Attasammapanidhi ca, to establish onself rightfully; this is the way to auspiciousness.

Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 309 **14th Waning of Tabodwe 1365 ME** **Thursday, 19 February, 2004**

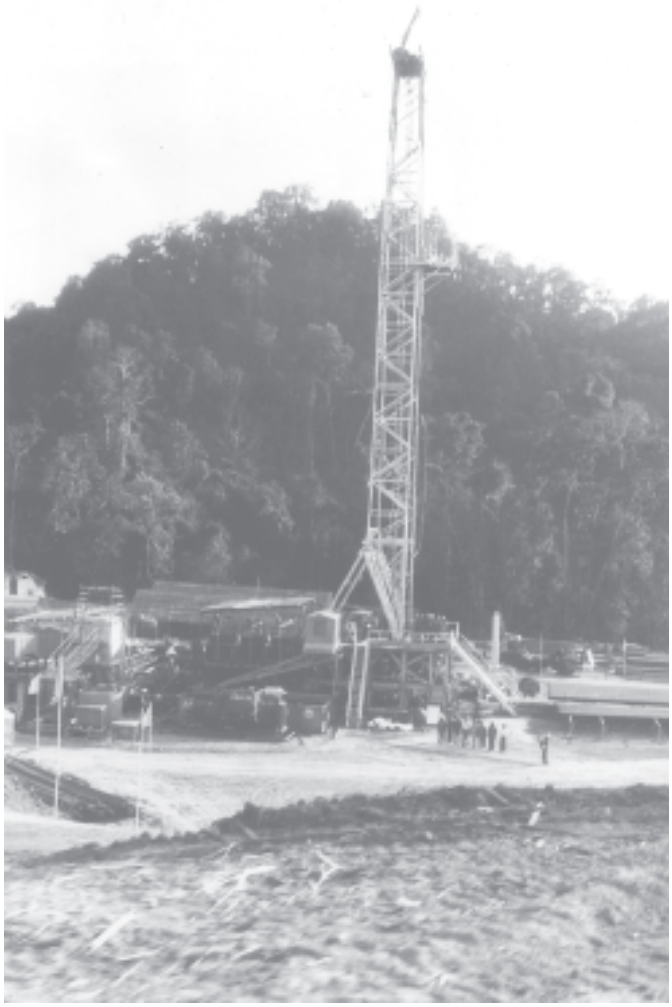
Indaw region test well producing 4.32 million cubic feet of natural gas per day
Prime Minister stresses need to continue drilling work as scheduled

YANGON, 18 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected Indaw region crude oil exploration project in Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Division, yesterday afternoon, after visiting Salingyi Textile Factory.

They were accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye.

At the project site, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported to the Prime Minister on the location of the project, history of oil exploration in Indaw region, geological condition of the region and prospects, the geological survey conducted by the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in the region, road construction, provision of heavy machinery and drilling machines, and test wells No 1, 2 and 3 in the region. The minister also said at a depth of 6,500 feet the No 1 test well is producing 4.32 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. The No 2 well yields only salty water. The No 3 well will be drilled up to 6,000 feet, and up to now, digging has reached 757 feet underground. Arrangements are under way to calculate the potential yield of oil and gas in the region after the completion of the drilling of test wells. He then explained the prospects and production of oil and gas fields all around Myanmar and arrangements to extend drilling work at prospective oil and gas fields.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects drilling works at No 3 well in Indaw region on 17-2-2004. — MNA



Drilling tasks being carried out at No 3 well in Indaw region, Mawlaik Township.
MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended to the needs, speaking of the need to continue the drilling work as scheduled. He cordially met with members of social organizations in Mawlaik Township. Accompanied by officials, the Prime Minister observed the drilling of the No 3 well. The Prime Minister and party posed for photo together with the project staff in front of the test well.

On arrival at the project, they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kale Station, members of Mawlaik District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and staff of the project. — *MNA*

All-round Skill Contest for children of Yangon Command held

YANGON, 18 Feb— The All-round Skill Contest for Pre-Primary School students from regiments and units under the Yangon Command, organized by Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association, was held in conjunction with the prize presentation ceremony in honour of the 57th Anniversary Union Day at the hall of the command headquarters this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Patron of Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division MCWA Daw Khin Thet Htay.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin and wife, military region commanders and their wives, officials and wellwishers.

Then, children participated in the contest. Next, the commander and wife presented prizes to the winners. Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin and wife and officials also gave away prizes to the winners.

Afterwards, Daw Khin Thet Htay accepted donations for Yangon Division MCWA. Today's donations were K 300,000 by U Naung Lwin of Naung Group; K 100,000 each by U Zaw Min of Lanpya Kyei Co Ltd; U Khin Maung Aye-Daw Khin Lay of Gold Power Co Ltd; U Aung Thein of Jumbo mosquito coil; and Hlinethaya Industrial Management Committee; K 50,000 and biscuit packets and toys worth K 50,000 by U Aung Myo-Daw Hla Hla Kyi of Laymyethna Co Ltd; stationery worth K 90,000 by Managing Director U Sai Than Aung-Daw Nan Yin of Vantage Co Ltd by and T-shirt, drawing books, Calcivita medicine, Milo and snacks worth K 140,000 by Mega Products Co Ltd.

Later, officials presented souvenirs to the children who presented entertainment to audience.—*MNA*

INSIDE

Perspectives
To realize the objectives of the State (Page 2)

Prime Minister inspects regional development tasks in Magway, Mandalay Divisions (Page 16)

Salone Traditional Festival opens to enable the world witness objective conditions of Myanmar (Page 16)

Article
On return from amazing Taninthayi (Page 7)

Circulation
23,141

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 19 February, 2004

To realize the objectives of the State

The Government is striving with might and main for the nation to become a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic one. Thanks to the strenuous and constant efforts of the Tatmadaw Government since its assumption of the duties of the State, national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold.

With peace prevailing across the country including remote border areas, projects for development of border areas and national races have been implemented and as a result, border areas have developed with added momentum.

For equitable development of all regions in states and divisions of the nation, 24 special development regions have been designated and universities, colleges, government technological colleges, computer colleges and hospitals have been established. Arrangements have been made to raise the living standard of people residing in border areas, provide better health care services to them and promote their education standard. Moreover, the five rural development tasks are being implemented simultaneously in rural areas where 70 per cent of the population of the country reside. Nowadays, people are witnessing such new infrastructures as dams, reservoirs, bridges, roads and so on which will contribute much towards national development.

At a time when good foundations for strengthening the economy of the State and raising the living standard of people have emerged, work is under way to implement the seven-point policy programme that will lead the nation to a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic one.

On 7 February, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with members of state and district Peace and Development Councils and departmental officials at the meeting hall of Eastern Command in Taunggyi.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister said that service personnel at state, division, district and township levels are responsible for realization of the government's objectives and it is their duty to lead and organize the people in order to realize the government's goodwill towards the people and national objectives.

The Government has laid down plans for harmonious development of the State and policies for perpetuation of the Union. For realization of the plans, State's high-ranking officials themselves have made field trips to grassroots levels and fulfilled the requirements.

Service personnel working in the various regions should keep in touch with local people and fulfil their requirements and desires. To realize the objectives of the State, officials at different levels are urged to strive harmoniously through coordination and cooperation.

On behalf of SAKAI Medical Co Ltd, Managing Director of Myanmar Yutani Co Ltd Mr Yoshinori Komaru donates US$ 20,000 worth electronic traction machine to the Yangon General Hospital on 18-2-2004. Director-General of the Health Department Dr Wann Maung accepts the donation. — (H)

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

— To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State's seven-point policy programme

— To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people's militia strategy

— To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people

— To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold 'Our Three Main National Causes'

People's Desire

*** Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views**

*** Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation**

*** Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State**

*** Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy**

Regional development projects inspected in Pyapon District

YANGON, 18 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials, inspected rural health care centre in Amar, Bogale Township, Pyapon District, on 16 February morning. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions to the officials.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also inspected Amar Myanmar Police Force and Affiliated Basic Education High School and attended to the needs.

