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New Year Day of 1366 ME

Saturday, 17 April, 2004

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Syrian Arab Republic

YANGON, 17 April — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Bashar Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Syrian Arab Republic which falls on 17 April 2004. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt puts stone inscription at the centre of the foundation of the gymnasium in Kyauktan Township. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends cornerstone-laying ceremony for construction of new gymnasium in Kyauktan Township

YANGON, 16 April—The cornerstone-laying ceremony for construction of a new gymnasium in Kyauktan Township, Yangon South District, was held at the pandal at the site where the new gymnasium will be constructed, this morning, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, the Chairmen of Yangon South District and Kyauktan Township Peace and Development Councils and members, officials from social organizations, students, local people and guests.

First, the Prime Minister and party took

their designated positions where the cornerstones were to be laid.

Next, the Prime Minister laid the nine gems silver casket at the centre of the foundation.

At the auspicious time, ministers laid the nine bricks at the designated places at the same time.

After that, the Prime Minister and party laid the stone inscription at the centre of the foundation and sprinkled it with scented water.

The ceremony ended with the recitation of Çintamani Gatha by Mingalar Akhardawpay Sayagyi U Kyaw.

(See page 9)

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

Prime Minister attends merit-sharing ceremony of Ayenyein Chantha Maha Mingala Ordination Hall in Kyauktan

YANGON, 16 April— A ceremony to share merits for completion of Ayenyein Chantha Maha Mingala Ordination Hall in the compound of Okkahtayama Monastery was held at the monastery in Western Ward, Kyauktan, at 8.15 am today, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Presiding Nayaka of Kyauktan Minkyaung Monastery State Ovadaçariya Agga Maha Pandita Sayadaw Bhaddanta

Jagara, Presiding Nayaka of Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kusala, Presiding Nayaka of Kyauktan Okkahtayama Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viçitta and members of the Sangha, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and local authorities, wellwishers, lay persons and disciples.

The Prime Minister unveiled the stone inscription

of the ordination hall and sprinkled scented water on it.

At the ceremony to share merits, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kusala administered the Nine Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Next, the Prime Minister and wife and family offered provisions to the Sayadaws. Chairman of the trusteeship board of Okkahtayama Monastery U Myint Sein supplicated on construction of the ordination hall.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveils the stone inscription of Ayenyein Chantha Maha Mingala Ordination Hall in Kyauktan. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 17 April, 2004

New Year Resolution

The New Year 1366 Myanmar Era has arrived. There is suggestion for a New Year Resolution. Thingyan, with all its din and clatter on the urban scene and peace and quiet on the rural, ushered out 1365. There is a long-established tradition, whatever your calendar, of setting down resolutions for the incoming year. A few of those who make them keep them, while the majority break them as easily as they made them. Some think it is fun to make New Year resolutions even though they could be taken more seriously.

People throughout Myanmar, specially white collar workers, had an unusually long Thingyan holiday, with one extra Akyat Nay, or the second day that sets Thingyan in, with two weekends hemming the Thingyan days in – which makes a nine-day stretch of a holiday.

For many, that must have been quite a boon, but for those with a backlog of paperwork that had been piling up, the resolution should be to catch up with time lost. This may not sound too good a proposition for some, but when it comes to facing the facts, there is no alternative. But what of other resolutions? On the lighter side, some might adopt one which says he or she would be a vegetarian on his or her birthday. Which is not too hard to see materialization. Then, there are those who vow, at least for the year, not to eat beef or the meat of four-legged animals. Which should not be too difficult to keep.

Or would it be quite Good Samaritan-like to do a good deed a day, which, when totted up, would mean 365 good deeds in the duration of a year, with one more added if you go by the Gregorian calendar. Or there may be other serious or not-so-serious propositions.

We are in the midst of building a peaceful, prosperous, discipline-flourishing democratic new nation. New, indispensable infrastructures have been built and more are coming up to expedite movement of passengers and freight, goods and agricultural produce from one part of the country to another, which go a long way toward ensuring progress and prosperity. If we make a resolution on getting rid of tardiness and move on the fast track, with all kinds of resolutions which we can keep, we should be able to get on the same level of development as those who are today ahead of us.

Maybe, your decision for the resolution is as good as that of others or even better. But the main thing is to really keep live up to it. Whatever your resolution, there is no harm in living up to it even for some time because there is a bit of virtue, what with having to think of a good resolution and then mustering enough will to keep it. There is no harm in getting ahead of others even if you took days if not weeks laying down a resolution, specially if it is good and outshines others.

Happy New Year!

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Commander, mayor take part in Thingyan in Mandalay

YANGON, 16 April — Revellers including tourists took part in Thingyan festival at the pavilion of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in front of the Innwa Hotel in the opposite of Mandalay moat yesterday.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein arrived at the pandal in the morning. They were welcomed there by departmental officials and personnel of Myanmar Hoteliers Association and Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Entrepreneurs Association. The commander, the mayor and party enjoyed the mass dance entertainment presented by damsels from Hoteliers Association (Mandalay) and songs by vocalists and film stars. They also happily participated in the festival by throwing water at one another. — MNA

Yangonites show core of Thingyan with peaceful and happy celebration

YANGON, 16 April — The year 1365 Myanmar Era is to usher out at 12.17 pm tonight as today is the Atet day of the Maha Thingyan. The transitional period between the old year and the new year is regarded as Thingyan time. During that time, Myanmar people do such meritorious deeds as cleansing Buddha images with water, offering 'soon' to members of the Sangha, hair-shampooing the elderly persons and manicuring them, and serving the people from all walks of life with traditional food free of charge. It is the cultural tradition of Myanmar people to throw water at one another with well intention during that time in the belief that by doing so previous misdeeds can be washed off.

It being the Atet day of the Maha Thingyan, revellers celebrated the festival peacefully and happily all day to their heart's content to an extent that they forgot to grow tired.

The most crowded places here were Inya Road, University Avenue and Pyay Road in Kamayut Township; and U Chit Maung Street, Saya San Road and University Avenue, in Bahan Township. Those places were packed with a stream of cars loaded with revellers as well as those who went round on foot.

The same thing can be said of Yankin, Tamway, Pazundaung, Thingangyun and Mingala Taungnyunt townships.

Revellers could enjoy themselves in the festival as the authorities concerned and members of social organizations closely monitored the festival.

Throughout all the days of the Maha Thingyan, revellers took part in the festival, keeping harmony with the traffic rules as well as with cultural traditions.

POEM:

Like the 'payit' buds waiting to burst into bloom

- * The 'atar' water festival
Has come to a close
The dirt of the old year is cleansed
Because of the 'atar' water
Everything's glittering
Out in the New Year.
- * In this New Year,
The 'payit' buds have burst into full bloom
The forests to be ever pretty
For the emerald takes strength
From the trunk green to overwhelm
As if it is taking stride
One can imagine
And get together to decide
Throughout the Myanmar nation
In history it will be ever fresh
Peace and prosperity to dawn
The democracy human abode
To be created, carried forward
Brethren all making one big effort
The Great National Convention
Will surely get ahead.

Po Wa (Trs)

POEM:

Let's usher in the New Year

- * Withered leaves twirl to earth
They come tumbling down, down, down
The new leaves and 'payit' buds
Are all merrily new.
The 'padauk' is all pure gold
The golden 'ngu' is still everywhere
The grit and grime are removed
What's evil and the bad go away
The 'atar' waterfest ceases
It's a farewell.
- * Hair-shampoo and manicure
In it the young never tire
Render images, spires aglitter
Make it a water donation
Let Sabbath and 'sila' be pure
Agog at monasteries, rest-houses
Freeing of fish shows desire
Setting animals free is virtuous
Novitiations and ordinations
Sound of big drums echo Unionwide
Tumultuous are the throngs.
- Sharing of merits, cooling sense
Throw all the water you can
It's an augury of peace
A scattering of good omen
Let it all be peaceful and modern
Call for merits and goodwill
Prosperity for all places
Let global village be peaceful
Let New Year be auspicious
Let's usher it in.

Kyaw Saw Han (Trs)

At pandals, vocalists and film stars entertained the audience with songs and dances.

With refreshed minds, all the people discarded the past impurities by throwing cool and clean water on each other and ushered in the arrival of the new year 1366 ME by doing meritorious deeds.

MNA

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



Thingyan revellers joyfully participating in the water festival on Inya Road in Kamayut Township, Yangon. — MNA

Japanese hostages released

BAGHDAD, 16 April—Three Japanese citizens being held hostage in Iraq have been freed, the Arabic television station al-Jazeera reported today.

Journalist Soichiro Koriyama, researcher Noriaki Imai and aid worker Nahoko Takato spent a week in captivity after they were kidnapped last Thursday by a group calling itself the Saraya al-Mujahideen.

The group threatened to burn the three hostages alive

if the Japanese government did not withdraw its troops from Iraq by the weekend.

The kidnappings caused a national outcry in Japan, where some 150,000 people signed a petition urging prime minister, Junichiro Koizumi to bow to the kidnappers' demands.

Mr Koizumi refused to succumb, but the kidnappers' Sunday deadline for withdrawal passed with no news of the hostages' fate leading to fresh fears over their lives.

Today al-Jazeera reported that the three hostages were in Baghdad and free as "the

guests of Muslim scholars".

Several news organisations said today they were considering pulling their staff out of Iraq as the security situation continues to deteriorate.

And it emerged today that two more Japanese journalists, Jumpei Yasuda and Nobutaka Watanabe, have since been taken hostage by an armed group on the outskirts of Baghdad.

The two are understood to have been travelling by taxi to take pictures of a downed US helicopter.

Saraya al-Mujahideen released the French journalist Alexandre Jordanov yesterday after ascertaining that he did not represent the "American occupation".

But the group said it would continue to target foreign nationals. Jordanov spent three days in captivity and was released with a handwritten note from the group saying its main targets would be Americans and nationals of other occupation forces in Iraq. —Internet



Nahoko Takato (L) and Noriaki Imai, two of three Japanese civilians taken captive in Iraq, are shown on Al Jazeera TV at an unknown location after being freed on 15 April, 2004. —INTERNET

Spain's Zapatero vows no quarter against terrorism

MADRID, 16 April — Spain's incoming Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero vowed a hard line on international terrorism on Thursday while upholding a pledge to withdraw troops from Iraq unless the UN takes charge there by June 30.

The Socialist leader outlined a government that in most respects would be the polar opposite of that led by departing Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar. He spoke in Parliament to start the debate on whether to confirm him in office.

Elected three days after the train bombings in Madrid that killed 191 people, Zapatero repeated campaign pledges for a liberal and conciliatory domestic agenda — including support for gay marriage — and a pro-European foreign policy.

He also proposed a constitutional change to end male royals taking

precedence over women in succession to the throne, although this would not affect the current Crown Prince, Felipe. In the face of questions from in Spain and abroad on his firmness in the face of international security threats, Zapatero sounded every bit as resolute as his conservative critics.

"The government I lead will have as its first objective the fight without quarter against terrorism, against any terrorism, against all terrorism," said Zapatero, who defeated Aznar's hand-picked candidate Mariano Rajoy by 43 per cent to 38 per cent.

MNA/Reuters

Rocket attack kills mother and two sons in Iraq

BAQUBA (Iraq), 16 April — A rocket attack killed a mother and her two teenage sons north of Baghdad on Thursday and badly wounded her two daughters, neighbours and hospital officials said.

Two rockets slammed into houses in a residential neighbourhood of Baquba, 40 miles north of the capital, at around 5 a.m. (0100 GMT). Walls crumbled, debris was strewn through the homes and a car was destroyed.

At Baquba Hospital, the family's two daughters lay in a ward, one semi-conscious and both badly wounded. Outside, three coffins were readied to bury the dead. Residents blamed the attack on the US occupying forces. The US Army said it had no immediate information. Local police said they were still trying to find out what happened.

"The first hit was just before 5 a.m.," Mehdi Saleh said. "The victims were our neighbours, they lost people. Why? It was an innocent house, innocent. The Americans want to harm Iraqis? Why?" —MNA/Reuters

Syria says US seeks its help to pacify Iraq

DAMASCUS, 16 April—US Secretary of State Colin Powell has written to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad asking for Damascus's help to bring peace to Iraq, the official SANA news agency reported.

Powell asked Syria to do everything in its power to assist with the "pacification of the situation in Iraq" while preserving the unity of the war-ravaged country, the news agency reported.

It said the letter was delivered by US Ambassador Margaret Scobey to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara.

The chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, General Richard Myers, warned earlier Thursday in Baghdad that foreign fighters were still infiltrating Iraq from Syria and Iran. "We know for a fact that a lot of them for sure are coming through Syria... and some from the Iranian border," Myers told a press conference a day after his unannounced arrival in the Iraqi capital.

"With the very challenge that the Iraqi people have in building a better Iraq, the last thing you need is influence from neighboring countries trying to promote or protect their own self interests.

"That is just not acceptable," he said. —Internet



A US soldier (R) secures the area as passengers and contractors line up waiting to access Baghdad International Airport at a US army checkpoint in Baghdad, on 15 April, 2004. —INTERNET

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687 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 April—As of Thursday, April 15, 687 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Department of Defense. Of those, 493 died as a result of hostile action and 194 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Ukraine, four; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia and Poland have reported one each.

