mainly from hydro power stations, gas-fired stations and steam

power stations. The total generation capacity then was over 580 megawatts in which gas contributed 300 megawatts or 51 per cent; hydro power 38.8 per cent; and steam 10.2 per cent.

From 1988 to this date 34 new power plants — 28 hydro power plants and six gas-fired power plants — with a total generation capacity of over 560 megawatts have been built. The nation's power generation capacity at present reached 1,200 megawatts indicating a two fold increase when compared with that of 1988.

Due to economic development and rise in the living standard, the generation capacity to fulfil the power requirement of Yangon has reached 450 megawatts, up from 130 megawatts in 1988. The Head of State has given guidance to extend 2,000 more megawatts of generation capacity in the third five-year national economic plans based on the rich water resources of the nation and to give priority to hydro power projects.

The Ministry of Energy

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives special envoy of SRV

YANGON, 31 March — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received special envoy of Socialist Republic of Vietnam Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyintta at 11am today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of Government Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet from Myanmar side and Ambassador of SRV to Myanmar Mr. Pham Quang Khon from Vietnamese side. — MNA

has already laid down the 30-year strategic plan, covering five-year projects, to develop the electricity sector. He said there are plenty of the hydro electric power projects that are to be implemented under the requirements of national development. It is impossible for the Ministry of Electric Power alone to implement these projects because some are so immense. They are to be undertaken with the combined efforts of ministries concerned under the supervision of the State, he said.

Therefore, the government formed the leading committee and work committees in order to systematically implement electric power development projects. Volume of water flowing in the streams and rivers throughout the country is over 876 million acre feet. According to the survey of experts, there are 268

locations from which nearly 40,000 megawatts can be generated through hydro electric power. At present hydro electric power stations generate only 390 megawatts. There are many projects left to be implemented, he added.

He said some projects are in the power grid area. For example, 280 megawatts Paunglaung hydroelectric power project in Mandalay Division is a power grid project which is bigger than Lawpita hydroelectric power station called Biluchaung-1 and 2 and so is Yeywa electric power project.

He said there are some projects that cover in the power grid area and some are for regional development. For instance Yazagyo electric power project in Sagaing Division. He said the work committees are to provide necessary assistance for implementation of the

projects providing correct priority.

Next, Secretary of the work committee Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on hydro electric power projects to be completed in 2004 and in four years and those to be implemented.

He also reported on power grid projects to be completed in 2004 and in four years and those to be implemented, sub-power stations to be completed in 2004 and those to be constructed and development.

Next, member of the work committee Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on hydroelectric power projects being undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, those being carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Electric Power, progress of work and future programmes.

(See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses the meeting of Work Committee for National Electricity Development.— MNA