In the afternoon, they held a meeting with local people at Amar camp of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy. Also present were Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, departmental personnel, local authorities, members of social organizations and townselders. On the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered a speech. In his speech, he spoke of the need for local people to participate in the tasks for ensuring peace and stability in respective regions, which can contribute towards restoration of peace and stability, prevalence of law and order and raising the economy of the State in building up a peaceful, modern and developed nation. They proceeded to Bawa-thit Village and looked into thriving pepper plantations and left necessary instructions. Afterwards, they left Bogale by boat and arrived in Pyapon. *MNA*

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than donates provisions to Htanbinkyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepulla and members of the Sangha in Pyapon Township. — MNA

MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe explains women's affairs

YANGON, 18 Feb — President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and officials arrived in Mandalay by air on 16 February morning.

They met wife of the Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Patron of Mandalay Division Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Myat Ngwe and members of the division level panel of patrons, CEC members, supporting group members and others totalling about 500 at the City Hall.Speaking on the occasion, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe said that officials of MWAF toured States and Divisions to carry out development of the entire women. Today, they arrived in Mandalay, Mandalay Division, to explain organizational set-up of the federation, the aim and functions in meeting with members of the Mandalay Division Organization for Women's Affairs. For development of the women's life, the federation was formed with seven lofty aims such as uplift of women's role, protection of the women's rights, development of social, education, health and economic affairs of women and securing of women's life. As MWAF is a social organization, it will be able to widely and effectively carry out the tasks. Members of the federation are required to focus on all-round development of the State, the national and the entire women. And, concerted efforts are to be actively made in accord with the motto 'Let's make efforts for development of women's life'.

Next, Secretary of the federation Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun explained the organizational set-up of the federation and submitting of membership application and leaders of the working groups clarified preventing violence against women and human trafficking, rehabilitation and resettlement, functions of the Girl's Working Group, the Culture Working Group, the National Race Affairs and Organizing Working Group, functions of education, health, economic and environmental conservation, information/communication, discipline and finance & management working groups Then, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun accepted K 6.45 million for the federation and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers. The president spoke words of thanks. Yesterday morning, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party met with members of the Mandalay Division Organization for Women's Affairs and supporting groups at the Yeiktha of Central Command Headquarters. At the meeting, the president and officials answered the queries. — *MNA*

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepts donations for MWAF from wellwishers.— MNA

540 US service members killed since beginning of war in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb—As of Tuesday, on 17 February, 540 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq , according to the Department of Defence . Of those, 374 died as a result of hostile action and 166 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

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

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 402 US soldiers have died — 259 as a result of hostile action and 143 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,666 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department's figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 412.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

_ A Stryker Brigade soldier was killed in a roadside bombing Monday in Tall Afar in northern Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

_ Army 1st Lt Adam G Mooney, 28, Cambridge, Md; missing since Jan. 25 when his helicopter went down in the Tigris River in Mosul, Iraq; his remains were recovered Saturday; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation; attached to 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY.

_ Army Pfc Nichole M. Frye, 19, Lena, Wis; killed Monday in Baqoubah, Iraq, when an explosive struck her convoy; assigned to Company A, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, Army Reserve, Kalamazoo, Mich.

_ Army Spc. Eric U Ramirez, 31, San Diego; killed Thursday in Abu Gireb, Iraq, when he was attacked by small arms fire and an explosive; assigned to the 670th Military Police Company, Army National Guard, National City, Calif.

_ Army Pvt Bryan N Spry, 19, Chestertown, Md; killed Friday in Baghdad when his vehicle rolled into a ditch; assigned to Company A, 2-504th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC.—*Internet*

ဒုတိယကမ္ဘာစစ်

US soldier killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb— A roadside bomb killed a US soldier in northern Iraq, the US military said Tuesday, the third such killing in less than 24 hours.

The US soldier who died Monday evening near the city of Tall Afar, 400 km (250 miles) northwest of Baghdad, was the third killed in separate roadside explosions across Iraq throughout the day. The bomb exploded as the soldier's convoy passed by. He died while being airlifted to a nearby hospital, the military said. Another soldier was wounded.

The death brought to around 376 the number of US soldiers killed in action in Iraq since the US-led invasion last March which deposed Saddam. Two earlier attacks on US convoys, one in Baghdad and the other in Baquba, 40 miles to the north, each killed one soldier. Five troops were also wounded. —*Internet*

An explosion has killed a US soldier and wounded two others while they were patrolling a Baghdad suburb, the US military says. A file photo shows an Iraqi soldier moving out of the bombed recruitment centre area in Baghdad, where a suicide bombing killed over 40 people on 11 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

Iraq data shows economy shrank 56% in 1991

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb — Iraq's gross domestic product fell 56 per cent in 1991, the year after UN sanctions were imposed on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait, according to official figures.

Iraq's Central Bank published official statistics for the first time in 26 years on Tuesday that showed the extent of the economic damage inflicted by Baath Party rule and by United Nations sanctions in the 1990s.

The figures were shown only to Saddam Hussein and his aides as they revealed the regime's vulnerability.

Sanctions remained in force until May of last year.

The economy grew 10 per cent in 2001 as Iraq started to flout sanctions, exported more oil and goods flowed in from countries like Syria. The Central Bank is working to publish figures that cover the period after 2001.

MNA/Reuters

Khatami says Gulf region threatened by hegemonic policies

TEHERAN, 18 Feb — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said on Tuesday that the Persian Gulf region was being threatened by hegemonic policies and oppressing methods by world big powers. In a written message read out to the 14th International Conference on the Persian Gulf being held here, Khatami said the region was passing through one of the most difficult situation in the past few years due to unilateral policies adopted by certain big powers.

Regional wars and conflicts have claimed lives of thousands of innocent people and have inflicted great damage to different countries in the region, the President added.

While stressing Iran's foreign policy was based on the establishment of peace, security and stability in the region, Khatami said that his country has been interested in establishing peace in war-ravaged Iraq since the neighbour was occupied by US forces and their allies.

MNA/Xinhua

Chile praises South Korean approval of FTA

SANTIAGO, 18 Feb— Chilean Vice-Foreign Minister Christian Barros on Monday voiced the government's satisfaction with the South Korean parliamentary approval of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed by the two nations.

"We deeply value the support and commitment assumed by the authorities and the private sectors of South Korea in the ratification of this accord, the first FTA between Latin America and Asia," Barros said.

"The fact that we are the first to have a free trade agreement with South Korea grants us an important advantage regarding those countries that have a production and trade structure similar to ours," he added.

The remarks were made shortly after South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon called Barros to inform the ratification.

Earlier on Monday, the South Korean unicameral Parliament ratified the FTA bill by a vote of 162 to 71. The approval ended the history that South Korea has had no such an agreement with a foreign country.

Chilean Government spokesman Francisco Vidal said the ratification of the FTA with South Korea "closes a cycle pendent since last year and is a further step in the strategy of the country's international integration."

Vidal said the ratification of the accord "opens an important market" that would be reflected in "more jobs and more progress."

Chile signed the document in February 2003. The country's Lower House approved the bill last August and its Senate ratified it last month.

The South Korean Parliament has delayed in approving the agreement for three times due to severe criticism from the country's agricultural sector with concerns that the FTA would affect their trade.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian PM says govt focuses on agriculture

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Feb — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Monday his government focuses on the development of agriculture so as to raise the income of rural people.

"The focus is on agriculture. People are asking why Pak Lah (nick name of Abdullah) is focusing on agriculture when others want the focus to be more on IT, biotechnology and all forms of technical knowledge," Abdullah said at a meeting with elected representatives and heads of government departments in Perak State, central Malaysia.

"Agriculture is in fact riches bestowed by God even though we have to seek the knowledge to develop it. We can use high technology to develop agriculture." "In agriculture we can have better value added products than in other fields. In the past people said there is a limit to agriculture but now with our technology there is no limit to its growth and development," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Visitors pass the Suwa Taisha shrine, made of ice, at the Crystal Festival in Chino, northwest of Tokyo on 16 Feb, 2004. Japan's largest fluorescent lighted ice sculpture event runs until 22 February.

INTERNET

Vietnam to see increasing woodwork exports

HANOI, 18 Feb— Vietnam will gain woodwork export turnovers of one billion US dollars next year, up 33.3 per cent over this year's estimated figure of 750 million US dollars. Competitive prices and expanding markets are mainly attributed to the expected soar, according to the Ministry of Trade on Monday.

