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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views Myanmar products displayed by companies at National Theatre.—MNA

UMFCCI effectively safeguarding national interest while cooperating with international economic organizations Annual General Meeting of UMFCCI held

YANGON, 3 April—The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry held its 13th Annual General Meeting at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Road in Dagon Township here at 4.30 pm today with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department and officials, the President of UMFCCI and the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, CEC members,

executives, members of State and Division Chambers of Commerce and Industry, border trade merchants associations, representatives from companies concerned and guests.

On arrival at the National Theatre at 4 pm, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was welcomed by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the President of UMFCCI and CEC members.

Next, the 13th Annual General Meeting of UMFCCI followed.

President of UMFCCI U Win Myint extended

greetings on the occasion. He said that he would like to present some progress during the period from which UMFCCI was upgraded into UMFCCI to date.

There were 6,841 members of the association when the association was formed and there are now 12,553, accounting for 83.5 per cent increase. During that period, the association received 3,161 persons from the international organizations, merchant associations, diplomat missions and entrepreneur associations and discussed matters related to investment and further strengthening of mutual trade. In cooperation with entrepreneurs abroad, who arrived in Myanmar, the UMFCCI has been able to constantly hold the investment opportunities seminars, the business meetings

and the business matching.

Likewise, the association members were dispatched abroad to attend meetings, training courses, seminars, study tours and trade fairs held there to enrich their knowledge so that they can extend exports and search new markets for Myanmar products.

Therefore, during that period, altogether 1,322 entrepreneurs were sent abroad to attend 41 fairs and expositions while altogether 2,110 entrepreneurs were dispatched abroad to attend 258 other occasions.

For human resource development, the association conducted 25 training courses on UMFCCI level (1,2,3), 5 international trade courses, 3 business computing courses, 9 courses on introduction to the Internet, one use of the Internet for business course and 5

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

Myanmar rice marketing courses (programme).

Furthermore, the association conducted 4 courses on WTO Valuation Agreement Workshop for Private Sector, one course on Entrepreneurship Development for Women in Myanmar and one course on Export Market Promotion.

As the Ministry of Economic Trade and Industry of Japan and the Japan Overseas Development Corporation (JODC) acknowledged the UMFCCI Training Centre as the Centre of Excellence (COE), local and JODC experts gave lectures at the courses of the association.

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Circulation

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses 13th Annual General Meeting of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 4 April, 2004

Accelerate implementation of development projects

Nowadays, the government, with a view to raising national economy and the people's living standard, has been taking paces towards emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation through the strength of the entire people. The first four-year short-term plan and the second five-year short-term plan have been implemented for economic development of the nation. In the process, active and hearty participation of mass of the citizens has resulted in exceeding the targets of these plans.

Now, the third five-year short-term plan is being implemented so as to maintain already-gained development momentum. Starting from 1 April 2004, sector-wise tasks are being carried out in 2004-2005 fiscal year.

The rural agricultural sector plays the main role in the nation's economy. The government, therefore, is fulfilling all the agricultural requirements including construction of a network of irrigation facilities the length and breadth of the nation in order to boost agricultural production.

So far, the government has constructed 158 irrigation facilities across the nation, benefiting over 21 million acres of paddy fields. Based on geographical conditions, it is also building water pumping stations and underground water tapping stations where necessary in addition to dams, reservoirs and sluice gates, thereby remarkably increasing cultivable acres. For instance, a total of 28 dams and reservoirs and 61 water pumping stations including the Thaphanseik Multi-purpose Dam in Sagaing Division have been constructed in the entire nation. As a result, the sown acreage has increased to over 3.9 million acres, up from about 2.8 million acres.

Now, Sagaing Division with some 1.8 million acres of paddy has been able to boost production of paddy along with beans and pulses, edible oil crops and cotton, enjoying an annual economic growth rate of over 10 per cent. The division contributes around 12 per cent towards the nation's economy.

Indeed, such fruitful results of economic development have been due to the combined efforts of departmental personnel concerned and local people effectively exerting good foundations laid by the government with genuine goodwill.

Thus, local authorities and people and service personnel are urged to speed up implementation of development plans and projects laid down by the government from the very beginning of this financial year.

သတိ

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း ဟွန်းမတီးရ။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

Cultural troupes of national races tour Yangon

YANGON, 3 April — At the invitation of Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, cultural troupes of national races from border areas arrived here starting from 1 April to take part in Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival. They were welcomed by officials concerned.

The troupes, accompanied by Deputy Director of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department Major Nyan Lin Myint, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda this morning. They also visited the Maha Wizaya Pagoda and made cash donations to the fund of the pagoda. — MNA

ကုသကာကွယ် မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်

၁။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲလျှင် အသည်းရောင် အသားဝါရောဂါ၊ အသည်းခြောက်ရောဂါ၊အသည်းကင်ဆာရောဂါ၊သွေးဆိပ်တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ အဆုတ်ရောဂါများ၊ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုရောဂါ (AIDS)နှင့် စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာရောဂါများစသည်တို့ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည့် အပြင် စီးပွားရေးနှင့်လူမှုရေးများထိခိုက်ပျက်ပြားခြင်း၊ဥပဒေအရ အရေးယူစေခြင်းတို့ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။

၂။ အဆိုပါဒုက္ခများမှကင်းဝေးစေရန် မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးတိုလုံးဝ ရောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

၃။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲသူများသည် သတ်မှတ်ဆေးရုံများတွင်၊ မှတ်ပုံတင်၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Homage paid to Sasana Manaung Webyan Monastery Sayadaw

YANGON, 3 April— A ceremony to pay homage to member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha member of Tipitaka Selection Ovadaçariya Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Mawlamyine Sasana Manaung Webyan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijayabhivamsa was held at Wunthamedani Monastery in Sangyoung Township this morning.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw. The commander and wellwishers donated provisions to members of the Sangha. Next, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijayabhivamsa and members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Before the ceremony to share merits, Mandalay Paukmyaing Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Aggavamsa delivered a sermon. MNA



Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents offertories to the Webyan Monastery Sayadaw.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone views round the Myanmar Trade Fair 2004 on Friday. — MNA

Myanmar Trade Fair 2004 continues

YANGON, 3 April — The Myanmar Trade Fair 2004 organized with the permission of the Ministry of Commerce and arrangements of the Quartz International Co Ltd continued for the second day at the Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this morning.

The fair was crowded with businessmen, students and people observing and buying the goods. The fair opens daily from 9 am to 6 pm until 5 April. — MNA

Information Minister receives Chinese journalist delegation

YANGON, 3 April— Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received the 6-member Chinese journalist delegation led by Editor Mr Liu Zhanmain of the Farmers' Daily at his office this morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, the chairman and the secretary of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and the head of office.

At the call, they discussed mutual understanding and promotion of friendly relations, news exchange and cooperation.

MNA

Chinese delegation tours Yangon

YANGON, 3 April — The Chinese journalist delegation led by Editor Mr Liu Zhanmain of the Farmers' Daily viewed the booths of Drug Elimination Museum in Kamayut Township this morning.

At Myanmar Radio and Television, Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung explained facts about the covering and broadcasting matters of MRTV.

In the afternoon, the guests visited the National Museum and the Myanmar Gems Mart. — MNA



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

NATO divided again on US call for Iraq role

BRUSSELS, 2 April—NATO Iraqwar divisions resurfaced on Friday when the United States urged the alliance to consider a wider role in stabilizing the Middle Eastern state but anti-war allies France and Germany refused.

"The United States believes the alliance should consider a new collective role after the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty," Secretary of State Colin Powell said after meeting NATO foreign ministers to mark the

alliance's enlargement to 26.

But German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said NATO had enough to do in expanding security in Afghanistan, peacekeeping in the Balkans and fighting terrorism. New French

Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said NATO was "simply not the right place where decisions should be prepared or taken concerning the situation in Iraq after July 1, when a legitimate government is established."

NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said ministers had only a brief discussion on Iraq and it would take a request from a sovereign Iraqi government and a new UN Security Council resolution before the allies might consider a role.

A NATO official said the alliance was unwilling to commit itself to any role because it was struggling to find new forces to bolster security for Afghanistan's September elections. The US-led invasion of Iraq split NATO last year, with France and Germany leading opposition for several weeks to efforts to provide protection for Turkey before the war.

Since then, NATO has limited itself to providing logistical support for a Polish-led division in south-central Iraq as part of coalition occupation forces.

Internet



A US soldier keeps watch while patrolling the northern Iraqi city of Mosul recently. —INTERNET

NASA says shuttle safety fixes could cost \$700m

WASHINGTON, 2 April — Safety upgrades to the space shuttle fleet — recommended after the *Columbia* accident — could cost up to 700 million US dollars, NASA chief Sean O'Keefe said on Thursday.

The three remaining shuttles have been grounded since *Columbia* broke up on reentry, killing all seven astronauts, on 1 February last year.

The return to shuttle flight is set for March 2005, but O'Keefe has previously said safety recommendations issued by those who investigated the shuttle disaster will be followed to the letter, regardless of schedule constraints.

The cost of implementing the recommendations of the *Columbia* Accident Investigation Board would be spread over three years, O'Keefe said.

NASA spent 94 million US dollars on upgrades in fiscal 2003. Plans call for spending 265 million US dollars in fiscal 2004 and 235 million US dollars in 2005.

"In total, we're looking at a projection that's going to be on the order of six to seven hundred million dollars, roughly, to implement all those findings and recommendations," O'Keefe told members of the Senate commerce, science and transportation subcommittee.

The investigators recommended extensive changes including improvements to the shuttles' thermal protection systems and the addi-

tion of a way to inspect and repair damage to the outside of the shuttles while they are in orbit.

They also told NASA it must fix its "broken safety culture".

MNA/Reuters

Japan, South Korea conduct joint anti-terrorism drill

TOKYO, 2 April — The Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and South Korea's National Maritime Police Agency conducted a joint anti-terrorism drill Thursday in the Tsushima Straits between Japan and South Korea.

The drill, the second of its kind following one held in May 2002, was aimed at preventing terrorism at sea amid fears of terrorism targeted at Japan as a close US ally, *Kyodo News* reported.

The 1,200-ton patrol ship *Hakata*, which left Kitakyushu in west Japan in the morning, joined South Korean security vessels at 5 p.m. (0800 GMT) for the 40-minute drill, which also involved a South Korean passenger-cargo ferry.

The drill was designed to deal with possible terrorist attacks on passenger ships between Japan and South Korea, *Kyodo* said, adding that some 60 JCG members and 180 members of the South Korean maritime po-

lice, including a 13-member special mobile unit, took part in the drill.

As part of the anti-terrorism efforts since the September 11 attacks on the United States, the JCG has stepped up patrols of waters near US military facilities in Japan, nuclear power plants and oil reserve tanks at about 140 locations.

It also took part in an international drill under the US-led Proliferation Security Initiative last year.

MNA/Xinhua

British soldiers patrol the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 1 April, 2004.

INTERNET

ထိုက်တိုင်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း

US death toll in Iraq hits 600

BAGHDAD, 2 April— The US death toll in Iraq hit the 600 mark with the killings of two more soldiers, while in the restive town of Fallujah, community leaders slammed the mutilation of two slain Americans but stopped short of condemning their murders.

In a statement, the US military said one soldier from the 1st Armoured Division was killed and another wounded in a roadside bomb attack in the Al-Mansur district of Baghdad early Friday.

On Thursday, a US Marine was killed as "a result of enemy action" in the Al-Anbar province west of Baghdad, the statement added.

The latest deaths brought the overall US death toll in Iraq to 600, including 408 deaths from hostile fire and 192 from causes unrelated to combat.

Well over half the combat deaths — 293 — have been inflicted since 1 May when US President George W Bush declared an end to major combat operations.

The worsening security situation meanwhile led organizers to postpone the Destination Baghdad Expo fair which was to have opened here next week.

More than 200 companies from over 26 countries had been scheduled to participate and thousands of local companies had registered to attend amid efforts to rebuild Iraq, said the Iraqi-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Internet

Two more US soldiers killed in separate attacks

BAGHDAD, 2 April—Two more US soldiers serving in Iraq have been killed in separate attacks. A soldier belonging to the Army's 1st Armoured Division was killed by a bomb in the Mansour district of Baghdad early on Friday, the US military said.

On Thursday a Marine was killed near Falluja, west of Baghdad. At least 283 US soldiers have died in combat since major operations ended in May.

