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Senior General Than Shwe hears reports on 200-ton Pulp Factory Project presented by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects 200-ton Pulp Factory Project (Thabaung), Pathein Bridge Project in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 1 April—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected the Pulp Factory Project (Thabaung) that has a daily production capacity of 200 tons and Pathein Bridge Project in Ayeyawady Division yesterday.

Accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department, Senior General Than Shwe arrived in Hinthada in Ayeyawady Division by helicopter at 9.30 am yesterday.

The Senior General and party were welcomed by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, departmental officials and local people. They attended the opening ceremony of the Hinthada District Sasana Beikmandawgyi in the town.

On arrival at the 200-ton Pulp Factory Project (Thabaung) of Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1, they were welcomed by Minister for Industry-1 U

Aung Thaung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and officials.

At the briefing hall, the minister explained salient points of the project, saying that it is being implemented at a place near Hlaygyit Village, Thabaung Township. The project began on 1 November 2001. At present, 98 per cent of factory erection work and 72 per cent of machine installation work have been completed. Plans are under way to conduct test run in July 2004. He also explained the capital requirement of the project, different phases of erection and installation sectors, bamboo, salt, limestone, power, fuel oil and natural gas requirements, raw material supply programmes, a 50-ton high-quality paper plant project (Thabaung), a 60-ton newspaper plant project (Thabaung), and a fuel oil tank project.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported to the Senior General on supply of gas and electricity to the project; and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, on land and water transport for raw materials.

Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that efficiency is required in running the 200-ton pulp factory as it is a mammoth one. Ways should be found to supply bamboo to the factory in time, while laying down systematic projects to set up bamboo and tree plantations for ensuring continuous supply of raw materials. Arrangements will have to be made in advance to transport

pulp and paper to consumer markets swiftly.

Based on the experiences of the project, places suitable for pulp and paper industries should be chosen and the required capacity of the machines should be calculated. Paper and pulp industry has high prospects.

On behalf of the Senior General, General Thura Shwe Mann presented a fruit basket to Vice-Chairman Mr Shuchen Li of China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation (MCC) of the People's Republic of China, the machinery supplier of the project, and exchanged gifts with him.

Senior General Than Shwe and party and Mr Li and party posed for a group photo. The Senior General and party inspected the progress of the project, the yard where bamboo will be kept and a freight jetty on the

bank of Ngawun River.

On arrival in Pathein at 3.10 pm, they were welcomed by Deputy Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Tint Swe and officials.

At Ngawun River Bridge Project, they heard a report on the advent of and the implementation of the project presented by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun. Deputy Superintending Engineer of Bridge Special Group 8 of Public Works U Khin Maung Win explained the progress of work.

In his guidance, the Senior General said efforts should be made for durability of the bridge and earliest completion of the project. After inspecting the map showing the roads linking the bridge, he gave guidance on their development and improvement.

The Senior General and

party observed progress in constructing columns of the approach structure and steel cable control structure. Located on Pathein-Shwemyintin-Wayachaung Road, the reinforced concrete suspension bridge will be

installed with steel frames. The 2,140-foot bridge will support a 28-foot motor road. Forty per cent of the project have been completed.

They also inspected the Pathein bank and Strand Road.— MNA

Excerpts from Senior General's speech

- * Efficiency is required in running the 200-ton Pulp Factory (Thabaung) as it is a mammoth one.
- * Ways should be found to supply bamboo to the factory in time, while laying down systematic projects to set up bamboo and tree plantations for ensuring continuous supply of raw materials.
- * Based on the experiences of the project, places suitable for pulp and paper industries should be chosen and the required capacity of the machines should be calculated. Paper and pulp industry has high prospects.
- * Efforts should be made for durability of the bridge and earliest completion of the Ngawun River Bridge Project.



Progress in construction of Pulp Factory Project (Thabaung) which can produce 200 tons of pulp per day.— MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 2 April, 2004

For parallel development of agriculture and industry

The government has been building health, education, economic and social infrastructures necessary for all-round development of the nation. Moreover, it has taken steps to enhance the development of the agriculture sector, the main pillar of the national economy, and given a constant attention to fulfilling the requirements for the development of private industries by establishing industrial zones.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and State-level officials, during their inspection tour of the Mandalay Industrial Zone, gave guidance on the introduction of automation and computerized machines to raise the quality of products and the extension of import-substitute industries.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, who is also the chairman of the Industrial Development Committee, visited the Mandalay Industrial Zone on the morning of 20 March.

In his meeting with responsible personnel and industrialists there, the Secretary-1 said that development of industries called for correct and systematic practice of the market economic system, initiatives, diligence, honesty, integrity, understanding and cooperation among the industrialists.

If the industrialists put their own interests in the fore, long-term development would be impossible. Noble spirit and high qualifications are required for raising the momentum of development.

The government is making every endeavour to accelerate the impetus of industrial development starting from the year 2004-2005. Coordination meetings between the government and the industrialists have been held to introduce modern machines, to turn out skilled workers and to make raw materials available. Moreover, top priority is being given to electrical power plans to be able to fully supply electricity to industries as well as to the public.

Only the parallel development of agriculture and industry would pave the way for the emergence of a modern and developed nation. Therefore, we would like to call upon all those in the agriculture and industrial sectors to work in concert for the development of these two sectors under the leadership of the government.

သတိ

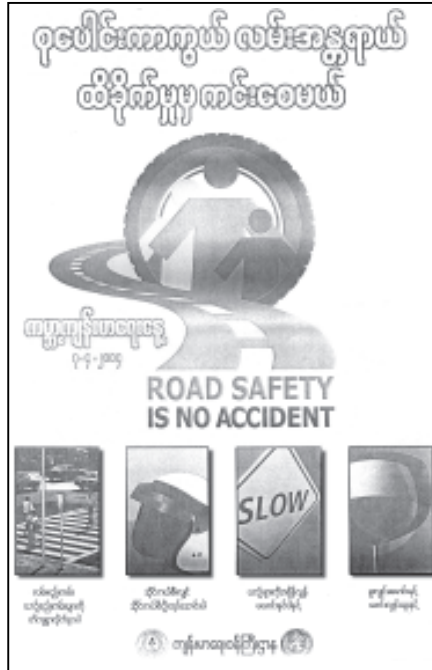
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း ဟွန်းမတီးရ။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

Filling stations to be kept open during Thingyan

YANGON, 1 April — The Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy will keep its filling stations in Yangon Division open during the Thingyan holidays.

MNA



Chinese journalist delegation arrives

YANGON, 1 April— A 6-member Chinese journalist delegation led by Editor Mr Liu Zhanmian of the Farmer's Daily of the People's Republic of China arrived here by air this evening to visit Myanmar for one week to enhance mutual understanding and friendship and strengthen bilateral cooperation and exchange between China and Myanmar journalism fields.

They were welcomed at the airport by Director (News) U Hla Tun and officials of News and Periodicals Enterprise and officials of the Chinese Embassy.— MNA



The Chinese delegation being welcomed at the Yangon International Airport.— MNA

Vietnamese broadcasting delegation visits Myanmar Gems Emporium, Hlinethaya Industrial City

YANGON, 1 April— The Vietnamese broadcasting delegation led by Deputy Director Mr Nguyen Van Khoa, accompanied by officials of Myanmar Radio and Television, this morning visited Myanmar Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.

The Vietnamese delegation went to Hlinethaya Industrial Zone where an official explained facts about the zone. The guests also visited Tokyo Pipe Factory and Ever November Garment Factory.

On 30 March, the guests paid homage to Maha Muni Image and Hsutaungpyay Pagoda on Mandalay Hill in Mandalay. They also visited Myanansankyaw Shwenandaw in Nanmyo. Yesterday, the guests visited pagodas in Bagan-NyaungU and viewed round Myanmar handicraft workshops there.— MNA

သတိ

- (၁) လေပေါင်(၁၀၀)မှ(၁၅၀)အထိ အတင်အချပြုလုပ်၍ ရာသီကုန်ပစ္စည်းများဖြင့် ရေပတ်တစားခြင်းကြောင့်ရေစွန်းခြင်း၊ လွန်၍ရေပတ်ခံရသူတွင် အသားအရေများဖုန်းပဲ့စုတ်ထွက်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ မျက်စိနာများအားထိုးမိပါကမျက်လုံး၊ နားကန့်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေနိုင်ပါသဖြင့် ရေကစားမညာပုံများ၊ ရေပတ်ခံကားများတွင် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပုံများသုံး၍ရေပတ်ရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။
- (၂) သင်္ကြန်ရေပတ်ကစားခြင်းအားသင်္ကြန်ရပ်များအတွင်းနေ့စဉ် နံနက်(၇)နာရီမှည(၆)နာရီအတွင်းသာ ရေပတ်ကစားကြရန်နှင့် ည(၆)နာရီနောက်ပိုင်းရေပတ်ကစားခြင်းမပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။
- (၃) တားမြစ်ချက်အားဖောက်ဖျက်ပါက ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူခံရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

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

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 1 April — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Deputy Director-General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department under the Ministry of National Planning & Economic Development Daw Myo Nwe as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date she assumes charges of her duties. — MNA

Myanmar citizens in Malaysia donate medicines to Sangha Hospital

YANGON, 1 April — Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Hla Maung, Myanmar embassy staff and wellwishers donated medicines and medical equipment for Jivatadana Sangha Hospitals in Myanmar at the office of the ambassador in Kuala Lumpur on 25 March morning. Present on the occasion were Myanmar citizens of Myanmar social association in Malaysia, Myanmar entrepreneurs and Myanmar surgeons. The wellwishers presented medicines and medical equipment to the ambassador who spoke words of thanks. — MNA



Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Hla Maung accepts medicines and medical equipment for Jivatadana Sangha Hospitals in Myanmar donated by Dr U Kan Myint and Dr Daw Khin May Than in Malaysia. — MNA

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော် စည်ပင်သာယာနယ်နိမိတ်အတွင်း ခရီးသည်တင်ယာဉ် (တစ်စီးကား)များအား ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်ခဲ့သဖြင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှု၊ ယာဉ်တိမ်းမှောက်မှုများလျော့နည်းကျဆင်းသွားသည်ကိုတွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ယခုအခါ တွင် ဌာနဆိုင်ရာယာဉ်များနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ယာဉ်များမှာလည်း ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများလျော့နည်းကျဆင်းလာသည်ကိုတွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ကိုယ်ပိုင်ယာဉ်များမှာလည်း ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ လျော့နည်းကျဆင်းလာမှု မရှိသေးကြောင်း တွေ့ရှိရပါသဖြင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှု မဖြစ်အောင် ထိန်းသိမ်းမောင်းနှင်ကြရန် နှင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုဖြစ်ပွားပါက ပြစ်ဒဏ်သတ်မှတ်ချက်များအား မသိသည့်နည်းနှင့်မျှ ကင်းလွတ်ခွင့်ပြုမည် မဟုတ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

သတိပြုရန်

- (၁) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု မဟာသင်္ကြန် ကာလအတွင်း ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများ လိုက်နာရန်
- (က) မူယစ်သောက်စား၍ ယာဉ်မမောင်းရ။
- (ခ) အဖျော်လွန်ကျူး စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ ပြိုင်လှ မမောင်းရ။
- (ဂ) မော်တော်ယာဉ်၊ မော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ်များတွင် အိတ်စောပိုက် ဖြုတ်မမောင်းရ။
- (ဃ) ယာဉ်နံပါတ်ပြားမပါရှိဘဲ မမောင်းရ။
- (င) ယာဉ်နံပါတ်အတွဲများအခြားယာဉ်နံပါတ်များတစ်ခြင်းမပြုရ။
- (စ) ယာဉ်၏ဘေးတံခါးများ၊ နောက်ဖုံးများဖြုတ်၍ မမောင်းရ။
- (ဆ) ယာဉ်မောင်းလျှင်စင်၊ ယာဉ်မှတ်ပုံတင် မပါဘဲ မမောင်းရ။
- (ဇ) ဖျက်သိမ်းယာဉ်အို/ဟောင်းများဖြင့်ဆာယာဉ်များ မမောင်းရ။
- (ဈ) နိုင်ငံတကာအလံများ ယာဉ်တွင်တပ်ဆင်၍ မမောင်းရ။
- (ည) ဟွန်းသက်ကားမဲ့များအတွင်း ဟွန်းလုံးဝမတီးရ။
- ၂။ ကျူးလွန်ပါက တည်ဆဲပဒေအရ ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူမည်။
- ၃။ “သင်ကြောင့် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု မဟာသင်္ကြန်ကို အကျည်တန် မညစ်နွမ်းပါစေနှင့်”

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

No regrets about keeping Canada out of US-led war on Iraq, former PM says

LONDON, 1 April — Former prime minister Jean Chretien says he has no regrets about his decision to keep Canada's military out of the Iraq war because it was important to maintain the United Nations' influence on world affairs

"If there had been a resolution at the UN, we would have been part of it," he said Tuesday before he was scheduled to speak to the Commonwealth Foundation on the importance of multilateralism.