Besides their long-established markets, local wood product exporters have recently penetrated into new ones, including Kuwait, South Africa, Chile and Peru. The United States, the third largest importer of Vietnamese woodwork after Japan and the European Union, is expected to purchase more Vietnamese products this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Annan hopes to make Iraq recommendation

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Feb— Secretary-General Kofi Annan hopes to make a recommendation by Friday on when elections could be held in Iraqi— before or after the June 30 target date for the US transfer of power to Iraqis.

Annan said Tuesday he is waiting for a UN team led by his special adviser, Lakhdar Brahimi, to report on its weeklong trip to Iraq to assess the prospects for elections before making proposals to the US-led coalition and the Iraqi Governing Council.

The coalition and the council asked the United Nations on 19 January to send a team to Iraq to help resolve an argument between the Bush administration and Iraq's most prominent Shiite leader, Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, on the transfer of power.

The coalition wants to keep to a handover plan it reached with the Governing Council in November; the plan calls for caucuses to choose a provisional assembly. The United States argues that security concerns and lack of preparations make quick elections impossible.

But Al-Sistani wants direct elections, arguing that a government based on the caucuses would be "illegitimate."

If the United Nations recommends against elections before June 30, the council asked the world body to consider other options.

Brahimi, who is due back in New York on Wednesday, told a news conference before leaving Baghdad on Friday that the coalition agrees major changes would be needed to the formula for caucuses. But he also said organizing elections by June 30 in the current security climate would be difficult.

"The United Nations will propose, as a result of studying the needs for elections, what is the timing that the elections can be held," Brahimi told the news conference, according to a revised transcript released at U.N. headquarters. He said he agreed with al-Sistani that elections are the best way to form a government, and al-Sistani agreed with him on the need for "a reasonably credible election" that would be widely accepted. He said they also agreed "that it is the government that comes out of the ballot box that is going to take the important decisions for the future of Iraq."

Brahimi said he was optimistic that the Iraqis will reach agreement soon "on one opinion regarding elections" — and that the U.N. proposals on elections will be "acceptable to all."

Annan echoed this view Tuesday, telling reporters he hopes his conclusion "is going to be helpful."

"I hope we will be able to help break the impasse and steer things in the right direction," the secretary-general said.

Annan told reporters he hopes to make his recommendations before he travels to Japan on Friday morning. —*Internet*

စက်ဖွဲ့စိန်ခေါ်ခံရသူများ

Bombings kill three soldiers, wound six in Iraq

BAGHDAD,18 Feb— Roadside bombs have claimed more American lives, killing three US soldiers in separate attacks in Baghdad and Sunni Muslim areas to the north of the capital. At least six soldiers were injured in the attacks, one critically.

In the biggest attack, one soldier from Task Force Iron Horse was killed and four were wounded in a roadside bombing in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. One of the wounded was critically injured and the other three were in guarded condition, the military said.

The first soldier from the Stryker Brigade to be killed by hostile fire died Monday evening in a roadside bombing in Tall Afar in northern Iraq .

Strykers are high-tech fighting vehicles and the brigade by that name was recently deployed from Fort Lewis, Wash.

Another soldier from the brigade was wounded in the blast. A soldier from the 1st Armored Division died and another was wounded in a bombing Monday in central Baghdad.

The latest deaths brought to 541 the number of Americans who have died since President Bush launched the Iraq war March 20. Most of the casualties have occurred since Bush declared an end to active combat May 1.

Witnesses said two roadside bombs exploded Tuesday outside the Anbar Medical College and hospital in Ramadi in the Sunni Triangle, damaging a US Army Humvee.

It was unclear if any soldiers or civilians were injured. A third bomb was defused.

Internet

Iraq says no let-up in anti-occupation attacks

BAGHDAD,18 Feb—This is the fourth attack on US troops in just over 24 hours. An Iraqi civilian and two US soldiers have been injured after a US patrol came under a rocket propelled attack west of Baghdad.

According to Aljazeera's correspondent, the attack took place near the public hospital in Ramadi city on Tuesday. No further details are yet available.

This attack follows three separate incidents on Monday,in whichthreeUS soldiers were killed.

Late on Monday night,a roadside bomb killed one US soldier and wounded another in northern Iraq.

According to the US military, the soldiers were travelling in a convoy near Tall Afar, about 400km northwest of Baghdad, when the bomb exploded.

One soldier died while being taken to a nearby hospital by helicopter, the military said.

Internet

US Army soldiers in full chemical protection suits after they secured an industrial complex suspected of housing weapons of mass destruction in the central Iraqi town of Baquba recently. The building turned out to be a bread factory. —INTERNET

Singapore's retail sales up 9.7% in December 2003

SINGAPORE, 17 Feb — Singapore's total retail sales value was estimated at about 1,482 million US dollars in December 2003, up 9.7 per cent from a year ago, according to the Singapore Department of Statistics here on Monday.

Compared to November 2003, overall retail sales rose by a hefty 20.6 per cent, the department said in a Press release published on Monday.

The growth was boosted by strong Christmas sales and pre-GST (Goods and Services Tax) hike spending, it said.

With effect from January 1, 2004, Singapore's GST rate was raised by one percentage point to 5 per cent.

Sales of motor vehicles, food and beverages, medical goods and toiletries and watches and jewellery rose substantially over December 2002, while sales of telecommunications apparatus and computers dropped considerably, said the release.

For the Year 2003 as a whole, total retail sales increased by 8.2 per cent, due largely to the strong growth in motor vehicle sales, especially from April 2003 onwards, it said.

The Singapore economy expanded by an estimated 0.8 per cent in 2003, chalking up the 3.7 per cent growth in the last quarter.

Official growth forecast for 2004 stands at 3-5 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

The deep-see cruising AUV (autonomous underwater vehicle) Urashima. A Japanese submersible will later this year dive into a deep-sea volcano in a bid to uncover unknown biological life forms, the New Zealand Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited (GNS) said in a statement.—INTERNET

China, Holland to cooperate in windmill power

BEIJING, 17 Feb— China and Holland will cooperate in windmill power generation, trademark protection and sustainable energy equipment, according to a Dutch Minister here Monday.

At a Press conference, Sybilla Dekker, Minister of Housing and Spatial Planning and Environment, said Holland will also set up an office in Shanghai to promote Chinese travelling in her country. She said she hoped more Chinese will travel in Holland.

According to a memorandum of understanding signed by China and the European Union here last Thursday, it will soon be easier for Chinese tourists to go to Europe.

Dekker recalled her activities in Beijing since she arrived Sunday.

On Sunday, she had met with Chinese Minister of Construction Wang Guangtao, discussing urbanization and sustainable development and signing an memorandum on strengthening exchanges on housing.

She had met on Monday with Chinese Deputy Director of State Environmental Protection Administration Pan Yue and Vice-Minister of Commerce Zhang Zhigang.

She said both sides were "very optimistic" on bilateral relations and "to promote trade with China is the priority of the Dutch Government."

Holland is China's second largest trade partner in the EU nations. According to statistics of Chinese General Administration of Customs, in 2003 bilateral trade volume hit 15.4 billion US dollars, among which the export of China is 13.5 billion US dollars.

Dekker said Holland did not take the trade deficit as a "problem", but a "challenge", believing it can be solved by certain means, but not trade barriers.

"This is also one of the reason that this delegation comes to China. I hope the enterprises can find opportunities in China and bring their products here," she said.

According to the Dutch Embassy to China, the delegation led by Dekker includes 33 small- and mid-sized enterprises and the main reason for them to visit China is to promote bilateral trade. Besides Beijing, the delegation, during their one-week stay in China, will also Shandong Province in the east and Guangdong Province in the south. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Indonesian economy grows 4.1% in 2003

JAKARTA, 17 Feb— The Indonesian economy posted a year-on-year growth of 4.1 per cent in 2003 against 3.7 per cent in 2002, with consumption remaining the key drive, the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) reported Monday.

Private consumption grew by 4.02 per cent, government consumption by 9.84 per cent, gross fixed capital by 1.36 per cent, export by 4.04 per cent and import by 1.96 per cent, the bureau said.