The fresh deaths were announced as Falluja clerics condemned the recent mutilation of US bodies in the town. The clerics used Friday prayers to comment on the incident, in which four US contractors were ambushed and killed as they drove through Falluja on Wednesday. The bodies were dragged from the wreckage and hacked to pieces. Two of them were hanged from a bridge.

"We denounce the mutilation of the American corpses, Islam prohibits

that," Sheikh Hamid Saleh said - although he did not explicitly condemn the killings.

Meanwhile, gunmen on Thursday killed three Iraqi police officers in Baquba, north of Baghdad.

The attackers reportedly fired on two police cars guarding a road junction and threw a hand grenade at them.

Both Baquba and Falluja lie within the so-called Sunni triangle, a stronghold for guerrillas fighting the US-led forces in Iraq.

The US has vowed justice for the dead Americans.

Top US military spokesman Mark Kimmit said coalition forces would re-establish control of Falluja - but he said force could be avoided if town authorities arrested those who carried out the murders.

"If they were to deliver these people to the criminal justice system, we will come back in and start the rebuilding of Falluja. That is their choice," he said.

Internet



Marines limit public information about attacks on troops in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 2 April— Citing a need to protect the troops, the Marine Corps operating in Fallujah and elsewhere in the volatile Sunni Triangle of central Iraq is restricting the information it releases about insurgent attacks that kill Marines.

On Friday, for example, a statement from the Marines' base camp outside Fallujah said a Marine had been killed the day before "as a result of enemy action" in Anbar Province. In a break from the practice of other US forces in Iraq, the Marines gave no details.

The Army and the Pentagon, in their news releases announcing service members' deaths in Iraq, typically offer a brief characterization of the hostile action, such as mortar fire, roadside bomb or other type of attack. They usually cite the town where it happened; the Marines do not.

"Force protection measures preclude the release of any information that could aid enemy personnel in assessing the effectiveness or lack thereof with regard to their tactics, techniques and procedures,"

the Marine statement from the Fallujah base camp said. "The release of more details about the incident could place our Marines and sailors at greater risk."

The Marines are operating in some of the most dangerous parts of Iraq, and they have had at least 12 of their men killed since they arrived in March to replace the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, including the death Thursday. In line with standard military practice, the Marines have not publicly released that name, pending notification of relatives.

At US Central Command, which is running the war, a spokesman, Capt Bruce Frame, said it was the Marine Corps' prerogative to determine how much information to release about casualties.

Internet



US soldiers and Iraqi investigators check the site of an attack on a US convoy north of Baghdad on 1 April, 2004. An eyewitness said that the convoy was hit by mortar fire but the damage was more consistent with damage from a roadside IED (improvised explosive device).—INTERNET

US rover "Spirit" spies more signs of water on Mars

WASHINGTON, 2 April — The US rover Spirit has discovered fresh signs of past water on Mars, scientists at the US space agency NASA said Thursday.

Spirit landed in a Martian region called Gusev Crater on 3 January and recently has been focusing its explorations on a rock dubbed Mazatzal.

Findings by the rover that Mazatzal had three separate coatings "suggest very strongly that Gusev (Crater) did have its own water supply," Hap McSweeney, a scientist from the University of Tennessee, told a Press conference held at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "Indications of this rock experienced multiple periods of alterations," he said. "It has clearly been altered by interactions with fluid."

The amount of water in Gusev was smaller than that had existed in Meridiani Planum, a region on the other side of Mars where Spirit's twin Opportunity was now roaming, and may have been underground, said McSweeney. Last week, mission scientists announced Opportunity has found evidence that a salty sea once covered Meridiani Planum, a discovery which raised the possibility that Mars might in history be habitable for life. — MNA/Xinhua

66 cars pileup in California freeway chain crashes

LOS ANGELES, 2 April — About 66 cars were involved in a chain-reaction pileup of cars Thursday caused by heavy fog along No 15 freeway in the western US state of California, authorities said Thursday.

About 24 people suffered minor to moderate injuries, but none appeared life-threatening from the accidents which happened in a four-kilometre stretch of the freeway at the Cajon Pass, San Bernardino County Fire Department spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said. "It's a miracle we don't have more major injuries," she said.

The No 15 freeway is the main highway between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, the gambling city in Nevada.

Cars and big rigs tangled on the freeway, causing five vehicles to explode in flames in a series of chain-reaction pileup that happened in early morning.

Northbound lanes of Interstate 15 were shut down for several hours while crews cleaned up the mess. All lanes of Interstate 15 reopened Thursday afternoon.

The California Highway Patrol reported as many as 66 cars and four big rigs are involved in the pile-up. It said the accidents began as a four-car crash accident.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်ကုန်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



Demonstrators were fired in the southern Iraqi town of Basra, on 1 April, 2004. A British military vehicle that was in the area at the time was hit by some stones thrown by the protesters, but it later left the area.

INTERNET

Civilian contractors face constant dangers in Iraq

RALEIGH, 2 April— Four contractors from the Blackwater Security Consulting were ambushed and killed in Fallujah Wednesday. Some experts say there may be more attacks on US civilians in the near future. William Ott has a technology company that does contract work in Iraq. He said contractors know the dangers when they go overseas and are trained for it.

"The incident [Wednesday] is a tragedy. It does make me very angry, but it does not surprise me," Ott said. "Those things are going to happen. It's unfortunately part of war."

Retired Army Captain Craig Marks said angry mobs are going after US civilians because attacking Iraqi soldiers have not driven the military out.

"They have tried to hit the military. The president has stood up and said, 'It's not

going to work. We're gonna stay there,'" Marks said. "So now, they are hitting civilian contractors and also missionaries. They are soft targets."

Blackwater Security Consulting is one of five subsidiaries of Blackwater USA based on 6,000 acres in Currituck and Camden counties. The four contractors who were killed were contracted by the US government to supply security for food deliveries.

Internet

Cuba again rejects US official's bioweapons charge

HAVANA, 2 April — Cuba on Wednesday rejected a renewed accusation by a senior US official that it is developing biological weapons and said the charges were an attempt to seek a pretext to invade the Communist-run island.

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque called a news conference to deny the latest charge by John Bolton, Undersecretary of State for arms control and international security in the Bush Administration, who made a similar accusation in 2002.

Bolton told Congress in written testimony on Tuesday that Cuba remains a "terrorist and (biological weapons) threat to the United States".

"I believe the case for the existence of a developmental Cuba (biological weapons) effort is strong," Bolton said in a 25-page statement to the US House of Representatives International Relations Committee.

Cuba has one of the most advanced biotech industries in Latin America, but insists research is solely dedicated to medical uses. It has research accords with a number of countries, including Iran.

"Mr Bolton either suf-

fers from schizophrenia, a permanent obsession with Cuba or doesn't have an ounce of shame," the Cuban Foreign Minister said.

"US public opinion knows that our country has rejected the accusations that we produce violent weapons or conduct research on biological arms, that all this is false." Bolton first accused Cuba of biological weapons research in 2002, on the eve

of a visit to the island by former US President Jimmy Carter.

Carter disputed the accusations in a statement he read out during a visit to Havana's Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, where he said there had been no mention of the matter during briefings in Washington prior to his trip.

MNA/Reuters

Japan to reject US request of lifting beef import ban

Tokyo, 2 April— Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) will reject a US request for Japan to lift its import ban on American beef, the ministry said Thursday.

The ministry will send a letter this week to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a reply to a USDA letter to its 75 trading partners last week asking them to lift the import bans placed on US beef after the discovery of the first case of mad cow disease in the country in December.

In that letter, the USDA's chief veterinarian, Ron DeHaven, said American beef is safe to eat based on its investigation into mad cow disease.

MNA/Xinhua

US officials say attack on Americans in Iraq had planning

WASHINGTON, 2 April— The initial attack on four American contractors in Fallujah appeared to have had a degree of planning but the culprits have not yet been identified, US officials said on Thursday.

"The people that did this were not, you know, three guys ... on an excellent adventure," said Cofer Black, a top State Department counterterrorism official. "These are people that have had the training, have a vested interest," he told a congressional hearing.

"There are Zarqawi-related cells in the area," one US official told Reuters on

condition of anonymity.

Fallujah, 30 miles west of Baghdad has been a stronghold of resistance to the American occupation of Iraq.

The United States promised to hunt down the guerillas and retaliate for the killings of the contractors, who were gunned down and burned before their corpses were dragged through the

streets and hung from a bridge.

Another US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the way the attack was carried out on the convoy of vehicles suggested a level of planning and intent.

"It definitely seems like it was scouted," the official said. "It definitely seems calculated, not a haphazard attack."

The attack probably did not specifically target the individuals who were killed, but perhaps the vehicles were followed from their previous location or the attackers called ahead to colleagues lying in wait, the official said.

A leaflet distributed in Fallujah claimed the previously unknown "group of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin" had killed the Americans in response to the Israeli assassination of the Hamas spiritual leader last month. US officials said they had never heard of that group.

Americans are likely to rely initially on allied Iraqis to produce information on who was responsible for the attacks because the community was unlikely to give Americans information directly, experts said

MNA/Reuters

သားငယ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုး ပြည်အကျိုး



An Iraqi demonstrates at the Coalition Provisional Authority headquarters in Baghdad. The US military said two US soldiers were killed in Iraq as violence postponed a much anticipated trade show.—INTERNET



A US Army Humvee vehicle burns on a highway near the Iraqi town of Fallujah, on 1 April, 2004, after it had been hit by a roadside bomb, abandoned and set on fire.

INTERNET

UNSC urges respect for arms embargo on eastern DRC

UNITED NATIONS, 2 April — The United Nations Security Council urged on Wednesday all parties and states in the Great Lakes and Central Africa region to respect the arms embargo and refrain from any active support to armed militias in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

"Members of the Council stressed the importance of pursuing all the efforts aimed at expediting the convening of the international conference on the Great Lakes and Central Africa region," said a Press statement issued after a Council meeting.

"Members of the Council encouraged the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbours, particularly to the East, to continue to improve their bilateral relations and cooperation," said the statement.

The statement said the Council expressed its concern over the serious incidents in Kinshasa on 28 March, and called on all parties to ensure the transition was not jeopardized. Members of the Council firmly condemned ongoing incidents and reminded the parties that there will be no impunity. They reaffirmed their full support for the efforts undertaken by the government of the national unity and transition of the DRC, according to the statement.

On 28 March, gunmen attacked two television stations and four military bases in the capital Kinshasa, leaving two soldiers dead and another two injured.

On 29 March, a UN peacekeeper, who was a South African soldier, was killed in Bukavu on the eastern border of the DRC. The South African National Defence Force and the United Nations are trying to determine if the shooting of the UN peacekeeper was related to a recent coup attempt that

took place there. Twenty-seven UN staff have been dead during peacekeeping missions in the DRC since 1999. Most of them were killed in vehicle accidents or died of illness.—MNA/Xinhua

UAE wins bid to host 'Cooks' World Congress in 2008

ABU DHABI, 2 April — The United Arab Emirates has been selected as the venue for hosting the World Association of Cooks Societies (WACS) World Congress in 2008, the official WAM news agency reported recently. Over 2,500 chefs, hoteliers and restaurateurs from all over the world will gather in 2008 in the UAE city of Dubai for the World Congress, which takes place every two years.

The WACS will bring together cooks' societies from more than 80 member countries, which form a network of thousands of affiliated chefs and companies.

Dubai's selection for this high-profile culinary world event reconfirms its emergence as an international cosmopolitan destination with a uniquely wide range of hotels and restaurants, the report said.

The selection of Dubai as the host of the WACS World Congress-2008 was announced on the sidelines of the WACS-organized International Junior Chefs Competition which was held on 21-25 March in Dublin, Ireland. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi contractors weigh up security after Fallujah

WASHINGTON, 2 April— Contractors with billions of dollars at stake in rebuilding Iraq are reevaluating their safety after the brutal killing of four US security men — but some vowed on Thursday they had no plans to quit.

"When violence escalates, we adapt," said Sally Johnson, vice-president of Research Triangle International, a North Carolina firm with a local governance contract in Iraq.

RTI has 196 international staff in Iraq and 2,200 Iraqis working for them. "Of course, security is a major expense and worry," said Johnson, whose firm got a one-year extension worth up to 154 million US dollars on its contract this week.