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 547 US soldiers have died — 382 as a result of hostile action and 165 of non-hostile causes, according to the military. The latest deaths reported by the military:

— A Task Force Olympia soldier died Wednesday in Mosul, Iraq from an acute heart attack.

— A Task Force Danger soldier was killed Wednesday by an explosive near Samarra, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

— Army Sgt William C Eckhart, 25, Rocksprings, Texas; died Saturday from an explosion in Baqubah, Iraq; assigned to the 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

— Army Staff Sgt Victor A. Rosaleslomeli, 29, Westminster, Calif.; died Tuesday from an explosive near his vehicle in Iraq; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany.

— Army Spc Richard K Trevithick, 20, of Gaines, Mich.; died Wednesday from an explosive near his vehicle in Balad, Iraq; assigned to the 9th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. — Internet

Russia launches Iraq evacuation

Moscow, 16 April—A Russian plane has left for Iraq to begin the evacuation of hundreds of Russian workers in Iraq after a spate of kidnappings.

An Il-62 passenger jet from the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry took off from a base near Moscow early Thursday to start the two-day evacuation.

The move comes after three Russians and five Ukrainians were abducted in Iraq on Monday but released the following day.

The ministry said its plan

includes the evacuation of 553 Russian citizens and 263 citizens from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States who are working on Russian contracts at facilities in Iraq.

However, it is unclear how many of the workers will take part in the voluntary evacuation. Seven flights were initially planned but on Thursday Moscow said only four planes would be involved in the airlift.

Some Russian companies are split about the plan, indicating they were uncertain over whether to withdraw altogether and put at risk contracts estimated at about \$1 billion.

CNN's Ryan Chilcote said Wednesday that just over half the Russian and CIS contingent working on commercial contracts in Iraq were expected to leave — the rest staying put for now.

The airlift comes as the Italian government worked to secure the release of three Italians held hostage in Iraq after another Italian man was executed by captors on Wednesday. —Internet

US warned to stay out of Najaf

BAGHDAD, 16 April—Iraq's leading Shiite Muslim cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, has warned the United States against entering the holy city of Najaf in pursuit of Moqtada al-Sadr, Shiite religious and political sources said on Thursday.

"The Ayatollah has told the Shiite Iraqi Governing Council members to inform the Americans that Najaf is a red line," a senior source told Reuters.

Sistani, a political rival of rebel cleric Sadr, has issued statements in the past urging respect for law and order and the sanctity of Iraq's holy places, but he has refrained from commenting directly on the Shiite uprising by Sadr's militiamen.

Another senior source in Najaf said Sistani did not want to compromise his religious authority by appearing to engage in temporal details, such how to deal with Sadr, but that he had privately made clear his strong opposition to US troops in Najaf.

"The Najaf religious establishment is adamant against any US military action in the city," the source said.

A 2,500-strong US force is currently near Najaf after soldiers were sent south from bases north of Baghdad.

MNA/Reuters

Iran diplomat assassinated as team seeks peace in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 April—A senior Iranian diplomat was gunned down in Iraq a day after Tehran sent a peace mission to help end a standoff between US forces and militant Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr.

A high-ranking foreign ministry official who is heading the delegation said the assassination was "most certainly" linked to his visit.

He sought to play down his role in efforts to avert a major battle between the US military and Sadr's Mehdi Army militia, although it was unclear if the apparent change of position was a result of the killing.

An AFP correspondent saw the body of first secretary Khalil Naimi lying in his bullet-riddled car on a Baghdad street after his murder.

Two bullets had pierced the windshield and eight bullet holes were visible on the driver's door.

Iranian foreign ministry official Hossein

Sadeghi, responsible for Gulf affairs, described the murder as "savage" and said there was a clear link between the assassination and his delegation's visit.

"Such savage moves are condemned and deplored by the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said. It was not immediately clear whether the assassination had had any direct impact on Sadeghi's plans in Iraq, although the envoy ruled out holding any talks with Sadr after earlier hinting that this might be a possible.

"This visit definitely is not designed to mediate any standoff or any confrontation. The purpose of it is assessing the general situation in Iraq," he said.

"The whole objective is to hear everybody's views at this stage." —Internet



Foreigners line up at the counter of Jordanian airlines in Baghdad, Iraq on 15 April, 2004, hoping to get a seat on the daily flight to Amman, Jordan. — INTERNET

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'NYT' portrays Americans killed in Iraq

NEW YORK, 16 April—The New York Times took extra measures today in covering the deadliest week for U.S. military personnel in Iraq since the beginning of the conflict, with a full-page spread of photos depicting all but two of the 64 Americans killed during the seven days that ended last Saturday. But don't look for it again any time soon.

"We thought it was a striking way to demonstrate the news importance and poignancy of an extraordinary week in the continuing story," said Times spokeswoman Kathy Park, who added that the photos would not become a regular feature.

The black-and-white

gallery of the dead — which brought back memories of the Times' award-winning "Portraits of Grief" briefs that followed the Sept. 11 tragedy — ran with a lengthy story about the funerals of many of the dead, which began on Page One and continued inside.

Internet

Blair urged to pressure US for tactic change in Iraq

LONDON, 16 April — British Prime Minister Tony Blair should use his forthcoming talks with US President George W Bush this week to tell the United States to change its plans to use "decisive force" to keep order in Iraq, the British second largest opposition party urged on Wednesday.

The US plans that would allow US commanders in Iraq to do what it takes to stop the current violence undermine efforts to rebuild the country, Menzies Campbell, foreign affairs spokesman for the Liberal Democratic Party, said in an interview with the BBC.

Flying gunships above residential areas of Iraq would not help win the "battle for hearts and minds", Campbell said, "the use of decisive force may well have the consequence of undermining the long-term political objective".

MNA/Xinhua

Italy tries to get hostages freed through dialogue with Iran

ROME, 16 April — Italy will resort to dialogue with Iran and other Islamic countries in efforts to free the four Italians taken hostage in Iraq, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said Wednesday.

"We'll do everything to try to free the four Italian hostages, knowing that giving in would play the terrorists' game, but maintaining the dialogue we have had for a while with many Islamic countries, with Iran in particular, a dialogue that I myself have consolidated in these days," Frattini said

when interviewed by an Italian state radio.

The four Italians were abducted in Iraq on Monday.

Italy, with some 3,000 soldiers and paramilitary police in Iraq, is the third largest coalition partner among the occupying forces.—MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers die in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 April—A US soldier was killed in a roadside bomb attack in the northern Iraqi city of Samarra in the past 24 hours, a US Army spokesman said on Thursday.

Another US soldier died in Mosul of a "severe cardiac event". The US military had earlier said there had

been two combat deaths in the last 24 hours.

It was not clear whether the latest combat death had already been included in the Pentagon's toll, which rose by eight on Wednesday. According to that data, at least 93 US soldiers had been killed in action in Iraq so far in April.—MNA/Reuters

Forced-out Iraqi woman delivers baby on road near Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 16 April—An Iraqi woman gave birth to a baby on the road near Fallujah, west of Baghdad, after US bombings forced her to leave her house in the restive town, local newspaper Azzaman reported Wednesday.

The deteriorating condition in Fallujah, 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, and the intensity of the bombings forced the Iraqi woman's family to leave their house, the report said. She started showing delivery signs near Khan Dhary Village and her husband rushed to seek help of other women in the area.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia airlifts first group of people back from Iraq

MOSCOW, 16 April—Three Russian flights landed in Moscow on Thursday evening, bringing home from Iraq the first group of some 370 Russian citizens and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) nationals, the Emergency Situations Ministry said.

Four more Russian flights are expected to bring back on Friday over 400 Russian and CIS employees working under contracts at Russian companies in Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Ex-Fed chief Volcker considered for UN Iraq probe

UNITED NATIONS, 16 April — Paul Volcker, the former chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, is the leading candidate to head a UN probe into a now-defunct Iraq oil-for-food programme, UN diplomats said on Wednesday.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has been organizing a team to investigate a scandal in the 67-billion-US-dollar humanitarian programme, which began in December 1996 and ended last year. The programme enabled Iraq to sell oil and buy civilian goods to ease the impact of 1991 Gulf War sanctions.

The 76-year-old Volcker

was the first choice of UN officials but has not yet given his final acceptance. Another candidate for the panel is Judge Richard Goldstone, who served as the first prosecutor on the UN Balkan war crimes tribunal and is now a judge on South Africa's Constitutional Court.

Volcker, who was not available for comment, has been a major architect of US

financial and economic policy, serving five presidents from John F. Kennedy to Ronald Reagan.

The oil-for-food programme was a compromise among Security Council members and let Iraq choose its buyers and suppliers. While most of Iraq's oil went through the programme, a considerable amount was smuggled.—MNA/Reuters



A US convoy passes by a burning US truck that came under attack on the airport road in Baghdad, Iraq on 15 April, 2004. —INTERNET

Bush makes three mistakes while trying to cite one

WASHINGTON, 15 April—While struggling unsuccessfully this week to think of single mistake he has made since the September 11, 2001, attacks, US President George W Bush committed three factual errors about weapons finds in Libya, the White House said on Wednesday.

Bush, long known for his grammatical conundrums and confusing phraseology, told reporters twice during Tuesday's prime-time news conference that 50 tons of mustard gas were discovered at a turkey farm in Libya.

On the second occasion, he was responding to a reporter who asked him to identify the biggest mistake he had made since the 2001

attacks on New York and Washington that killed nearly 3,000 people and prompted the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan.

He could not. But as he searched for an answer, the Republican President reaffirmed his decision to invade Iraq and said weapons of mass destruction may still lie hidden there.

"They could still be there. They could be hidden, like

the 50 tons of mustard gas in a turkey farm," said Bush, referring to Libya's voluntary disclosure of weapons in March.

The next day, the White House said the accurate figure for the Libyan mustard gas 23.6 metric tons, or 26 short tons, not 50 tons.

Moreover, the substance was found at different locations across Libya, not at a turkey farm. And observers did not find mustard gas on the farm at all, but rather unfilled chemical munitions, the White House acknowledged.

"The President misspoke and we just want to correct the record," explained White House Spokesman Scott McClellan. Reports on weapons of mass destruction in

Iraq, which Bush cited as justification for the March 2003 invasion, have proved to be a political mine field for the President.

Bush agreed under pressure to set up a commission to investigate prewar weapons intelligence failures early this year, just as his 2004 reelection campaign got underway.

His decision came after a Bush claim that Iraq had sought uranium from Niger was shown to be based on forged documents. Other assertions of weapons stashes, including some made by Iraqis intent on persuading Washington to invade their homeland to oust Saddam Hussein, were also found to be wrong.—MNA/Reuters

Germany orders inquiry into deaths of security personnel in Iraq

BERLIN, 15 April — Germany has ordered an inquiry into the apparent deaths of two German security officials in Iraq, the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

The policemen, who were ambushed last Wednesday on their way from Jordanian capital of Amman to Baghdad to guard the German Embassy, are still listed as missing. The Foreign Ministry has said they are "most likely dead".

Interior Minister Otto Schily had asked for an inquiry into the circumstances, a spokesman of the ministry said. The results would then be presented to Parliament, he added.

He said that gathering information on the ambush was difficult due to the shaky security situation in Iraq and that many witnesses were still in a state of shock.

Germany was a strong opponent to the US-led war on Iraq and has sent no troops.

Since the apparent killings of the two security personnel, the Foreign Ministry has advised Germans to leave Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Arab fund institutions to discuss loans for Iraq rebuilding

ABU DHABI, 16 April 16 — Main Arab fund institutions are set to hold a two-day meeting in Kuwait from Wednesday, discussing loans for rebuilding projects in Iraq, the English daily *Gulf News* reported.

The Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the Kuwait-based Arab Fund

for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and three other main Arab monetary institutions will also discuss loans for other Arab nations as well as their performance in 2003 and projects for Year 2004, the paper said. Those institutions along with development funds in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and two other Gulf countries have sufficient funds to play a key role in Iraq's reconstruction, the paper quoted Arab economists as saying.

The meeting of those institutions is extremely important as it coincides with dramatic regional and international developments and an accelerating trend in the region to liberalize local economies within overall reforms, said Dr. Mohammed Khalfan bin Kharbush, Minister of State for Financial and Industrial Affairs, who is going to represent the UAE in the meeting. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi guerilla cleric proposes deal to US

BAGHDAD, 15 April—An Iraqi envoy appointed by Moqtada al-Sadr said on Wednesday the Shiite cleric had asked him to convey a set of peace proposals to US officials.

Sadr's supporters have been rising up against the US-led occupying forces in south and central Iraq.

The United States has said it will kill or capture Sadr and destroy his militia, and has brought extra troops to the outskirts of Najaf,

where the radical cleric is thought to be.

"Sayyed Moqtada made positive proposals to end the crisis, I cannot disclose the details. He realizes that an armed confrontation is not in anybody's interest," Abdelkarim al-Anzi told *Reuters* in Baghdad.