"The bureau targets a 4.8-per-cent growth in 2004, and we regard this a realistic figure. If the general election runs smoothly, we may even achieve higher growth," BPS head Soedarti Soerbakti told a Press conference.

BPS also announced growth in the fourth quarter of 2003 was 4.35 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

NO LET-UP IN ANTI-OCCUPATION ATTACKS

Polish army patrol sets up a roadblock. At least two Iraqis died and eight coalition force members were wounded in a double car bomb attack on a Polish base at Hilla south of Baghdad recently.—INTERNETT

Iraqi men check the destroyed house of Mohammed al-Issawi, a local leader in the village of Ameriya, near the restive town of Fallujah, 50km west of Baghdad, on 16 February. Witnesses said US forces killed al-Issawi and used helicopters to destroy the house.—INTERNET

Scores of gunmen firing mortars and grenades stormed Iraqi security posts in Falluja on 15 Feb, killing 22 people including 14. The picture shows a group of U.S. soldiers securing an attacked police station in Falluja on 15 Feb,2004. —INTERNET

US military vehicles block a highway as a US soldier collects evidence at the scene of a roadside bombing in Baghdad on 17 Feb, 2004. Across Iraq roadside bombs claimed more American lives, killing three US soldiers in separate attacks in Baghdad and Sunni areas to the north of the capital.—INTERNET

US troops patrol the streets of Baghdad on 17 Feb, 2004. A roadside bomb killed a US soldier in northern Iraq, the US military said Tuesday, 17 Feb, the third such killing in less than 24 hours.
INTERNET

US tanks patrol Baghdad's Karrada district on 17 Feb,2004.
INTERNET

Two demonstrators dressed up as Spain's Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar and US President George Bush participate in an anti-war protest in central Madrid on 15 Feb, 2004. Several anti-war protests were held around Spain marking the first anniversary of demonstrations held around the world against the war in Iraq.—INTERNET

မြန်မာ့ခြေလှမ်း ဆိုင်းပါးလေယဉ်မှုး ဂုဏ်ကျော်မြင့်

Meeting to direct Iraq aid convenes end February

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb— An international conference will convene in Abu Dhabi on February 28-29 to start channelling 15 billion US dollars of aid pledged to reconstruct Iraq, Iraq's Planning Minister Mehdi al-Hafedh said on Monday.

Hafedh told *Reuters* that countries pledging a minimum of 10 million US dollars each will take part in the conference, which will activate two funds run by the World Bank and the United Nations to manage the aid. "We expect definite results. We need to build a modern state along transparent lines," Hafedh said.

The minister said major donors, such as Japan, will take part in the conference. The final list of participants is still being prepared. The Madrid donors' conference in October set up the two funds to manage around 15 billion US dollars in aid and loans pledged by countries other than the United States to help rebuild Iraq.

Washington allocated around 18 billion US dollars to Iraqi reconstruction separately as bilateral aid that did not go through the funds. The aid could solve rampant unemployment and stabilize the society, and Iraq's US-installed Governing Council has been urging donors to inject it immediately without waiting for security in the country to improve. An estimated 56 billion US dollars is needed over the next few years to finance Iraq's rebuilding after more than a decade of sanctions that destroyed the country's economy and the 2003 US-led invasion.

MNA/Reuters

25 US soldiers hurt as bus overturns in Kuwait

KUWAIT, 18 Feb— Twenty five US soldiers were injured when their bus overturned near an Air Force based used by Kuwaiti and American-led forces in northern Kuwait, a spokesman for the US military said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Sunday near Ali al-Salem Air Base, 45 miles northwest of the capital Kuwait City, Captain Randall Baucom said.

"Four of the soldiers were taken to a Kuwaiti Armed Forces hospital and are in a stable condition, while 21 were treated at a local camp," Baucom added.

He said Kuwaiti police were questioning the bus driver, a Kenyan national. He did not elaborate.

MNA/Reuters

Halliburton halts $140m more in US billings

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb— Halliburton Co said on Monday it would defer billing for an additional 140 million US dollars in meals for US forces in Iraq and Kuwait until a discrepancy is reconciled between the number of meals ordered and those actually served.

The Houston, Texas-based oil services company said it was holding off billing until an agreement was reached on subcontractor services for meal planning, food purchase and meal preparation for troops.

Halliburton is the biggest contractor for the US military in Iraq with more than 8 billion US dollars in deals covering everything from doing laundry, building bases and providing meals to helping rebuild the oil industry.

Its contracts have drawn intense scrutiny from Democrats because of its ties with Vice-President Dick Cheney, who ran the company from 1995 until 2000.

Last week, Halliburton said in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing it had agreed to delay billing for 34.5 million US dollars while Defence Department auditors weigh whether its subcontractors overcharged for meals in Iraq and Kuwait.

The additional 140 million US dollars in suspended billing was for food services already provided to US forces in Iraq and Kuwait, the company said.

"It is important to understand that this is not any sort of 'admission'," said Randy Harl, president and chief executive of Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown and Root. "As a responsible government contractor it is the right thing to do."

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi newspaper calls for protecting antiques

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb— An Iraqi newspaper on Monday called on the ministries of culture and interior to mobilize effort to stop the robbery and smuggling of Iraqi antiques out of the country.

The newspaper *Al Nahdha* reported that antiques in many Iraqi cities' ruins are being robbed and smuggled everyday, especially in the two provinces of Wasit and Diyala in southern Baghdad.

Large specialized groups excavated the ruins that are fenced by the former institution on protecting Iraqi antiques and smuggled the antiques to neighbouring countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran, said the newspaper.

It said the ruins, including Tal Al Khan, Tal Abo Rassin, Tal Abo Tarchia and others, were protected in the past, but are being robbed now as a result of the absence of security.

Foreign elements were involved in excavating the ruins in Al Kifil area, one of Najaf's districts 180 kilometres south of Baghdad, without obtaining any official permit, said the newspaper.

There are more than 10,000 ruins in Iraq that have not been excavated yet. A large number of antiques in Iraqi Museum were robbed after Iraq was occupied by the US-led coalition forces and the security situation deteriorated.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to protect top leatherback turtle site

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Feb— Indonesia pledged on Monday to help critically endangered leatherback turtles by creating a marine protected area for a Papua nesting beach that attracts a quarter of the remaining population in the Pacific.

Jamursba-Medi, on Papua's northern coast, is one of 10 sites identified by the World Wide Fund for Nature in the Pacific as key to the 3,000 or so female leatherbacks that remain in that ocean from an estimated 90,000 in the 1980s.

Matheus Halim, an Indonesian official with the Ministry of Forestry, called for immediate regional coordination and assistance to protect Western Pacific leatherbacks in Papua, 1,900 miles east of Indonesia's capital, Jakarta.

He said Indonesian turtle conservation measures to date included halting Bali Island's commercial trade in turtle products in 2000 and the seizure of more than 15 turtle boats in recent years.

WWF's Susan Lieberman welcomed Indonesia's move but called on others to take up the leatherback's plight, particularly on the issue of fishing boats catching turtles as bycatch along with target prey species.

"We must mobilize all countries and communities to protect leatherback habitats and use new fishing technologies to deal directly with the bycatch threat from fishing," she said at a launch on the margins of international talks intended to slow global species loss.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysian youths crucial factor to nation's growth

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Feb— Malaysia's younger generation is the key asset in making Malaysia a developed and progressive country, Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said on Monday.

The government acknowledged this fact by setting aside a huge allocation to implement the National Service Programme for the youths, Najib said when flagging off the transport for National Service Programme trainees at Sultan Mohamad Stadium in Kota Baharu, Kelantan State.

He said the programme, apart from exposing the youths to new experiences, will also provide them with the necessary skills, knowledge and values to make them capable of meeting various challenges.

A total of 2,267 youths from Kelantan left to attend the programme.

They are among 26,000 youths, aged 18, who will be taking part in the programme at 41 camps nationwide from Monday.

Najib, also Defence Minister, said to achieve this ambition, the nation cannot depend on physical development alone.