Chretien said his decision not to join the US-led invasion of Iraq has been bolstered by the reaction of Canadians.

"The Canadian people are very pleased with the decision and feel very good about it and it was a good occasion, too, to prove our independence," he told journalists at a breakfast meeting.

"A lot of people tend to look at us as a neighbour (of the United States) that is, you know, almost the 51st state for some people. We are not

and we don't want to be and it was a good occasion to establish that very clearly."

In Toronto, Prime Minister Paul Martin said he's proud of what the Liberal government has done in the last 10 years - much of it under Chretien.

Martin mentioned the decision regarding the conflict in Iraq as an example. "If we as a government had

gone into Iraq, we would not have a nation as united as we are today as we look to our role outside of this country."

In the aftermath of the war, US troops have become targets of attacks in Iraq as security in the country deteriorated following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

Internet

Russia expels three Lithuanians in tit-for-tat

Moscow, 1 April—Russia on Tuesday ordered three Lithuanian diplomats out of the country, one month after the Baltic state expelled three Russians it said were spying.

A Foreign Ministry statement said the Lithuanian charge d'affaires had been summoned and told the three diplomats had conducted "activities incompatible with their status," a usual euphemism for spying.

The three were given two days to leave Russia.

It was Russia's second expulsion order in a week directed at Baltic diplomats. Russian authorities last week threw out two Estonian diplomats in a similar tit-for-tat action.

Lithuania expelled three Russian diplomats in February after accusing them of spying and trying to gain access to the NATO military alliance and European Union secrets. — MNA/Reuters

NATO air patrolling over Baltic states unnecessary

Moscow, 1 April — The Russian Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that the patrolling by NATO planes of the air space of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is totally unnecessary.

"From a security point of view, the region has been virtually demilitarized," Alexander Yakovenko, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said at a briefing the day after seven countries — including Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — formally joined NATO and four F-16 fighter jets began patrolling over the three Baltic states.

NATO has agreed to include the Baltic states, said to possess very limited air forces of their own, under its air defence shield.

In response to NATO's expansion, Russia has warned that it will take steps to defend itself if NATO's eastward push is perceived as a threat.

Yakovenko said the deployment of NATO warplanes, even if justifiable under NATO instructions, is an outdated approach used two or three decades ago.

He did not rule out the possibility that Russia would evaluate NATO's move from a military point of view if it develops further.

But Russia will seek constructive dialogue and settle the issue in accordance with international law, said the spokesman. He said the three Baltic countries, which also join the European Union on May 1, should abide by the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, a Cold War-era pact limiting armed forces.

Russia has accepted an invitation to participate in talks at NATO's headquarters in Brussels on Friday.

MNA/Xinhua



Vehicles drive along a secondary road leading to the Iraqi town of Fallujah after a US tank blocked the main entrance of the town. US Marines are constantly patrolling the dusty streets of this restive Iraqi town in search of weapons recently. — INTERNET

Nigeria, S Africa partner for tourism development

ABUJA, 1 April — Nigeria and South Africa plan to collaborate on tourism development as a way of attracting foreign tourists to Nigeria, a senior Nigerian official said here recently.

"We are making efforts

to partner with South Africa, which is one of the leading tourism destinations in Africa, in order to promote our tourism potential," Omotayo Omotosho, director-general of the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) said.

Omotosho told reporters at a news brief that the NTDC officials would soon travel to South Africa to understudy that country's tourism industry. She said that the trip to South Africa would afford the NTDC the opportunity to dialogue with tourism operators, market Nigeria's cultural and tourism potential and also attend the National Tourism Exhibition in Durban, a seaport city in the eastern part of South Africa.

MNA/Xinhua

African private sector urged to help continent in WTO talks

NAIROBI, 1 April — Kenya on Tuesday urged businesses in Africa to work hard in improving their views to ensure that their countries' real interests are reflected in the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s Doha Development Round.

"You are big stakeholders in the success of the Doha Round," Kenyan Minister for Trade and Industry Mukhisa Kituyi told business representatives from 12 eastern and southern African countries attending a two-day gathering.

He said African countries engaged in multilateral trade talks had often failed to ensure that their negotiating positions had real "business content."

MNA/Xinhua

Five US soldiers killed in roadside bomb blast in Iraq

BAGHDAD 1 April—Five US soldiers in Iraq were killed when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Al-Anbar province, west of Baghdad, a coalition spokesman said.

The five were killed when their convoy hit an improvised explosive device northwest of the US military base in Habbaniya, 90 kilometres (55 miles) west of Baghdad, Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt told a press conference in Baghdad.

It is thought to be the worst single incident involving coalition troops since a US military helicopter was downed on January 8 near the nearby flashpoint town of Fallujah, also in Al-Anbar, killing all nine aboard.

The latest deaths brought to 291 the number of US soldiers killed in action since US President George W Bush declared major hostilities over on 1 May.

Internet

Controller to run home appliances with handsets developed in Japan

TOKYO, 1 April— NTT DoCoMo Inc of Japan said Tuesday it has developed a controller that enables home appliances to be operated with its third generation (3G) FOMA videophone handsets from virtually anywhere.

"The controller enables operations such as programming the recording of a TV programme and then viewing the playback on the phone, turning air conditioners and lights on and off, and viewing live video from the controller's built-in camera, including automatically if the unit's built-in motion sensor detects movement," the company said in a Press release.

Using the controller, which is equipped for both infrared and cable connection to appliances, video can also be transmitted from a FOMA phone for live viewing on a screen connected to the controller, NTT DoCoMo said.

MNA/Xinhua

Yemeni PM says his China tour "fruitful"

BEIJING, 1 April — Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Qader Bajammal said here Tuesday at a Press conference that China is a true friend of Yemen and that his visit here has been fruitful.

Bajammal arrived here Sunday on a four-day official visit to China.

The economic and trade relations between the two countries progressed significantly, with the bilateral trade volume reaching 1.9 billion US dollars in 2003, and the on-agenda cooperation projects worth 500 million US dollars, Bajammal said.

According to him, cooperation between Yemen and China improved greatly in fields of crude oil, natural gas, energy, industry, communication and other areas, and the two sides have signed agreements worth 300 million yuan (36 million US dollars).

Relations between Yemen and China are the

most pure and practical in the current world. China is not only Yemen's partner in economic development, but was also a friend during Yemen's struggle for independence and unification, Bajammal said. "The bilateral ties are deepening and broadening with every passing day," he said.

This is Bajammal's

fourth visit to China, and he said he was deeply impressed by China's "earth-shaking" changes every time he is here.

"China has scored great development during a short period of time," he said. "Which reflects that the Chinese leaders are vigorous and the Chinese people are able to keep pace with the rushing tides of modern world." — MNA/Xinhua



Jobless protesters chant during a demonstration in front of the governor's office in the Iraqi Holy city of Najaf on 30 March, 2004. — INTERNET

Iraq contracts give Halliburton headaches

WASHINGTON, 1 April—Halliburton Co has reaped as much as \$6 billion in contracts from the US invasion of Iraq, but improprieties in those military contracts have also given Vice President Dick Cheney former company high-profile headaches.

Pentagon auditors have criticized Halliburton's estimating, spending and subcontracting, and they plan to begin withholding up to \$300 million in payments next month. The Justice Department is investigating allegations of overcharges, bribes and kickbacks. Democrats have accused the company of war profiteering.

Even some Wall Street analysts are asking whether Halliburton would be better off jettisoning its Iraq contracts.

"From the shareholders' point of view, don't you have to consider whether it's worth it?" Jim Wicklund of Banc of America Securities asked Halliburton executives during a

March 11 conference call with investment analysts.

Halliburton is fighting back, strongly denying wrongdoing and claiming to be the victim of a political smear campaign. The company set aside nearly \$200 million to repay the Pentagon for any overcharges. Executives reassured analysts that Halliburton has enough cash on hand—about \$2 billion—to weather any more repayments or penalties.

The company's defenders say Halliburton had to perform a lot of costly and dangerous work very quickly, with minimal government oversight at the beginning. —*Internet*



Iraqis cheer as a vehicle burns after an attack in the restive town of Falluja on 31 March, 2004. — INTERNET

Angola discovers deep-water oil wells off northern coast

LUANDA, 1 April—Angola's National Society of Combustible of Angola (SONANGOL) and British Petroleum have announced the discovery of two new deep-water oil wells in Block 18, located some 185 kilometres off Angola's northern coast.

The new wells, drilled at a depth of 1,600 metres, bring to eight the number of wells in that Atlantic block, the companies said Monday in Luanda. They said, one well, dubbed Chumbo, had produced 1,080 barrels daily in tests, without providing figures for the second well.

As sub-Saharan Africa's second largest oil producer after Nigeria, Angola currently produces about 900,000 barrels of crude daily.

MNA/Xinhua

One dead, seven hurt in Iraq car bombing

BAGHDAD, 31 March—A suicide bomber blew up explosives in his car outside the house of a police chief south of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing himself and wounding seven others, officials said. The attack came after the head of a UN team said better security is vital if Iraq wants to hold elections by a January 31 deadline.

In Ramadi, west of Baghdad, a U.S. Humvee was hit with a rocket-propelled grenade Tuesday, setting it on fire, witnesses said. Four soldiers who were in the vehicle were seen being rushed away in another Humvee. A US spokeswoman in Baghdad could not confirm the attack.

In the southern city of Najaf, Iraqis protesting delays in processing their applications for police jobs hurled stones at Spanish soldiers and Iraqi police, smashed windows and burned a guardhouse, witnesses said.

Witnesses also reported gunfire during the three-hour riot, and at least three police officers and two protesters were wounded.

Spanish radio station Cadena Ser reported that a female Spanish soldier and five Iraqis were injured, but the Spanish Defense Ministry in Madrid denied that a Spanish soldier was injured.

The suicide bombing occurred in the town of Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, near where another police chief was shot and killed a week ago and nine police recruits died when assailants sprayed their minibus with small-arms fire. —*Internet*

Garbage threatening beauty of paradise islands

SOGWIPO (South Korea), 1 April—Garbage and untreated sewage threaten the beauty of small island nations that rely on tourism, environmental officials said Tuesday.

Rising sea levels, over-fishing and water shortages already trouble the Maldives, Barbados, Tuvalu and 42 other member states of the association of small island states.

"It has tremendous health and tremendous economic impact," said the head of United Nations Environment Programme's Global Programme of Action on the marine environment, Veerle Vandeweerd.

She told a news briefing that the small

island nations face growing problems with solid and liquid waste as well as "waste from construction done to build tourist resorts as close as possible to the sea".

Plastic waste and beer cans cover shorelines of the island nations and an estimated one in 20 people who go into the sea around the world get sick because of untreated waste water, a UN environment programme report said. —*MNA/Reuters*

ဝက်ပွင့်အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

China improves protection of biological resources in Bohai Sea

BEIJING, 1 April—The Ministry of Agriculture has released a regulation on the protection of biological resources in the Bohai Sea, the sole continental sea in China, to ensure sustainable development of the fishery industry.

The regulation will take effect on 1 May, said Li Jianhua, deputy director in

charge of the fishery industry under the ministry, at a seminar held here Tuesday.

China issued a similar regulation in 1991. Li said that with the rapid economic development and deteriorating pollution of the sea in recent years, the old regulation has failed to suit the current situation and needed to be revised.

The new regulation covered a wide range of fields, such as fishing, cultivation, building artificial reefs and adoption of fishing bans, said Li. In the new regulation, 30 kinds of marine species were put under state protection, up from the former 23. In addition, the regulation adopted more rigid restrictions on net use. Trawl nets and other nets fatal to fishery resources are not allowed to be used in the Bohai Sea.