US officials estimate security eats up 10 to 15 per cent of contract costs in Iraq, and that rate can only go higher following grisly attacks such as Wednesday's in Fallujah.

Four American security contractors were killed and their bodies burnt, mutilated and dragged through the central Iraqi town by cheering crowds before two were hung from a bridge.

In a reflection of corporate jitters over the worsening security climate, a high-profile US-sponsored trade fair for companies rebuilding Iraq, set to open next week in Baghdad, was postponed on Thursday.

Chinese FM affirms progress in Afghan restoration

BERLIN, 2 April — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said here Wednesday that Afghanistan has made progress in rebuilding the country under the Bonn Agreement.

"From the interim government to the present transitional one, from the Emergency Loya Jirga to the present constitutional body, from the adoption of the Constitution to the upcoming elections, the Bonn process is well organized," Li said at an international conference on Afghanistan, opened here Wednesday to assess progress in Afghan reconstruction and gather more aid for the war-torn country.

The Bonn process was launched at a similar international conference on Afghanistan's reconstruction in September 2001.

Li stressed that an early and proper solution to the Afghan issue is important to regional stability and development.

The Programme Management Office of the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority, which is in charge of 18.6 billion US dollars' worth of US-funded contracts to rebuild Iraq, said the Fallujah attack would not halt its work.

"There are going to be tragic days such as yesterday, but we are moving forward with the reconstruction, which will in turn help the security environment," spokesman Bruce Cole, a US Navy captain, said in a telephone interview from Baghdad.

Cole said contractors were largely responsible for their own security but this did not mean US, Iraqi and other security forces in Iraq would not provide protection as well.

For example, if rockets were fired at a construction site, private security would not be expected to deal with that risk.

Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg Brown and Root is one of the biggest US military contractors in Iraq, with more than 20,000 employees and subcontractors in the region. Seven of its employees have been killed in Iraq. — MNA/Reuters

"The Bonn process is a development path that would fit the national conditions of Afghanistan," Li said. "If the situation takes a turn for the worse, it is the Afghan people that will suffer."

Li pointed out that Afghanistan still has many challenges ahead, among them "insecurity, ethnic and factional disputes, slow economic reconstruction and diminishing international attention are all the more challenging".

He urged both the Afghan people and the international community to "maintain the spirit of the Bonn process" and "continue our efforts along such path".

MNA/Xinhua

New Zealand troops to leave Iraq in September

BAGHDAD, 2 April—New Zealand troops helping in the rebuilding of Iraq will come home in September, but New Zealand may then look at further ways of helping the country to return to full sovereignty, the country's Prime Minister Helen Clark said on Friday. Clark made the remark following a meeting with Australian opposition leader Mark Latham in Auckland, during which the two Labour leaders discussed the issue of Iraq briefly, according to reports.

New Zealand has a small team of about 60 army engineers in Iraq repairing buildings and infrastructure, and has given humanitarian aid to Iraq. Latham and Australian Prime Minister John Howard had been at loggerheads during the week over Latham's promise that an Australian Labour Government would bring Australian troops home by Christmas. Clark said that setting a timetable to bring troops home depended on what job they had been sent to Iraq to do. "In the case of New Zealand, with the commitments we have made to the international effort against terrorism and

the reconstruction of Iraq, we have tended to take a tranche of decisions which have a time period on them."

Latham said that the New Zealand decision not to send combat troops to Iraq was in line with the Australian Labour Party policy. "If Labour had been in government in Australia we wouldn't have had troops in Iraq in the first place," he said. Clark said that she and Latham had discussed a range of issues in the meeting, including building the relationship between the two countries and a regular exchange of back bench MPs.—*Internet*



Iraqi protesters evacuate an injured man during clashes outside a police station in Basra, on 1 April.—INTERNET

Mideast, Asia's diamond trade rose 15% in 2003

ABU DHABI, 2 April — The diamond trade in the Middle East and Asia recorded 15 per cent growth in 2003, double the world average, the local newspaper *Khaleej Times* reported Thursday.

Fuelled by demand, the diamond trade in the Middle East and Asia recorded 15 per cent growth in 2003 from the previous year, this growth in diamond trade exceeded the world gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the fourth time in recent history, Rory More O'Ferrall, director of public and corporate affairs, De Beers Group, was quoted as saying by the paper.

Asia and the Arab region, including Iran and Turkey, remained a major growth region for diamonds in 2003, India recorded a 22-per-cent growth, while Turkey recorded 18-per-cent growth. The Gulf states registered a 7-per-cent growth in the diamond trade in the same year.

The US, which represents over 50 per cent of the global diamond trade, recorded only 6.7-per-cent growth in 2003.

Demand for diamonds in 2004 will continue to rise. The production of rough diamonds will remain the same as in 2003, about 10 billion US dollars. The price of

rough diamonds has increased in the recent past, and is likely to increase further in the absence of new discoveries, according to De Beers' Group forecast.

India continues to remain a major importer and processor of rough diamonds and a major hub for processing of polished diamonds.

The figures released by De Beers Group showed that among the top miners of the world's 10 billion US dollars diamond mining industry, Africa represents about 45 per cent.

Botswana mines about two billion US dollars worth of rough diamonds, followed by Russia, producing 1.5 billion US dollars, Canada one billion US dollars and South Africa 900 million US dollars.

De Beers controls about half of the global diamond trade, Canada is currently being seen as a strong diamond manufacturing country, where miners have already invested in new fields.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Ford goes ballistic with new Lincoln Town Car

DETROIT, 3 April — Ford Motor Co calls it the right vehicle for the wrong place. This month, as it moves to capitalize on surging demand for armoured protection since the September 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington, Ford will begin offering a "Ballistic Protection Series" version of its Lincoln Town Car.

From the outside it looks deceptively like other Town Cars, the ubiquitous vehicle of choice in the US livery business.

But with a price tag starting at 144,995 US dollars, it is about 100,000 US dollars more expensive and features a reinforced body that can withstand rounds from high-powered or high-velocity assault rifles and submachine guns.

It is "an elegant answer to a hostile world", according to a brochure from

Ford's luxury Lincoln division. "A barrier against bigger, faster bullets," adds the brochure.

Richard Bondy, a former Secret Service agent who works for Ford, described the rolling fortress to reporters as "a car that has a substantially higher ballistic level" than any other automaker has offered commercially in the United States.

Initially, Ford says it only plans to sell about 300 a year. But Bondy said worldwide sales of armoured cars have

grown about 20 per cent annually over the past few years, to about 20,000 vehicles. And he and others at Ford clearly see potential beyond 300 sales a year.

At first the car will only be offered in the United States, according to its marketing manager, John Anderson. But he said it would soon be introduced in parts of the Middle East, followed by Mexico, Europe, Asia and elsewhere in Latin America.

MNA/Reuters



Three policemen, two US soldiers killed in separate incidents across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 2 April—Six Iraqis, including three policemen, and two US soldiers were killed in various incidents across the occupied country.

The policemen were killed when their patrol came under

attack on Thursday night in a Baquba suburb, north of Baghdad.

The other three Iraqis were killed on Friday in the town of al-Riyad near Kirkuk when an armed fighter tried to break into the governorate main building, the Kirkuk police chief said.

The two US soldiers were killed in separate attacks.

One soldier was killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad on Friday morning and another, a marine, died in an attack west of the capital on Thursday. Also on Friday, a US convoy was hit by a blast on a highway north of Falluja.

A correspondent said occupation troops quickly cordoned the area and launched a hunt for those behind the attack.

Internet

US agrees to seek new UN resolution on Iraq

BERLIN, 2 April — The United States said for the first time on Thursday it expects a new UN resolution over Iraq before a sovereignty handover in response to Western allies' pressure for Washington to seek a UN mandate.

Countries such as France and Spain have said they did not want to be involved in Iraq after the July 1 handover without a new UN resolution underpinning the international community's presence there.

The United States had previously said only it was willing to consider the possibility of a new resolution. But on Thursday Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States now expected the measure to be passed before it formally transfers power to an Iraqi Government.

"I think there will be a new resolution as we move closer to the first of July," the top US diplomat said in an interview with ZDF German Television.

Despite agreeing to return to the United Nations, the United States has not said how much authority it would allow the world body in any new resolution.

Powell noted Spain had pressured Washington to allow the United Nations a "political role" or it would withdraw its troops from Iraq.

"Let's see what kind of UN resolution may be emerging over the next several months," Powell said.

The United States invaded Iraq last year without

UN approval and against the objections of many countries opposed to America's first war based on a doctrine of preemption.

After 1 July, the United States will still have well over 100,000 troops in Iraq.

Critics of the US policy worry that Washington will effectively remain an occupying power even if it hammers out a deal over a new UN resolution that gives the sovereignty handover a legal stamp of approval.

MNA/Reuters

Indian Coast Guard rescue crew members of two ships

NEW DELHI, 3 April — The Indian Coast Guard rescued 17 crew members of two ships that sank in Indian waters, officials said here on Thursday.

Coast Guard received a message Wednesday from the maritime coordination centre in Malaysia regarding the sinking of Malaysian vessel *TB Mayan Sari* in the seas 80 kilometres east of Nancowry Island in the Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Coast Guard ship *Gangadevi*, which was patrolling India's exclusive economic zone, and a *Dornier* aircraft from Port Blair later spotted the 11 crew members of the Malaysian ship in a raft and rescued them, the *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted a Defence Ministry spokesman as saying.

The crew members, all Indonesian nationals, were provided first aid and handed over to authorities at Cambell Bay in the Nicobar Islands. In another incident, the Coast Guard maritime sub-centre at New Mangalore received information about the sinking of a vessel named *Safina-ul-Bhadria* about 25 kilometres southwest of New Mangalore at about noon on Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier stands close to an oil tanker that was hit by a roadside bomb in northwest Baghdad on 1 April.—INTERNET

Thingyan — for all to rejoice at

T. Htut



Thingyan revellers shrieking joyfully under the shower of water hoses of young girls. —NLM

As Thingyan Festival is getting close, the young and the old are anticipating to celebrate the Thingyan Festival with full enthusiasm. In the middle of this month, the year 1366 Myanmar Era will usher in. The Thingyan Akyo day is the 12th April 2004 and it will be followed by four days of waterfest culminating in New Year Day 1366. Every year, the Myanmar New Year falls in mid-April and the four or five days before the New Year are the days of boisterous merry-making.

The most significant feature of Thingyan is water throwing festival. The summer sun's scorching rays which send the mercury rising to its peak is conveniently remedied by lavishing of water thrown on one and all. April is in mid summer in our country and the scorching sun beats down mercilessly. The heat shimmers off the ground. Even the breeze blows hot on the skin. The Thingyan Festival features water, water, water everywhere. Traditionally, people douse or splash water on one another as a gesture wishing coolness, healthiness and prosperity in the New Year.

Today, it is customary for the youngsters to throw water to passers-by in the streets. In Thingyan the summer heat is at its peak, and the revellers find it all the more enjoyable. Doused or drenched, they go from pandal to pandal having all the fun they can enjoy.

Thingyan reflects not only fun but frolic. Among the all fun-makings and pleasure-seekings, some gain merits through manicuring, shampooing and bathing of the aged. Some gain merits by freeing fish into ponds and lakes and releasing cattle at sanctuaries or monasteries. While the young revellers enjoy themselves, the elderly people retire to monasteries to keep sabbath and indulge in meritorious

deeds. Mostly at Thingyan time, the novitiation and ordination ceremonies are everywhere. Some are with much pomp and splendour. The prospective young monks and novices are dressed in princely attires and paraded around town in cars. In rural scene, they are paraded around on horses or elephants.

The festive flower for Thingyan is padauk (*Pterocarpus macrocarpus*). The mild fragrance of Padauk and revelry are characteristic of Thingyan.

Thingyan is also famous for its cuisine and foods which are served free of charge. Thingyan rice, Moatlon Yaypaw and Shweyinaye can be seen everywhere in Thingyan days. Thingyan rice, a festive dish is a simple one, prepared without much fuss in the house. Of course, during Thingyan all the attention is on the revelry and there is no reason to spend too much time in the kitchen. It is a simple mixture of cooked rice, water infused with the



Little girls entertain the public with dance. —NLM

ordour of burnt wax, and pounded dried fish. Thingyan food, Shweyinaye includes cooked glutinous rice, bread, agar-jelly, sweetened coconut milk with pieces of ice. It is quite a savoury snack. Moatlon Yaypaw or floating dough-ball is made of cooked glutinous rice and jaggery.