"(No matter) how much we give the allocation, whatever physical development implemented, it is going to be inadequate unless another dimension to complement the national development policy (is undertaken) — human resources development which is the most important asset to the country," he said.

"We have sincere intention that through this National Service Programme, our nation will become stronger, more united and we will build a younger generation which is more outstanding," he said.

He advised parents not to be unduly worried as the necessary measures to ensure the safety of their children have been undertaken.

The three-month programme, involving military training, motivational courses and community work, is expected to cost 131.57 million US dollars annually.

MNA/Xinhua

View of the construction site of the velodrome in Athens City which is due to be used in the next Olympics Games 2004 in Athens.

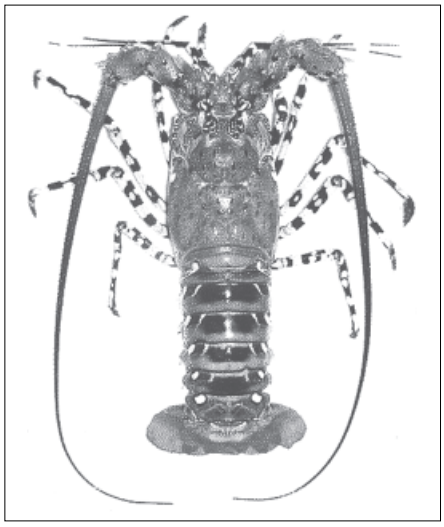
INTERNET

On return from amazing Taninthayi

Sein Sein Thein (Dagon University)

The clean environmentally water of the Bay of Bengal annually produces thousands of tons of premium fish and shrimps species for us.

In the darkness, the ship seemed to go up and up into the sky. Harkar was enormous for us. We boarded the ship in the evening but it is too late for the tide. On the next day, we really arrived in Myeik harbour at 9 am. We were far from our home but were not afraid because Chairman of Tananthayi Division Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Ohn Myint warmly welcomed all of us.



Lobster (Flower)

All of sixty two members of scholars and students of Centre for the Human Resources Development, Diploma course of prawns and shrimp culture training, studied this region especially Myeik and Dawei Township. The journey was made from 3rd to 12th February, 2004.

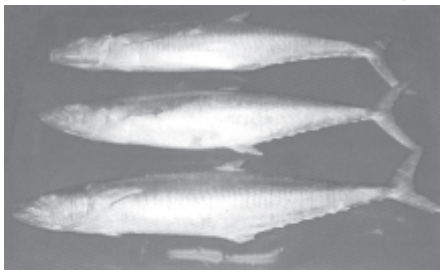
Grouper cage culture in Maw Tone Gyi Village.

On our first day trip, we saw silvery sandy beach and sea. The scene was very beautiful and amazing. We left the ocean behind us out on the sea. The boat seemed small and slightly weak but there on the way, the noise of its engine was loud and birds (Zinyaw) flew out of the surface far and near. It was our first sight of one of Myeik archipelago. Myeik archipelago just a name was formed in over 1000 islands of muddy path, Mangrove forest and sand beach.

We all saying! Amazing and swooning over Taninthayi. The next day journey was easier than first-day. We soon reached the top of island guided by U Tun Than (an official of ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Myeik Division). Ah Saung Kaung mud crab nursery cage was situated on Daung-ku-maw island, Kyunsu Township. Major Zaw Win (Retd) explained us on the topic of soft shell mud crab culture system. MOSCOT or Ah Saung Kaung Industries Company Limited was under the strong management of Director U Maung Sitt who was very outstanding in the economic sector. I think he is one of the heroes for sustainable fisheries development of Taninthayi. The cold storage factory runs very well and earns lots of income for our country. Factories were situated in Inn lay Myaing in industrial zone Myeik Taung, Taninthayi Division. Products of these companies include sea water prawns, shrimps, mud crabs, soft shell mud crabs, cuttle fish black pomfret mackeral, hair tail. Furthermore the company decided to promote its products.

Next, we studied works in Pyi Phyo Tun international Company Limited. Their products are tested by quality control programme that exceeds all industry standard and factories also are under HACCP system.

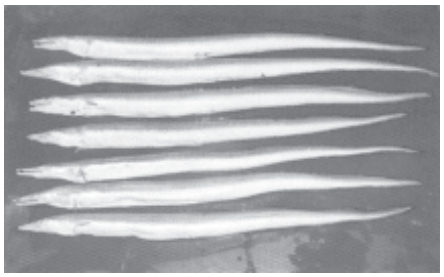
Pyi Phyo Tun (PPT) produces frozen prawn 6 metric tons per day and fish 100 metric tons per day. In return, the company imported medicine, engine spare parts, battery tyre with tubes from India, Singapore, Malaysia and others. Export items are frozen prawn, variety of fishes and other quality marine products and are exported to Europe and Asia. Both inshore and deep-sea species are caught all year round, resulting in an annual catch in excess of 820,000 tons.



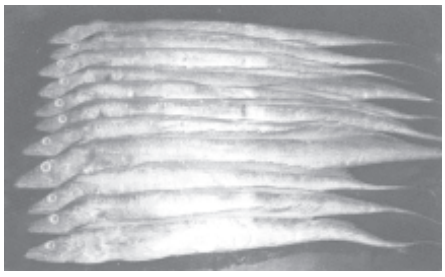
Spanish Mackerel

Manufactures from miracle species are mainly mackerels, black pomfet and jerm snapper. Brown fish meal is available all year round for poultry farming, agriculture, pig and ruminant feeds.

Next day, at 10 am we took a rest in Kywe-ku-Kyaukphya bridge. Chief Engineer explained to us about construction projects of Taninthayi. And then, we proceeded to Vantage Company. Vantage Company was established on 13th November 1996. The company is making efforts to set the rubber wood processing factory in Palaw Township. On 20th May 2002 in Myeik, the test run of 400 tons cold storage factory has been successfully made. Now it is running its business in the border area. The Myeik-Taninthayi-Mawtaung road construction project is carried out by the company. In order to promote business of the company harmoniously to meet the international level, Vantage shrimp farm has been established since 2003. I pointed out that weather condition is fine and very conducive to aquaculture. Diploma students of CHRD (Dagon University) discussed with Mr Wuna Chan (a Thai technician) and assumed that Education and Training are the mainstay in the creation of qualified and skilled workers. We have arranged training programme for new Myanmar technicians to enhance their technical know-how and excursion to the industries.



Sea Eel



Ribbon Fish

Vantage fish meal factory is located in Myeik. The factory produces about thirty tons of fish meal per day. I thought Vantage fish meal can be categorised into two main varieties according to quality and use. Protein is 60% in Min, fat is 12% in Max, Moisture is 105 in Mix, Ash is 22% in Max and Silica is 2% in Max, Salt is 5% in Max and FFA is not necessary in their feed. On 9th Feb, we started Dawei field trip. Good Bye! Myeik and responsible persons of Peace and Development Councils, waving our hands.

Our dreams came true in few days. We arrived in Maungmakan beach on 10th February for specimen collection. We have museum in our university. We studied 'Taninthayi' shrimp processing cold storage. It was owned by U Kya Maung.

They warmly welcomed us with delicious Lunch for our students. And, on the next day, we not only paid homage to the ancient padogas (Shin-koe-Shin) but also visited environmental studies.

This work would have been impossible without the management of Pro-Rector U Kyaw Kyaw Htay (Dawei University) and valuable encouragements of Divisional Fisheries Office U Aung Paing (DOF) staff.

On return from this journey we stated that Taninthayi is an interesting area to work on its ecological aspects. Fishery management and conservational management of natural resources are two of the toughest environmental fields to enter considering some of the unique jobs available with utility companies, NGO, game preserves and universities as a starting point for career in this region.

Today, under the guidance of the Ministry of Education we carry on work to train and produce new blood to enable them to take part in building of new modern developed nation in order to uplift health, wealth and education standard of the entire nation.

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**

Prime Minister inspects …

(from page16)

and needs; Col Zaw Min and officials, on dams, reservoirs, tube-wells and water pumping stations and benefited areas in Magway Division, measures being taken for ensuring local rice sufficiency, extended cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, cotton and other crops and boosting production and tasks for greening arid zone including conservation of forests and establishment of tree plantations.