The country will adopt a unified fishing ban in the Bohai Sea and its adjacent Yellow Sea from June 16 to September 1. In the past, the two seas had different fishing ban time limits, which made management more difficult.

MNA/Xinhua

Italy to launch "Marco-Polo" project to boost trade with China

SHANGHAI, 1 April—Adolfo Urso, Italy's productive activities Vice-Minister, announced a one-year project, named "Marco-Polo," Tuesday in Shanghai to boost trade between the two nations.

Beginning Thursday, the project will stage more than 200 activities, including fashion shows, a film week, gourmet food exhibition, and the regatta of Venetian gondolas.

"Marco-Polo" is expected to attract more Chinese tourists and investment to Italy, and promote Made-in-Italy products in China's huge domestic market, Urso said.

Italy expected more arrivals of Chinese tourists after May 1, when China and the European Union will launch new tourism cooperation.

In April, approximately 250 Italian tourism agencies and more than 500 Chinese counterparts will meet in Shanghai for cooperation discussion.

More than 100 Chinese

companies have determined to attend a Sino-Italian investment seminar scheduled to be held in Rome in May.

"China is a world factory and she will also buy more," Urso said.

"Italy is ready to take China and her big market as a chance rather than a challenge," he said. Italian Ambassador to China Gabriele Menegatti told Xinhua that Marco-Polo is only the beginning of a series of activities to enhance cooperation between the two countries.

Italy is considering offering more direct flights linking the two countries, and increasing cooperation between the ports of the two countries, the ambassador said.

MNA/Xinhua

40 remain missing in Indonesian landslide

JAKARTA, 1 April—Around 40 people were reported missing in the Friday landslide in the Indonesian province of South Sulawesi and the rescue team remained unable to evacuate victims, a report said Monday.

Thousands of villagers left the Lengese Village for a safer place as officials said the village remains very prone to further landslide, reported Detikcom online news service.

Meanwhile, relatives of the missing people expressed submission and perform an Islamic prayer presuming that all the missing were dead.

The rescue team so far has evacuated only two dead bodies from the scene, which

was hit by the landslide following days of torrential rain since last week.

Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi Province, is located some 80 kilometres north of the scene.

The last devastating landslides in the country occurred at the end of January this year in Purworejo regency, Central Java regency where at least 15 people were killed.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi and Arab journalists march in Baghdad outside the coalition headquarters on 20 March to protest the deaths of two Iraqi journalists working for the Al-Arabiya satellite news channel. —INTERNET

CONTINUING IRAQI GUERILLA ATTACKS INFLICT RISING US CASUALTY



US soldiers check an Iraqi man during a routine check in the northern Iraqi town of Mosul on 30 March, 2004.—INTERNET



Five US soldiers in Iraq were killed when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Al-Anbar Province, west of Baghdad, a coalition spokesman said.

INTERNET



A group of some 70 Spanish soldiers celebrate as they arrive in Valladolid, Spain, on Tuesday, 30 March, 2004, after serving four months in Iraq.

INTERNET



A British soldier peers from the top of a light armoured vehicle while on patrol along the streets of Basra, southern Iraq. A soldier from the US-led coalition forces was killed by a roadside bomb on 31 March. — INTERNET



Iraqis celebrate as a vehicle burns after an attack in the restive town of Falluja on 31 March, 2004, in which five US soldiers were killed. — INTERNET



Fijian security guards are seen in the streets of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Tuesday, 30 March, 2004. Estimates for the number of private soldiers and mercenaries in Iraq is over 10,000, as soldiers leave their country's military for the high pay security firms offer. — INTERNET

Soldier killed in western Iraq, jobless clash with Spanish troops

BAGHDAD, 1 April—A coalition soldier was killed by a roadside bomb in western Iraq as at least four people were hurt in clashes between jobless demonstrators and Spanish troops and police in the Shiite Muslim holy city of Najaf.

A coalition official said a second soldier was also wounded in the bombing near the western town of Ramadi.

He declined to specify the soldiers' nationalities, although the region is patrolled by US troops.

The attack came a day after a coalition soldier was killed and another wounded when their vehicle ran off the road during an insurgent attack on their convoy in the same area.

In the flashpoint northern city of Mosul, scene of almost daily attacks against coalition forces, three unidentified security guards were wounded when their convoy came under rebel attack, coalition officials said.

Meanwhile in Najaf, hundreds of jobless protestors clashed with Spanish soldiers and Iraqi police.

Two policemen, a Spanish soldier and two demonstrators were hurt when the protestors attacked the governor's office and police cars with rocks, Lieutenant Colonel Abdul

Hassan Nasser told AFP.

However, a defence ministry spokesman in Madrid denied any Spanish soldier had been wounded.

Police arrested 30 demonstrators who were armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles, said Najaf police chief General Ibrahim Mohammed.

A total of 1,300 Spanish troops are deployed in central Iraq, but incoming Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has pledged to pull them out by June 30, unless a UN-mandated force is in place by then.

Najaf and several southern towns have already witnessed demonstrations by the unemployed, amid an estimated jobless rate of 50 percent nationwide.

In nearby Hilla, the provincial police chief survived a suicide bombing against his home but two people were wounded, a police official said. — *Internet*

မြန်မာ့သမိုင်း
စုစည်းခြင်း

Car bomb wounds 12 in Baquba

BAQUBA (Iraq), 1 April—A car bomb exploded in the town of Baquba, north of Baghdad, on Wednesday, wounding 12 people, police said.

They said five of the wounded were bodyguards of the local governor. The seven others were civilians. It was not immediately clear whether it was a suicide attack or a bomb planted in a parked car.

A Reuters cameraman on the scene said several cars were damaged in the blast, on a main road in Baquba, 40 miles north of the Iraqi capital. Guerrillas fighting the US-led occupation of Iraq have increasingly attacked "soft targets", hitting civilians, Iraqi police and local politicians who are easier to target than US soldiers. — *MNA/Reuters*

US astronaut plays down Russian money troubles

STAR CITY (Russia), 1 April—US astronaut Michael Fincke dismissed Russia's financial worries on Wednesday and said it was Moscow's turn to pay for International Space Station missions after NASA had shelled out for many years.

Russia, which will launch the crew on its next mission in April, said on Tuesday it wanted to extend future expeditions to a year from six months to save money.

"It has struggled with the financial burden of being the sole lifeline to the station for more than a year since the United States withdrew its shuttles.

"In the United States we

single-handedly paid for trips to the space station for the shuttle for many years," said Fincke, flight engineer for the April 19 mission. "We've flown more cosmonauts by far than the Russians have (flown) astronauts.

"We're working together as partners and we did our share and now...the Russian partners have come in." The United States

grounded its shuttles in February 2003 after the *Columbia* shuttle disintegrated on reentry, killing the seven astronauts on board.

Russia needs NASA's approval to proceed with plans to extend the length of missions, but the United States has said nothing about the proposal. Fincke was frosty towards the plan.

"We're still trying to understand the details—I just know there's a big difference in flying for six months and flying for a year," he said. "A year is a long time on the human organism and also a long time away from one's family."

MNA/Reuters

Tanzanian PM urges new irrigation methods

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 1 April—Tanzanian Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye has urged experts to find new irrigation technologies by using human efforts instead of electricity in order to enrich local farmers.

Speaking at a workshop on agricultural technology on water irrigation scheme, the Prime Minister stressed on Tuesday that the country needs a revolution to get rid of agriculture relying on rainy season.

He said drought and hunger in the country is a result of neglecting in using simple water irrigation system methods on agriculture.

He said the land of Tanzania is suitable for agriculture all the year round, and if a large number of Tanzanians living in villages are made to use simple technology of irrigation, poverty would be reduced, and life would be much better.

He said that at present farmers need simple technology to increase employment, benefit, production and investment. Tanzania in the last two years had faced water shortage due to the lack of rainfall in the rainy season from January to March.

The government said the country needs about 700,000 tons of food assistance to help the poor in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua



Guerrilla attacks are likely to increase before the coalition hands over sovereignty on 30 June, 2004. — *INTERNET*



A vehicle burns in Fallujah, west of Baghdad, on 31 March, 2004. Gunmen in Fallujah attacked two civilian cars that residents said were carrying up to eight foreign nationals. The occupants of the cars were killed and their vehicles were set on fire.

INTERNET

Experts warn against rising obesity in Chinese children

BEIJING, 1 April—Experts have called for increased awareness of and concern about the rising numbers of obese children in China, and highlighted balanced diet, rational nutrition and physical exercises to help control the weight of kids.

Official statistics show that 10 per cent of the children in China suffer from obesity and the number is increasing by 8 per cent per year. Some 14.8 per cent of boys in primary schools in China are obese, and some 13.2 per cent of them are overweight, with the proportions

for girls standing at 9 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively.

Some 13.2 per cent of children in northeast China are obese, the largest proportion in the country, followed by 12.2 per cent in east China and 10 per cent in central and south China.

In big cities like Beijing and Shanghai, there is an average of one obese child in every five. Taking less outdoor exercises and indulging in watching TV and playing games at home are the main reasons behind the child obesity, said experts.

MNA/Xinhua

2003 WHO Commemorative Tobacco or Health Award granted

BEIJING, 1 April—The World Health Organization (WHO) Wednesday granted its 2003 WHO Commemorative Tobacco or Health Award to China's State Administration for Industry and Commerce.

The award also went to two local anti-smoking activists, Hu Jinhua, director of Shanghai Association for Tobacco and Health, and Wang Juntang, head of the Patriotic Health Campaign Committee of Puyang City in central China's Henan Province.

"The recipients have done remarkable jobs in promoting non-smoking advertisements and the anti-smoking campaign," said Shigeru Omi, WHO's regional director for the Western Pacific at the prize awarding ceremony.

Tobacco has become a global threat to public health and the number of people who smoke has been increasing continuously in the developing nations, Shigeru Omi said. Shigeru Omi said China is the world's largest tobacco producer and consumer. "Nearly 350 million Chinese are tobacco smokers and about one million people die of tobacco-related diseases each year in China."

In May, 2003, to curb tobacco-related deaths and diseases, the 192 members of the WHO unanimously approved the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and the Chinese Government signed it in November.

MNA/Xinhua

Egyptian Parliament adopts investment law

CAIRO, 1 April—Egyptian Parliament, the People's Assembly, approved an investment law on Tuesday for attracting international companies, the official MENA news agency reported.

The law was adopted on the basis of a report by a joint parliamentary committee on the draft Law on investment guarantees and incentives, enacted by virtue of Law No 8 of the Year 1997.

The draft law provides tax reductions and exemptions for up to 20 years for investors in priority sectors such as infrastructure, oil field services, tourism, manufacturing and all export-oriented activities.

The approved law allows the government to give "renowned international companies additional incentives for them to base essential production and export-oriented operations in Egypt". — *MNA/Xinhua*

Thingyan — the merriest festival all can enjoy

Min Kyaw Min

Thingyan, the first festival on the Myanmar calendar, comes but once a year and when it does it brings great cheer. There is no other festival as merry, as boisterous and as joyful as the Thingyan Water Festival which rings out the end of the old year and rings in the New Year. April, the fourth month on the Gregorian calendar straddles the Myanmar months of Tabauing, the last month and Tagu, the first month of the New Year. When the two months come side by side, the weather is really unbearable in most parts of Myanmar, especially the plains of mid-country and the Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi regions. It brings much relief to people of all walks of life, even those of differing cultures and religions, who mingle to celebrate the occasion, soaked wet and drenched to the skin.

Everyone including Government employees gets a bonus, not in money, but extra holidays in a row. For instance, take the months Tabauing and Tagu which straddle the years 1365 and 1366 Myanmar era, this April. The Water Festival starts with the Akyo Nay or Day to Usher In, which is the 12th of April which is preceded by Saturday the 10th and Sunday the 11th. Youngsters and even grown-ups start throwing water on each other on Akyo Nay. The 13th is Akyat Nay, the day Thingyan falls, the 14th, the Akyat Nay or the second day of Thingyan, which this year is doubled by the fact that this year has a double Wasa, so we have a second Akyat Nay, followed by the 16th, the Atet Nay, the last day of Thingyan. The 17th is New Year Day followed by Sunday. So, we will be getting altogether nine holidays in a row, to throw water or to get drenched by others throwing it on you as well as to relax or to gain merits. The mood is such that even mere strangers treat each other as long-lost brothers, and pranks and light banter abound.