It is noted that among the twelve traditional seasonable festivals of Myanmar, Thingyan is the merriest one.

Happy Thingyan
Merit-making Thingyan

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော် စည်ပင်သာယာ နယ်နိမိတ်အတွင်း ဓရီသည့်တင်ယာဉ်(ကတ်စံကာ)များအား ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်ခဲ့သဖြင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှု၊ ယာဉ်တိမ်းမှောက်မှုများ လျော့နည်းကျဆင်းသွားသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ယခုအခါတွင် ဌာနဆိုင်ရာ ယာဉ်များနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်အဖွဲ့အစည်းများမှလည်း ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ လျော့နည်းကျဆင်းလာသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ကိုယ်ပိုင်ယာဉ်များမှာမူ ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ လျော့နည်းကျဆင်း လာမှု မရှိသေးကြောင်း တွေ့ရှိရပါသဖြင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှု မဖြစ်အောင် ထိန်းသိမ်းမောင်းနှင်ကြရန်နှင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုဖြစ်ပွားပါက ပြစ်ဒဏ် သတ်မှတ်ချက်များအား မည်သည့်နည်းနှင့်မျှ ကင်းလွတ်ခွင့်ပြုမည် မဟုတ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

သတိပြုရန်

- (၁) မြန်မာရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု မဟာသင်္ကြန်ကာလအတွင်း ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများလိုက်နာရန်
- (က) မူးယစ်သောက်စား၍ယာဉ်မမောင်းရ။
- (ခ) အပျော်လွန်ကျူး စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ ပြိုင်/လှမောင်းရ။
- (ဂ) ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်၊ ဖော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ်များတွင် အိတ်စောပိုက်မြှတ်မမောင်းရ။
- (ဃ) ယာဉ်နံပါတ်ပြားမပါရှိဘဲမမောင်းရ။
- (င) ယာဉ်နံပါတ်အတုများ၊ အခြားယာဉ်နံပါတ်များတင်၍မပြုရ။
- (စ) ယာဉ်၏ဘေးတစ်ပါးများ၊ နောက်ဖုများဖြတ်၍ မမောင်းရ။
- (ဆ) ယာဉ်မောင်းလိုင်စင်၊ ယာဉ်မှတ်ပုံတင်မပါဘဲ မမောင်းရ။
- (ဇ) ဖျက်သိမ်းယာဉ်အို/ဟောင်းများ၊ ပြုပြင်ဆင်ယာဉ်များ မမောင်းရ။
- (ဈ) နိုင်ငံတကာအလံများ ယာဉ်တွင်တပ်ဆင်၍ မမောင်းရ။
- (ည) ဟွန်းသံကင်းမဲ့ရန်အတွင်း ဟွန်းလုံးဝမတီးရ။
- ၂။ ကျူးလွန်ပါက တည်ဆဲဒဏ်ခံရ ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူမည်။
- ၃။ “သင်ကြောင့် မြန်မာရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု မဟာသင်္ကြန်ကို အကျဉ်းတန့် မညှစ်နှိမ်ပါစေနဲ့”

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

သတိ

- (၁) လေပေါင်(၁၀၀)မှ(၁၅၀)အထိ အတင်အချမြှင့်လှူ၍ ရသည့် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များဖြင့် ရေပတ်ကစားခြင်းကြောင့်ရေစူးအား ပြင်းလွန်၍ရေပတ်ခရသုတွင် အသားအရေများပွန်းပဲ့စုတ်ထွက် နိုင်ခြင်း၊ ဖျက်စီးခြင်းများအားထိုးမိပါက ဖျက်လုံး၊ နားကန့်၊ နိုင်ခြင်း၊ အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေနိုင်ပါသဖြင့် ရေကစားမဏ္ဍာပ်များ၊ ရေပတ်ခံကားများတွင် ကွန်ပရက်ဆာပန်များသုံး၍ရေမပတ်ရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။
- (၂) သင်္ကြန်ရေပတ်ကစားခြင်းအားသင်္ကြန်ရက်များအတွင်းနေ့စဉ် နံနက်(၇)နာရီမှညနေ(၆)နာရီအတွင်းသာ ရေပတ်ကစား ကြရန်နှင့် ည(၆)နာရီနောက်ပိုင်းရေပတ်ကစားခြင်းမပြုရန် တားမြစ်ပါသည်။
- (၃) တားမြစ်ချက်အားဖောက်ဖျက်ပါက ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူ ခံရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

မြန်မာယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်္ကြန်

- * အမျိုးသားယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ။
- * သရုပ်ဖော်ယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- * အမျိုးဂုဏ်ဇာတိဂုဏ်ကို မြန်မာယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်္ကြန်ဖြင့် မြှင့်တင်ပါ။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

ရေခဲထုပ်၊ ရေပူဖောင်း၊ ဆပ်ပြာရည်ဂတ်စံဘွဲ့မြင့်ကစားက

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

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

မြန်မာရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု မဟာသင်္ကြန်ဆင်နွှဲသူများ လိုက်နာရန် တိုက်တွန်းနှိုးဆော်ချက်

- (က) မြန်မာရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုဓလေ့စရိုက်နှင့်ဖီလာဆန်ကျင့်ပြီး မြန်မာလူမျိုးများ၏ အမြင်တွင် မတင်တယ်သည့် ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်မှု ပြုမပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်၊
- (ခ) ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအဆုံးအမနှင့် ဖီလာဆန်ကျင့်သည့် အပြုအမူ၊ ပြောဆိုမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်၊
- (ဂ) အချင်းချင်းဒဏ်ရာအနာတရဖြစ်စေပြီး အန္တရာယ်ဖြစ်စေသည့် ကြမ်းတမ်းသည့် ရေကစားမှုများ မပြုလုပ်ရန်၊
- (ဃ) တိုင်းရင်းသားစည်းလုံးညီညွတ်မှုကို ဖျက်ပြားစေပြီး ဆူပူမှုကို ဖြစ်စေနိုင်သည့် လူ့ဆော်ဖန်တီးပြုမပြောဆို၊ ကြိုးပမ်းမှုများကို မပြုလုပ်ရန်။

မဟာသင်္ကြန်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ



Pyinsarupa decorated float entertains audience in Thingyan Akyo evening. — NLM

UMFCCI effectively safeguarding...

(from page 1)

In accord with one of the UMFCCI's objectives—serving as a bridge between the State and entrepreneurs, the association is taking steps to enable the entrepreneurs to abide by trade policies of the State and rules and regulations and to ensure better trade and economy.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech. He said that the government is making all-out efforts for development of economy of the private sector, adding that at such a time, progress has been made in economy of the sector. All private entrepreneurs have emerged as a national economic force under the flag of UMFCCI and it is the fruitful result of concerted efforts of the Government and the private sector.

It is encouraging to note that private businesses and economic organizations in the fields of finance, economy, trade, production, services and business management that are the prerequisite for the national economy have been in oneness with the UMFCCI and are making strenuous efforts for realization of the objectives of the federation.

At a time when entrepreneurs from various fields are meeting, the clarification of the economic policies of the State and efforts of the government for development of the national economy will contribute much to efforts of the entrepreneurs.

He said based on the participation of the entire people, the government is now making endeavours for prosperity of the nation and its people through the correct efforts with the aim of the making the Union stand tall among nations of the world as an independent and sovereign state.

In order to realize the aim, it is very important to build national forces in all-round sectors including unity of the national people, strengthening of national economy based on national economic enterprises and development of highly-qualified human resources that can bring about development of the nation from the present to the future, he said.

He said some big nations with superiority in wealth and technological power employing discrimination practices are trying to wield influence over developing nations. It is very important to build strong national economic life at a time when they are also attempting to widen and deepen the existing poverty and widen technological gaps among the world's nations.

Every nation of the world is making efforts competitively for emergence of strong national economic life due to the increase of economic monopoly in international community. Even some wealthy nations are taking measures widely for protectionism and control in international economic and trade fields.

It is necessary for all national people to make concerted efforts for development of firm economic foundations while the Union of Myanmar on self-reliance basis is building a nation free from influence of others. It is found that the nation is trying to promote economic cooperation that is useful to friendly nations. The government assumes that only when the private economic sector develops will the nation able to build strong national economic life. The government is giving encouragement to the fact that the initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State-run economic organizations and national private economic enterprises. It is encouraging to note that due to the encouragement of the government, agriculture and livestock breeding enterprises, modern industries, economic centres of international standard, modern department stores and housing projects, infrastructures on transport sectors such as international airports, seaports and major roads and successful economic enterprises of private sectors such as monetary and financial institutions, trade, hotels and tourism and services of international standard have improved all sectors.

Successful national economic enterprises were grouped as united economic forces and economic associations on agriculture, livestock breeding, industry, trade, construction, hotels and tourism and monetary and finance were also firmly set up. He said all the economic associations were formed as the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the major national economic force. Now the UMFCCI representing the major national economic force of the private sector is effectively safeguarding the national interest while cooperating with international economic organizations at the same level.

Now the government is promoting economic cooperation and trade with nations of the world and international and regional organizations. As a national level organization, the UMFCCI that represents private sector in Myanmar is communicating with international communities.

Being a member of the ASEAN, the Union of Myanmar



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views products of companies displayed at National Theatre.— MNA

is promoting economic cooperation with ASEAN member countries for realization of ASEAN economic vision. Preparations are being made in the country for economic adjustments and reforms in accord with the ASEAN economic vision.

He said the Union of Myanmar is launching projects on reduction of tariff and investment opportunities in ASEAN countries for realization of ASEAN Vision 2020 laid down at the ASEAN Informal Summit Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1997 and ASEAN Free Trade Area—AFTA and ASEAN Investment Area—AIA in the Hanoi Plan of Action laid down at the Sixth ASEAN Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam in 1998.

Arrangements have been made to build ASEAN region based on three major pillars—security community, economic community and social and cultural community in the Bali Concord II laid down at the Ninth ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia in 2003, he added.

The second pillar of ASEAN economic community is to ensure smooth flow of commodities, services and investments freely among the ASEAN nations. It is expected to turn the ASEAN region into a sole market and production area, he said. According to the arrangements, rates of tariff are to be reduced from 5 per cent to 0 per cent in the ASEAN market. The commodities will flow among the nations freely. It is necessary for Myanmar to make preparations for commodities to be competitive in both quality and price. It is required for the national investors to be able to compete with their counterparts of ASEAN nations as they will have equal rights. At the same time, Myanmar will be able to enjoy good opportunity through fair competitions among ASEAN nations and mutual cooperation and investment will emerge as a result, thereby contributing to development of national economy.

Moreover, Myanmar has been able to lay down a strategy for economic cooperation at the meeting of four nations—Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand held in Bagan in 2003. Under the strategy, the four nations will cooperate in trade and investment sector, agricultural sector, industrial sector, transport sector, tourism sector and human resource development sector in accord with of the objectives of boosting capability in border areas of the four nations and further development, of ensuring smoother movement of agriculture and production to the areas where there are golden opportunities, of creating job opportunities and of narrowing the income gap among the four nations. Arrangements have been made for successful realization of the objectives.

In addition, the government is making efforts for further strengthening cooperation among ASEAN+3, ASEAN+India, BIMST-EC nations, nations in Greater Mekong Sub-region and nations of Joint Economic Quadrangle Committee. At the same time, leaders of India, the People's Republic of China, Laos, Thailand and Bangladesh have exchanged visits and economic cooperation among those nations is meeting with success.

As the State has been promoting economic cooperation with its neighbours, regional countries as well as world nations for ensuring strong national economy, the UMFCCI has obtained an opportunity to deal with international and local organizations. And there has also been improved relations, cooperation and dealing among private organizations and companies. Now, representatives of the UMFCCI are taking responsibilities as chairman and general secretary of the ASEAN-CCI and chairman of the GMS Business Forum. Besides, the UMFCCI has played a role in the International Chamber of Commerce, so it has expanded

the scope of regional trade sector.

While dealing with international organizations in the interest of the nation and Myanmar private industries, the UMFCCI is to take measures for making constant progress under national economic policies as well as the economic tactics and tasks laid down by regional organizations including ASEAN and BIMST-EC and bilateral agreements.