Anzi, who met Sadr in the holy city of Najaf on Tuesday, said he was due to meet Iraqi Governing Council members later on Wednesday to discuss the proposals before seeing US officials.—MNA/Reuters



Iraqi school children walk past US soldiers conducting a weapons search operation in the Talbiyah district in Baghdad, Iraq on 15 April, 2004.

INTERNET

မြန်မာ့အလင်း
သတင်းစာ

Honduras confirms attacks on its military base in Iraq

MANAGUA, 15 April — The military leader of Honduran troops in Iraq confirmed Wednesday that the Tegucigalpa Military Base in Najaf came under six mortar attacks, reports reaching here said.

In a phone conversation, Colonel Wilfredo Calderon, commander of the Honduran troops deployed in Iraq, told the Press in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, that in the past several days, the military base in Najaf sustained six attacks by 60 millimeter mortar grenades.

He said the latest attack was staged on Wednesday but no one was killed.

The only casualty in the troops was a lieutenant wounded in an attack against a mobile patrol heading for Najaf on April 4.

The commander denied any member of his forces being kidnapped in Iraq.

Honduran troops are stationed in Najaf, south of Baghdad, as part of the Spanish-led Plus Ultra Brigade.

MNA/Xinhua



Surgeons battle to save the life of a man with gunshot wounds in Baghdad's Yarmouk hospital on 15 March, 2004. — INTERNET

Pakistani official says no decision made on sending troops to Iraq

ISLAMABAD, 16 April — No decision has so far been made on whether Pakistan will send troops to Iraq, a Foreign Office spokesman said on Wednesday.

Masood Khan, the spokesman, told a weekly news briefing here that Pakistan has received a request from the United States for sending troops to Iraq and the request is being considered.

The US recently requested nations including

Pakistan, India and Bangladesh to send military forces to the restive Iraq to protect the United Nation's mission in Baghdad, which is expected to be set up in the near future, he said.

Masood Khan said the UN is making assessment about the security environment in Iraq and the Pakistani Government will give response to the UN after the UN pass the request to Pakistan formally.

MNA/Xinhua

US troops fire on Iraqi people, several casualties

BAGHDAD, 15 April — US soldiers opened fire on looters raiding a crippled military truck on Wednesday, killing and wounding several, *Reuters* witnesses said.

They said the truck had earlier been attacked on the airport road, and a crowd of Iraqis were ransacking it when more soldiers arrived and opened fire.

A *Reuters* photographer said he saw at least six Iraqis lying motionless and bleeding on the ground.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq devoid of sovereignty under foreign occupation

Images to be viewed from true perspective



US Marines from the 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment knock in a door while conducting a house to house search for weapons and guerillas in Fallujah, Iraq on 12 April, 2004.



Bakre Kamal, 7, is treated on 14 April, 2004, in Samarra, 56 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq in a general hospital after being wounded when mortar fell on the house he was in.



An Iraqi woman, right, cries next to the bed of her 3-year-old son Ali Majeed, left, at the al-Kindy hospital in Baghdad Iraq on 5 April, 2004. The boy was shot in the shoulder during an exchange of fire between US soldiers and armed militiamen while playing in his house in Sadr City, the largest Shiite neighborhood in Baghdad.



Doctors tend to a man with gunshot wounds in Baghdad's Yarmouk hospital on 15 March, 2004.



Iraqis look over a pair of flattened cars crushed by armored vehicles after fighting between guerillas and US forces erupted in the north Baghdad suburb of Adhamiya on 6 April, 2004.



Wounded nine-year-old Iraqi girl Ahlam Sa'ad, who was shot in the neck, is carried by medical staff at a small clinic in the embattled town of Falluja, on 8 April, 2004.



The Shwedagon Pagoda is famous for having sacred relics of four Buddhas enshrined in it. Photo shows the grand ceremony of hoisting Shwehtidaw (golden umbrella) atop the pagoda in April 1999.



Photo shows close-up view of Seinbudaw (diamond orb) of the Shwedagon Pagoda.



Photo shows close-up view of Hngetmyatnadaw (vane) of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Water festival held on grand scale in peaceful & prospering Myanmar



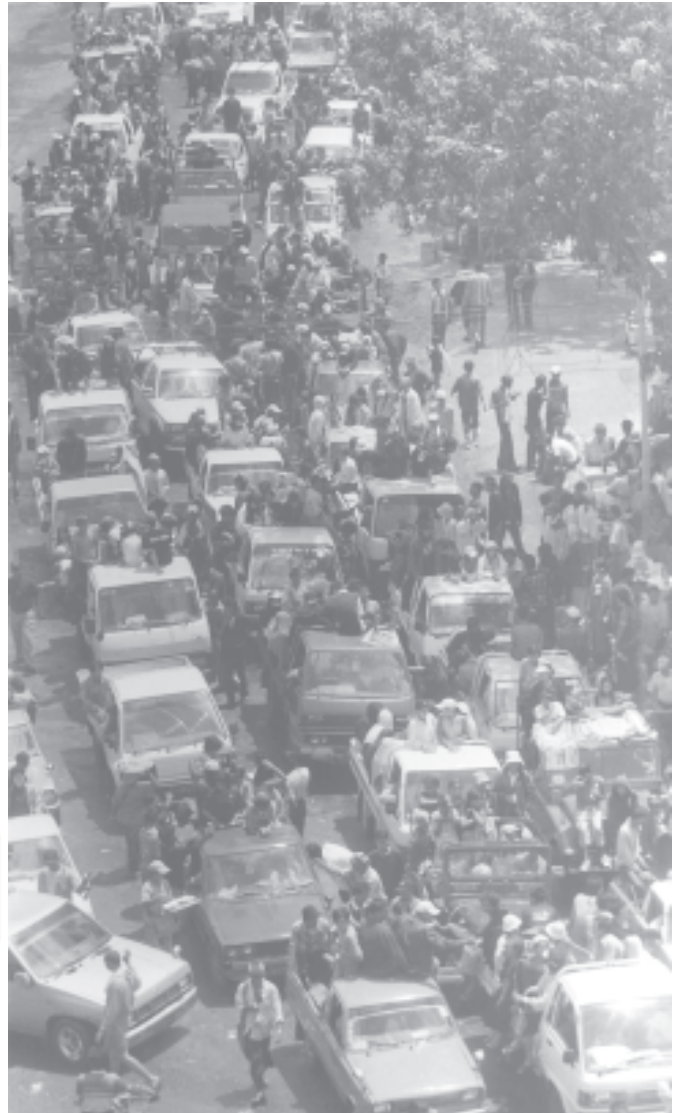
Joyful scene of Thingyan on Atet day on West race Course Road in Bahan. — NLM



Revellers take part in Thingyan on Thameinbayan Road in Tamway on 16-4-2004. NLM



A typical scene at pandal of Grand Wynn Enterprise Ltd on Inya Road on Atet day. NLM



Thingyan revellers throng on Saya San Road in on 16-4-2004. — NLM

Drug — a boon or a curse

Professor Dr Paing Soe

(Continued from yesterday)

Current Problems relating to Drug Use

The following are the examples of problems currently encountered during drug use. An anabolic steroid, DHEA, has been popularly used by many people for its claim of anti-aging effect. However, prolonged use has been reported to cause oedema, hypertension, coronary arterial insufficiency, myocardial infarction and death due to sudden cardiac arrest.

Slimming pills, popularly used by both young and old, has been reported to cause in fatigue and lethargy, palpitations due to irregularity of heart beat, tightness of chest, coronary arterial insufficiency, and even endangering to life. Some herbal slimming pills contain phenfluramine. This compound causes loss of hair, wrinkling and discoloration of the skin, insomnia and irritability when the drug is stopped suddenly after prolonged use. In some cases, they may even lead to severe liver damage, excessive weight loss and death. Slimming pills available in Thailand contains both phenfluramine and phentermine, a strong psychotic similar to amphetamine. Although this compound causes loss of appetite, mental alertness and protect fatigue, signs of drug dependency such as irritability and insomnia soon follows. Valvular heart disease and pulmonary hypertension has also been reported to occur in 4% of people taking the drug for a period as short as two weeks and prolonged use up to (8-9) months has been reported to cause death in some cases, thus causing the Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratory to withdraw these drugs back from the market.

Similarly, artificial sweeteners containing cyclamates, which are used for diabetics, was withdrawn from the market in the 1960's because of its carcinogenic potential. This was replaced by saccharin, which was also withdrawn from the market due to its carcinogenic effect. Even the latest sweetener, aspartame or Nutra Sweet, has been reported to be associated with a disease called phenylketouria.

Another problem is the over-the-counter and irrational use of antibiotics for minor ailments like common cold with the resultant development of antibiotic resistant and loss of valuable drugs. Misuse of rifampicin in venereal diseases has created problems of multi-drug resistance in anti-tuberculosis therapy. Therefore, antibiotics should only be prescribed by competent physicians and should not be available over-the-counter to the public.

Long-term use of hormone-containing drugs as hormone replacement therapy, has been shown to cause hypertension, cancer of the breast and endometrium, and ischaemic heart disease, and should thus, be taken only under supervision of a doctor. Certain hormone-containing drugs should not be administered to children, pregnant mothers, and those with liver and heart diseases.

Traditional herbal food supplements like Linzhi and Noni has been claimed to cure all forms of disease and this has resulted in extensive use by the community ranging from minor ailments like cold and fever to incurable and hopeless diseases such as cancer and AIDS. Many untoward effects have been reported. The acidic pH of Noni has been reported to cause peptic ulcer perforation.

Many people have false belief that traditional medicines are safe but this is not always so. Problems have encountered with traditional medicines due to the presence of impurities, or wrong ingredients or interactions or adulterations with western drugs (e.g. steroids for asthma resulting in oedema or bleeding and perforation of peptic ulcer with prolonged use). If traditional medicines are purely traditional, and consumed in their traditional way like powder-form raw materials, then side effects are unlikely. This is because, being raw, less amount of medicine will be absorbed into the blood stream, with resultant decrease in efficacy as well as side effects. Western medicines, on the other hand, are usually active chemical constituents and are, therefore, comparatively more potent and more toxic than traditional medicines since they are rapidly absorbed and extensively distributed throughout the body. Similarly, if the active principal from the traditional medicine is extracted and isolated, as with the western medicines, and made into tablets or capsules, then there will be an increase in potency, efficacy and naturally, with side effects as well. One must bear in mind that side effects are the unavoidable component of every potent drug. This can be seen from administration of a

more potent and more toxic drug, digoxin, when compared with chewing of the original plant, *Digitalis purpurea*.

Some of the traditional medicines, especially those produced by the *Visadara* method, contains toxic heavy metals like arsenic, mercury, lead and gold, which invariably accumulate in the body when consumed regularly for prolonged periods, and this can result in chronic toxicity, poisoning and death. Thus, they can be considered as producing more harm than good, even though they do not cause acute toxicity at the time of consumption. On the other hand, these toxic metals have been used in western medicine, like mercury being used as a potent drug for syphilis long before the antibiotic era, and gold salts been used for arthritis even at the present time. The difference between traditional and western medicine is that one is empirically based and the other, evidence-based on sound research and pharmacokinetic principles. That is understanding how much is absorbed, how the drug is distributed and how much can accumulate in the body, and how long it will take to eliminate from the body to avoid toxicity. A proper dosage regime is then developed based on the half-life of the drug, meaning the time taken to eliminate half the amount of drug present in the body. Thus, the main principal is not how toxic the drug, but its proper use to avoid toxicity. Comparatively, traditional medicines do not have proper indication; dosage or regime based on pharmacokinetics.

Proper use and indications are important even in drugs with least toxicity. For example, vitamins are important for normal function and well being of the body, where Vitamin A is well known for preventing night blindness. However, improper use and over consumption can result in hypervitaminosis and blindness as well. Even intake of water or salt, without which no living organism can survive, if excessive, can result in water intoxication, oedema and hypertension. Thus, adverse effects are mainly not the toxicity but the result of improper use of a drug.

How can we solve the problems relating to drug use

It can be seen from what has been mentioned above, that no drug should be taken without adequate knowledge or indication. However, problem exists in where can we get the required concise and unbiased information on drugs in critical and unavoidable circumstances. Epidemiology studies on the prevalence poisoning has indicated that poisoning due to drug overdose stood the highest, as compared to poisoning due to pesticides, food, corrosives, petroleum products or carbonmonoxide. This is mainly due to improper and irrational drug use through self-medication, especially psychoactive drugs and indigenous medicines. Understanding the increasing burden of disease posed by poisoning on the health sector, the Ministry of Health, under the guidance of the Head of State, has initiated the development of a National Poison Control Centre in Myanmar to improve the health status of the country by reduction in morbidity and mortality due to poisoning.

The National Poison Control Centre at the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) is well furnished with a miniature library on information science and informatics, with facilities for retrieval of drug and poison information (Poison Information Laboratory) and for screening and analysis of unknown drugs in case of acute poisoning (Analytical Toxicology Laboratory). Retrieval of concise and unbiased information on drugs and poisons can be done from available monographs, prescribed and reference textbooks, pharmacopoeias and national formularies. Further information can be obtained through computer search from CD-ROMs such as Micromedex, Poisondex, WHO/IPCS INTOX/INCHEM, etc. If a wider range of search is needed, then internet search can be conducted, but the reliability of information has to be weighed on the source and references of such information to avoid bias.