To quench with a drench

There are two stories on the origin of Thingyan, one more down-to-earth and another more mythical. Whatever your choice, you cannot escape the dousing and merriment, unless, of course, you stay indoors. It may also happen that on the Akyo Nay, you are going out for some reason, not suspecting that there would be children already out for fun and they catch you by surprise with a bowlful or squirtful of water.

What would be your response? Maybe, a surprised, wrathful encounter, but when you come to realize that such things happen every year and the children get lots of fun, you get into a forgiving mood, for it is the spirit of this waterfest that be it between close friends or strangers, water-throwing is accepted as a natural process to be enjoyed by one and all. Of course, the usual thing is to be doused by the bowlful, the bucketful, or a squirtful. But with the sophistication that has entered the scene, it has become the usual trend in Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine, the major cities and other towns, to bring out the high-power nozzle-jets and let those who want a rough encounter have it. Whatever the mode, you get drenched to the skin. There's method in the madness, you might say, for you don't get to the water-throwing pandals paying for the motorized transport, laughing, shouting and joking all the while, not for one day but three or four in a row.

Thingyan cheer and camaraderie allows you to get drenched and then dry in between pandals, yet you don't catch cold or get sick for good cheer and unrelenting dousing are a major element of Thingyan. The good humour that prevails throughout Thingyan is unparalleled, and whether you go from water-throwing or hosing down

point to point in open cars or trucks, the soaking you get is what matters, and there's joy plentiful, shouting barbs at others and getting shouted at.

At the water-throwing pandals, mostly decorated with the emerald green leaves and mildly fragrant golden padauk or ngu blooms, damsels fair, attired in matching clothes would get into an encircling dance around cars as a prelude to the dousing the revelers will be getting. There are, these days, also decorated floats sponsored by publicity agents for various products which carry song and dance competitors. The pandal of the Mayor of Yangon in front of the City Hall midtown attracts many competitors who are in turn entertained by dancers mostly in chorus while the water throwers and revellers make merry in front of the pandal, a safe distance away. Such scenes are repeated in many places in many cities and towns and even on the rural scene where the water-play is not rough and tradition takes a major role. Regardless of the scorching April sun bearing down on them, the revellers concentrate on what they've come out for — merry-making.

The mundane and the mythical

Now, let's take a look at the origin of the waterfest. It is said that in ancient times when there were kingdoms which exercised dynasty with palaces along the Ayeyawady, the royalty used to hold their annual hair-shampooing festivities around New Year's eve in the river and the participants would splash water merrily on each other. Then, as years went by, they shifted the festivities to within the courtyard. Eventually, the kings also allowed courtiers as well as commoners to take part, thus making the festivities merrier. And thus, the mundane form of Thingyan came into existence.

This is one explanation of the origin of Thingyan Water Festival. Yet there is another version with ancient lore and myth woven around it.

As a scholar has put it together, the second explanation goes like this: "... When the Sun enters the constellation Aswini in the sign Aries, the Thingyan period begins and continues for three days. The popular belief, however, is that during the Thingyan period the Thagyamin (who is the same as the Vedic deity Indra) descends to make his annual visit to the realms of the earth. He brings with him a golden book wherein he inscribes the names of those who do good deeds and he has also with him another book made of dog's skin wherein he puts down the names of those who did wicked deeds.

The myth must be further explained. "The story goes that once upon a time a dispute arose in the abode of the Celestial Beings between the Thagyamin and a certain Bramah concerning some mathematical calculations. The dispute lasted a long time. Neither party would give in and at last the disputants each wagered his head as to being in the right. The Thagyamin won and delighted as he was at having cut off the Brahma's head, a new perplexity beset him. How was he to dispose of the head? To throw it down to earth would mean conflagration in the abode of the human beings, cast it into the sea would make the water boil, to throw it up into the sky would burn the firmament. He solved his difficulty, however, by handing it over to the keeping of several nat (celestial) maidens, and, once a year when the head of the vanquished mathematician changed hands, the Thagyamin finds it convenient to make a short excursion and a sojourn in our midst. "And astrologers, Myanmar and ponnas, putting their heads together, calculate with utmost precision the actual hour, minute and second of the



Young girls performing a Thingyan dance.

arrival of the Thagyamin to this earth and the actual time of departure to the celestial abode.

"These astrologers too can foretell how the Thagyamin would come, whether he would be riding a bull or a serpent, whether he would bear in his hand a water pot or a spear, a staff or a torch, and from such signs and portents as these they proceed to predict a year of good or bad harvest, plentiful or scant rain, peace and prosperity or strife and turmoil. The astrological forecasts for the year called Thingyansar are printed and find easy buyers."

The young are told not to be cross when water is splashed upon them, much less show their anger, lest the Thagyamin should find it fit to put their names down in the dog-hide book. Of course, the young are made to understand that when they are good and do merit, their names stand to be inscribed in the golden book.

Merriment, merit-taking

The carefree merrymaking is interspersed with meritorious action, with feeds and alms-giving, initiations into noviticehood or ordained into the higher Buddhist Order, even if temporarily in the period preceeding, during or following Thingyan, to help them better understand the essence of life in the Noble Order.

Such merriment and merit-taking are enthusiastically prepared in advance. Of course, the older set gets more involved in acts of merit while the younger set are more bent on making the best of the festive occasion. Even when financing several spins around town in, motorised fashion everyday or getting the pandals set up with decorations and the usual hose-down or with piercing jets takes up much money, the youngsters are always well-prepared and scrape up enough funds for the fun.

While the youths go all out to get their share of merriment, the senior citizens go to the monasteries to keep Sabbath or to attend sermons or meditation, thus preparing for the life after. Thingyan literally means transit — sankranta in Sanscrit and sankanta in Pali — the transit of the Sun to Aries from Pisces. It has nothing if at all to do with religion although merit-making lends a tinge.

When the boys and girls have shouted themselves hoarse and reveled to the point of entire bodies aching, as in some cases, The Thagyamin, the King of Celestials returns to his abode.

New Year Day is a quiet and solemn occasion, with the offering of food to the monks, of feasts for the laity, the freeing of life, and young girls attending to the bath and manicure of the old.

In less than a fortnight, all of us in Myanmar will be witnessing a festival that is fun and fancy free, with citizen and tourist alike getting in the mood to enjoy what may well be the best of the merry-go-round of festivals. Be prepared to make it a truly "Happy Thingyan".



Revellers rejoicing at a Thingyan pandal in Yangon.

မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်္ကြန်

* အမျိုးသား ယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ။
 * သရုပ်ဖော်ယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 * အမျိုးဂုဏ်၊ ဇာတိဂုဏ်ကို မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်္ကြန်ဖြင့် မြှင့်တင်ပါ။
ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအမျိုးသားယဉ်ကျေးမှုဦးစီးဌာနကော်မတီ

ရေခဲထုပ်၊ ရေပူဖောင်း၊ ဆပ်ပြာရည်ဂတ်စီဘူးဖြင့်ကစားက

၁။ လက်ဝယ်တွေ့သူ - ထောင် (၁)နှစ်
 ၂။ ကစားသူ - ထောင် (၃)နှစ်
 ၃။ ထုတ်လုပ်ရောင်းချသူ - ထောင် (၅)နှစ်နှင့်ပစ္စည်းကိုင်သိမ်း
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မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု မဟာသင်္ကြန်ဆင်နွှဲသူများ လိုက်နာရန် တိုက်တွန်းခံဆော်ချက်

(က) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုစေ့စပ်ရန်နှင့်ဖိလားဆန်ကျင့်ပြီး မြန်မာလူမျိုးများ၏ အမြင်တွင် မတင်တယ်သည့် ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်မှု ပြုမူပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်၊
 (ခ) ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုဆုံးအမနှင့် ဖိလားဆန်ကျင့်သည့် အပြုအမူ၊ ပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်၊
 (ဂ) အချင်းချင်းဒဏ်ရာအနာတရဖြစ်စေပြီး အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေသည့် ကြမ်းတမ်းသည့် ရေကစားမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်၊
 (ဃ) တိုင်းရင်းသားစည်းလုံးညီညွတ်မှုကို ဖျက်ပြားစေပြီး ဆူပူမှုကို ဖြစ်စေနိုင်သည့် လူ့ဆော်ဖန်တီးပြုမူပြောဆို၊ ကြိုးပမ်းမှုများကို မပြုလုပ်ရန်။
မဟာသင်္ကြန်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay homage to Maha Atula Sakkyaramsi Hsedatgyi Pagoda in Hinthada.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe formally unveils the plaque of Hinthada District Sasana Beikmandawgyi.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and party being welcomed by departmental officials and local people.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing present donations for Maha Atula Sakkyaramsi Hsedatgyi Pagoda in Hinthada to an official.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 16)

Office, departmental heads, divisional and district level departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations, religious associations, wellwishers and guests.

First, Senior General Than Shwe formally opened the plaque of the Sasana Beikmandawgyi.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing sprinkled scented water on it.

Afterwards, the ceremony to share merits for opening of Sasana

Beikmandawgyi followed. Secretary of Hinthada District USDA U Khin Maung Yi supplicated on the purpose for building the Sasana Beikmadaw.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indriyasabha administered the Five Precepts.

The Senior General and wife donated provisions to the Sayadaw.

Similarly, General Thura Shwe Mann and party offered donations to the Sayadaws.

Next, member of the State Central Working

Committee of the Sangha Hinthada Moegaung Pariyatti Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sudhammaçara delivered a sermon. Later, the Senior General and wife and party shared merits gained.

The ceremony ended with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu.

After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing performed the rituals of golden and silver shower to mark successful completion of the ceremony.

Next, the Senior General

and party viewed the Sasana Beikmandawgyi.

The Sasana Beikmandawgyi, 120 feet long and 70 feet wide, can accommodate 500 persons. It was built with the donation of the Head of State including other donations of the wellwishers.

After the opening ceremony, the Senior General and wife and party paid homage to Hinthada Maha Atula Sakkyaramsi Hsedatgyi Pagoda.

Next, the Senior General and wife presented cash donations to members of the pagoda board of trustees and signed in the visitors' book.

MNA

WHO official visits hospitals, MRD (Lower Myanmar)

YANGON, 1 April— WHO South-East Asian Regional Director Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, accompanied by officials of the Ministry of Health and WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra and officials, visited Shwedagon pagoda this morning.

The director signed in the visitors' book and donated cash towards the funds of the pagoda.

At Yangon Institute of Medicine-1, Rector Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Director-General Dr Maung Maung Win and officials welcomed them and the rector explained history and academic matters of the institute.

On arrival at new Yangon General Hospital, Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Htut explained organizational set-up and health care service of the hospital.

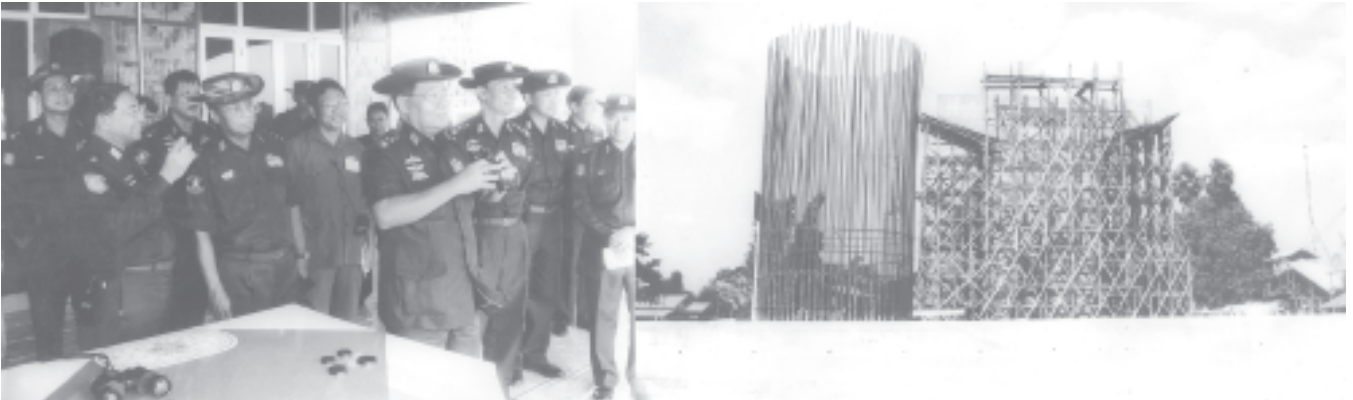
At Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), Deputy Director-General Dr Soe Thein explained functions of its divisions. The WHO director and party viewed conducting of research works and divisions of the department.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing share merits gained at the ceremony to open Hinthada District Sasana Beikmandawgyi.— MNA

**Senior General
Than Shwe and wife
Daw Kyaing Kyaing
attend opening
ceremony of Hinthada
District Sasana
Beikmandawgyi**



Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction of Ngawun River Bridge (Patheingyi) Project.— MNA

Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Environs of Kandawgyi Garden and Zoo (Yangon) meets

YANGON, 1 April—The Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Environs of Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) held the meeting at the hall of construction of Water Plaza in Central Forest Zone at Kandawgyi Garden at 2 pm today, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint

Swe.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, departmental heads, military region commanders, officials and guests.