Afterwards, the General fulfilled the requirements to upgrade a high and middle schools and a rural health care centre and made a speech. In his speech, he said that Myaing Township is an arid region and it gets only a little rainfall. So systematic and effective measures are to be taken for sufficient water supply. Efforts are to be made for construction of small scale dams, underground water tapping stations and digging lakes in cooperation with respective departments, he said.

The General stressed the importance of sufficient supply of irrigation and drinking water for regional development. That is why supply of sufficient irrigation and drinking water was adopted as one of the five rural development tasks, he remarked.

He called on township level officials to make field tours down to the grassroots level in fulfilling the requirements of water supply.

As Myanmar is an agro-based nation, measures are to be taken for achieving greater success in the drive for development of rural areas, he noted.

In Myaing Township, groundnut and beans and pulses are main crops, but per acre yield of each crop is low. Officials concerned of the agricultural sector are to endeavour in organizing local farmers, disseminating agricultural methods including choosing high-yield strains and crop patterns, he said.

At a time when the Government is constructing a modern textile factory in Pakokku region, spending a huge sum of money, systematic and effective measures are to be taken for boosting production of cotton, an industrial raw material.

With boosting production of cotton, it will contribute towards the factory as well as create job opportunities for local people. Respective officials are to make combined efforts in organizing local farmers and providing necessary assistance for them for boosting per acre yield and meeting the quality of cotton, he added.

In conclusion, the General called on officials at all levels to make endeavours in unison for accomplishment of the tasks for greening of arid zones, conservation of forests and establishing of tree plantations, which are being carried out by the Government to ensure a balanced climate.

Next, the Prime Minister presented a TV set, a video cassette player and a computer set to Myaing BEHS through the principal.

The Prime Minister and party headed for the arid zone model pilot agricultural farm and Hong Pang Agricultural Farm in Bagan. They viewed pomelo plantation and vineyards. Officials reported on thriving plantations on the 66.57-acre Bagan farm.

Afterwards, they arrived at the guest house in Bagan.

In the evening, the General and entourage visited the Shwezigon Pagoda in NyaungU. The General donated cash to funds of the pagoda and inspected preservation of ancient Buddha images and artefacts.

This morning, the Prime Minister and party left Hsataung Village in Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Division, by helicopter and arrived at Meiktila at 11.30 am. They went to Meiktila Institute of Economics and inspected construction of the four-storey main building.

Pro-Rector Prof U Than Swe reported on courses being conducted at the university, student population, IT rooms, organizational set-up and management matter. Minister for Education U Than Aung gave a supplementary report.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave instructions on construction of buildings. He met faculty members and gave instructions on academic and management matters. Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the construction site of four-storey main building.

On arrival at Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University, they were welcomed by Pro-Rector U Tin Maung Nyunt, faculty members and students. At the classroom, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Nge reported on courses being conducted at the university, academic, management and international relations matters. ACE Construction Co Chairman U Tint Hsan reported on completion of the workshop and staff quarters, construction of the main building, supply of water and power, roads and car parking, greening tasks and arrangements for building, the main hall, canteen, archway and entrance road. General Khin Nyunt gave necessary instructions.

Next, the General inspected the students learning the computer science and computer training centre, the English lab, the applied electric engineering lab, the electrical engineering circuit analysis lab, the flight simulator room, the library & resource centre, the engineering physics lab.

Afterwards, the General viewed finishing touches to the main building.

They then proceeded to Meiktila Government Computer College where they were welcomed by Principal Daw San San Nwe and teachers. The Principal reported on location and areas, progress in building two lecture halls, the management office and the computer hall, academic and management matters. The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the Prime Minister and party went to the construction site of Meiktila General Hospital (200-bed) and the Nurse Training School. Medical Superintendent Dr Ba Shwe and officials welcomed the General and party.

First, the Prime Minister and party saw over construction works at the hospital. Managing Director U Ye Tun of Myanma Industrial Construction Industries reported on construction of buildings and roads and supply of power and water. The General gave instructions on construction tasks to be carried out in accord with the lay-out plan.

At Meiktila Education College, Principal Daw Khin Aye Lwin, teachers and students welcomed the Prime Minister and party. The Principal reported on academic and construction matters and requirements of the college. Minister U Than Aung gave a supplementary report. The Prime Minister provided cash towards the fund for construction of the two storey- lecture hall. Next, the Prime Minister and party went to Meiktila Airport and left for Yangon.— *MNA*

Htidaw hoisting ceremony of ancient and historic Shwemokhtaw Pagoda in progress in Pan-aing Model Village, Mahlaing Township on 17-2-2004.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hears reports on prospects of oil and gas in Indaw region by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on 17-2-2004. (News on page 1)— MNA

Well No 1 of Indaw region oil exploitation project in Mawlaik Township.
(News on page 1)— MNA

Meeting to coordinate upgrading of Yangon City held

YANGON, 18 Feb— The coordination meeting of working committee for keeping Yangon City clean and pleasant and upgrading tasks was held at City Hall of Yangon City Development Committee, here, this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin.

Also present were the working committee member deputy ministers, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, military region commanders, departmental heads and local authorities.

First, the commander delivered a speech, saying that in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt supervised responsible officials to systematically carry out upgrading tasks of the city with a view to enabling Yangon City to have characteristics of international cities and ensuring uplift of health status and living standard of city dwellers. The working committee members are to accelerate their upgrading tasks for emergence of Yangon City as a clean, pleasant and garden city.

Next, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin explained functions of YCDC. Officials reported on their respective sectors. Later, the commander gave a concluding remarks. — *MNA*

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects regional development tasks in Kawthoung

YANGON, 18 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of the Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Hotels and Tourism, and Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung and departmental officials, on 15 February morning inspected construction of Pulontontong wooden bridge linking Kawthoung and Pulontontong Village.

Afterwards, Kawthoung District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Tin Soe reported to Lt-Gen Maung Bo on construction work and future tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on timely completion of work and maintenance.

The total length of the bridge will be 5,700 ft long.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to 200-bed new hospital construction site in Kawthoung. At the hall of the hospital, officials concerned reported on progress of the construction work and future tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on timely completion of the buildings meeting the set standard and minimizing loss and wastage, and inspected the hospital.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived at auto-exchange of the Myanma Posts and Telecommunications where CPT Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on the plans for installation of auto-telephone lines.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions and viewed exchange room and operator room.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party also saw over Kawthoung jetty and construction of retaining wall between Bayintnaung Bridge and Myoma Bridge. Later, they also inspected wholesaling of fish and prawn.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to Ma Kyone Galet Village in Bo Cho Island where they were welcomed by Salone Traditional Festival organizing work committee Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, officials and Salone national races.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed round the festival and cordially conversed with Salone national races and tourists. — *MNA*

Salone Traditional Festival …

(from page 16)

made to develop not only the Salone people, but also the Myeik archipelago, with the help of tourist industry. The aims of the festival is to preserve the sincerity and traditions and culture of the Salone people, to promote the traditions and culture of the ethnic races of Myanmar and to let foreign tourists and local tour entrepreneurs study them, and make tourists know the natural and coastal beauties of Myanmar.

Salone are the significant people among the ethnic Myanmar races living in the villages and towns along the Taninthayi coast since time immemorial. Their social life, love of the sea, social and cultural customs and faith are so interesting. Living in Bokpyin Township, and on Zadetgyi, Bo Cho, Jalan and Lampi islands and Myeik archipelago they are excellent divers. Thus, the festival includes diving and boat races of the Salone people.

As Taninthayi Division is a coastal region, it is rich in both onshore and offshore natural resources including, minerals, forest products, pearl, bird nest, marine products and oil and gas. The regions also grows rubber, oil palm, herbal plants and other crops. The commander then elaborated on the transport developments and building of bridges including Winwa, Palauk, Palaw, Taninthayi, Pathoung, Kywegu-Kyaukphya and Lenya-Mandaing bridges in the division, indicating the direct road link between Kachin State in the northernmost region of Myanmar and Kawthoung in the southernmost tip.