These information are now made available to health personnel in responding to acute poisoning but will also be made available to the public in the near future. If a drug becomes a boon rather than a curse due to available information, then the future of medicine is optimistic.

(Continued)

Prof Dr Paing Soe is the Director-General of the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar)

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော် စည်ပင်သာယာနယ်နိမိတ်အတွင်း ခရီးသည် တင်ယာဉ်(ဘတ်စ်ကား)များ အား ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူဆောင်ရွက် ခဲ့သဖြင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှု၊ ယာဉ်တိမ်းမှောက်မှုများ လျော့နည်း ကျဆင်းသွားသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ယခုအခါတွင် ဌာနဆိုင်ရာ ယာဉ်များနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်အဖွဲ့အစည်းများ ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ လျော့နည်းကျဆင်းလာသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ကိုယ်ပိုင်ယာဉ် များမှာမူ ယာဉ်တိုက်မှု လျော့နည်းကျဆင်းလာမှု မရှိသေးကြောင်း တွေ့ရှိရပါသဖြင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုမဖြစ်အောင် ထိန်းသိမ်း မောင်းနှင်ကြရန်နှင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုဖြစ်ပွားပါက ပြစ်ဒဏ်သတ် မှတ်ချက်များအား မည်သည့်နည်းနှင့်မျှ ကင်းလွတ်ခွင့်ပြုမည် မဟုတ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

ပျားရည်နှင့်အစွမ်းသတ္တိ

ပျားရည်သည်အင်အားဖြည့်တင်းပေးရာတွင် အသုံးစွဲဆုံးအာဟာရ တစ်မျိုး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ပျားရည်တွင် သတ္တုဓာတ်၊ အင်ဇိုင်းနှင့်အာဟာရဓာတ် အများအပြား ပါဝင်ပါသည်။ ပျားရည်သည် သစ်သီး၊ သကြားဓာတ် အဓိကပါဝင်သော သကြားဓာတ်ပေါင်း တစ်မျိုးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ပျားရည်တွင် ဘက်တီးရီးယား၊ ဖိုနပ်ဆီးယား၊ သန့်စင်ပါသည်။ ပျားရည်တွင် ပရိုဗီယိုစပ်စ်ရည်သတ္တိပါရှိသဖြင့် အနာဒါဏ်ရောဂါများ အနာကျက်မြန်စေပြီး လျင်မြန်စွာပျောက်ကင်းစေပါသည်။ ပျားရည်စားသုံးပြီး မိနစ်ပိုင်းအတွင်း စွမ်းအားတိုးတက်လာစေနိုင် ပါသည်။

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မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။

PM attends merit-sharing ...

(from page 1)

Afterwards, the Kyauktan Minkyaung Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the Prime Minister and wife and party shared merits gained.

The Ayenyein Chantha Maha Mingala Ordination Hall was built at a cost of K 8.5 million by Daw Aye Myint, U Tun Ohn-Daw Tin Myint, U Sein Tun Aung-Daw Htwe Nyunt, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt-Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and families under the auspices of parents U Ba Nyunt-Daw Sein Shin and other wellwishers. — MNA

Roads in Mandalay crowded with Thingyan revellers on 2nd Akyat Day

YANGON, 16 April — The 1365 ME Maha Thingyan Festival continued for the second Akyat Day yesterday in Mandalay. The roads around the moat of Nanmyo were crowded with more Thingyan lovers than the first Akyat Day. Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife, Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and wife, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and wife, staff officers, authorities and artists joyfully participated in the water festival at the pandal of the Mandalay City Development Committee, pandals of departments and private entrepreneurs.

Dance troupes on the stages of the pandal to the accompaniment of the modern music bands performed entertainment to the audience. In the evening, damsels of MCDC and popular film artists and vocalists to the accompaniment of the Man Sibin Music Band presented Thingyan songs at the Mayor's Pandal where Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife, Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and wife and guests enjoyed their entertainment. — MNA

CPT Minister receives CCTV crew

YANGON, 16 April — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw received the visiting three-member crew led by Producer Ms Wang Xian of the China Central Television (CCTV) at his office on Pyay Road here this afternoon. On the occasion, they discussed matters on shooting documentary films on prospects of Myanmar's tourism industry and broadcasting the films all over the world, including the tourism industry of Myanmar, conditions on sources of tourism industry and tourist attractions, advances and changes that attract tourists. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials and the cultural attaché and staff of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar. — MNA

Closing ceremony of pandal of Ministry of Home Affairs held

YANGON, 16 April — The Pandal of the Ministry of Home Affairs continued the Maha Thingyan Festival this morning and it was closed at 11.10 am.

Present were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing and wife, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and wife, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and wife, member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Nyunt Swe and wife, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and wife, departmental heads under the ministry and guests. When Xi Shuang Ban Na cultural troupe of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China arrived at the pandal at 9.20 am, they were welcomed by families of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

First, the entertainment of the pandal commenced with the song sung by damsels of the ministry, followed



The Ayenyein Chantha Maha Mingala Ordination Hall. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends cornerstone ...

(from page 1)

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt performed rituals of silver and golden showers to mark the success of the ceremony.

Afterwards, at the briefing hall, Managing Director of ACE Construction U Tin Hsan reported on arrangements being made for construction of a gymnasium with 120 feet in length, 90 feet in width and 36 feet in height under the supervision of the Ministry of Sports and Department for Human Settlement and Housing Development.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave a supplementary report.

In response to the

reports, the Prime Minister gave instructions on building the sports facility with modern design and timely completion of the project.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to Kyaikhmawun Yayle Pagoda in Kyauktan where they were welcomed by the Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees and members and pilgrims.

First, the Prime Minister and party offered flowers and lights to Hsutaungpyi Ngasat Buddha Image at the pagoda.

Later, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees reported on all-round renovation of the pagoda to the Prime Minister, who

fulfilled the requirements.

After that, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented cash for the pagoda to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt paid homage to Shin Upagutta at the pagoda and inspected work being carried out for all-round renovation of the pagoda.

Next, the Prime Minister and party arrived at e-Library in Kyauktan where they were welcomed by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and officials. First, the Prime Minister and party heard a report presented by Managing Director U Tin Hsan of ACE Construction on matters related to construction of the e-Library.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gave a supplementary report.

After giving necessary instructions, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected the e-Library.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with township level departmental officials and members of social organizations at the office of Kyauktan Township Peace and Development

Council and asked matters related to development of Kyauktan region.

First, Chairman of Kyauktan Township Peace and Development Council U Khin Zaw reported to the Prime Minister on agriculture, livestock breeding, economic, social, education, health matters in Kyauktan Township and requirements for development.

In response to the report, the Prime Minister attended to the needs and made a speech. He said that the township level departmental officials are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for development of education, health, social and economic sectors of the townships where they are assigned duties. He added that they are to make earnest and zealous efforts with goodwill for successful realization of the five rural development tasks by making field trips right down to grassroots level.

Progress will be made in the townships if the respective committees formed in such education, health, livestock breeding, agriculture and development sectors in the townships make efforts with might and main. Enlisting the strength of the people including members of social organizations, the departmental officials are to make efforts for regional development.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party left there by car and inspected construction of Letyet San Village Basic Education Primary School in Thanlyin Township and gave instructions to officials concerned.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back here in the afternoon. — MNA



The closing ceremony of the pandal of the Ministry of Home Affairs in progress on Thingyan Atet Day. — MNA

China to host 3rd International Silk Road Conference

BEIJING, 16 April — China will host the 3rd International Silk Road Conference in October this year to strengthen exchanges with countries along the Silk road.

The conference, co-sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Communications, the International Road Federation (IRF) and the government of Shaanxi Province, is scheduled to be held in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi from October 26 to 28 this year.

"It is of great significance for China to promote the construction of the 'New Silk Road' and to strengthen the transport cooperation with these countries along the Silk Road," said Feng Zhenglin, Vice Minister of Communications, here Thursday.

Wim Westerhuis, secretary general of the International Road Federation (IRF), said that there would be no success in rehabilitating the Silk Road with the support of China. He expressed his belief that holding the Silk Road Conference in China would achieve more fruitful results.

The theme of the conference is "Silk Road Rehabilitation and Road Infrastructure Construction". The conference will consist of the Opening Ceremony, Ministerial Session, Plenary Session, Parallel Session, Closing Ceremony and Technical Tour.

A large exhibition will also be staged during the conference.

It is estimated that the number of the

participants from both at home and abroad will be over 600, including Transport Ministers or high-ranking officials from the countries along the Silk Road, the neighbouring countries and other relevant countries, representatives from international organizations like the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the United Nations European Economic Commission (UNECE), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU), and high-level representatives from the international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and from foreign enterprises.

During the conference, a ministerial section will be held, during which the participating ministers will express their views on "how a rehabilitated Silk Road will contribute to the economic and social development of each country".

Based on their in-depth discussion, a Joint Ministerial Statement will be released after the session. According to IRF, the first and second International Silk Road Conference were held in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan respectively in 1998 and 1999.

MNA/Xinhua

တကောင်းမြို့၊ ရှေးဟောင်း လေးမျက်နှာတုရားကြီး ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင်
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ကုသိုလ်ယူ ဝါဝင်လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

အစုစုရသားကြီး (၁၂ x ၉ x ၉) - ၄၆/-
တံလင်းမြေတစ်စိတ် - ၄၀၀/-
သစ်တောကြီး - ၆၀၀/-
ပြန်လည်ဆောက်လုပ် (အစုစုရသား) တစ်ခု - ၂၀၀/-
သစ် (တစ်စိတ်) - ၁၀၀/-
သစ်တောကြီး (တစ်ခု) (၁၂ x ၁၂) - ၅၀/-

ယဉ်ကျေးမှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန (ဝန်ကြီးရုံး)
ရှေးဟောင်းသုတေသန ဦးစီးဌာန (ရုံးချုပ်)
ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအမွေအနှစ်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန (မန္တလေး)
တကောင်းမြို့၊ ရှေးဟောင်း လေးမျက်နှာတုရားကြီး ဝါဝင်လှူဒါန်းရန်

ဖုန်း ၅၄၂၃၇၂ ၅၄၂၃၇၃
ဖုန်း ၅၁၂၀၄၁ ၅၁၂၀၄၂
ဖုန်း ၀၂-၃၆၃၆၅၅ ၀၂-၃၆၃၆၅၆

Zimbabwe seizes equipment on white farms

HARARE, 16 April — Zimbabwe has confiscated agricultural equipment and machinery left behind and idle on commercial farms compulsorily acquired from Whites, the official *Herald* newspaper reported on Wednesday.

It quoted John Nkomo, chairman of a land committee appointed by President Robert Mugabe, as saying the equipment — including tractors, harvesters, trailers and irrigation pipes — was being allocated to deserving resettled wheat farmers. "This equipment is owned by former commercial farmers who are largely hostile and unresponsive to the land reform programme," Nkomo said in a statement. Mugabe's government introduced new regulations in December allowing it to seize such equipment and redistribute it.

Mugabe drew international criticism when he embarked on a drive to seize large tracts of White-owned farms for Blacks he says were dispossessed of the land when Britain colonized the country over a century ago.

Mugabe's government blames the food shortages on drought, and says opponents of its land seizures have sabotaged Zimbabwe's economy, leading to acute shortages of food, fuel and foreign currency, as well as record inflation and unemployment.

MNA/Reuters

German police searching for little old lady

BERLIN, 16 April — German police are searching for a little old lady whose only success in an attempted bank robbery was a clean get-away.

Berlin police said a woman, who appeared to be in her 70s, shuffled nervously into a Berlin bank on Wednesday morning and told tellers that crooks had foisted a bomb on her and threatened to blow her up if she did not rob the bank.

"She was a bit confused and told a cashier three men had handed her a bag containing a bomb and forced her to get the money or it would explode," said a police spokesman.

MNA/Reuters

Legislator says China must follow scientific concept of development

BEIJING, 16 April — China's top legislator said recently that China must follow the scientific concept of development, which has been endorsed by the central authorities as the new guideline for the country's social and economic development.

"It is important to earnestly implement the scientific concept of development," Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said during an inspection tour in the Three Gorges Reservoir area on April 8-13.

The concept calls for setting all-round human development as China's target

in economic and social development, and to strive to safeguard the economic, political and cultural rights and interests of the general public, said Wu.

According to Wu, in the past two decades, China has made great achievements in reform and opening-up and modernization construction, which greatly boosts the country's confidence of

and determination in building an all-round well-off society. "We should also clearly realize that we are now in the primary stage of socialism and there will be many hard problems for us to solve," he said.

Efforts should be intensified to improve the quality and efficiency of economic growth, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Report says CSSC completed 19 vessels in 1st quarter

BEIJING, 16 April — China's shipbuilding giant, the China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC), finished a total of 19 vessels in the first quarter of 2004, registering a year-on-year growth of 262 per cent, according to a CSSC report released here Wednesday.