First, the commander gave a speech on the occasion. Next, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa reported on progress in construction of the relaxation zone. Officials reported on completion

of construction tasks. The commander attended to their needs.

Next, the commander and party inspected construction of fresh water fish garden, preparations for landscape, flower garden shops, growing of flowery plants and vegetables, barbecue garden, Myanmar handicraft shops.

On arrival at Paganlon Island, the commander and party saw over the bridges linking Paganlon Island and Khemadipa Island and upgrading of Khemadipa Island and gave necessary instructions.— MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann presents fruit basket to China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation (MCC) Vice Chairman Mr Shuchen Li.— MNA

Donate blood

**အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာခရိုင်မှာတောတန်း
တစ်တောင် တစ်တောင်တက် မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း**

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends ceremony to celebrate centenary of Ahlon Shipyard

YANGON, 1 April — The Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport held a ceremony to celebrate the centenary of Ahlon Shipyard in the compound of the shipyard. Member of the State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony and planted *Gantgaw* tree to mark the occasion this morning.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, officials concerned and staff of the Ministry of Transport and guests.

The first programme of the ceremony took place in front of the archway in the compound of the shipyard. Next Deputy Ministers for Transport U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung formally opened the archway of the centenary of Ahlon Shipyard.

The second programme of the ceremony then ensued. Managing Director of the Inland Water Transport U Soe Tint explained the purpose of the centenary for the shipyard and presented reports. In his reports, he said IWT provides water transport services for a total of 67,000 passengers and 12,000 tons of cargoes with the use of 530 watercraft on a daily basis, traveling a total of 9,219 miles in Ayeyawady river, Chindwin river, Kissapanadi river in Rakhine State, Laymyo river, Mayu river, and Thanlwin river, Gyaing river and Attayan river in Kayin State. Safe and convenient services are provided for altogether 25 million passengers, nearly half of the entire population of Myanmar, and some 4.2 million tons of cargoes annually.

He continued that the shipyard has the capacity to dock 15 vessels at a time, Ahlon Shipyard is the second largest shipyard owned by IWT.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe said Ahlon Shipyard is one of six shipyards owned by the Inland Water Transport. Ahlon Shipyard was set up by Ayeyawady Flotilla Co Ltd in 1904, and it was first called Yangon Foundry. Later, it started the docking of 100-ton watercraft, with the construction of four docks. From that time on, Ahlon Shipyard started life. It was on 1 June 1948 that the shipyard was nationalized and its name changed from Yangon Foundry to Ahlon Shipyard.

The minister continued that the shipyard has now entered 100, with its long history of constructing new wa-



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views booths to mark the centenary of Ahlon Dockyard. — MNA

tercraft, maintaining old ones, and providing engineering assistance. From 1962 till now, it has built 40 new watercraft. Annually, an average of 58 watercraft undergo major repairs while that of 182 undergo minor repairs. Later, the minister expressed his high regards for retired employees and present employees working in the shipyard.

He also said that significant success has been achieved in transport sector as the Government places emphasis on the speedy, safe and smooth transport infrastructure by constructing roads and bridges. Everywhere in the delta region can now be reached by car easily as there have appeared new bridges all over the region. As long as the water transport that can carry heavily-loaded cargoes at affordable prices remain vital, the shipyards need to accelerate their momentum in their tasks of repairing watercraft.

He went on that Inland Water Transport is one of the biggest state-run water transport services. It provides services for the passengers and cargoes with use of 331 motorized vessels, 158 non-motorized vessels and 40 others totaling 529. Therefore, the shipyards hold responsible for the safety and fitness of these vessels.

In conclusion, he urged all the staff of the shipyards

to work hard for that purpose and to serve the interest of the country and the people while maintaining the fine tradition of the shipyard.

Next, IWT Managing Director U Soe Tint presented a gift to Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein in commemoration of the centenary of Ahlon Shipyard.

After the ceremony, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party viewed round the Ahlon Shipyard Centenary Exhibition.

Later, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials, went to Dalla Shipyard of IWT. On arrival at the shipyard at 6 pm, the Secretary-2 and party were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and officials. The Secretary-2 and party inspected the production of machine parts, the repair of a 500-ton cargo vessel and construction of watercraft at the shipyard. After giving instructions, the Secretary-2 left the shipyard.

Situated in Dalla on the other bank of Yangon, Dalla Shipyard is the largest shipyard. It has a dry-dock and 14 docks with a capacity to dock a 1400-ton vessel. It can also dock 18 watercraft simultaneously. — MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects water supply project in Dalla

YANGON, 1 April — Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Mayor Col Maung Pa and committee members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, inspected tasks for water supply in Dalla, Yangon South District, this afternoon.

On arrival at the bank of Dalla, they were welcomed by Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyae and members of social organizations.

The Secretary-2 and party proceeded to the water supply station of YCDC Engineering Department (Water & Sewage) at Banyadala Ward in Dalla. On the occasion, Chairman of Township PDC U Aung Myint reported on water supply tasks.

The mayor also presented a report, saying that the township is made up of 23 wards, 14 of which are being supplied water through 1,218 water taps. And water is obtained with the use of five 12-inch diameter tube-wells in Yangonpauk village, Twantay Township, 9.8 miles from Dalla Township, he said. With a 100,000-gallon tank and a 20,000-gallon tank, the station supplied water to the wards, he said. He also reported on arrangements for supply of water to the remaining wards.

The commander gave a supplementary report.

In response to the reports, the Secretary-2 fulfilled the requirements, giving instructions on continued efforts to be made for ensuring supply of water to all the wards, assistance to be rendered by related departments and fire prevention measures.

The Secretary-2 and party viewed the five tube-wells in Yangonpauk village. Officials reported on facts about the facilities.

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected water tanks, water pumping stations and tube-wells and left instructions on ensuring systematization in carrying out water supply tasks. — MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects Dalla Dockyard of Inland Water Transport in Dalla. — MNA

Beijing's estate market still has great potential

BEIJING, 1 April — The rapidly growing economy in the next five to 10 years will bring about further growth in Beijing's real estate market, said Song Yu, director of the municipal development and reform commission's investment section.

Per capita GDP amounted to 3,800 US dollars in Beijing, which would undoubtedly grow in future years, Song said, and there still remained a relatively large requirement for housing in Beijing, so citizens would spend more on real estate, pushing the market's development.

According to the commission, an average of 200,000 apartments will be sold each year before 2010, and the majority prefer a floor space measuring 80 to 100 square metres at a price of 2,000 to 5,000 yuan (about 242 to 605 US dollars) per square metre.

Song said the municipal government would standardize Beijing's estate market, cracking down any form of fraud. The government also encouraged citizens to buy new apartments and sell their old ones, because the price of secondhand housing would possibly decline along with the large scale reconstruction in Beijing for the 2008 Olympics, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

New radar to further improve HK's air safety

HONG, KONG, 1 April — The surveillance capability of Hong Kong's air traffic control system will be enhanced and airspace capacity maximized to ensure flight safety, thanks to a new Route Surveillance Radar at Mount Parker, Quarry Bay, which has just gone into service.

Incorporating the latest technology and design, the new radar is superior in stability, reliability, signal processing, accuracy and target detection capability during inclement weather.

Hong Kong's Director-General of Civil Aviation Albert Lam said on Tuesday that the replacement project comprised demolition of the old radar in September, and installation and commissioning of the new radar in four months.

During the radar replacement process, the station was also renovated installing a standby generator, fuel tank, and power-supply and fire-fighting systems to ensure the refurbished facilities can support the radar's operation for another 20 to 25 years.

With the new radar antenna encased within a radome, the system can work continuously in all weather conditions, even typhoons. The antenna is 9.7 metres high and 13.7 metres wide, and the radome has a diameter of 15 metres.

Before acceptance of the new radar, a flight inspection team of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China conducted the commissioning flight checks to certify the system works properly.

The new radar replaces the one installed in 1978 for the former airport at Kai Tak. For more than 25 years, the old system served as a primary surveillance radar with coverage of 200 nautical miles for en-route air traffic surveillance.

MNA/Xinhua

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 1 April — 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 ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းမှု သာမက ကိုယ်ခံကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခ ပြည့်ဝခြင်းကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

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

Filling stations to be kept open during Thingyan

The Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy will keep its filling stations in Yangon Division open during the Thingyan holidays.

Nicolas Sarkozy named French Finance Minister

PARIS, 1 April — French Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy took over the key position of Finance Minister in a new Cabinet announced Wednesday by Philippe Bas, secretary general of French Presidential Office.

He replaced Francis Mer and was replaced by Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin. Michel Barnier, the European Union commissioner responsible for regional policy, took the post of Foreign Minister.

French President Jacques Chirac decided on Tuesday to keep unpopular Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin and reshuffle the government following the crushing defeat of the right in Sunday's second-round election to regional councils, where the left coalition of Socialists and its Green and Communist allies gained 50.15 per cent of vote and took control of 24 of 26 regions.

Sarkozy, who had been budget minister in the early 1990s, is widely considered one of the few competent politicians to head the Finance Ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 1 April — 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: 02-546577).

MNA

Egypt presses case for early Arab summit

SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Egypt), 1 April — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met with three Arab leaders on Wednesday to push for convening an Arab summit instead of a meeting that Tunisia unilaterally postponed last week.

Mubarak received the kings of Jordan and Bahrain and Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Abdullah in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. An Egyptian Minister said Egypt wanted to make sure that preparations were in place to hold the new summit as soon as possible.

Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali called off the Tunis summit at short notice on Saturday night, about 36 hours before Arab leaders were due to start meeting.

Tunisia said Arab Foreign Ministers had failed to make an adequate commitment to democratic reforms. Delegates from

other countries disputed the Tunisian explanation.

Egypt has offered to host another summit to dispel the impression that Arab governments were seriously divided over the main agenda subjects — Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a common response to the US campaign for political, social and economic reforms in the Arab world.

Arab officials have said the summit could take place either in the second half of April or in May. Egyptian Information Minister Safwat el-Sherif told reporters in Sharm el-Sheikh that the date depended on the outcome of consultations between Arab leaders.

"There is an eagerness to take part in this summit," he added.

Mubarak first saw Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, then King Abdullah of Jordan.