The evergreen forests on the Myeik archipelago remains pristine and untouched, and the sea also is free of pollution, and is beautiful and less frequented by outsiders. Divers may see the various species of fish, coral reefs and wreckages of the ships that were sunk in the seas around the area. Thus, eco-tourism and aqua-tourism will continue to flourish even after the completion of the festival. As the territorial waters of Myanmar at Myeik archipelago are bordering the Thai seas, vacationers come to the archipelago from Phuket in Thailand on board the powered boats. Thanks to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the local administrative bodies and the festival holding committees at different levels, the festival can be organized successfully. Like all their brethren, the Salone people will have to collectively strive for perpetuation of the sound foundations laid by the Government for progress of all the regions of the nation. Likewise, concerted and energetic efforts of the entire people are required to preserve the Salone traditions and culture, develop the tourist industry, raise the living standard of the Salone people, and for the successful implementation of the seven-point future political programmes of the State for emergence of a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw spoke on the occasion. He said the main factor for development of tourism is attraction. There are two attractions—nature attraction and human attraction. Festivals which can reveal the culture and customs of the people in a region are attractions. Cultural, food and traditional dance festivals are held in the east as well as in the west.

In Myanmar there are festivals all the year round. Among them, Thingyan, Thadingyut and Tazaungdaing lighting festivals are famous. There are also traditional festivals of national races. Naga festival have been held for three times and Salone traditional festival will become famous very soon. Myanmar is the treasure for tourists because of its snow-capped mountains, hill station resorts, beaches, its long history and ancient heritage.

According to the findings of foreign and local scholars, it can be said that primates originated in Myanmar. The Prime Minister gave instructions on making arrangements for Myaing region as a tourist attraction. Myanmar has not become a tourist destination yet due to the political attacks and less publicity. In tourism words of mouth is one of the effective methods.

Beginning 1996-97, running of powered boat, diving and hotels and recreation activities were introduced in Myeik archipelagoes for development of marine tourism. Now 30 Phuket-based powered boat companies run their operations.

He urged officials concerned to make efforts for holding of Salone traditional festival in the years to come.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented bags of rice to a representative of Salone nationals.

Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint presented a TV for Salone nationals, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw a satellite receiver for Ma Kyone Galet Village and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung cash for those who rendered assistance to the festival to Salone nationals and officials.

Myanmar Hoteliers Association, powered boat companies and Shambhala Co presented clothes, blankets and gifts worth US 1,500 to the representatives of Salone nationals. A Salone national presented souvenirs to Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party. Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented gifts to tourists. A Salone national thanked the government. Members of Salone Dawei traditional dance troupes entertained the audience. Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented traditional harpoons to Salone nationals. He presented K 200,000 and Moby Dick Tours Co Ltd K 500,000 to Salone traditional dance troupe. Traditional boat race, diving contest, demonstration of diving, fish catching contest and camp-fire were held on 15 February.

There were booths on hotels and tourism, Salone culture and development of Taninthayi Division, painting and souvenir shops at the festival. Over 6,500 people and 270 tourists visited the festival. — *MNA*

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party and guests enjoy traditional dance of Salone nationals.— MNA

Salone nationals seen at Salone Traditional Festival.— MNA

Tourists seen at the opening ceremony of Salone Traditional Festival.— MNA

Prime Minister attends Htidaw hoisting ceremony of Hsandadawpyi Pagoda in Myingyan

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party hoist Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw atop the Hsandadawpyi Pagoda. — MNA

YANGON, 18 Feb— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, yesterday, left Bagan for Myingyan and arrived there at 7.30 am.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win, members of District and Township Peace and Development Councils and officials.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended a ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Hsandadawpyi Pagoda built according to the wishes of Mingun Tipitakadhara Sayadawgyi and put religious objects into upper reliquary was held at the pagoda at 8. am.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of members of the Sangha led by Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abidhaja Agga Maha Saddammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. Also present were ministers, deputy ministers, the deputy commander of Central Command, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, members of the pagoda board of trustees, members of social organizations and religious associations, wellwishers, local people and pilgrims.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa.

The Prime Minister and party and the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Magway Sayadaw.

Next, disciples offered paritta flowers, water, sand and thread to members of the Sangha. The Sayadaws recited paritta. Disciples conveyed the paritta flower, water, sand and thread and scented the paritta water and tied paritta threads in the precinct of the pagoda.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented Seinbudaw (the diamonorb), Hngetm yatnadaw (the Vane), religious objects and offertories to Magway Sayadaw Bhadanta Kumara.

The ministers and deputy ministers also presented offertories to members of the Sangha. Magway Sayadaw Bhadanta Kumara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

Afterwards, a ceremony to put religious objects into upper reliquary of the Pagoda and hoist Shwehtidaw atop the pagoda was held.

First, the Prime Minister and party, wellwishers and disciples conveyed the diamond orb, the vane, Shwehtidaw and religious objects clockwise the pagoda.

Next, disciples conveyed the religious objects to the reliquary.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party conveyed the diamond orb, the vane and Shwehtidaw to the pandal of the decorated carriage of Teingya Htidaw Hoisting Team.

The Prime Minister and party, next, conveyed the diamond orb, the vane and Shwehtidaw to upper part of the pagoda through the decorated carriage.

On behalf of the wellwishers, the Prime Minister fastened the jewellery donated by wellwishers tightly on Shwehtidaw, the vane and the diamond orb.

Next, disciples hoisted tiers of Shwehitdaw atop the pagoda.

At the auspicious time, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went atop the pagoda and put religious objects and Buddha images into the reliquary.

Next, the Prime Minister and party hoisted the vane and diamond orb atop the pagoda.

They sprinkled scented water on the Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and the Seinbudaw.

Next, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara Taingya U Than Hla shared merits gained. The wellwisers hoisted the golden Htidaws of 16 encircling pagodas.

The Prime Minister then performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the success of the ceremony.

The Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to Buddha image in the Gandakuti Taik. They planted a sapling of linlun (*Buchanania latifolia*). Next, Minkyaung Sayadaw, the Prime Minister and party tolled the Hsandadawpyi Bell for nine times and shared merits gained.

The Prime Minister and party went to Pan-ai model Village in Mahlaing Township in Meiktila District. They were welcomed by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Meiktila Station, Commander Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin of Meiktila Air Base and local authorities.

The Prime Minister attended the Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony of Shwemokhtaw Pagoda in the village on 17 February.

Also present were members of the Sangha led by State Ovadacariya Athawkayon Yele Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Labhavata, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, local authorities and wellwishers.

The congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Labhavata.

Next, lay persons presented paritta water, flower, thread and sand to the Sayadaw. Members of the Sangha recited parittas. The lay persons conveyed the parittas water, flower, thread and sand.

The Prime Minister presented the Seinbudaw and offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Labhavata.

The ministers and wellwishers presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Labhavata delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

The Prime Minister and party conveyed the Seinbudaw to the pandal of Teingya Htidaw hoisting team. Then they conveyed the Seinbudaw to the top of the pagoda through decorated carriage.

At the auspicious time, the Prime Minister and party climbed up the pagoda and hoisted the Seinbudaw.

Next, they sprinkled scented water on the golden tiers of the Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and the Seinbudaw. Teingya U Than Hla shared merits gained.

They performed rituals of golden and silver showers. The Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to Buddha images in Gandakuti Taik.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party conveys Shwehtidaw, Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw atop the Hsandadawpyi Pagoda. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party convey Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw around the Pagoda. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Pyapon, Dedaye

YANGON, 18 Feb— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials, arrived at the local battalion in Pyapon yesterday.

They inspected agriculture and livestock breeding tasks of the battalion. They then paid homage to member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Vepulla of Htanbin Monastery and members of the Sangha at Yadana Theikdi Sasana Beikman in Pyapon.

At the town hall, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental personnel and local people.

The commander reported on implementation of the economic plan in Ayeyawady Division and Pyapon District in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at Pyapon Hospital, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed eyes surgical operations being conducted by Eye Specialist Prof Dr Kan Nyunt and party of Yangon and gave words of encouragement to 150 eye patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than donated K 200,000 to the funds of the hospital.