The CSSC released its first quarter report on shipbuilding, which said the corporation has realized a 30-per-cent increase in its industrial value.

It also obtained a new contract value of over six billion yuan (about 725 million US dollars), with its accumulated contract value hitting 47.1 billion yuan, 14 billion yuan more than of the same period of last year.

During the first three months of this year, the CSSC also clinched 19 new ship orders, amounting to tonnage of more than one million, and 99.5 per cent of these new orders are for overseas clients.

According to the report, most shipbuilding

branches of the CSSC also registered record production in the first quarter, with their shipbuilding schemes fully arranged through the Year 2007.

Boatyard and non-shipbuilding business of the CSSC also increased fast in the first three months.

The CSSC plans to finish ships totalling three million tonnage this year, contract three million tonnage of new ship order, and begin building another three million tonnage of ships.

If this year's goal can be smoothly realized, the corporation will enter the world's top five in shipbuilding one year ahead of its original plan.

MNA/Xinhua

အပူဒဏ်အန္တရာယ်ကာကွယ်ရေးနည်းဆော်ချက်

ယခုအခါတွင် ရွှေ့ရာသီရောက်လာပြီဖြစ်သဖြင့် ရာသီဥတု ပူပြင်းလာပြီ ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ထိုအပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် ရွှေ့ထွက်လွန်ပြီး ဓနာကိုယ်အတွင်းရှိ ရေနှင့်ခါတ်ဆားများ ဆုံးရှုံးမှုများပြားပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ဆုံးရှုံးမှုကြောင့် မိတ်နှင့်ယားဖုများထွက်လာခြင်း၊ ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်ခြင်း၊ မူးမောခြင်း၊ ကြွက်တက်ခြင်း၊ ရွှေ့ခြောက်ပြီး ကိုယ်အပူရှိန်တက်ခြင်း၊ သတိလစ်ခြင်းတို့အပြင် အသက်အန္တရာယ် စိုးရိမ်ရသော အခြေအနေအထိဖြစ်တတ်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် မလိုလားအပ်သောအကျိုးဆက်များ မဖြစ်ပေါ်စေရန် အောက်ပါအချက်အလက်များကို လိုက်နာကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

- (၁) နံနက် (၁၀)နာရီမှ ညနေ (၅)နာရီအတွင်း လွင်တီး ခေါင်ခြင်း၊ မြစ်ကမ်းနား၊ ရေအိမ်စသည်တို့တွင် ရေချိုးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်၍ အရိပ်ရ အေးမြသောနေရာများတွင် နေပါ။
- (၂) နေပူထဲမှပြန်လာပြီး ချက်ချင်းရေချိုးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၃) နေပူထဲတွင်ပြင်းထန်သောကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုများ မပြုလုပ်သင့်ပါ။
- (၄) အရက်သောက်ခြင်းသည် အပူဒဏ်အန္တရာယ်ကို ဖြစ်ပေါ်လွယ်စေခြင်းနှင့် မြစ်ပွားပါက ပြင်းထန်စွာ စောင့်ရှောက်ကြောင့် ရှောင်ကြဉ်သင့်ပါသည်။

- (၅) နေ့ခင်းတက် အပြင်ထွက်သည့်အခါတိုင်း အရိပ် လုံလောက်စွာ ရရှိနိုင်သည့် ထီး၊ ဦးထုပ်များ ဆောင်းပါ။
- (၆) အလင်းရောင်ပြန်သော အဖြူရောင် သို့မဟုတ် အရောင်မျောမျော အဝတ်အထည်များကို ဝတ်ဆင်ပါ။
- (၇) ပွပျော့ချော့ချော့ ချည်ထည်များကို ဝတ်ဆင်ပါ။
- (၈) ရွှေ့ထွက်လွန်ပါက ကိုယ်တွင်းရှိရေနှင့်ခါတ်ဆားဆုံးရှုံးမှုကို ပြန်လည်ဖြည့်တင်းနိုင်ရန် ဓာတ်ဆားရည်သောက်ပါ။
- (၉) ကိုယ်အပူရှိန်တက်ပါက ရေအေးဖတ်နိုင်နိုင်တိုက်ပါ။
- (၁၀) ဆီချိုရောင်၊ နုလင်းရောင်၊ သွေးတိုရောင်၊ အခရီသုများ၊ ကလေးသုငယ်များနှင့် သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများအနေဖြင့် နေ့လယ်နေ့ခင်းတွင် အရိပ်ရ၍ လေဝင်လေထွက်ကောင်းသော နေရာမျိုး၌ နားနေပါ။
- (၁၁) မိတ်ဖု၊ ယားနားများထွက်ပါက ရေအေးဝတ်တံခြင်း၊ သနပ်ခါးလိမ်းခြင်းတို့ကို ပြုလုပ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်ခြင်း၊ ကိုယ်အပူရှိန်တက်ခြင်း၊ သတိလစ်ခြင်းနှင့် အတက်ရောက်ဖြစ်ပါက နီးစပ်ရာ ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် ပြသပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Pentagon inspector faults Boeing NATO AWACS deal

WASHINGTON, 16 April — The US Air Force improperly awarded a 1.32-billion-US-dollar NATO surveillance-plane upgrade contract to Boeing Co that was negotiated by an official who later joined the company, the Pentagon's chief inspector said on Thursday.

The deal was negotiated by Darleen Druyun, the Air Force's former No 2 procurement official who was hired one month later by Boeing, said Inspector General Joseph Schmitz, an internal watchdog.

Druyun is scheduled to plead guilty on Tuesday to a felony count of conspiracy in another Boeing-related matter. She has agreed to cooperate with prosecutors

investigating a possibly tainted 23.5-billion-US-dollar Air Force plan to lease and buy Boeing 767s as refuelling planes.

Air Force contracting officials awarded the NATO Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) contract in December 2002 "without knowing whether the 1.32-billion-US-dollar cost was fair and reasonable", Schmitz wrote.

The price for the upgrades was determined without completing an independent cost estimate, an integrated product team analysis, a technical evaluation of hours and labour mixes, audit assistance or "weighted guidelines" to establish a reasonable Boeing profit, the study found.

The Air Force should withhold options under the

contract until a final negotiated price is determined to be "fair and reasonable", it recommended.

Chicago-based Boeing, the Pentagon's No 2 supplier, said it had volunteered to renegotiate the contract even though, it said, Schmitz did not "point to or suggest any wrongdoing" by Boeing.

MNA/Reuters

WHO reviewing IHR to enable countries fight SARS-like epidemic

NEW DELHI, 16 April — Health officials from 192 countries and the World Health Organization are working on improving national and sub-regional surveillance system considering the threat to human health as "new microbes have appeared and old diseases have re-emerged".

"With inputs from health officials, WHO is reviewing the International Health Regulations (IHR) with focus on early detection of public health emergencies of international concern such as SARS. It killed many people and hampered trade relations between the countries," Dr Max Hardiman, group leader of WHO's IHR revision project, told reporters here.

IHR is a code of practices and procedures to prevent the spread of diseases. It is a legally binding international document that prescribes measures to states for preventing the transboundary spread of infectious diseases, he said.

"The code of procedures and practices include routine

measures at airports and seaports," he said.

The document has three diseases such as cholera, plague and yellow fever in the category of notifiable diseases. Any outbreak of these diseases need to be reported to the WHO as it could affect neighbouring countries, as well, he said.

"Apart from these diseases any other disease which is serious for public health, unusual, resulting in deaths and affects international trade also has to be reported to WHO as per the conditions of the document," he said.

The WHO is working on developing a country specific surveillance system of each nation which would help early detection of any possible outbreak, he said. — MNA/PTI

Indonesia to issue APEC Business Travel Card

JAKARTA, 16 April — The Indonesian Government will issue the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Card for businessmen, state officials at the ministerial level and first-echelon government officials as well as civil servants beginning May 1, an official said Thursday.

The card will be given to people whose jobs concern APEC affairs and who will travel to APEC members

which have issued the same card, Indonesian Immigration Office spokesman Ade Endang

Dahlan was quoted by state news agency Antara as saying.

The APEC countries and regions which have already issued the card are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, China, Chile, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines.

The card, valid for three years, will be issued by Indonesia's immigration director-general, he said, adding that those who will be given the card must receive pre-clearance from APEC member countries

which have issued the same card. Indonesia and other APEC member countries which have issued the card, he said, can cancel it if they find the card-holder to have been involved in crimes.

All card-holders will only be allowed to depart from and arrive in Indonesia through the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang, West Java, and Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali.

Ade said card-holders from other countries will be allowed to stay in Indonesia even without a visa.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore establishes high-level security committee

SINGAPORE, 16 April — The Singapore Government has set up a high-level committee to review security arrangements in the island state's public transport system, Minister of Transport Yeo Cheow Tong announced on Thursday.

"To further enhance the security of our public transport system and to boost coordination amongst agencies, I am pleased to announce that the government has set up a high-level Committee on Public Transport Security," the minister said while visiting the Singapore Mass Rail Transport (MRT) Operation Control Centre and City Hall Station. The committee, which will be consist of members from the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of

Defence and the public transport operators, will undertake a comprehensive review of the security arrangements in public transport, and recommend and oversee improvements to the security of the public transport system, including infra-structure such as the bus interchanges, terminals, MRT stations and depots.

The committee will also work out its security standards and develop a public education and communications strategy.

MNA/Xinhua

“သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တင် ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား ဖြိုတွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတိပေးခေါ်ဝေါ်ရန်အညီ စက်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ပေးထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီမံများအားလည်း သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ထားမှုများအတိုင်း တောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက်တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီမံများကို ညပိုင်းတွင် ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရှိပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ ပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနည်းလမ်းများကို တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

(၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉)

(၂) ကြိုမဲကြေးနန်းနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန် (ဖုန်း ၂၅၁၂၅၀/၂၅၁၂၅၁)

(၃) ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ (ဖုန်း ၅၄၁၉၀၅/၅၄၁၉၀၄)

ယာဉ်စီမံကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့်ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကျွံစားနှင့် စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သောရောဂါများမှာ အသည်းရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည်းခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအန်ခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြောထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါများဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ —

၁။ ကယောင့်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremors)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်၊ နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်းနိုင်စွမ်း မရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများမြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံဗလများ ကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုမိုများစွာကွဲယွင်းပေါ် ရုစိတ်သွားသလိုခံစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန့်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးသည့်အခါတွင် လူမရှိဘဲ နားထွက်ခေါ်သံများ၊ ခြိမ်းခြောက်သံများ၊ ဖော်ကားဖော်ကားသံများ ကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinations)။

၃။ အတက်ကြီးရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits) (ဝက်ရုပ်မြင်ရောဂါကဲ့သို့ တက်ခြင်း)။

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Depressive Illness)။

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)။

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချို့ယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ်သောက်ရုံဖြင့် ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)။

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

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှုကျူးလွန်သည့်အထိ ဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။ အထက်ပါဆို ကျိုးများကို မခံစားရစေရန် အရက်သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အထူးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကို စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန်တိုက်တွန်းအပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေးဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေးဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

တိဘီရောဂါကာကွယ်နိုင်ရေး

- (က) ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားမှုစက်ပုံ
- ဤရောဂါသည်တိဘီရောဂါကြောင့်ဖြစ်သော ကူးစက်ရောဂါဖြစ်သည်။ ဝေဒနာရှင် ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ နှာချေခြင်း၊ သလိပ်တံတွေးမှ တစ်ဆင့် ရောဂါပိုးများ လေထဲတွင်ပျံ့နှံ့၍ ကူးစက်သည်။
- အသက်အရွယ်မရွေး လူတိုင်းတွင် ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည်။
 - အဆုတ်တွင်အများဆုံးဖြစ်ပွားပြီး ကိုယ်ခန္ဓာအနှံ့အပြားတွင်လည်း ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။
 - ဆီချိုရောဂါ၊ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုကူးစက်ရောဂါနှင့် အာဟာရချို့တဲ့မှုရှိသူများတွင် အဖြစ်များသည်။
- (ခ) ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများ
- ရက်ရှည်ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း (ရက်သတ္တပတ် (၃) ပတ်နှင့်အထက်)။
 - ချောင်းဆိုးသွေးပါခြင်း။
 - သလိပ်တွင်သွေးပါခြင်း၊
 - အဖျားတာရှည်ခြင်း၊
 - ခံတွင်းပျက်ခြင်း၊ မေပခန်းလွယ်ခြင်း။
 - ကိုယ်အလေးချိန်လျော့နည်းပိန်ချခြင်း။
 - ကျောရင်အောင့်ခြင်း။
- (ဂ) ကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်ခြင်း
- ရင်သွေးငယ်များအား ကာကွယ်ဆေး(ဘီစီဂျီ)ကို မပျက်မကွက်ထိုးပေးပါ။
 - အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအစာများကိုစားသုံးပါ။
 - သင့်တင့်လျောက်ပတ်သောကုသိုလ်လုပ်ရုံမှမြဲလုပ်ပါ။
 - ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ နှာချေလျှင် လက်ကိုဝံ့ပတ်ကို အသုံးပြုပါ။
 - သလိပ်နှင့်တံတွေးကိုစည်းကမ်းမဲ့ထွေးခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 - ဆေးလိပ်သောက်ခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (ဃ) ကုသမှုယူခြင်း
- တိုက်ရိုက်ကြည့်ရှုအချိန်တိုနှင့်ကုသခြင်းဖြင့် ရောဂါကင်းသည့်အထိ ကုသမှုခံယူပါ။
 - ကုသမှုခံယူခြင်းသည် အခြားသူများသို့ကူးစက်စေခြင်းမှ အကောင်းဆုံးကာကွယ်ခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။
- တိဘီရောဂါသံသယရှိလျှင် နီးစပ်ရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် စစ်ဆေး၍ တိဘီရောဂါရှိပါက အစွမ်းထက်သောတိဘီဆေးဝါးများဖြင့် အခမဲ့ကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 16 April — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming.

Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. Modern and scientific poultry farming as well as fish and prawn breeding are also exhibited at the Nursery Market Festival.

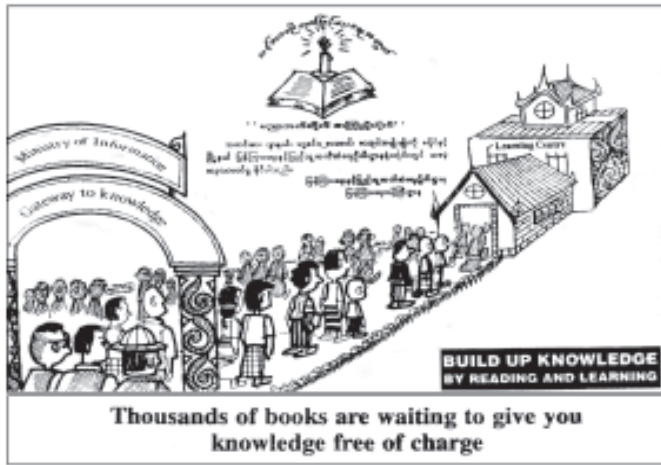
Pamphlets and booklets on scientific cultivation of crops, mechanized farming, utilization of natural and chemical fertilizers are also available there.

The Nursery Market Festival is drawing more and more visitors and attracting people to get interested in agriculture and livestock breeding works.

MNA

ရှောင်လေဝေးဝေး

မူးယစ်ဆေး



NEWS OF THE WORLD

Abdullah discusses regional issues with US congress delegation

AMMAN, 16 April—Jordan's King Abdullah II discussed with a visiting US Congress delegation from Virginia State the latest developments in the Middle East region, the official Petra news agency reported.

Abdullah outlined Jordan's efforts to reinvigorate the peace process in the region and initiatives aimed to end the conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis through implementing the internationally-backed roadmap peace plan.

He said his planned talks this month with US President George W Bush will focus on means of relaunched the peace process and the current situations in Iraq, as well as on ways to boost bilateral relations, particularly in investment and

economic spheres and the US aid to Jordan.

The Jordanian King also met on Tuesday with Virginia Council delegation for Information Technology.

The King expressed his thanks and appreciation for the delegation for their initiatives to invest in Jordan and to establish partnerships with the private sectors, particularly in educational and IT fields.

The delegation, who met with Jordanian officials in public and private sectors, will sign several agreements

with Jordanian companies in information technology field.

Abdullah, meanwhile, noted the steps that the Jordanian Government has been taking to improve the investment environment in Jordan, despite the unfavourable circumstances in the region.

"We are determined to take the initiative in reform and development processes in a way that meets our people's hopes and ambitions," King Abdullah said.

MNA/Xinhua

Latam needs more political will to enhance integration

SANTIAGO, 16 April — Former French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin said Tuesday that the governments in Latin America have to show stronger will to increase regional integration.

Should Latin America achieve a level of integration similar to that of the European Union (EU), the countries in the region have to first show a real political will to advance in that direction, said the socialist French leader during the seminar New Ways of Progressive Cooperation here.

"It is true that this aim requires common bases like democracy, rule of law and free exchange, all elements that exist in the zone. But, most important, it needs the will of the governments to delegate sovereignty in the whole," he said.

Jospin believed that relations between the EU and Latin America were going through a very good moment but had to be deepened on the basis of equality and permanent dialogue at all levels.

Latin America has to work out all its "answers to

the particular reality of this region," just as every other region does during the process towards integration, he said. He said it was necessary to strengthen multilateralism, which he termed as a "basic tool" for regional and supra-regional integration.

Negotiations had been underway among the members of the Latin American Integration Association in a bid to make the region better

positioned in negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

The group, headquartered in Montevideo, comprises Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Trade among members of the group totalled 43 billion US dollars in 2003, an 11-per-cent increase over 2002.

MNA/Xinhua

S'pore calls for more efforts to fight terrorism

SINGAPORE, 16 April— Singapore on Wednesday called for more efforts to fight terrorism in a bid to ensure global aviation security, which is now facing growing challenges from terrorism.

Addressing a seminar on aviation security here on Wednesday, Singapore Minister of State for Health and Transport Balaji Sadasivan said that terrorism remains a global problem, and nowhere in the world is safe from terrorist attacks. In particular, transportation systems are attractive and vulnerable targets.

He stressed the need for all players in the global aviation industry to continue keeping vigilant against terrorism threats.

To make an effective global response to new and emerging threats from terrorism, the minister called for enhancing global aviation security standards, stronger cooperation between governments, stronger public-private sector partnerships and leveraging on technology.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

NEW YEAR GREETING

Hninzigone Home for the Aged wishes happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year to all our donors and well-wishers for all their meritorious deeds.

Management Committee
Hninzigone Home For the Aged

Vanuatu's fifth president sworn in

CANBERRA, 16 April— Alfred Maseng, a former Parliament speaker, has been sworn in as the fifth president of the South Pacific Island country of Vanuatu.

Maseng, who replaces John Bani, was supported by more than two thirds of the electoral college in the fourth round of voting Tuesday, Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio reported Wednesday.

Last week's rounds of voting have been proved inconclusive because none of the candidates won the necessary support of two-thirds majority of the electoral college.

Maseng's election over the government-backed candidate ended a standoff between the government and the opposition, which threatened to turn the election into a constitutional crisis.

The election was contested by 32 candidates, the highest number of candidates since the country's independence in 1980. — MNA/Xinhua

New Zealand to host Pacific counter-terrorism meeting

WELLINGTON, 16 April — New Zealand will host a counter-terrorism meeting for Pacific Islands Forum members next month, Prime Minister Helen Clark announced Wednesday.

The Pacific Roundtable on Counter-Terrorism is an opportunity for all forum states to discuss the implications of the upsurge in terrorism from 11 September, 2001, any difficulties faced in meeting our counter-terrorism obligations, and the assistance available to small states from international sources, Clark said in a statement.

The terrorist strikes of September 11, 2001, the outrage of the Bali and other bombings, including those in Madrid last month, have caused states to focus on how they can contribute to counter-terrorism efforts, she said.

International counter-terrorism obligations, including United Nations requirements which prohibit any form of support for terrorism, affect all countries.

Clark said that states need to comply with rules aimed at cutting off the flow of

funds to terrorists and that they need to ratify the 12 United Nations anti-terrorism conventions.

The new obligations include International Maritime Organization regulations on shipping to be implemented by mid-year, and International Civil Aviation Organization cargo screening rules which need to be put in place by the beginning of 2006, Clark said, adding that all countries would face economic risks if they fail to comply with these measures. — MNA/Xinhua

Changi Airport to use new biometric security checks

SINGAPORE, 16 April— Singapore's Changi Airport will introduce new biometric security checks to prevent terrorists from sneaking into the island state early next year.

This was announced on the sidelines of a seminar on global aviation security here on Wednesday.

The new security system will identify staff through unique features like fingerprints or even retina scans.

Meanwhile, a new X-ray system, which can scan the luggage from various angles, will be used at the airport by the end of this year.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) plans to introduce 35 sets of advanced X-ray scanners to speed up the process of luggage inspection. — MNA/Xinhua



A customer tries out an iPod mini at an Apple Computer store in Palo Alto, Calif, on 14 April, 2004. Huge demand for iPod portable digital music players helped Apple Computer Inc triple its second-quarter earnings. — INTERNET

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

NASA starts 3-year programme to change culture

WASHINGTON, 16 April — NASA began a three-year tune-up programme on Tuesday prompted by a new survey that found the space agency still sometimes fails to follow through on safety concerns, more than a year after the *Columbia* accident.

The new programme is aimed at changing NASA's organizational culture, a key recommendation from investigators who probed the fatal mid-air break-up of shuttle *Columbia* that killed all seven astronauts on 1 February, 2003.

The *Columbia* investigators criticized NASA last year for its "broken safety culture", which they found was as much to blame for the accident as any technical failure. The agency's new "plan for organizational culture change," discussed at a briefing at NASA Headquarters, stressed this concern again.

"Safety is something to which NASA personnel are strongly committed in concept, but NASA has not yet created a culture that is fully supportive of safety," the 145-page survey said. "Open communication is not yet the norm, and people do not feel fully comfortable raising safety concerns to management."

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said he would follow the recommendations of this plan, starting with a series of meetings and management coaching over the next five months.

That will be followed by a long-term "roadmap" for

culture change, according to the report and survey, which was conducted by BST Inc, a California-based behavioral science company.

"We need to create a climate... in which open communication is not only permissible, it's actively encouraged," O'Keefe said. "The leadership's got to take it on, starting with me."

Veteran shuttle astronaut Jim Weatherby said NASA's own can-do culture needs to change, especially when it comes to encouraging those with safety concerns to speak up.

The reluctance to raise these concerns "stems from the can-do spirit", Weatherby told reporters.

"Our pervasive culture for the last 45 years has been one of mission accomplishment — man, we really get things done," he said. "If you're someone who is slowing down the process, it isn't only the managers that are putting pressure to not speak up, sometimes it's even the peers."

The immediate cause of *Columbia*'s fatal disintegration on re-entry was a piece of insulating foam that fell from the shuttle's external tank on lift-off and struck the spaceship's left wing, damaging it. — MNA/Reuters

Study says kidneys from older donors work as well

CHICAGO, 16 April — Transplanted kidneys from older donors often work just as well as organs from younger donors, a study said on Monday.

In the study of 324 kidney transplant patients, 13 per cent of organs from donors aged 55 or older failed, compared to a 15-per-cent failure rate for kidneys obtained from younger ones. Kidneys from younger donors generally functioned better than older kidneys, but all the successfully transplanted kidneys functioned acceptably, the study said. Transplant patients' survival rates after one, two and three years were also comparable.

"After proper evaluation, kidneys from older deceased or living donors are appropriate for selected candidates, including older patients awaiting transplantation and those with limited life expectancy based on their severity of illness," Dr. Paul Morrissey of Brown Medical School, Providence, Rhode Island, wrote in the journal *Archives of Surgery*. More important than the age of the donor, especially for an older patient waiting for a new kidney, is to obtain a healthy organ, whether the donor is living or deceased, the report said. — MNA/Reuters

Police kill Rio slum kingpin amid cocaine war

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), 16 April — Police on Wednesday shot to death the chief drug lord of a Rio de Janeiro slum as they tried to stamp out a war between cocaine traffickers that has gripped Brazil's second-biggest city.

Luciano Barbosa da Silva, nicknamed Lulu, and another unidentified gangster were killed in a shootout with a police special forces unit, police Colonel Jorge Braga said.

The killing brought the death toll to 12 since the war broke out in the huge Rocinha slum last Friday.

Rio state authorities asked the federal government for 4,000 federal troops to deploy in the famed seaside city to help restore order but this was turned down.

Justice Minister Marcio Thomaz Bastos told state Security Secretary Anthony Garotinho in Brasilia that police forces who occupied Rocinha in a military-style invasion on Monday appeared to have brought the situation under control.

Drug traffickers reign in many of the teeming slums of Rio, a major transit point for Colombian cocaine going to Europe and a big market itself for the drug.

The fighting in Rocinha, which spills down a hillside between chic, wealthy neighbourhoods, erupted when a drug lord named Eduino Eustacio, or Dudu, invaded with his gunmen to try to oust Lulu, who had run the slum since 1995.

MNA/Reuters

Norway's king back at work after cancer surgery

OSLO, 16 April — Norway's King Harald returned to work on Tuesday after nearly five months recovering from cancer surgery, the palace said.

Crown Prince Haakon, 30, had acted as regent since late November when his 67-year-old father, a great-great grandson of Britain's Queen Victoria, went on sick leave and underwent an operation to remove a cancerous bladder.

Norwegian media say Harald looks healthier than in a long time. During his convalescence, they published pictures of him looking vigorous on holiday in Italy and sailing in Florida.