MNA/Reuters

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့် ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကျွံစားနှင့် စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများမှာ အသည်းရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည်းခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအန်ဒြပ်ခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြော ထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါ များဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ —

၁။ ကယောင်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremors)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်၊ နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်းနိုင်စွမ်း မရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများ ဖြစ်ရခြင်း၊ အသံဗဟုများ ကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုမိုများများ အန္တရာယ်ပေါ် ရုစိတ်သွားသလို ခံစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန့်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သည့်အခါတွင် လူမရှိပဲ နာထဲတွင် ခေါ်သံများ၊ ခြိမ်းခြောက်သံများ၊ စော်ကားမော်ကားသံ များကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinations)။

၃။ အတက်ကြွီ ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits) (ဝက်ရုပြန် ရောဂါ ကဲ့သို့တတ်ခြင်း)။

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Depressive Illness)။

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)။

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချိုယွင်းခြင်း။

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

၈။ မိမိ၏ဇနီးကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲမှားခြင်းများဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (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

“သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တင် ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား ဖြိုကွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတိပေးခေါက်ရေနှင့်အညီ စက်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ပေး ထားပြီဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတ်မှတ်နှုန်းထားများ အတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်စောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက် တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင်ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနံပါတ်များ သို့တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

- (၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉)
- (၂) ကြို့မဲ့ကြေးနန်းနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့မှူးရုံး (ဖုန်း ၂၉၂၁၅/၂၉၂၁၅၄)
- (၃) ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ (ဖုန်း ၅၄၁၉၀၅/၅၄၁၉၀၄)

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

Spring Art Show 3-7 April

YANGON, 1 April — The Spring Art Show will be held at the National Museum here from 3 to 7 April. Over 200 works of artists Sayagyi U Ngwe Gaing, ASEAN Award winner Sculptor U Han Tin, Sayagyi U Ba Tun

Tin, U Thein Nyunt, U Khin Hlaing, U Shwe Way Thein, U Ba Tin, U Lu Din, U Tu Nyunt, U Soe Win, U Aung Myint, U Aung Htwe and others will be displayed at the show. Admission is free.

MNA

East China city to hold tea culture festival

NANCHANG, 1 April — The city of Jingdezhen, in east China's Jiangxi Province, will hold a tea culture festival this April to popularize Chinese tea culture.

Co-sponsored by the local government and the provincial bureau of tourism, the festival will open on April 20 and run till the end of May.

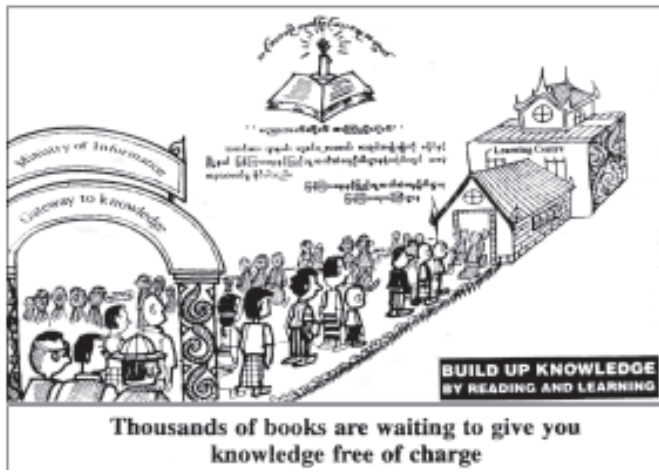
Fu Guilong, official with the municipal government of Jingdezhen, said experts in

tea culture would be invited to lecture on and discuss the role that tea has and will play in the past, at present and in future.

Precious tea sets together with many sorts of well-known teas will be displayed and auctioned during the festival.

A world famous porcelain producer, Jingdezhen was also known for its flourishing tea culture in ancient China.

MNA/Xinhua



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Vietnam eyes insurance for farmers after bird flu

HANOI, 1 April — Vietnam plans to extend insurance cover to farmers who suffered losses of 82.9 million US dollars from a bird flu epidemic that killed 16 people, the Agriculture Minister said.

After declaring the bird flu over in Vietnam, Minister Le Huy Ngo told *Reuters* late on Tuesday the crisis had prompted his ministry to seek protection for farmers.

"After this major flu epidemic, (we feel) the need for farmers to be insured has become more pressing," Ngo said. "We have proposed the Finance Ministry study the insurance to cover diseases, and natural disasters in the next step."

He gave no timeframe.

Ngo told reporters on Tuesday the bird flu epidemic that hit Vietnam between December and February 25 inflicted losses of 1.3 trillion dong (82.9 million US dollars), one trillion dong of which stemmed from the 43.2 million poultry culled or killed.

He said early this month it would take two to three months for restocking preparations and three more years for the poultry flocks to be restored to the pre-flu level of 250 million.

While 80 per cent of Vietnam's 81 million people live in rural areas, most insurance firms have little business there because of low incomes and scant awareness of risks.

Only one wholly owned

foreign insurance firm sells policies to shrimp businesses in the southern Mekong Delta. About two dozen insurance firms, both local and foreign owned, operate in Vietnam.

Ngo said among the risks that needed to be covered were damage from diseases, pests and natural disasters.

"We will be coordinating with them (the Finance Ministry) to clarify the difference of the insurance policy for each area," he said. "(The policy) will definitely be in place."

Thailand, where eight people have died from the virus, has not officially declared the epidemic over. China said earlier March it had stamped out the disease.

MNA/Reuters

E China village discovers 20-million-year-old fish fossil

JINAN, 1 April — Villagers have discovered a batch of fossilized fish aged over 20 million years at Bozi Village in Shandong Province, east China, when digging a well at the field about five kilometres away from the seashore.

The fossilized fish, six to eight centimetres long and 1.5 centimetres wide, were

mixed with carbonized algae and embedded in the rock layers about 40 to 60 metres underground, said archaeologists from the Penglai City of the province.

The fossilized fish, brown or black, look fleshy and lifelike and it is easy to tell the fish's head, ribs, spine and tailfin.

Archaeologists judged

that the fish fossils were formed in the Tertiary Period of the Cenozoic Era, dating back 18 to 23 million years.

The discovery of the fossilized fish has provided valuable materials for studying the changes of landforms, relief and climate in the Shandong Peninsula.

MNA/Xinhua

China to hold int'l seminar on sea water desalination tech

TIANJIN, 1 April — China will hold an international seminar on sea water desalination technologies, extending wide cooperation with foreign counterparts in this field.

Sponsored by International Desalination Association, the seminar will be held on April 11, in north China's Tianjin Municipality, according to the organizing committee.

Over 20 experts from home and abroad are invited to give speeches on the semi-

nar, while around 200 scholars, entrepreneurs and government officials will discuss topics including the development trend of sea water desalination and its economic value and management.

Professor Wang Shichang, an expert from Tianjin University, said that sea water resources, which could be sustainably harnessed, were of great importance to China today.

There was still a long way to go for the improvement and industrialization of Chi-

na's sea water desalination, Wang said. If a complete industrial chain could be formed in China's coastal cities, the cost of desalination would be reduced to a large extent, and this would be of significance to economic and social development of these areas.

Coastal cities had invested in related research and construction in recent years, said the expert, and had built over 10 sea water desalination stations.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (349)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR Voy No (349) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-4-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S Eagle Corporation**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

HK's counter-cigarette smuggling proposal wins support

HONG KONG, 1 April — The Hong Kong Customs' proposal to fight against cross-boundary cigarette smuggling has won strong support in the Asia Pacific Region.

According to a government Press release, Commissioner of Customs and Excise Timothy Tong led a delegation to attend the 10th World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia Pacific Heads of Customs Administration Conference in Auckland, New Zealand, between March 29 and April 2.

During the Conference, Commissioner Tong underscored the importance of co-operation to combat cigarette smuggling in the Asia Pacific Region. He noted that cigarette smuggling is rampant in the region, and that smuggling syndicates ship cigarettes from one Customs territory to another, using circuitous routings to avoid detection. Offenders take advantage of the legal loopholes or grey areas in Customs control systems.

He contended that "smuggling activity is a cross-boundary crime, the cure to which lies only in international cooperation".

In order to strengthen regional cooperation to com-

bat cigarette smuggling, Commissioner Tong proposed in the meeting that the 23 operational contact points of the member administrations should act in concert.

An anti-illicit contact point meeting should be held to map out enforcement actions to clamp down on transnational smuggling syndicates, to explore how best they can utilize and share confidential intelligence to identify common targets for joint investigations, and to discuss ways and means to help prosecute syndicate members hiding in other jurisdictions.

The proposal received warm response from other delegations. Australia, the Chinese Mainland, Fiji, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam all expressed their support. The chairperson concluded by remarking that the Hong Kong's proposal was "strongly endorsed", and noted Hong Kong's offer to host this meeting later in the year.

The conference, hosted by New Zealand, the WCO vice-chair of the Asia Pacific Region, is a high-level meeting held biennially among Customs heads of the WCO Asia Pacific Region.

MNA/Xinhua

Emirates sends more weekly flights to Manila

MANILA, 1 April — Emirates Airlines has added two weekly flights to Manila, bringing the number of services from Dubai to the Philippines to 10 a week as it continued to take advantage of the gradual recovery of the aviation industry.

The expansion indicated the importance of the Philippines to the Dubai-based airlines, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on-line news Wednesday quoted Richard Vaughan, the airlines' senior vice-president for commercial operations, as saying.

"Asia Pacific is an important region for Emirates," Vaughan said. "We are increasing capacity on several routes to meet strong demand for our services in the region."

The company has also started flying daily to Osaka, Japan, from four times a week previously. The Philippines and the United Arab Emirates signed an air services agreement in March last year to allow their flag carriers to service the Manila-Dubai route nine times a week.

A special arrangement allows the increase in frequency during periods of increased traffic.

Some 80,000 Filipinos work in Dubai.

MNA/Xinhua

Survey finds HK women lack health awareness

HONG KONG, 1 April — A research conducted by the University of Hong Kong reveals most Hong Kong women overlook the importance of their health.

The university recently surveyed 503 perimenopausal or menopausal women in Hong Kong. At a Press conference held on Tuesday, the university said the result shows most women seriously lack knowledge of Hong Kong's three most common diseases, breast cancer, cervical cancer and osteoporosis, found in women.

The research also reveals that over half of the surveyed women have not performed regular health check and a majority of them do not regard it is necessary. From this, it is estimated that over half of the whole women population in Hong Kong have not performed health checks.

MNA/Xinhua

Jackie Chan appointed vice-chairman of environmental body

BEIJING, 1 April — Jackie Chan, a top martial arts movie star from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), was recently appointed as vice-chairman of the China Society for the Promotion of Environmental Culture.

This is the first position the action hero has ever accepted on the Chinese Mainland. Chan said upon the ap-

pointment that he would do his best to contribute to environmental undertakings.

The Society, a non-governmental organization, is headed by Pan Yue, Vice-Minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration. It works for promoting exchanges of environmental culture and spreading environmental protection concepts. — MNA/Xinhua

မညာရက်ဖြင့် ရေက်မိပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Rat genome helps separate mice from men

WASHINGTON, 1 April — The genetic code of the rat joined the growing list of creatures whose DNA has been mapped on Wednesday and experts said it will make the laboratory rat, already beloved by scientists, an even better tool for fighting human disease.

The rat is only the third species to be sequenced to such a degree, after the completed human genome sequence in April 2003 and the draft mouse genome in December 2002.

It confirms that the laboratory rat is in fact a good choice for medical research. Almost all human genes associated with diseases have counterparts in the rat genome, the researchers write in this week's issue of the journal *Nature*.

"This is an investment

that is destined to yield major payoffs in the fight against human disease," Dr. Elias Zerhouni, head of the National Institutes of Health that funded most of the research, said in a statement.

"For nearly 200 years, the laboratory rat has played a valuable role in efforts to understand human biology and to develop new and better drugs," he added.

"Now, armed with this sequencing data, a new generation of researchers will be able to greatly improve the

utility of rat models and thereby improve human health."

The researchers, led by a team at Baylor College of Medicine's Genome Sequencing Center in Texas, chose the Brown Norway strain of laboratory rat, known scientifically as *Rattus norvegicus*.

This species was best known in the past for infecting ships and is distinct from the smaller black rat, *Rattus rattus*, notorious for spreading plague.

"As we build upon the foundation laid by the Human Genome Project, it's become clear that comparing the human genome with those of other organisms is the most powerful tool available to understand the complex genomic components involved in human health and disease," said Dr. Francis Collins, head of the National Human Genome Research Institute.

Having the rat genome along with the mouse and the human allows scientists to triangulate, just as mariners triangulate to navigate using the stars and the sun, said Baylor's Richard Gibbs, who led the study.

MNA/Reuters

Doctors suggest monitoring high-risk people for Hepatitis C Virus

BEIJING, 1 April — The first guideline for doctors and nurses to diagnose and treat Hepatitis C virus (HCV) carriers was published here Tuesday while doctors are calling for a rigid monitoring of the population at high risk of contracting HCV.

The Chinese Medical Association (CMA) published such a guideline for the first time to help medical workers detect, diagnose and treat HCV carriers as soon as possible by elaborating on the symptoms, infection and treatment of the epidemic and on how to detect those who are at high risk of the virus.