It is heartening to see that the UMFCCI is conducting advanced courses, seminars and trade fairs in the nation and abroad in cooperation with international businessmen and organizations aiming at helping its members gain knowledge of international businesses and experiences.

At the same time, measures are to be taken for widely applying information and communication technologies and elevating and polishing the private economic sector in harmony with e-Commerce, e-Procurement, e-Government systems. At a time when the government is providing great encouragement for progress of national entrepreneurs, the UMFCCI, on its part, is to continue to organize national entrepreneurs to be equipped with the concept that their economic development contributes towards the economic development of the nation in order to promote the interest of the private sector.

The Prime Minister called on national entrepreneurs and members of economic organizations to take part in the tasks for laying good economic foundations and creating firm and stable economic situations under the leadership of the UMFCCI in accordance with national policies, rules and regulations and trade ethics in the interest of the nation and the people. In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the UMFCCI members to make efforts for effectively contributing towards national development and national economic life and raising living standard of the people through the trade sector; to strive collectively for elevating the national economic life to enable the Union of Myanmar to catch up with the world nations and to create itself opportunities for national interest; to cooperate further with international economic organizations for ensuring stable economic situations; and to make endeavours with patriotism for greater development of the nation with strong economy in their interest as well as in the interests of the nation and the people. The Prime Minister also urged associations under the UMFCCI to take part in the tasks for successful reconvening of the forthcoming National Convention by doing their bit.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party viewed light trucks produced by Thakayta Industrial Zone, automobile parts made up of fibre glass produced by Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone, Shwethaya wagons, SSS super carrier produced by Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zone.

Before the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party inspected traditional medicines, fluorescent lamps, bulbs, clothes, powder, shampoo, plastic raw materials, finished goods, bags, traditional costumes, refrigerators, exercise books, bicycle tyres and tubes, foodstuff, alarm equipment, voltage regulators, antennas, groundnut oil, and Myanmar traditional handicraft made of gold, silver and bronze produced by the UMFCCI. Next, the meeting continued. The UMFCCI President U Win Myint chaired the meeting and delivered a speech on the occasion.

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone also gave an address. UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing presented annual report and financial statement for approval.

UMFCCI president and the secretary general replied to the queries raised by those present. The chairman delivered closing remarks. — MNA



State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the chosen site for Paunglaung (modulating) dam construction project. (News on page 16) MNA

Sanitation tasks carried out in Yangon City

YANGON, 3 April—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor

Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected sanitation tasks in Yangon City municipal area this morning.

The commander and the mayor saw over sanitation tasks and dredging of drains for proper flow of

water being carried out by Tatmadawmen, service personnel and local people in townships of four districts in Yangon City. After inspecting the tasks, they gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Agricultural works inspected

YANGON, 3 April — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe this afternoon inspected agricultural measures and regional development works in Mingladon and Hlegu townships and gave necessary instructions to officials.

At Yetalabaung village-tract in Hlegu township, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected digging of Maunggyi canal for irrigating water from Balar canal to 9914 acres of farmland in Balar village-tract and Hsinphon village-tract. The commander gave necessary instructions.

The commander and party next looked into harvesting of paddy in farmer U

Pe Hlaing's farm in Yetalabaung village and Manawthukha paddy varieties and Cetana paddy varieties displayed as samples.

The commander explained to the farmers that for all-year-round greening of 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport Ngamoeyik support dam, Paungluang dam and Mahuya dam have been constructed to cultivate paddy, oil crops and other crops and vegetables. Afterwards, the local farmers reported on their requirements in the education, health and transport sectors. The commander then fulfilled the needs. This year a total of 211,759 acres of land have been put under summer paddy in Yangon Division, and 46,000 acres have been harvested. The com-

mander and party later inspected display of Leya-16 power tillers and other farm equipment that are to be sold to the farmers and gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA



The commander and the mayor inspect sanitation works in Pabedan Township.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects harvesting of paddy in Yetalabaung village in Hlegu Township. MNA



Minister U Win Aung being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs arrives back from ROK

YANGON, 3 April— Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and party arrived back here by air this evening after attending the Eighth Special Meeting of UN Environmental Conservation Programme Management Committee/ World Environmental Ministers Forum in the Republic of Korea, from 27 to 31 March.

The minister and party were welcomed back at the airport by Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department and officials, Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Kyung-Woo and embassy officials.

Director-General U Thauung Tun of Political Department also arrived back on the same flight.— MNA

ASEAN Information Seminar Series held in Mandalay

YANGON, 3 April — ASEAN Information Seminar Series (Fy 2003-2004) Understanding ASEAN was held at Mandalay Swam Hotel in Mandalay, attended by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein.

Present also of at the seminar were Mandalay City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Central Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win, Deputy Chief Justice (Upper Myanmar) U Khin Maung Latt, Deputy Attorney-General U Han Shein, ASEAN Affairs Department Director-General U Aung Bwa, Mandalay Division PDC Secretary Lt-Col Kyi Thein and military officers, police officers, departmental heads, those of NGOs, teachers and students, business entrepreneurs and guests.

First, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein addressed the opening ceremony.

At the seminar, DG U Aung Bwa submitted paper on Overview on ASEAN; ASEAN Affairs Department Director U Tint Swe paper on Political and Security Cooperation, Prof of International Relations Department of Yangon University Dr Daw Myint Kyi paper on ASEAN Functional Cooperation; MRTV Director General U Khin Maung Htay paper on ASEAN COCI and Information Sector; Director of Department of Cultural Institute Daw Nanda Hmon paper on Culture Sector; and Joint-Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Police Col Kham Aung paper on Narcotic Drugs Control and Transnational Crimes. Next, officials answered the queries raised by those present. — MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein delivers an address at the opening of Understanding ASEAN Seminar. MNA

Indonesia's export down, import up in February

JAKARTA, 3 April — Indonesia's export in February reached 4.90 billion US dollars or 2.64 per cent lower than the previous month, the Central Bureau of Statistic (BPS) said here Thursday.

The figure in February was 0.42 per cent lower than the same month last year, head of the BPS Soedarti Surbakti said. She said that the cumulative export by February 2004 had reached to 9.94 billion US dollars, or 0.42 per cent lower than the same period last year.

Surbakti said that the decrease of export in February compared to January was caused by the decrease of non-oil and gas export by 1.93 per cent to 3.76 billion US dollars.

She said that the United States was the main destination of Indonesia's non-oil and gas product export in February, followed by Japan and Singapore.

At the same time, Indonesia's import in February was up to 2.89 billion US dollars or 5.36 per cent higher than in the previous month, she said.

Surbakti said that the increase of the country's import in February was driven by the rise of import of non-oil and gas product to 2.12 billion US dollars or 3.33 per cent higher from the figure in January. — MNA/Xinhua

Australian Air Force to upgrade fighters, patrol planes

CANBERRA, 3 April — The Royal Australian Air Force will upgrade its F/A-18 *Hornet* fighter aircraft so that they will better protect themselves, Defence Minister Robert Hill announced Thursday.

The *Hornet* fleet will be equipped with state-of-the-art electronic warfare self projection systems in order to defend themselves against the most modern missiles.

The *Hornet's* radar warning receivers will be replaced and chaff and flare dispensers and associated equipment augmented, he said in a statement.

The project will cost 300 million Australian dollars (225 million US dollars) and the upgrade will be completed in the first squadron by 2007 and the whole fleet by 2009, he said.

The minister also said the Air Force's AP-30 *Orion*

maritime patrol aircraft fleet will be equipped with an enhanced capability to detect, identify and gain intelligence on targets of interest in the maritime and littoral environments.

Hill said the US company FLLIR Systems Inc has won a 10-million-dollar (7.5 million US dollars) contract to provide 10 new electro-optical Star SAFIRE III surveillance systems for the *Orions*.

All Star SAFIRE III systems are expected to be in service by early 2005, according to the defence minister.

MNA/Xinhua

Australia's migrant intake to increase by 6,000 next year

CANBERRA, 3 April — Australia will increase its migrant intake by another 6,000 next year, boosting the skilled migrant intake to 120,000 a year, Australian Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone announced on Thursday.

This is the second time the Australian Government increases skilled migrant intake in two weeks, following last week's announcement of an increase of 1,000. Vanstone has promised more would come.

Under the new announcement, an extra 5,000 skilled migrants visas will be granted, provided those people live and work in regional areas.

A special visa has been created for people who are unable to meet the new pass mark but met the old standard, provided they commit to living in regional or rural areas.

"This will be a tremendous help to the states and territories in order to match migrants to skills shortages and economic needs in their areas," Vanstone said. "States who want skilled migrants will have the opportunity to sponsor them," she said.

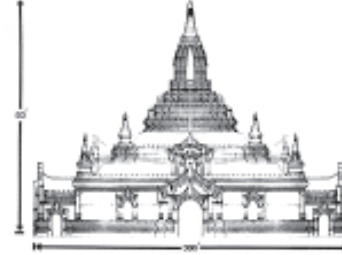
It was estimated that the migration programme would contribute more than four billion dollars (about three billion US dollars) to the federal budget over the next four years, according to the minister.

MNA/Xinhua

တကောင်းမြို့ ရှေးဟောင်း လေးမျက်နှာတူရာကြီး ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင် တည်ဆောက်ရာတွင် ကုသိုလ်ယူ ဝါဝင်လှူဒါန်းနိုင်



အေဒီ (၁၁)ရာစု အခန်းကဏ္ဍကောင်းမြို့ဟောင်းမြို့စာတမ်းများမှ အခြေခံ၍ ပြန်လည်တည်ဆောက်ခြင်းဖြစ်ပြီး ရာသီဥတုဒဏ်တို့ကြောင့် ပြိုကျနေသော ရှေးဟောင်းမြို့စာတမ်းများကို အသစ်အပြောင် ပြန်လည်တည်ဆောက်ခြင်းဖြစ်ပြီး တည်ဆောက်မှုအတွက် ကုသိုလ်ယူ ဝါဝင်လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။



အုတ်တစ်ချပ် (၁၂ x ၉ x ၃) - ၄၆/-
တိလင်းမြေတစ်ခဲတစ် - ၄၀၆/-
သဲတစ်ကျပ် - ၆၀၆/-
မြစ်ကျောက် (အခင်း) တစ်ကျပ် - ၂၀၀၆/-
သိုး (တစ်ခဲတစ်) - ၁၀၀၆/-
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ယဉ်ကျေးမှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန (ဝန်ကြီးရုံး)

ရှေးဟောင်းသုတေသနဦးစီးဌာန (ရုံးချုပ်)

ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအမွေအနှစ်စောင့်ရှောက်မှုနှင့် မန္တလေး

တကောင်းမြို့ ရှေးဟောင်းလေးမျက်နှာတူရာကြီး

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Indonesia's foreign tourist arrivals increase in February

JAKARTA, 3 April — The number of foreign tourists visiting Indonesia in February 2004 reached 321,600 or 10.98 per cent higher compared to the same month in 2003, although visa on arrival was implemented, said the Central Bureau of Statistic (BPS) here on Thursday.

The cumulative of the foreign tourists coming into Indonesia by February this year reached 679,000 or 19.47 per cent higher from the same period last year.

But, the figure was 10.27 per cent lower than the previous month, the Head of the BPS Soedarti Surbakti said.

She said that the decrease of figure was caused by the seasonality of foreign holidays.

The outbreak of the dengue fever and

the bird flu in Indonesia several months ago did not affect the arrivals.

The number of foreign tourists to the beautiful resort of Bali Island in February decreased to 89,300 or lower by 18.52 per cent from January, 2004, she said.

Surbakti said that the spread of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the terrorist attack in Bali Island in October, 2002, had decreased the figure of foreign tourists. — MNA/Xinhua

Online Philippine firms directory launched

MANILA, 3 April — A web site serving as a virtual Yellow Pages directory has been launched in the central Philippine city of Cebu.

The web site aims to give every business in the country an equal chance to compete domestically and globally by giving it an Internet presence, the *Philippines News Agency* reported Friday.

Philippine Directories

Online (Phildir) which can be accessed through www.philippinedirectories.com, www.directoryphilippines.com or www.phildir.com, contains "a listing of registered enterprises, organizations and professionals in the Philippines from all sectors,"

the report said.

Philippine Directories Online General Manager Romulo Villamin said during its launch last week that "all provinces are covered, down to the town level."

At present, almost 3,000 companies and individuals are already listed, the report said. There is a free listing as well as paid listing, where the subscriber gets added services like a free email address, online advertisement, and links to web site or email addresses.