It was his longest absence since he came to the throne in 1991. The king's role as head of state is largely ceremonial. — MNA/Reuters

Police probe new Michael Jackson molestation case

LOS ANGELES, 16 April — Police are investigating claims by an unidentified man that pop star Michael Jackson molested him in Los Angeles in the late 1980s, authorities said on Tuesday.

The probe comes as Jackson battles child molestation charges in central California stemming from accusations made by a young boy who was seen with him in a controversial British television documentary filmed partly at his Santa Barbara county ranch.

Attorneys for Jackson, 45, could not immediately be reached for comment on Tuesday.

"They do have an investigation, that's correct," Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, told Reuters.

She declined to comment further on specifics of the case, saying that the matter was still in the hands of Los Angeles police detectives.

An LAPD spokesman said

in a written statement that the investigation stemmed from a tip by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

"The victim alleges the acts took place in the City of Los Angeles in the late 1980s," LAPD spokesman Jason Lee said. "The Department's Juvenile Division, Child Protection Section, is currently investigating the allegations."

It was not immediately clear if accusations dating to the 1980s could result in a criminal prosecution in 2004. Gibbons said the statute of limitations on most child molestation cases was eight years, though it could be extended under certain circumstances.

Stan Goldman, a professor of criminal law at Loyola

Marymount Law School in Los Angeles, said that if the Los Angeles case were too old to prosecute, the accuser could possibly be called to testify against Jackson in the Santa Barbara case.

Jackson is charged in Santa Barbara with seven counts of lewd acts on a child under the age of 14 and two counts of plying the boy with alcohol in order to seduce him. He has pleaded innocent and called the charges a "big lie". Meanwhile a grand jury has been meeting in Santa Barbara to consider an indictment on similar charges against the self-proclaimed "King of Pop".

A Santa Barbara County judge has said that he expects a trial in that matter to begin in December.

MNA/Reuters

Macao to launch campaign bidding for WHO Healthy City

MACAO, 16 April — Macao will on 13 June launch its serial campaign bidding for WHO "Healthy City," a senior health official announced here.

Koi Kuok Ieng, director of the Health Service and head of a five-member preparatory committee for the "Healthy City" bidding, said that the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) government hoped to finish the bidding within two years. Over 20 governmental departments will coordinate in the bidding. On 13 June, more than 10,000 Macao residents and government officials including Macao's Chief Executive Edmund Ho Hau Wah are expected to participate in the launching ceremony.

Macao's application for the "Healthy City" bidding was made at the suggestion of Shigeru Omi, WHO Western Pacific Regional Direc-

tor. He suggested Macao apply for the "Healthy City" appraisal to showcase its image as a healthy and safe tourist city during his trip to Macao on 30 July last year.

Omi and his colleagues

made inspection visits to Macao in wake of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak, which traumatized Macao's neighbouring regions of Guangdong and Hong Kong in the first

half of last year. Macao's quick and effective restructuring of hospitals' facilities and services in reaction to the SARS control was highly commended by the WHO.

MNA/Xinhua

Twin golden monkeys born in Beijing Safari Park

BEIJING, 16 April — Dabao, an 11-year-old female golden monkey in Beijing Safari Park, gave births to twin cubs Monday, a source with the safari park said.

A noted wildlife expert with the park said the possibility of the birth of twin golden monkeys averages one per 10,000, and it was the first ever pair of twin golden monkeys born in China.

The twin golden monkeys weigh some 0.5 kilos each, and are 20 centimetres tall,

said keepers in the park. They were breast-fed by their mother Dabao.

In order to help Dabao produce more milk, park keepers have prepared nutritious food, such as Chinese dates, powder milk, walnut and peanut, for the dame monkey.

A rare animal species in

the world, the golden monkeys, which have been listed under priority state protection in China, are inhabited mainly in mountainous areas in Sichuan, Gansu, Shaanxi and Hubei provinces. There are currently about 5,000 golden monkeys worldwide.

MNA/Xinhua



Shandi Finnessey of Missouri reacts after being crowned Miss USA 2004 at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California on 12 April, 2004. Finnessey was crowned by Susie Castillo, Miss USA of 2003. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Meriem solo goal helps Marseille get past Inter

MILAN, 15 April — A superb solo goal in the 74th minute by Camel Meriem gave Olympique Marseille a 1-0 win over Inter Milan on Wednesday and a UEFA Cup semifinal place.

Marseille's 2-0 aggregate victory, after they had won the first leg of the quarterfinal 1-0, leaves Italy without a team in the last four of the two European club competitions.

Argentine Julio Ricardo Cruz had Inter's best two chances early in the second half before the Italians, who had created most of the pressure, were caught on the break.

Meriem burst from inside his own half down the left wing and cut inside before firing a low shot past Francesco Toldo that secured the French club a place in the last four.

Inter could have few complaints after struggling to turn their midfield possession into clear cut chances against a rock solid Marseille defence.

The pattern for the game was set early on with Marseille content to defend and close down quickly in midfield and Inter looking to push forward at every opportunity but without the guile needed to break down the French defences. — MNA/Reuters



Alexander Rondon of Venezuela's Deportivo Tachira (R) tries to score past goalie Franco Costanzo of Argentina's River Plate, during their Libertadores Cup soccer match at Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires, on 14 April, 2004. — INTERNET

Valencia beat Bordeaux, set up all-Spanish semi

VALENCIA (Spain), 15 April — Valencia eased their way into the last four of the UEFA Cup after second-half goals from Mauricio Pellegrino and Francisco Rufete secured a 2-1 win at home to Girondins Bordeaux on Wednesday.

The comfortable 4-2 aggregate victory means that the Primera Liga leaders will now meet regional rivals Villarreal in an all-Spanish semifinal.

Villarreal, who claimed a 3-1 aggregate victory over last season's finalists Celtic earlier in the evening, are based just 70 kilometres further north of Valencia along the Mediterranean coast.

The victory completed a perfect week for Rafa Benitez' side, who knocked Real Madrid off the top of the Primera Liga at the weekend after a 1-0 victory away to Real Zaragoza, and keeps them on course for a domestic and European double.

Bordeaux, who had been somewhat unlucky to slip to a 2-1 defeat in the first leg, made a lively start at the Mestalla as they took the game to the Spanish side in the opening minutes and went in search of an early goal.

It was the home side, though, who created the first real danger of the game when Xisco found space down the right in the 15th minute.

The speedy forward checked past a defender and clipped in a neat cross towards the far post, but Bordeaux forward Pascal Feindouno cleared the danger before the advancing Fabian Canobbio could line up his shot.

Bordeaux continued to have the better of the possession, but it was Valencia who looked more likely to open the scoring as midfielder Miguel Angel Angulo and striker Xisco both spurned good chances to give their side the lead.

Valencia stepped up a gear after the break and Argentine defender Pellegrino broke the deadlock when he crashed in a

powerful header after a Rufete corner on 52 minutes.

Bordeaux had little time to work their way back into the match before Rufete made it 2-0 when he slotted the ball past keeper Ulrich Rame after midfielder Miguel Angel Angulo raced down the left and curled a perfect pass to his feet.

The visitors pulled one back 12 minutes later, midfielder Eduardo Costa getting in amongst the Valencia defence to poke home a free kick, but it came too late to endanger the prospect of an all-Spanish semifinal.

MNA/Reuters

Villarreal stun Celtic to reach UEFA semifinals

LONDON, 15 April — European debutants Villarreal set up an all-Spanish UEFA Cup semifinal with regional rivals Valencia after ending Celtic's bid to reach successive finals on Wednesday.

Goals from Sonny Anderson and Roger gave Villarreal, who qualified for the competition via the Intertoto Cup last July, a 2-0 quarterfinal second leg win over the Scottish side at El Madrigal to secure a 3-1 aggregate success.

Former European champions Olympique Marseille will play England's Newcastle United in the other semifinal.

A second-half goal from Camel Meriem handed Ligue 1 Marseille a 1-0 victory over three-times winners Inter at the San Siro to seal a 2-0 passage.

It was Inter's first defeat against French opposition in 10 European ties and leaves Italy without a representative in the semifinals of either of the two European club competitions. — MNA/Reuters

Speed winner puts Newcastle in UEFA Cup semis

NEW CASTLE (England), 15 April — Gary Speed secured Newcastle United a place in the UEFA Cup semifinals with a second-half winner to beat PSV Eindhoven 2-1 at St. James' Park on Wednesday.

The Wales captain headed in a 66th-minute goal from a Laurent Robert corner to give Newcastle a 3-2 aggregate victory in the quarterfinal tie following a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Eindhoven last week.

PSV had equalized from the penalty spot through Mateja Kezman after Alan Shearer had given Newcastle the perfect start with an early goal, also from a Robert corner.

The Newcastle captain beat his marker and goalkeeper Ronald Waterreus to the ball at the near post for his sixth UEFA Cup goal of the season.

Newcastle dominated the first half but failed to create any further notable chances while in defence Jonathan Woodgate was excellent and hardly allowed Serbia and Montenegro striker Kezman any significant possession.

PSV coach Guus Hiddink withdrew Danish winger Dennis Rommedahl at halftime and introduced striker Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink in his place to partner the previously lone figure of Kezman.

Hiddink's more adventurous tactics were rewarded almost immediately because Newcastle conceded a penalty that Kezman con-

verted in the 52nd minute.

Midfielder Darren Ambrose failed to clear his lines and when the ball was crossed into the box, left back Olivier Bernard brought down Lee Young-pyo.

Kezman, who scored PSV's goal in the 1-1 first-leg draw at the Philips Stadion last Thursday, confidently beat Shay Given from the spot.

Newcastle hit back in the 66th when Waterreus' weakness at set pieces was exploited again by French winger Robert.

Laurent's far-post corner was met perfectly by Speed who rose above the goalkeeper and his defenders to score from close range.

The Dutch side almost grabbed a late equalizer that would have been enough to secure a semifinal berth but Given pulled off a superb diving save to keep out Wilfred Bouma's 25-metre free kick.

Now Newcastle can look forward to entertaining 1999 finalists Olympique Marseille in the first leg of their semifinal next Thursday. The second leg is scheduled for May 6.

MNA/Reuters

Nine-man Barcelona earn 1-1 draw at Real Betis

MADRID, 15 April — Nine-man Barcelona earned a 1-1 draw at mid-table Real Betis as they extended their unbeaten run to 14 games on Wednesday but the result dealt a blow to their outside chance of clinching the Primera Liga title.

Barca, who stay in fourth place with 60 points and trail leaders Valencia by nine with six games remaining, took a fifth minute lead after Betis defender Daniel Lembo pulled down Argentine striker Javier Saviola in the penalty area.

Saviola drove his spot kick at goalkeeper Antonio Prats but crashed the ball into the top of the net from the rebound.

The turning point came in the 33rd minute when Barcelona keeper Victor Valdes was sent off for shoving a Betis player in the area and former Barca striker Alfonso converted the penalty.

Both sides had good chances in a tight second half, with Barca hitting the post at one end and clearing off their own line at the other, but neither team could break the deadlock.

The visitors were reduced to nine men in injury time when midfielder Gerard was dismissed after a second booking for a clumsy challenge on Betis winger Joaquin.

The result left Barcelona level with third placed Deportivo Coruna, who have

the better head-to-head record. Arch-rivals Real Madrid lie second on 67 points.

Barcelona, playing without Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho due to a suspension, had the best of the opening play and should have added a second goal in the 25th minute when young midfielder Andres Iniesta beat Prats with a 15-yard shot only to hit the post.

Controversy surrounded Valdes' dismissal as the Barcelona keeper was not interfering with play when he pushed Betis striker Dani to keep him away from injured defender Michael Reiziger.

Barcelona's second-choice keeper Rustu Recher was caught awkwardly off his line in the 71st minute when he mishandled a cross and then rushed to tackle a Betis forward. Defender Rafael Marquez did well to clear an Alfonso shot.

But Barca could have snatched a victory when defender Giovanni von Bronkhorst rattled the post with a curling free kick 10 minutes from time.

MNA/Reuters



Pereyra of Venezuelan soccer team Caracas FC (R) fights for the ball with Brazilian player Maldonado of Cruzeiro, during their Libertadores Cup match in Caracas, on 14 April, 2004. Cruzeiro won the game 3-2.