China has approximately 40 million HCV carriers, according to a national survey conducted in 1992 to 1995, one-third of the carriers of the Hepatitis B virus.

However, less than one-third of the HCV carriers have been to hospital, said Zhuang Hui, academicien of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) from Beijing University.

"These carriers will be a hidden hazard for the public health if they do not receive medical treatment in time," he said.

The population at high risk of HCV are not well monitored since doctors are not aware enough of the epidemic and some are not well informed of relevant knowledge, said Professor Weng Xinhua, director of the Society of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases attached to the CMA.

He suggested that each high risk person be monitored for HCV.

HCV, which can lead to hepatitis and liver cancer, can be transmitted through blood, sex and from mother to child.

China has carried out HCV detection during blood donation since 1992, which considerably reduced the transmission through blood donation and blood products.

In some regions in China, 60 to 90 per cent of HCV infections resulted from sharing syringes among drug users, according to the CMA—MNA/Xinhua

Green groups seek protections for Alaska loon

ANCHORAGE (Alaska), 1 April — A coalition of US and Russian environmental groups petitioned the US Federal Government on Tuesday for new protections for a species of loon that breeds in an area of Alaska targeted for new oil development.

The groups, led by the Centre for Biological Diversity, want an Endangered Species Act listing for the yellow-billed loon, a type of waterfowl with a global population that they say is only about 16,650, the smallest of any loon species.

The petition was submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The main US breeding site for the yellow-billed loon is the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska on the western North Slope of Alaska, the environmental groups said.

The Bush Administration and the state of Alaska have high ambitions for future oil production from the 23 million-acre reserve. — MNA/Reuters

Australia seeks to speed China free trade talks

CANBERRA, 1 April — Australia's trade minister hopes to meet Chinese President Hu Jintao next month to accelerate a study into a possible free trade agreement, following signs of increased enthusiasm from China.

Trade Minister Mark Vaile said Australia and China were likely to complete a feasibility study into free trade between the two nations before the October 2005 target date.

Officials from both sides are due to meet in Beijing and Canberra early in April and Vaile will travel to Beijing on April 21 to meet his Chinese counterpart.

He also hoped to meet with Hu on April 24 or 25 at the Boao Forum for Asia, an annual economic cooperation meeting between Asia and the rest of the world. "This year we have noticed a bit of an increase in the tempo. The Chinese are becoming more engaged on this," Vaile said.

"If the Chinese Government is willing to move along a little bit faster than so are we," he said. "It's an issue I will raise with President Hu Jintao." — MNA/Reuters

Experts suggest more potatoes be used to feed Chinese population

KUNMING, 1 April — China should turn more to potatoes to feed its huge population and maintain food security, according to experts at the on-going Fifth International Potato Conference in this capital city of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Qu Dongyu, vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, said Tuesday here that the key of ensuring the country's food security lies in increasing unit food output and adjusting food mix against a backdrop of continuously growing population and ever shrinking farmland.

"Potatoes should play a more crucial role in tackling the above problems," said Qu.

At present, China's unit outputs of rice, wheat and corn have far exceeded the world average level and growth potential is limited. Statistics

show that China's per-hectare potato output amounts to 14 tons, lower than the 16-ton-per-hectare world average and symbolizing great potential for further development.

Professor Chen Yili with prestigious Northeast Agriculture University, said that different regions and countries have different potato cultures.

Potatoes remain a seasonal staple food in India and Western nations. However, increasingly frequent cultural

exchanges between China and the outside world have greatly changed food tastes, especially for young people who now favour Western fast-food, including fried potato chips, said potato expert Guo Huachun, from Yunnan Agriculture University.

"Satisfying the Chinese people's diversified food demands is the essence of maintaining the country's food security," noted Guo.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 900 executions carried out in US since 1976

WASHINGTON, 1 April — A total of 904 executions have been carried out in the United States since 1976, when the death penalty was reinstated after the Supreme Court banned it four years before, a news report said Monday.

Of the 50 states in the country, 38 have adopted the death penalty with 37 of these states preferring lethal injection, the *USA Today* report said.

In addition, 10 states also practice electrocution, five states have gas chamber, three states have firing squad and two have hanging to execute the capital punishment.

There are no death penalty in the remaining 12 states, plus Washington, DC, the nation's capital. — MNA/Xinhua

China allocates fund in subsidies for rice growers

BEIJING, 1 April — The Chinese Government has allocated 940 million yuan (114 million US dollars) in subsidies for rice growers in seven provinces, the Ministry of Finance said Wednesday. The move was designed to encourage rice growers in the major rice production areas to grow more quality rice and increase output.

The subsidies, already earmarked to provincial governments earlier this month, will be distributed to the rice growers according to their acreage under early rice in southern China and round-grained non-glutinous rice in northeast China.

The seven provinces include Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Anhui, Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning.

China's grain output continued to drop for the fifth consecutive year in 2003 to about 430 million tons, from a record of some 520 million tons in 1998, which, coupled with rising grain prices, has triggered national concern for food security. — MNA/Xinhua

Trade gap between Bangladesh and SAARC countries increases

DHAKA, 1 April — Trade gap between Bangladesh and other countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is increasing day by day which reached 1,318 million US dollars in the current fiscal year (2003 - 2004).

As the import volume of Bangladesh is increasing at a faster rate every day than that of export, the trade gap is rising, *The New Nation* re-

ported Tuesday. Bangladesh imported commodities worth 1,439 million dollars in the last fiscal (2002 - 2003) from the SAARC countries. On the

other hand it exported only 121.15 million dollars worth of commodities to these countries during the same time.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Ibrahimovic strikes as Sweden beat England again

GOTHENBURG (Sweden), 1 April— Sweden extended their remarkable run of dominance over England when a clever second-half goal by Zlatan Ibrahimovic secured a 1-0 win over their fellow Euro 2004 hopefuls in a friendly on Wednesday.

It was the perfect way to celebrate the Swedish football federation's 100th anniversary as the victory stretched their unbeaten record against the game's founders to 11 games, their last defeat coming in 1968 when England were world champions.

England, playing without captain David Beckham and striker Michael Owen, were clearly the better team in the first half and hit the woodwork twice through Wayne Rooney and Owen Hargreaves.

Sweden keeper Andreas Isaksson then saved with his feet to deny Rooney as the visitors continued to press.

However, Sweden took the lead with their first dangerous attack when

substitute Kim Kallstrom curled in a low cross and Ajax Amsterdam striker Ibrahimovic reacted quickly to flick the ball beyond David James with his heel in the 54th minute.

The goal lifted the Swedes and Kallstrom and Christian Wilhelmsson both missed good chances to extend the lead as England lost their shape amid multiple substitutions.

Substitute Joe Cole had a good chance to equalize in the final minute when Jamie Carragher set him up with a pass inside the box, but the midfielder sliced horribly wide.

Eriksson, whose side drew with Portugal and lost to Denmark in their previ-

ous two friendlies, said he was not too concerned about the defeat -- his first away from home since taking over from Kevin Keegan late in 2000 -- discounting the World Cup quarterfinal loss to Brazil in neutral Japan.

One positive for England was the performance of Tottenham Hotspur's Jermain Defoe, who came on for his debut as a substitute early in the first half.

He immediately linked well with Rooney and was confident enough to test Isaksson with a couple of stinging shots.

England are grouped with France, Croatia and Switzerland in Portugal while Sweden face Italy, Denmark and Bulgaria. — MNA/Reuters



Colombian Freddy Grisales (L) jumps to control the ball over Peruvian Roberto Palacios during the first half of their qualifying match to the World Cup of Germany 2006 in Lima's National Stadium, on 31 March, 2004. — INTERNET



Vassell suffers his early injury. — INTERNET

Spain claim flattering 2-0 win over Denmark

GUON (Spain), 1 April— Goals in each half from Fernando Morientes and Raul gave Spain a flattering 2-0 win over a slick-looking Denmark in a friendly between two Euro 2004 hopefuls on Wednesday.

Monaco striker Morientes marked his return to the national team by scoring with a trademark header against the run of play midway through the first half.

Real Madrid forward Raul doubled Spain's lead on the hour when he poked in from close range after fellow substitute Fernando Torres had teased his way past two defenders and cut back a fine pass from the byline.

Denmark dominated the first half, their lively forward line creating constant problems for the makeshift Spanish back four and their midfield playing some fluent passing football.

But the visitors paid the price for their failure to convert a host of clear chances and it was Spain who took control when coach Inaki Saez brought on most of his first-choice players after the break.

Despite the absence of several injured key players it was Denmark who made the better start with winger Jesper Gronkjaer causing problems for the Spanish defence as he swung in several dangerous crosses from the right in the opening minutes.

The visitors should have taken the lead in the 13th minute when defender Brian Priske chipped over a neat cross from the byline to the unmarked Peter Madsen but the striker headed straight into the hands of Spain keeper Santiago Canizares. Just as Denmark appeared to have Spain on the ropes the home side scored a goal out of the blue.

Defender Joan Capdevila swung in a well judged cross from the left and Morientes outjumped his marker to send a superb pinpoint header inside the far post.

Denmark appeared unfazed by the setback and continued to play the better football in the first half but Madsen squandered another great chance when he headed wide from point-blank range after good work from the impressive Claus Jensen. Spain looked far sharper after Saez brought on Raul and Torres and the Real Madrid forward issued an immediate warning when he shaved the post with a fine 20-metre effort minutes after stepping on to the pitch.

Six minutes later Raul grabbed his 38th goal in 70 international appearances when he guided home from five metres after Torres had weaved his way in from the right.

Spain remained in control for the rest of the game but Saez will have been disappointed by the way his side were outplayed in the first half. — MNA/Reuters

United profits soar, Glazer says no bid plan

LONDON, 1 April— Manchester United's first half pre-tax profits have soared despite their recent problems on and off the pitch.

United reported on Tuesday profits up 32 per cent to 26.8 million pounds (48.71 million US dollars) in the six months to January 31, following improved television deals and lower wage costs after the exit of top players such as David Beckham. American tycoon Malcolm Glazer, the second largest shareholder with

16.69 per cent, said in a separate announcement he had no current intention of bidding for United but might increase or decrease his stake.

The club also said it had had no approaches from its shareholders, who also include Irishmen John Magnier and JP McManus, regarding a possible takeover.

Chief executive David Gill told reporters no shareholder had requested a seat on the board.

United, third in the league and 12 points adrift of leaders Arsenal, have had an unsettling season.

Constant takeover speculation has surrounded the club as both Magnier and McManus, majority shareholders with almost 29 per cent, and Glazer have upped their stakes. Meanwhile, manager Alex Ferguson has been involved in a high-profile legal dispute with Magnier over the breeding rights for champion racehorse Rock of Gibraltar.

The dispute has been resolved but the team has also suffered on the field after defender Rio Ferdinand was banned for eight months for missing a drugs test.

"The recent period has presented a number of challenges for the management team and yet we have remained focused on the business and produced a strong set of results," said Gill.

United could also be heading for a third-place finish in the league, which would mean a smaller share of the Champions League funds allocated to English teams and less domestic TV money.

"It does have an impact on profits," Gill said. "But for our long term planning it is not significant because we are prudent."

United are undertaking an internal review of recent transfer deals following pressure from Magnier and McManus. The Irishmen also opposed a long extension to the 62-year-old Ferguson's contract.

United, who have 23.5 million pounds in cash, declined to speculate on transfer spending in the close season.

"We will sit down with the manager at the end of the season and discuss it," Gill said. United's turnover was slightly lower at 92.4 million pounds and wages were 41 per cent of this amount, compared to 43 per cent last time. — MNA/Reuters

Roma get stadium ban for derby trouble

ROME, 1 April— AS Roma will have to play a home Serie A match at a neutral venue as punishment for the crowd trouble that caused the abandonment of the Rome derby match against Lazio earlier this month.

Both clubs were also fined by the disciplinary committee of the Italian Football League on Tuesday, while the league ordered the match to be replayed at an as yet unspecified date. Roma were fined 3,000 euros (3,654 US dollars), while Lazio will have to pay 51,500 euros.

More than one hundred police were injured in fights with fans outside Rome's Olympic Stadium after the match on March 21 was abandoned. The match was stopped after a false rumour that a young boy had been killed by a police car circulated the stadium. — MNA/Reuters

Mud soccer infects Australian players

WASHINGTON, 1 April— A game of "mud football" lubricated with stagnant water landed several Australian players in the doctor's office after bacteria infected cuts in their legs, doctors reported on Tuesday.