The site also contains information on the provinces of the country for tourists and people who want to do business in the Philippines.

Philippine trade and department officials said the Internet presence would be good for small and medium enterprises and boost the economic potentials of the provinces and cities.

MNA/Xinhua

French Govt combats scepticism with growth pledge

PARIS, 3 April — New French Finance Minister Nicolas Sarkozy promised on Thursday to boost economic growth and create jobs in a bid to woo disgruntled voters at the risk of abandoning European Union deficit reduction targets.

Opposition leaders and media accused French President Jacques Chirac of keeping too many familiar faces in top Cabinet jobs in a shuffle that has been greeted with a chorus of disapproval from pundits

predicting the latest conservative government will be ineffective and short-lived.

"Here they are again!" *Le Parisien* newspaper said. Catholic daily *La Croix* called it "musical chairs." All eyes are now on Sarkozy, who will take charge of a vast finance, economy and industry "super ministry" at a time when Chirac's Government is trying to make difficult reforms while recovering from a heavy defeat at regional elections last month. — MNA/Reuters

Capsized boat in Indonesia's Papua kills 13

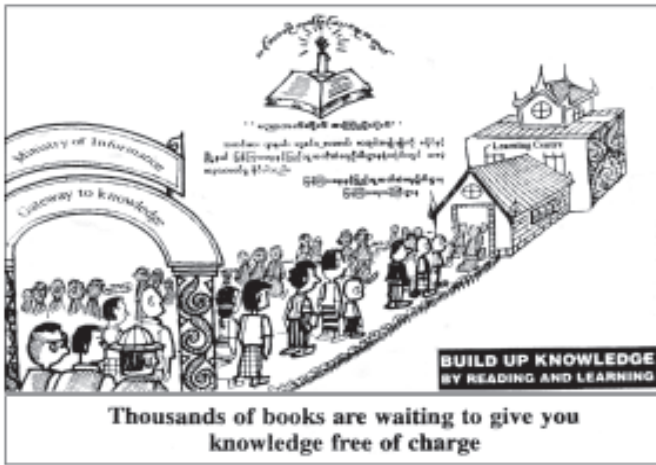
JAKARTA, 3 April — At least 13 people died and one is still missing after a motorboat Wednesday overturned in a remote area of Indonesia's Papua Province, state news agency Antara reported Friday. The ill-fated boat, with 30

passengers aboard, reportedly left a mangrove forest area in Urfasei, Waropen regency, west of Jayapura, for an undisclosed destination in the same regency when the boat capsized. One of the survivors, Lukas Nubun, said

strong waves hit the overloaded boat when crossing the mouth of the Raywoto River. He also noted that most of the passengers had been drinking copious quantities of beer, which may have impeded their ability to escape. — MNA/Xinhua



WOMEN SOCCER HELD: Mon State best Mandalay Division 3-1 in first semifinal match of Ninth ISD Women's Soccer Tournament for 2004. Two players of Mon State and one of Mandalay tase the ball in the semifinal at Aung San Stadium on Saturday. — NLM



ADVERTISEMENT

Asian sandstorms intensifying

SOGWIPPO (South Korea), 2 April— Dust and sandstorms have plagued Northeast Asia for centuries but are getting worse in modern times, environment officials said on Wednesday.

Storms affect the region nearly five times as frequently as they did five decades ago, but strategies remain elusive, delegates from 158 countries were told on the final day of a United Nations Environment Programme conference.

"They are man-made and nature-influenced disaster," the executive director of the UN Environment Programme, Klaus Toepfer, told a forum on Wednesday.

"In the past 40 years, there has been a huge increase in the occurrence of the event, not only the number but the intensity has increased," he said. South Korean officials have warned that the sand and dust in the storm capture and carry pollutants including heavy minerals that present dangers to human health.

Dust and sandstorms originate in the dry regions of northern China and Mongolia and blow across the Korean Peninsula and Japan, causing respiratory ailments and disrupting transportation and industry.

"A mixture of natural and human elements, weather conditions and in particular desertification creates a complicated situation that makes effective response very difficult," said South Korean meteorological agency researcher Chun Young-sin in a report.

The South Korean island of Cheju was feeling the effect of the latest dust and sandstorm Wednesday, even after the national weather agency's warning that had been expected to be issued before dawn was withdrawn.

The rest of the country was suffering the first major bout of sand and dust blowing in from the west, called Yellow Sand in South Korea. An advisory was issued Tuesday for most of the mainland as dust particles reached 50 microgrammes per cubic metre.

The storms transcend borders and complicate responses. South Korea, Japan and China have established a system of monitoring and early warning of dust and sandstorms, and the UN Environment Programme is also assisting governments as part of a one million US dollars project funded by the Global Environment Facility and the Asian Development Bank. The history of dust and sandstorms goes back by at least 1,000 years, Chun said, citing a record dated March 1550. — *MNA/Reuters*

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China plans to test new population control policy

BEIJING, 2 April— China plans to test a new population control policy, by paying at least 600 yuan (about 72 US dollars) in extra bonus to rural families who have faithfully followed the One Child policy, said State Councilor Hua Jianmin Thursday.

The central government will select one city from 14 western and central provinces and municipalities for the experiment. While developed areas are encouraged to try the new policy at their own cost, according to Hua.

Hua, who is also secretary-general of the State Council, said at a national conference on the work, that the new policy will help guide villagers to follow the family planning policy. He called for more supervision to ensure fairness, justice and openness in carrying out the new policy. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Sandstorm delays flights, brings challenge to China's air control

BEIJING, 2 April— The serious sandstorm that started March 26 has delayed more than 1,200 flights across the country, according to the latest information from the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC).

The sandstorm, with visibility in some places falling to 100 meters (330 feet), has affected approximately 70 million people in 11 northern and western provinces and autonomous regions.

Beijing Capital Airport, which saw more than 150 delayed flights, was crowded with disgruntled passengers in the past days, many of whom were very

angry about the unexpected disorder.

The serious delay caused many complaints to the air traffic control departments from passengers, who said they should take some preventive measures to reduce the disorder.

The air companies also expressed their complaints about the disorder. "We lose 600 yuan (72.3 US dollars) per minute if the plane have

to wait in the air," said a manager of China's Eastern Airlines. Because most planes have special advanced equipment to take off and land in very low visibility, common bad weather like fog, rain and snow cannot badly disturb the flights. But the sandstorm with its gales can seriously threaten the flight's safety, so the scheduled flights become irregular. — *MNA/Xinhua*

မြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ**Microsoft lobbies hard to reverse EU anti-trust penalties**

WASHINGTON, 2 April — Microsoft Corp is drawing on its extensive financial resources and lobbying clout to try to overturn anti-trust sanctions levied against it by the European Union (EU), and the company is pushing US Government officials for help, the *Washington Post* reported Wednesday.

Microsoft's strategy, the report said, is to build political pressure on European officials to reconsider, using as leverage the prospect that the ruling could damage US-EU trade relations, cause rifts in international anti-trust enforcement and violate world intellectual property treaties.

The company is also warning that future innovation could be threatened if it is required to decouple its software for playing digital music and video from its Windows operating system.

Microsoft's extensive, six million dollars a year Washington lobbying operation kicked into high gear on Capitol Hill last Wednesday when the EU announced its ruling, the paper reported.

Throughout that day, more than 15 senators and House members issued statements criticizing the ruling, warning of economic

harm to the United States and a possible trade war with Europe, it said.

Microsoft General Counsel Bradford L. Smith was quoted as saying that the company will discuss the EU decision with the appropriate US Government officials and explore the most constructive way to raise issues involved in the ruling, including the World Trade Organization.

Microsoft argues the EU is forcing it to give away its intellectual property. In addition to the unbundling requirement, the EU required Microsoft to disclose computer code to allow makers of competing server software to work with Windows on PCs and Microsoft's server systems.

The company also argues that forcing it to create a version of Windows without a media player could damage the value of its Windows trademark, said the paper.

MNA/Xinhua

Computer programme predicts heart attack risk

LONDON, 3 April — A new computer programme can help predict patients' risk of suffering a heart attack or stroke over 10 years, doctors said on Friday.

The HeartScore programme developed by the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) assesses individual risk factors such as high blood pressure, cholesterol levels and smoking and the patient's gender and age to give a personal risk profile.

Unlike printed risk charts which give total risk, the HeartScore programme allows doctors and patients to view changing risk factors. So if a smoker gives up the habit it will be reflected in the programme.

"HeartScore is an excellent tool to help doctors better predict and discuss risk factors with their patients," Professor Jean-Pierre Bassand, president of the ESC, said in a statement.

The programme incorporates data on 210,000 patients from 12 European studies and reflects the lower risk of heart disease in countries such as Spain, Italy and France. National versions of HeartScore could be developed in the future, according to the society.

"Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Europe, and what's worse is that much of it can be prevented or at least delayed by improvements in lifestyle factors," said Bassand.

Doctors can download the programme

free of charge from the ECS web site at www.escardio.org/HeartScore. The ECS comprises 47 national cardiac societies across Europe. — *MNA/Reuters*

China adopts nationwide epidemic reporting computer network

BEIJING, 2 April — Hospitals and disease prevention and control centres nationwide started to report infectious diseases to the central government through a new computer network Thursday.

The computer network, which was put to use on trial basis for three months, covers disease prevention and control centres and hospitals in all counties, according to the government. It replaced the monthly report on epidemic by administrations.

As against an average of five days for the central government to learn of an outbreak after being discovered by a hospital, the computer network shortens reporting to 1.4 days. The 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities throughout China reported infectious diseases on March 31. The top five epidemics were tuberculosis, hepatitis B, dysentery, gonorrhea and hepatitis A. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A man poses in front a wall decorated with portraits of scientists at a science exhibition in Beijing. China may hope to rival the US or Europe a few decades from now, but it remains almost laughably backward in scientific research. — *INTERNET*

မညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဆုံး

Trade fair in N-E China targets industrial base revival

BEIJING, 3 April—About 110,000 domestic and overseas business people will take part in an international trade fair in northeast China this June and organizers say the event will help the country restructure its old industrial base.

The 15th China Harbin Fair for Trade and Economic Cooperation will be held from 15 to 19 June in the capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, organizers announced here at a news conference.

Vice-Minister of Commerce Zhang Zhigang said the trade fair would greatly boost China's strategy to restructure its rust belt industrial base in the region.

China launched the strategy to rejuvenate its traditional industrial centers in the three northeast provinces and other parts of the country in a bid to turn rust belts into modern industrial zones.

The state leaders consider the northeast industrial base revival an important long-term strategy after the reform and opening-up drive began in the late 1970s and the western development policy five years ago.

The northeast region, including Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning provinces contributed China's first batch of steel, machine tools, locomotives and planes after the founding of New China in 1949 but

many of the state-owned enterprises have been losing money over the past 20 years.

Organizers said the fair would establish a Russian exhibition hall and hold a China-Russia forum and meetings for Chinese and Russia traders.

The Harbin trade event will have a "positive influence" on China's global trade, especially our trade and economic cooperation with Russia, other CIS states and Northeast Asian countries, Zhang Zhigang said at the news conference.

Located in northeast China, Heilongjiang is an important base of China's commodity grain, energy, equipment and petrochemical industries with a 3,000 kilometre-plus border with Russia.

Trade Representative of the Russia Federation in China, Sergey Tsylpakov, told *Xinhua* at the news conference that Russia has always attached great importance to its trade with China and both sides met last month in Vladivostok to discuss Russia's participation in the event.—*MNA/Xinhua*

China holds forum on Olympic intellectual property protection

BEIJING, 3 April—A high-level forum was held here on Friday to help China strengthen Olympic intellectual property protection.

On the second anniversary for the implementation of the Olympic Symbols Protection Regulations, the forum was jointly organized by Beijing Olympic Games Organizing Committee (BOCOG) and Beijing Intellectual Property Bureau.

"The forum aims at strengthening Olympics-oriented intellectual property protection," said BOCOG vice-president Wang Wei. "It will improve China's protection system in this field and better regulate the Olympic business environment."

"Therefore, the sponsors' interests will be protected," added Wang.

As more and more companies become BOCOG's partners and sponsors, who are permitted to use Olympic intellectual property for marketing and promotion, the intellectual property protection is thus becoming more important than ever, said Wang.