INTERNET

MRTV-3



**17-4-2004 (Saturday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
- Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Melodious Myanmar
- Harp (Auspicious
- Blessing)
- 9:10 **Headline News**
- 9:12 Meditation Centre
- 9:15 **National News**
- 9:20 Hninzigone, Home For
- the Aged
- 9:25 Auspicious Glory
- 9:30 **National News**
- 9:35 Four Greatest Places of
- Lord Buddha
- 9:40 Song "Peace be with
- you"
- 9:45 **National News**
- 9:50 Myanmar Traditional
- Tayaw Kinbun Sham-
- poo
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Come and See
- Myanmar"

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

- 15:30 Signature Tune
- Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Manma Pano-
- rama & Myanmar Sen-
- timent"
- 15:36 Melodious Myanmar
- Harp (Auspicious
- Blessing)
- 15:40 **Headline News**
- 15:42 Meditation Centre

- 15:45 **National News**
- 15:50 Hninzigone, Home For
- the Aged
- 15:55 Auspicious Glory
- 16:00 **National News**
- 16:05 Four Greatest Places of
- Lord Buddha
- 16:10 Song "Peace be with
- you"
- 16:15 **National News**
- 16:20 Myanmar Traditional
- Tayaw Kinbun Sham-
- poo
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30 **National News**
- 16:35 Fabulous Shwe Gu
- Dage Daw Gyi
- 16:40 Arts of Myanmar Tra-
- ditional Tapestry
- 16:45 **National News**
- 16:50 Glimpses At Myanmar
- Movies "Amay chaya
- (Part-I)"
- 17:00 **Weekly News High-**
- lights**
- 17:05 Fossilized Wood Gar-
- den
- 17:10 Song "Rice Flower
- Like a Canal"
- 17:15 **Weekly News High-**
- lights**
- 17:20 Glimpses At Myanmar
- Movies "Amay Chaya
- (Part-II)"
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Come and See
- Myanmar"

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

- 19:30 Signature Tune
- Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 The Ancient City
- Mrauk U
- 19:40 **Headline News**
- 19:42 Happy and Gay the
- Thingyan Season wel-
- comes all with Dances
- and Songs
- 19:45 **National News**
- 19:50 Travel & Description

- (Mandalay to Lashio)
- 19:55 Happy and Gay the
- Thingyan Season wel-
- comes all with Dances
- and Songs
- 20:00 **National News**
- 20:05 Thabotseik Village on
- Seaside
- 20:10 Song "Emerald Lake
- (Taking Retreat at
- Mandalay Hill)"
- 20:15 **National News**
- 20:20 Significant Month of
- Dagu (Part -II)
- 20:25 Song "The Towering
- Flowers"
- 20:30 **National News**
- 20:35 Myanmar Traditional
- Handiwork of Casting
- 20:40 The Zingyike Waterfall
- 20:45 **National News**
- 20:50 Myanmar Movies Im-
- pact
- 21:00 **National News**
- 21:05 The Art of Making
- Pennant
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern
- Song "Blessed
- Myanmar"
- 21:15 **National News**
- 21:20 The King of Musical
- Instrument
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Myanmar
- Panorama & Myanmar
- Sentiment"
- 21:35 Melodious Myanmar
- Harp (Auspicious
- Blessing)
- 21:40 **Headline News**
- 21:42 Meditation Centre
- 21:45 **National News**
- 21:50 Hninzigone, Home For
- the Aged
- 21:55 Auspicious Glory
- 22:00 **National News**
- 22:05 Four Greatest Places of
- Lord Buddha
- 22:10 Song "Peace be with
- you"
- 22:15 **National News**
- 22:20 Myanmar Traditional
- Tayaw Kinbun Sham-
- poo
- 22:25 Song "Fetch me in a
- horse-cart"
- 22:30 **National News**

- 22:35 Fabulous Shwe Gu
- Dage Daw Gyi
- 22:40 Arts of Myanmar Tra-
- ditional Tapestry
- 22:45 **National News**
- 22:50 Glimpses At Myanmar
- Movies
- 23:00 **National News**
- 23:05 Fossilized Wood Gar-
- den
- 23:10 Song "Rice Flower
- Like a Canal"
- 23:15 **Weekly News High-**
- lights**
- 23:20 Glimpses At Myanmar
- Movies "Amay Chaya
- (Part-II)"
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Come and See
- Myanmar"

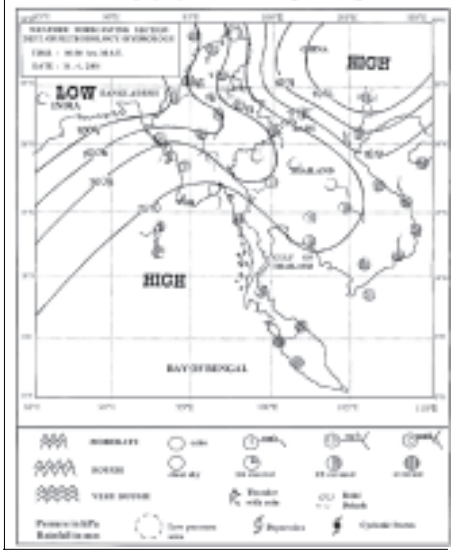
**17-4-2004 (Saturday) &
18-4-2004 (Sunday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
- Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 The Ancient City
- Mrauk U
- 23:40 **Headline News**
- 23:42 Thingyan Dances
- 23:45 **National News**
- 23:55 Travel & Description
- (Mandalay to Lashio)
- 23:58 Thingyan Dances
- 24:00 **National News**
- 00:05 Thabotseik Village on
- Seaside
- 00:10 Song "Emerald Lake
- (Taking Retreat at
- Mandalay Hill)"
- 00:15 **National News**
- 00:20 Significant Month of
- Dagu (Part -II)
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Myanmar Pano-
- rama & Myanmar Sen-
- timent"
- 00:30 **National News**
- 00:35 Myanmar Traditional
- Handiwork of Casting

- 00:40 The Zingyike Waterfall
- 00:45 **National News**
- 00:50 Myanmar Movies Im-
- pact
- 00:55 A Rural Village
- 01:00 **National News**
- 01:05 The Art of Making
- Pennant
- 01:10 Myanmar Modern

- Song "Blessed
- Myanmar"
- 01:15 **National News**
- 01:20 The King of Musical
- Instrument
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
- Beauty & Scenic
- Sights "Come and See
- Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 16 April, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan State, widespread in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Eastern Shan State, Yangon, Mandalay and Magway Divisions (3°C) below normal in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division, (8°C) below normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant day temperatures were (42°C) each in Minbu, Magway and Aungmye. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Putao (2.68) inches, Homalin (2.13) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-4-2004 was 37.8°C (100°F). Minimum temperature on 16-4-2004 was 22.5°C (73°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-4-2004 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 15-4-2004 was (10.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 16-4-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 5 mm (0.20 inch) at Yangon Airport and 12 mm (0.47 inch) at Kaba-Aye and 3 mm (0.12 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 15-4-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17-4-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin and Northern Shan States, Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin State.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-4-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-4-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Weather Outlook for Third Weekend of April 2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Division and isolated rain or Thundershowers are likely in Mandalay Division.

New Rainfall Record

(Issued at 09:30 hrs MST on 16th April, 2004)
The amount of rainfall 54 mm (2.13 inches) observed at (09:30) hrs MST today at Homalin is the new maximum (24) hours rainfall record of the station for the Month of April during the last (39) years.

Earthquake Report

An earthquake of slight intensity (4.9) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about (227) miles North of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (14) hrs (14) min (22) sec MST on 16 April 2004.

Earthquake Report

An earthquake of strong intensity (6.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (1652) miles South of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (08) hrs (38) min (06) sec MST on 16 April 2004.



**Saturday, April 17
View today:**

- 7:00 am
- 1. Recitation of Parittas by
- Missionary Sayadaw U
- Ottamathara
- 7:30 am
- 2. Morning News
- 7:40 am
- 3. ရန်ကုန်မြို့နေ့တော်ပီဗီ
- တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းတိုက်အရှေ့ဘက်
- ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ဟောသီချင်းအသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- (တရားလက်ဆောင်)တရားတော်
- 8:00 am
- 4. Religious Song
- 8:10 am
- 5. ခါးကြိုးအသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- 8:20 am
- 6. နိုင်ငံခြားသတင်း
- 8:30 am
- 7. International news
- 8:45 am
- 8. ဘုရားကျောင်းအသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- အသံဖွဲ့ချက်ဟောသီချင်းအသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- နိုင်ငံတော်သံသယဟောသီချင်းအသံဖွဲ့ချက်

- ဟောသီချင်းအသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- ထိုရန်ကုန်မြို့နေ့တော်ပီဗီ
- တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းတိုက်အရှေ့ဘက်
- ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ဟောသီချင်းအသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- (တရားလက်ဆောင်)တရားတော်
- 8:00 am
- 4. Religious Song
- 8:10 am
- 5. ခါးကြိုးအသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- 8:20 am
- 6. နိုင်ငံခြားသတင်း
- 8:30 am
- 7. International news
- 8:45 am
- 8. ဘုရားကျောင်းအသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- အသံဖွဲ့ချက်ဟောသီချင်းအသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- နိုင်ငံတော်သံသယဟောသီချင်းအသံဖွဲ့ချက်

- 5:00 pm
- 5. ရန်ကုန်မြို့နေ့တော်ပီဗီ
- တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းတိုက်အရှေ့ဘက်
- ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ဟောသီချင်းအသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- (တရားလက်ဆောင်)တရားတော်
- 8:00 pm
- 15. News
- 16. International news
- 17. Weather report
- 18. ရန်ကုန်မြို့နေ့တော်ပီဗီ
- တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းတိုက်အရှေ့ဘက်
- ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ဟောသီချင်းအသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အသံဖွဲ့ချက်
- (တရားလက်ဆောင်)တရားတော်
- 8:45 pm
- 4. Musical Programme



**Saturday, April 17
Tune in today:**

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: Learning my
- Living (C 21)
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: Vivalda Radio
- (lolly)
- 8:55 am National news/
- Slogan
- 9:05 am Music :That's ok
- (marc Anthony)
- 9:10 am International news
- 9:15 am Music: (Spotlight on
- a star)
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Request
- She's the one
- (jobboie Williams)
- To love somebody
- (Michael Bolton)
- If we hold on
- together (Diana
- Ross)
- 9:00 pm ASEAN Review
- News
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Myanmar culture by
- Dr. Khin Maung
- Nyunt
- Thangyan Part II
- 9:30 pm Souvenirs
- Rose an red (jim
- Reeves)
- Never on sunday
- (Connie Francis)
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Rakhine State

YANGON, 16 April — Provisions were offered to the monasteries in Thandwe Township, Rakhine State, at a ceremony held at Myoma Wailuwun Pariyatti Monastery in Thandwe yesterday morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence and party.

The ceremony was graced by Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Nandaw Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanda Manju and Sayadaws of nine monasteries in Thandwe. Also present were Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Tactical Operations Commander Col Win Maung, local authorities, townselders and laity.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanda Manju administered the Five Precepts to the

congregation. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented rice, edible oil, medicines and offertories to the Sayadaw. Maj-Gen Maung Oo and party also presented provisions to the Sayadaws.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanda Manju delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. The donations amounted to 100 bags of rice, 50 viss of edible oil, nine sets of robes, and different kinds of medicines valued at K 100,000.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party held a meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations, townselders and local people. It was also attended by Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Col Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station and senior military officers. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order and economic development of the nation

play a key role in transforming the nation to a modern developed one. In this regard, tasks on industry, production, agriculture and livestock breeding are to be carried out speedily to enable the nation to be economically strong, he said. So, plans have been laid down at the State, state and division, district and township levels. Efforts are to be made for extended reclamation of land and sown acreage of summer paddy year by year in Rakhine State, he urged. He gave instructions on cultivation of black pulse, pigeon pea and green gram as main crops laid down by the State and extended cultivation of all suitable crops and boosting the per acre yield in the region. He stressed the importance of extended coastal and deep sea fisheries and livestock breeding.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called on the officials at all levels to strive for enabling Rakhine



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than donates rice to a Sayadaw, for monasteries in Thandwe Township.— MNA

State to stand as a state with strong economy that can contribute towards the State's economy.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted those present.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected progress of Sittway and celebrating of Water Festival by car.

MNA

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Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attends concerts of Xi Shuang Ban Na cultural troupe, Myanmar artistes

YANGON, 16 April— A ceremony to mark the Myanmar New Year, the Xi Shuang Ban Na cultural troupe of the People's Republic of China and Myanmar artistes presented the entertainment at the Sedona Hotel, here, at 6.30 pm today.

Present on the occasion were Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, wives of the members of the State Peace and Development



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party watch dances of Xi Shuang Ban Na cultural troupe.— MNA

Council, ministers and their wives, deputy ministers, departmental heads, Ambassador of PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff, ambassadors and charge d'affaires of for-

eign missions, artistes and guests.

Next, the guests enjoyed the dances and songs of the Xi Shuang Ban Na cultural troupe and Myanmar artists.— MNA

Yangon Mayor's Pandal comes to a close in evening of Maha Thingyan Atet Day

YANGON, 16 April— The closing ceremony of the Yangon Mayor's Pandal Maha Thingyan Festival was held at the pandal in front of

the City Hall at 4.55 pm today. Members of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Yangon Mayor's Pandal Maha Thingyan Fes-

tival for 1365 Myanmar Era, working committees and sub-committees, artistes and dance troupes took the designated places. Chairman of the work committee Joint-Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Kyi Win declared successful conclusion of the festival and closed the pandal. All the artistes, families of YCDC and Thingyan lovers sang the Mantaung Yeikkho song in chorus.

At 7 pm, Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and wife Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and wife, the secretary, the joint-secretary, committee members and their wives presented prizes to winners in the music and dance contests. Later, the prize winning troupes entertained the audience.

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Damsels present entertainment at the closing ceremony of Yangon Mayor's Pandal of Thingyan Festival on Atet Day.— MNA