The soccer players suffered from infections by *Aeromonas hydrophila*, a bacterium common in water and soil.

The mud for the soccer game had been prepared by plowing up a field and pumping water onto it from the nearby Collie River, which was stagnant after a bout of dry weather, the doctors said.

The players not only played in the mud, but most also took baths in the river afterwards. Dr. Hassan Vally of the University of Western Australia reported in the latest issue of the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. — MNA/Reuters

Confident Germany sweep Belgium aside with 3-0 win

COLDGNE (Germany), 1 April— Germany boosted their morale in the build-up to the Euro 2004 finals with a convincing 3-0 victory over Belgium in their first home game of the year on Wednesday.

The 2002 World Cup finalists dominated a one-sided friendly international from the kickoff and wasted several chances before striker Kevin Kuranyi put them ahead just before halftime, scoring with his thigh from a corner. Germany maintained the pressure after the break and doubled their lead with a free kick from Liverpool midfielder Dietmar Hamann 10 minutes into the second half. — MNA/Reuters



Australia's Justin Norris wins his heat in the men's 200 metres butterfly at the Australian Olympic Swimming Trials in Sydney on 29 March, 2004. Norris clocked a time of one minute 59.53 seconds to qualify for the semifinal and a bid to make his second Olympic games. — INTERNET

MRTV-3


**2-4-2004 (Friday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 9:06 Hill Resort Town
(Thandaung)
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Traditional Chin House
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Myanmar's Ancient
City Bagan
- 9:25 Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taung-Ahka
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Native of Pa O Nation-
als (Kyauktalane)
- 9:40 Song "Missing you so
much"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 All Lives Under the
Sky "Catch of Fish by
Cooperation of Fisher-
man and Dolphin"
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**2-4-2004 (Friday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Hill Resort Town
(Thandaung)
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Traditional Chin
House
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:55 Myanmar's Ancient
City Bagan
- 15:58 Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taung-Ahka
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Native of Pa O Nation-
als (Kyauktalane)
- 16:10 Song "Missing you so
much"
- 16:12 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 All Lives Under the
Sky "Catch of Fish by

- Cooperation of Fisher-
man and Dolphin"
- 16:25 **National News**
- 16:35 Fisheries work in
Pyapon
- 16:40 Myaing Hay Wun
Elephant Camp
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Journey to Mogok
(The Ruby Land)
- 16:55 Kayin Dance (Ton
Pana (or) Kywe Min
Don Dance)
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Folk Art of Pottery
- 17:10 Song "The Beauty of
the Ayeyawady
River (Sagaing)"
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 Myanmar Bamboo
Xylophone (or) Pattala
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

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

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 19:36 King Alaung
Mintaya's Palace Site
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Myanma Green Tea
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
- 19:55 Kayan Dance
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Pops Flat-topped Hill
(Taung Ka Lat)
- 20:10 Songs On Screen
"Where does love be-
gin"
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 The Art of Playing
Caneball
- 20:25 Song on Screen
"Musical Maze"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Attractive Myanmar
Snacks
- 20:40 Performance of King
Brahminy Bird Dance
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Native home to the
Khame
- 20:55 A Romantic Duet
- 21:05 Cultural Museum
(Keng Tong)
- 21:10 Song "Welcome to
Treasure Land"
- 21:12 Community Based

- Drug Control Pro-
gramme
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyay) (Part-4)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:35 Hill Resort Town
(Thandaung)
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Traditional Chin House
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:55 Myanmar's Ancient
City Bagan
- 21:58 Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taung-Ahka
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Native of PaO Nation-
als (Kyauktalane)
- 22:10 Song "Missing you so
much"
- 22:12 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 All Lives Under the
Sky "Catch of Fish by
Cooperation of Fisher-
man and Dolphin"
- 22:25 Song "Smoke of Sor-
row (Lwan Ngwe Wai
Wai)"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Fisheries work in
Pyapon
- 22:40 Myaing Hay Wun
Elephant Camp
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Journey to Mogok
(The Ruby Land)
- 22:55 Kayin Dance (Ton
Pana (or) Kywe Min
Don Dance)
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Folk Art of Pottery
- 23:10 Song "The Beauty of
the Ayeyawady
River (Sagaing)"
- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 Myanmar Bamboo
Xylophone (or) Pattala
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**2-4-2004 (Friday) &
3-4-2004 (Saturday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 Hill Resort Town
(Thandaung)
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Traditional Chin
House
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:55 Myanmar's Ancient

- City Bagan
- 23:58 Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taung-Ahka
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 Native of Pa O Nation-
als (Kyauktalane)
- 00:10 Song "Missing you so
much"
- 00:12 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 All Lives Under the
Sky "Catch of Fish by
Cooperation of Fisher-
man and Dolphin"
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Fisheries work in
Pyapon
- 00:40 Myaing Hay Wun
Elephant Camp
- 00:45** **National News**
- 00:50 Journey to Mogok
(The Ruby Land)
- 00:55 Kayin Dance (Ton
Pana (or) Kywe Min
Don Dance)
- 01:00** **National News**
- 01:05 Folk Art of Pottery
- 01:10 Song "The Beauty of
the Ayeyawady
River (Sagaing)"
- 01:15** **National News**
- 01:20 Myanmar Bamboo
Xylophone (or) Pattala
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

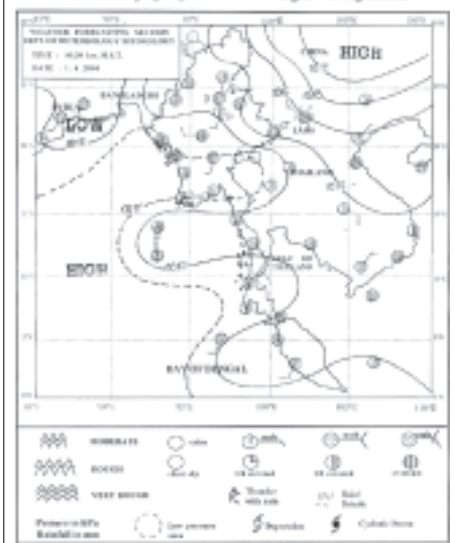
**3-4-2004 (Saturday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 03:36 King Alaung
Mintaya's Palace Site
- 03:40** **Headline News**
- 03:42 Myanma Green Tea
- 03:45** **National News**
- 03:50 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
- 03:55 Kayan Dance
- 04:00** **National News**
- 04:05 Pops Flat-topped Hill
(Taung Ka Lat)
- 04:10 Songs On Screen
"Where does love be-
gin"
- 04:15** **National News**
- 04:20 The Art of Playing
Caneball
- 04:25 Song on Screen
"Musical Maze"
- 04:30** **National News**

- 04:35 Attractive Myanmar
Snacks
- 04:40 Performance of King
Brahminy Bird Dance
- 04:45** **National News**
- 04:50 Native home to the
Khame
- 04:55 A Romantic Duet
- 05:00** **National News**
- 05:05 Cultural Museum
(Keng Tong)
- 05:10 Song "Welcome to
Treasure Land"
- 05:12 Community Based
Drug Control Pro-
gramme
- 05:15** **National News**
- 05:20 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyay) (Part-4)
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 05:35 Hill Resort Town
(Thandaung)
- 05:40** **Headline News**
- 05:42 Traditional Chin House
- 05:45** **National News**
- 05:55 Myanmar's Ancient
City Bagan
- 05:58 Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taung-Ahka
- 06:00** **National News**
- 06:05 Native of PaO Nation-
als (Kyauktalane)

- 06:10 Song "Missing you so
much"
- 06:12 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple
- 06:15** **National News**
- 06:20 All Lives Under the
Sky "Catch of Fish by
Cooperation of Fisher-
man and Dolphin"
- 06:25 Song "Smoke of Sor-
row (Lwan Ngwe Wai
Wai)"
- 06:30** **National News**
- 06:35 Fisheries work in
Pyapon
- 06:40 Myaing Hay Wun
Elephant Camp
- 06:45** **National News**
- 06:50 Journey to Mogok
(The Ruby Land)
- 06:55 Kayin Dance (Ton
Pana (or) Kywe Min
Don Dance)
- 07:00** **National News**
- 07:05 Folk Art of Pottery
- 07:10 Song "The Beauty of
the Ayeyawady
River (Sagaing)"
- 07:15** **National News**
- 07:20 Myanmar Bamboo
Xylophone (or) Pattala
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas


WEATHER
Thursday, 1 April, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Magway and Yangon Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Namsam (1.10) inches.

Maximum temperature on 31-3-2004 was 37.0°C (99°F). Minimum temperature on 1-4-2004 was 21.2°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-4-2004 was 77%. Total sun shine hours on 31-3-2004 was (7.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 1-4-2004 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 9 mph from Southeast at (16:30) hours MST on 31-3-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 2-4-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin, Shan and northern Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-4-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-4-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

"Strong Wind Warning"

(Issued on 1st April, 2004)

From early April till the advancement of Southwest Monsoon period, squall with isolated rain or thundershowers are likely at times in the afternoon / evening and night over most of the country. Surface wind speeds in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h to 50 m.p.h. Squalls may also be accompanied at times by hails.


Friday, April 2
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. လှုပ်ရှားပျဉ် ဗီဒီယိုစဉ်
- 8:00 am**
6. The mirror images of the
musical oldies
- 8:10 am**
7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:20 am**
8. စောင့်ကြည့်စာအုပ်အသစ်များ
- 8:30 am**
9. International news
- 8:45 am**
10. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
5. အခမဲ့သတင်းအချက်အလက်
ရရှိနိုင်သော သတင်းစာ ခုတ်ယူမှု
(ခရီးစဉ်အတွက်) (ခရီးစဉ်)
- 5:15 pm**
6. Song of national races
- 5:30 pm**
7. ရုပ်ရှင်ဇာတ်ကားများအကြောင်း
အချက်အလက်များ
- 5:40 pm**
8. Song of yesteryears

- 5:50 pm**
9. Discovery
- 6:05 pm**
10. ရွတ်ဆိုစာအုပ်အသစ်များ
မကောင်းအသံအား (၅-၄-၁၉၉၉)
- 6:30 pm**
11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
12. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာအုပ်အသစ်
"မိုးနက်သော" (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 7:45 pm**
14. စည်းကမ်းတိုက်ရိုက် ပြန်လည်
ယူဆချက်များ မဟာသတင်းစာအတွက်
- 8:00 pm**
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. Myanmar video feature:
"အပြစ်မရှိသော" (အပိုင်း-၂)
လူမှုရေးအကြောင်း
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-သန်းမောင်)
19. The next day's
programme

**Friday, April 2
Tune in today:**

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.50 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch time music
- Don't fall in love so
easy
(Randy Crowell)
- 9.00 pm** World of music
Songs from "Japan"
- 9.15 pm** Article / Music
- 9.25 pm** Music at your quest
- Here for you
(Firehouse)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

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

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend opening ceremony of Hinthada District Sasana Beikmandawgyi

YANGON, 1 April—A ceremony to open Hinthada District Sasana Beikmandawgyi was held at the Beikman in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Division, at 10.30 am yesterday, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing.

Senior General Than Shwe pressed the button to open the plaque of the Beikmandaw.

Also present on the occasion were Maha Dwara Nikaya 13th Sasanabaing Hinthada Mahitayon Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Indriyasabha, State Ovadaçariya Atwin Padamya Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa and members of the Sangha, Members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Maj-Gen Soe Naing, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Development Council

(See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer provisions to a Sayadaw.— MNA



Newly-opened Hinthada District Sasana Beikmandawgyi.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives WHO official

YANGON, 1 April—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received WHO South-East Asia Regional Director Dr Samlee Plianbangchang at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Director-General U Soe Tint of Government Office and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of Protocol Department.

The WHO Regional Director was accompanied by WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives WHO SEA Regional Director Dr Samlee Plianbangchang at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA

**INSIDE****Perspectives**

For parallel development of agriculture and industry
Page 2

Article

Thingyan — the merriest festival all can enjoy
Page 7

Circulation
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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt to pay goodwill visit to Bangladesh

YANGON, 2 April—At the invitation of Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar will pay a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of Bangladesh in the near future.— MNA