The forum was attended by dozens of experts from the BOCOG's Law Department, Beijing Bureau of Commerce and Industry, Beijing University and Beijing Intellectual Property Bureau.—*MNA/Xinhua*

S Africa investigates illegal shark fin haul

CAPE TOWN, 2 April—South African environmental authorities sent DNA samples from thousands of shark fins confiscated at Cape Town harbour this week for testing on Thursday as part of an illegal hauling probe.

Marcel Kroese, head of law enforcement at the country's Marine and Coastal Management agency, told *Reuters* that officials wanted to establish whether threatened species of fish were involved.

"First of all we want to see where the investigation is going and what charges will be laid," he said.

Marine officials raided premises on Monday and confiscated more than five tons of dry shark fin.

Sharks have been declining alarmingly across the world as their fins have become prized, particularly in Asia where shark fin soup is a delicacy.

Kroese said virtually all of the sharks thrown back into the sea after their fins were hacked off would have died.—*MNA/Reuters*

Mongolia vows to develop stable partnership with China

ULAN BATOR, 3 April—Mongolian President Nachagyn Bagabandy on Thursday reaffirmed the country's stand to develop long-term and stable partnership with neighbouring China.

Bagabandy made the remarks in an interview with *Xinhua*.

Despite the changes in its leadership, Mongolia has been maintaining a consistent policy to China—to develop good neighbourly and friendly relations with China on the basis of equality and mutually beneficial cooperation, said the president.

The long-term policy has been given priority among Mongolia's foreign policies, and Mongolia would continue to stick to it, he added.

Bagabandy noted the enhanced Mongolian-Chinese cooperation in all fields since the two countries signed the treaty on friendly relations in 1994 and two joint statements in 1998 and 2003.

A mechanism of exchanging high-level visits has been set up between the two countries, promoting all kinds of governmental, non-governmental and civilian exchanges, he added.

Commenting on Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Mongolia in June 2003, Bagabandy said the visit had promoted bilateral ties to partnership of good neighbourliness and mutual trust, which could be embodied by a long-term friendship between two peoples, mutual respect for courses chosen by each side, and mutually beneficial cooperation based on mutual trust.

The president said he believed the two countries would enjoy a more consolidate cooperation foundation, wider cooperation field and more cooperation programmes.

As to bilateral economic cooperation, Bagabandy said China had become Mongolia's biggest investor and trading partner as a result of the expanding economic cooperation between them, while the two still had great potential in their trading activities.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Sharks and fish swim at the Okinawa Chura Aquarium in southern Japan. Fish did not grow legs to colonize the land as previously thought, but to prop themselves up underwater 370 million years ago, according to US scientists who published a study.—*INTERNET*

Chinese donation assists vulnerable people in Somalia

NAIROBI, 2 April—A donation from the Chinese Government to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) programme in Somalia is making a significant contribution to assisting disadvantaged communities and improving the lives of children and women in the African country, the UNICEF said here Thursday.

China donated gift of items, including mosquito nets, blankets and cooking pots to the UNICEF programme in July 2003, is worth about 121,918 US dollars.

During a hand-over ceremony held in Kenya's capital Nairobi on Thursday, Jesper Morch, the UNICEF Somalia representative, paid tribute to the generosity of China in responding to the expressed needs of vulnerable population in Somalia.

"The support that the international community continues to direct in humanitarian relief operations in Somalia is helping to alleviate the circumstances of children and women living in some of the most harsh and desperate conditions in the world," Morch said.

Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Guo Chongli said at the ceremony, "It's our sin-

cere hope that the donated materials can be of help in reducing the Somali people's sufferings."

"As a permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations, China is in full support of work done by the United Nations. The Chinese Government is willing to continue to play its part in promotion of peace in Somalia," Guo added.

The donated items have been distributed within Somalia for use at health centres and when emergency relief measures are being put in place, the Nairobi-based UNICEF Somalia Support Centre said.

MNA/Xinhua

International arrivals in Vietnam rise in first quarter

HANOI, 3 April—Vietnam welcomed 743,478 foreign visitors in the first three months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 4.3 per cent.

In the period, China still ranked the first with 222,638 people, up 27.7 per cent, the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) told *Xinhua* on Thursday.

Visitors from South Korea and Russia also came in greater numbers which grew 34.5 per cent and 21.2 per cent respectively. Vietnam will receive more foreign tourists

this year, VNAT said, explaining that the country has already declared an end to bird flu at the national scale, and that it is focusing on promoting tours to the Dien Bien Phu historic sites in the northern city of Dien Bien, and the upcoming Hue Festival in the central city of Hue in mid-June. The country targets to host 2.7-2.8 million interna-

tional arrivals and reap tourism revenues of 25 trillion Vietnamese dong (1.6 billion US dollars) this year, up 22.7-27.3 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, VNAT said.

Vietnam plans to welcome 3-3.5 million foreign visitors, and gain tourism revenues of more than two billion dollars in 2005, it added.

MNA/Xinhua

UAE to ban smoking in public places

ABU DHABI, 2 April—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will soon start to ban smoking in public places throughout the country, the official WAM news agency reported Wednesday.

In the UAE, the ban has already come into force at many government buildings and is likely to be extended to all other public places, including restaurants, cafes and nightclubs, by the end of 2004, the report said.

Plans to curb smoking include a continuous awareness campaign to highlight the dangers of tobacco.

Three years ago Sharjah banned smoking in public buildings. In 2003, the Health Ministry of UAE banned smoking on national airlines in addition to tightening rules on health warnings on cigarette packets.

Dubai Municipality is finalizing plans on how to impose the ban on smoking in restaurants, shopping malls, enclosed entertainment places such as pool clubs, public transport vehicles and other enclosed public spaces. This will stop passive smoking and children from imitating the action of smoking.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Smith to leave Leeds if relegated from Premier League

LONDON, 2 April—Leeds United striker Alan Smith says he plans to leave the club if they are relegated from the English Premier League.

Leeds are second bottom of the table with eight games of the season left and Smith said on his club's official website on Thursday: "If we go down, then obviously it will be time to move on, for the sake of my England career as well."

Smith, who played for England in their 1-0 friendly defeat in Sweden on Wednesday, was born in nearby Wakefield and is a big crowd favourite at Elland Road.

However, he is also one of the highest earners in their squad. Leeds had debts of around 100 million pounds (183.6 million US dollars) before being bought by a local con-

sortium on March 19 and relegation would cost them at least 10 million pounds. Leeds are five points adrift of the safety zone but Smith said if the club survived he would be more than happy to stay.

The 23-year-old added: "It's probably out of my hands already, though. Whoever is in charge now will probably have decided already whether I stay or go in the summer, irrespective of whether we stay up."

Leeds have a crunch showdown with third-bottom Leicester City at Elland Road on Monday.

MNA/Reuters



England's Owen Hargreaves challenges Sweden's Erik Edman during their friendly football match in preparation for Euro 2004 in Gothenburg.—INTERNET

Serena Williams eases into Miami final

MIAMI (Florida), 2 April—Top seed Serena Williams eased through to the Nasdaq-100 Open final with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Greece's Eleni Daniilidou on Thursday.

Williams, playing her first tournament after an eight-month lay-off with a knee injury, raced into an early lead and wrapped up the first set despite some powerful hitting from the Greek.

The second set was not so straightforward for the American. She lost her own serve when 5-3 up but broke back immediately to wrap up the match in an hour and 23 minutes.

"I always expect the best of myself," said Williams. "I can't say that I didn't expect to be in the final, I can only say that I didn't want to lose in the first round. Physically this is great, but mentally it's awesome. I am really proud of myself because it's hard to come back."

"It was a good tournament for me," said Daniilidou. "I really tried to enjoy the match today, and I did, but Serena was just serving too good and I was under pressure from the first point."

At one stage, Daniilidou became so frustrated with being aced that she gave up altogether and handed her racket to a ballkid. Williams responded with another ace on the next point.

Russia's Nadia Petrova meets compatriot Elena Dementieva in Thursday's other semifinal.

MNA/Reuters



Andre Agassi during the third round of the Nasdaq 100 Open at the Crandon Park Tennis Center on Key Biscayne in Miami, Florida.—INTERNET

Arsenal lose Cole, Gilberto, Cygan through injury

LONDON, 2 April—Holders Arsenal will be without left back Ashley Cole, centre back Pascal Cygan and midfielder Gilberto for Saturday's FA Cup semifinal against Manchester United, manager Arsene Wenger said on Thursday.

Wenger is unlikely to be able to call on any of them for Tuesday's Champions League quarterfinal second leg match against Chelsea at Highbury either.

"Gilberto, I don't count for the next game or maybe two," Wenger told the Arsenal website on Thursday.

"Ashley Cole is out for Saturday and I think he will be short for Tuesday as well."

"We lost Pascal Cygan in midweek (in a reserve match). He has an ankle injury and will be out for three to four weeks."

Brazilian Gilberto is travelling back on a long-haul flight from Paraguay after playing for Brazil in a World Cup qualifier there on Wednesday.

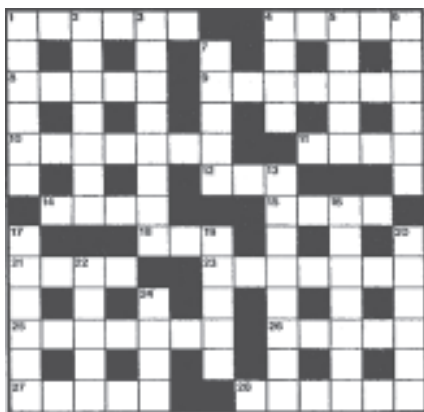
England full back Cole has been suffering with a knee problem for several weeks.

Of the three, only Cole was a likely starter against United at Villa Park on Saturday, although Wenger is likely to rotate his squad over the next few games given Arsenal's hectic schedule. Teenager Gael Clichy will replace Cole against United.

The Premier League leaders are chasing silverware on three fronts and they face four games in the space of nine days, starting on Saturday. The United and Chelsea games are followed by two Premier League matches — at home to Liverpool on Friday and away at Newcastle on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Quarter
- 4 Commit to paper
- 8 Alternate
- 9 Disembarking
- 10 Feat of daring
- 11 Knock unconscious
- 12 Edge of dress
- 14 Affirmative voters
- 15 Motor car
- 18 Tree
- 21 Competent
- 23 Survive
- 25 Monastic hairstyle
- 26 Thrust forward
- 27 Line of hills
- 28 Talking bird

DOWN

- 1 Blossom
- 2 Sad
- 3 Terrapin
- 4 Slender rod
- 5 Madman
- 6 Motor
- 7 Fabric
- 13 Iberian headgear
- 16 Coach
- 17 Swap goods
- 19 Customs
- 20 Give evidence
- 22 Flaxen cloth
- 24 Unsuited

Leeds offer Radebe one-year extension

LONDON, 2 April—Former South Africa captain Lucas Radebe has been offered a one-year contract by Leeds United, the club's website reported on Thursday.

The centre back, who turns 35 on April 12, has been dogged by injuries this season but the new Leeds board have decided to

offer him an extension to his current deal.

Radebe has been at Leeds since September 1994, making over 250 appearances for the club, and he is due to have a testimonial at the end of this season. His last appearance was on 22 December against Manchester City.

News of Radebe's new deal is a boost to the relegation-threatened club after striker Alan Smith said earlier in the day that he would leave if in-debt Leeds were relegated.

Leeds, who were taken over by a consortium of local businessmen last month, are second-from-bottom of the Premier League table with eight games left.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's David Beckham with a jersey saying 'Beckham, No.23' in Chinese characters. Adidas-Salomon, the German maker of sportswear and equipment, said it has extended its sponsorship of the Spanish football club for four years until June 2012.—INTERNET

Hasselbaink leared of elbowing charge

LONDON, 2 April—Chelsea received a boost on Thursday when Dutch striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink was cleared of violent behaviour following an incident in an FA Cup match against Scarborough in January.

The Dutchman, who could have been suspended if found guilty, was charged with using his elbow in a violent manner during Chelsea's 1-0 FA Cup fourth round win at the McCain Stadium on January 24.

However, an FA disciplinary hearing attended by Hasselbaink on Thursday found the case "to be not proven", the ruling body said on its official website.

Hasselbaink scored a hat-trick in his most recent Chelsea appearance, the 5-2 win over Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday, and will now be available for the rest of their league campaign as they bid to cut Arsenal's seven-point lead at the top of the table.

MNA/Reuters

15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Migalabar"
15:36 Welcome To Shwe-
myaing (Mawla-
myaing)
15:40 Headline News
15:42 Chin Cultural Museum
15:45 National News
15:50 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact
16:00 National News
16:05 Glazed Earthen Pot



1. ကော့ဖူးနုထီးကွေး နာရာတော်ဘုရား၊
ကြိုက်ပုံတော်သံဃာမှာသက
အဉ္စုအစိုင်းသောရည်၊
ရေငှက်အသီးအစေ့ဟော့ပွေတော်က၊
တိရ်ဂကရေဗွေမှာစွာအို၊
ရက်သောရာတော်ဘုရား၊
ပရိတ်တရာတော်
- 7:15 am
2. တိရ်ဂကရေ ဓမ္မာစွာအို၊
အဟော့ဟဗ္ဗိဒ္ဓိ၊
ဘန္တုသီရိတော်သံဃာ
(သောရာတော်)၊
ဗောဓိကြီးတော်
ဖုဆသော ဥဂ္ဂဟန္တုပိတော်
- 7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
6. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) မြာစုတလ
- 8:05 am
7. အစိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am
8. ဟင်းစွတ်ရေငရဲတစ်ထပ်
- 8:30 am
9. International news

19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
19:36 Sagaing Pagoda-Stud-
ded Hills
19:40 Headline News
19:42 Mandalay, A Close
distance
19:45 National News
19:50 VCD Song "For the
New Year"
20:00 National News
20:05 Ancient Pakhangyi
Monastery
20:10 Song "Mesmerize
Your Longing Wish"
20:15 National News
20:20 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt Victoria

20:25	Song “Lover’s Life”
20:30	National News
20:35	Rakhine Ordination Novitiate & Ear-boring Auspicious Ceremony
20:40	Traditional Food of the Region Myeik
20:45	National News
20:50	Glimpses At Myanmar Movies “Hmone Shwe Yi (Part-I)”
21:00	National News
21:05	Excursion in Yangon River
21:10	Song “Towards Mandalay Golden City”
21:15	National News
21:20	Glimpses At Myanmar Movies “Hmone Shwe Yi (Part-II)”
21:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar” (K.Ja Nu)
21:35	Welcome To Shwemyaing (Mawla-myaing)
21:40	Headline News
21:42	Chin Cultural Museum
21:45	National News
21:50	Myanmar Movie Impact
22:00	National News
22:05	Glazed Earthen Pot
22:10	Songs On Screen “Flourishing”
22:12	Unique Style of Kachin Dress
22:15	National News
22:20	Myanmar Footware “Ponedaw” Famed in Successive Eras
22:25	Songs On Screen “Pre- destination”
22:30	National News
22:35	Myanmar Orchestra (Thichinkhant)
22:40	The Royal Animal Weights of the Myanmar Empires
22:45	National News
22:50	A Trip to Naga Land
22:55	The Solo Dance
23:00	National News
23:05	Marvel of a Pogoda with Uncountable Buddha Images
23:10	Song “Myanmar”
23:15	National News
23:20	Three Dimensional Gems Studded Paint-

24:00	National News
00:05	Glazed Earthen Pot
00:10	Songs On Screen "Flourishing"
00:12	Unique Style of Kachin Dress
00:15	National News
00:20	Myanmar Footware "Ponedaw" Famed in Successive Eras
00:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights" Myanma Pano- rama & Myanma Sen- timent"
00:30	National News
00:35	Myanmar Orchestra (The Chinkhant)
00:40	The Royal Animal Weights of the Myanmar Empires
00:45	National News
00:50	A Trip to Naga Land
00:55	The Solo Dance
01:00	National News
01:05	Marvel of a Pogoda with Uncountable Buddha Images
01:10	Song "Myanmar"
01:15	National News
10:20	Three Dimensional Gems Studded Paint- ing
00:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

5-4-2004 (Sunday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)
03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama and Myanma Sen-
timent"
03:36 Sagaing Pagoda-Stud-
ded Hills
03:40 **Headline News**
03:42 Mandalay, A Close
distance
03:45 **National News**
03:50 VCD Song "(For the
New Year)"
04:00 **National News**
04:05 Ancient Pakhangyi
Monastery
04:10 Song "Mesmerize
Your Longing Wish"
04:15 **National News**
04:20 From Yangon to the

04:25	Peak of Mt Victoria
04:30	National News
04:35	Rakhine Ordination
	Novitiate & Ear-bor- ing Auspicious Cere- mony
04:40	Traditional Food of the Region Myeik
04:45	National News
04:50	Glimpses At Myanmar Movies "Hmone Shwe Yi (Part-I)"
05:00	National News
05:05	Excursion in Yangon River
05:10	Song "Towards Man- dalay Golden City"
05:15	National News
05:20	Glimpses At Myanmar Movies "Hmone Shwe Yi (Part-II)"
05:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"

Map of the Eastern Mediterranean showing the distribution of the Eastern Mediterranean Red Sea Anemone. The map includes labels for 'INDIA LOW', 'BAY OF BENGAL', and 'HIGH'. A legend at the bottom explains the symbols used for wave types (Moderate, Rough, Very Rough), sea states (Calm, Small, Medium, Large), and other features like 'Shoals and Sandbars', 'Islands and Atolls', and 'Epiphyte Status'.

Bereaved Family



8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music
8.55 am National news/
 Slogan
9:05 am Music
9.10 am International news
9.15 am Music
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Story for children
 "Tit for Tat"
1.50 pm Songs for children
9.00 pm Weekly news review
9.10 pm Music
9.15 pm Article
9:25 pm Latest hits
 Nothing fails
 (Madonna)
 Weekend (Lorie)
 Life for rent (Didio)
 Love's divine (Seat)
 Too fast in you
 (Sugar Babes)
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEI

8:45 am
10. Say it in English

11:00 am
1. Martial song

11:10 am
2. Musical programme

11:25 am
3. Round-up of the week's international news

11:40 am
4. မိုင်းခတ်စားတံလမ်းတဲ
"မိုင်းခတ်စား" (အပိုင်း-၃၀)

12:15 pm
5. သံလွင်တေး: (အော်လွင်)
တဲလဲတေးတဲလဲ တဲလဲတေးတဲလဲ (၂)

12:30 pm
6. Myanmar video feature:
"သုတေသနတဲတဲတဲတဲတဲ"
တဲတဲတဲ. မိုင်းခတ်စား
ဒါမိုင်းခတ်စားတဲ (အပိုင်း-၃၁)

2:15 pm
7. Musical programme

2:30 pm
8. မိုင်းခတ်စားတဲ
မိုင်းခတ်စားတဲ

2:45 pm
9. International news

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. English for everyday use

4:45 pm
4. သံလွင်တေး: (၃၀) မိုင်းခတ်စားတဲ

5:00 pm
5. အပိုင်းခတ်စားတဲတဲတဲတဲ
အပိုင်းခတ်စားတဲတဲတဲတဲ
အပိုင်းခတ်စားတဲတဲတဲတဲ

(အထူးပြုစာသုံး) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)

5:15 pm
6. Song of national races

5:30 pm
7. Musical programme

5:45 pm
8. တေးသံပြိုင်ပွဲကြိုတင်ဆက်သွယ်
(အပိုင်း-၁)

5:55 pm
9. Sing and enjoy

6:30 pm
10. Evening news

7:00 pm
11. Weather report

7:05 pm
12. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုင်းတွဲ
“စင်းပွင့်” (အပိုင်း-၁)

7:35 pm
13. Agricultural force
country's development

7:45 pm
14. ဟိုဟိုရီရီ ကုသိုလ်တော်
မှတ်သားစုစုစီ

8:00 pm
15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. Myanmar video feature:
“မောင်ကြိုး၊ လက်ဆောင်”
(အပိုင်း-၂)

ထွန်းမိုး၊ ဆောင်ထွန်း၊ မှုမိုးလှိုင်
ခါးကိုင်တေး-မောင်မိုးမိုး (ရှင်ထွန်းမြင့်)

19. မိုးခန့်ခွဲရာသီဥတုအခြေအနေအထား
သတင်းတိုင်းသစ်၊ အစုအစည်းများ
ဆောင်ရာသီဥတု ပွားများခြင်း
တရားတော်

20. The next day's
programme



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party inspect construction of underground power plant of Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project.— MNA

Secretary-1 inspects dams and hydroelectric power projects in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 3 April— Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, deputy ministers, departmental heads and officials, arrived at Central Agricultural Research Department in Yezin, Pyinmana Township, yesterday morning.

At the hall of Seed Bank, Deputy Director-General Dr Tin Soe of the department reported on the aim of the department, divisions and sections, land utilization, research farms, paddy strains, hybrid paddy strains, conducting of research on various kinds of crops, cooperation of tasks with outer organizations and future tasks.

In his response, the Secretary-1 said that the State economy is changing into the market-oriented economic system. In doing so, permission has been granted to the growers for trading and cultivating paddy, cotton, sugarcane and rubber freely.

Especially, arrangements have been made for exporting surplus rubber because of local sufficiency.

As such, researchers, on their part, should not conduct research works on seeds and crops normally and they should carry out their tasks for ensuring emergence of quality seeds of crops which farmers require actually.

Furthermore, sustainable research works are to be

performed for production of high-yield seeds of crops in a short time.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the research booth 1 and booth 2 of the Seed Bank.

They also saw over thriving IR paddy strains in the model plots.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Paunglaung Dam Project site located on Paunglaung River, 26 miles east of Pyinmana.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and Director-General U Kyaw San Win of Irrigation Department reported on arrangements for implementing the project by the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on time and facts about the project.

The Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions and inspected the site for the project.

Upper Paunglaung Hydroelectric Power Project will be implemented on Paunglaung River which lies in the upper area of Paunglaung Hydroelectric Power Project. So, production of the new one can add to that of the current Paunglaung Hydroelectric Power Project for supplying electricity requirements of the State.

On completion, the project will be able to generate 85 megawatt of electricity.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project site where Deputy Minister U Myo Myint reported on the diversion

tunnel and buildings, the power intake and the underground power plant being built by Hydroelectric Power Department and installation of 230 kv and other power lines.

Director U Soe Myint of Construction-1 of HPD and Director U Victor of Construction-5 of ID reported on their respective sectors in construction.

The Secretary-1 praised Myanmar engineers and workers in construction of the project.

He said that emphasis is to be laid on completion of the construction tasks in time.

On completion, the electricity to be produced at the project can supply electricity requirements of the State to a certain extent.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected construction of the embankment, installation of four 70 megawatt generators at the power house and digging of the tunnel to the power plant.

Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project is being implemented on Paunglaung River, 11 miles east of Pyinmana. On completion, the dam can irrigate about 35,000 acres of farmland and generate 280 megawatt of electricity. Efforts are being made for completion of the tasks within 2004.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party went back to Mandalay International Airport. Next, they arrived back here by air in the evening.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects building of embankment at Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project.— MNA



Myanmar CP Inter-Club Tennis Tournament ends

YANGON, 3 April— In honour of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the ceremony to present prizes to the winners in the Myanmar CP Inter-Club Tennis Tournament was held at Theinbyu Tennis Court this afternoon, attended by Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win.

Also present were President of the federation U Zaw Zaw, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Thirakaosal, Deputy Assistant Chairman Mr Sawat Kiatphaiboon and officials of Myanmar CP Livestock Co and guests.

Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win presented first, second and third prizes to respec-

tive winning teams in the B class team event and A class team event. The patron accepted K 5 million for the tournament donated by Mr Phi Chet; K 2 million by Shei Family Co; and K 1.76 by other donors.

Later, Federation President U Zaw Zaw gave away souvenirs to umpires.

MNA

Ministry of Industry-1 holds communal novitiation ceremony

YANGON, 3 April — Under the patronage of Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and wife Daw Khin Khin Yi, families of the ministry held communal novitiation and ordination ceremony at the course training hall of the ministry this morning.

Present on the occasion were the minister and wife,

Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises, and staff families of the ministry.

Kyaukgon Kyaunggyi Taik Pariyatti Sarthintaitk Nayaka Sayadaw Dhammacariya Bhaddanta Visarada invested the con-

gregation with the Five Precepts.

The minister and wife, the deputy ministers and officials offered provisions to the monks.

At the ceremony, 44 men were ordained, nine boys novitiated and 30 girls and women were initiated as nuns.

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