They then proceeded to Pyapon Cold Storage built at Bankyunsu Village, Dedaye Township, by YQL PPN Co Ltd and inspected it. In Dedaye, they saw over construction of Dedaye-Pyapon earth road in Ohnbin Jetty. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the temporary prayer hall in which Pawdawmu ancient Buddha image of Hanthawady period is being kept in Tanyinngon Village, Dedaye Township. They paid obeisance to the image. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander donated cash towards the fund for construction of the building in which the Buddha image will be kept.

At Dedaye Basic Education High School No 8, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than formally unveiled the signboard of Karaweik Hall of the school and gave a speech.

Headmaster U Win Htein presented commemorative pennants to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Maj-Gen Soe Naing. Then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than accepted 500 baskets of paddy donated by U Ba Maung, on behalf of U Sa La Yah-Daw Dan Mary of Wakamei Village, Dedaye Township.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented K 7.3 million donated by 14 wellwishers for offering gold foils to Kyaikdeyon Pagoda to Pyapon District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Ye Htut and K 2 million donated by U Kyaw Win and U Nay Win Tun of Yangon to Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Htein Lin.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing donated K 500,000 for maintenance of Karaweik Hall. Lt-Col Ye Htut also donated K 300,000 for the hall. On their behalf, the cash donations were handed over by U Htein Lin to Headmaster U Win Htein. An old student of Yangon donated K 500,000.

On his behalf, the cash was handed over by U Tin Hlaing to the headmaster. Divisional Education Officer U Maung Maung spoke words of thanks.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered an address. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to farmer U Maung Lwin's paddy field at Thegon Station in Dedaye Township. It was planned to broadcast fertilizer at the 15.43-acre field. Next, they inspected the Dedaye Bridge.

Officials concerned reported matters on maintenance of the bridge, flow of traffic and collection of taxes. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions and left by car. He arrived back here in the evening. — *MNA*

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets departmental officials at Karaweik Hall at Dedaye BEHS No 1.— MNA

Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines arrives

YANGON, 18 Feb— At the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines Ms Delia Domingo Albert arrived at Yangon International Airport this evening by air on an official visit to the Union of Myanmar. She is accompanied by senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines.

The Secretary of Foreign Affairs and delegation were welcomed at the airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of the Philippines Mme Phoebe A Gomez and embassy staff.

MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung welcomes Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines Ms Delia Domingo Albert at the airport.— MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Sarpay Beikman Press. MNA

Information Minister inspects presses in Insein

YANGON, 18 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by Managing Director U Myint Thein of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, General Manager U Thet Soe and officials, inspected GTC Press (Mechanical Workshop), Sarpay Beikman Press and Aung San Press this evening.

At GTC Press, GTC Press Manager U Kyaw Thu reported on innovation of pre-press machines and equipment such as flap light box, plate machine, film heater and plate grinding machine, annual production and distribution of them to sub-printing houses and other organizations, samples of the products, Deputy Press Manager U Myo Htin on works of Sarpay Beikman Press and Aung San Press Manager U Nyan Tin on matters related to his press.

Next, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of machines innovated for industrial development in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, manufacturing of pre-press machines, advertisement for quality and model of the machines in newspapers and on radio and TV to attract private presses, fire prevention measure of paper warehouses and sanitation of staff quarters and presses.

MNA

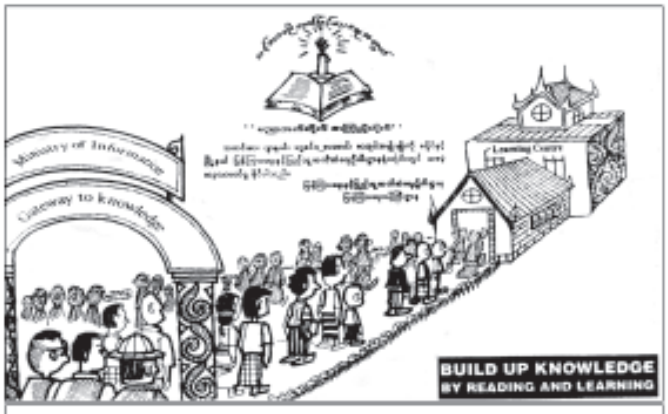
Heroin seized in Myitkyina, Muse

YANGON, 18 Feb — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Myitkyina special anti-drug squad on 21 January, acting on a tip-off, searched the house of Maung Si Li and Ma Ei Ei Wai of No 132, Aung San Road, Thida Ward, Myitkyina, and seized 19.33 grams of heroin.

Similarly, a combined team comprising members of Muse special anti-drug squad and local intelligence unit, acting on information, on 27 January seized 204 gm of heroin from the house of U Zaw Gan in Naungsai Village, Muse.

Action is being taken against them by the police stations concerned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. *MNA*

Zaw Gan seen with heroin. MNA



Thousands of books are waiting to give you knowledge free of charge

ADVERTISEMENTS

Funds target fresh water clean-up programmes in China

BEIJING, 18 Feb — More than 31.5 billion yuan (3.8 billion US dollars) has been ploughed into initiatives since 2001 aimed at controlling water pollution in some of the country's major rivers and lakes. Under the investment, which will continue through the end of next year, the central government and local agencies have completed nearly 500 projects, and can now treat more than 7.9 million tons of waste water each day, according to Tuesday's *China Daily*.

However, officials said on Monday such a massive achievement is not nearly enough progress, and they urged local governments to continue giving more support to related projects.

Regions along and around the three rivers and three lakes — Huaihe, Haihe and Liaohe rivers and Taihu, Chaohu and Dianchi lakes — which include 11 provinces and Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai municipalities — suffer from serious pollution.

For example, half of the Huaihe River's tributaries are seriously polluted and in a few monitoring sections along the river, the pollution index is worsening.

A pollution control plan was developed for the Taihu lake region in 2001 and similar plans for the other five lakes came out last year, according to Pan Yue, Vice-Minister of State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA).

The plans involve 1,534 pollution treatment projects, including waste water treatment plants, and require an investment of more than 100 billion yuan (12 billion US dollars). All the projects are scheduled to be completed by 2005. In addition to the already completed efforts, 389 are under construction.

Despite the achieved results, Pan said many factors are hindering the complete fulfilment of the pollution plans. He said local governments' enforcement of environment related laws and regulations and implementations of relevant policies are not perfect enough.

MNA/Xinhua

ပို့ဆောင်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
မြန်မာ့လေကြောင်း
ကြော်ငြာချက်အမှတ် (၄/၂၀၀၄)
လေယာဉ်မောင်၊ လေယာဉ်မယ်ခေါ်ယူခြင်းကိစ္စ

ပို့ဆောင်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့လေကြောင်းမှ ခေါ်ယူထားသော လေယာဉ်မောင်၊ လေယာဉ်မယ်ရာထူး လျှောက်ထားသူများအနက် အပြီးသတ် လူတွေ့စစ်ဆေးမှု အောင်မြင်သူများ အမည်စာရင်းအား ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ (၁၈)ရက်နေ့ (၁၀း၀၀)နာရီအချိန်တွင် မြန်မာ့လေကြောင်း (ရုံးချုပ်) အမှတ်(၁၀၄)၊ ကမ်းနားလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့တွင် ကြေညာပါမည်။

မြန်မာ့လေကြောင်း

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV EASTERN TREASURE VOY NO (21)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EASTERN TREASURE Voy No (21) are here by notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD JAPAN
Phone No: 25624/256914

DON'T SMOKE

ပြည်တွင်းပြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Japan Tobacco Inc, a Japanese company with an office at 2-2-1 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

MONTE CARLO

Reg. No. 197/1991

in respect of "tobacco and tobacco products, cigarettes; smokers' articles; matches"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **Japan Tobacco Inc,**
P.O., Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 19 February 2004

Chinese customs seizes four export-banned cultural relics

TIANJIN, 18 Feb—Four cultural relics were seized last week by the Tianjin Customs among old furniture and artworks which were sche duled to be exported to France.

The four cultural relics were identified by experts from the local cultural heritage department as relief wood carvings dating back to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

The carving are banned from export, and may serve as reference for studying ancient residence, the experts said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

In memoriam

Family shares merits gained

Lt-Gen Tin Oo

In memory of benefactor Phay Phay Gyi Lt-Gen Tin Oo who suddenly left us three years ago, we family members have made donations and offered 'soon' and provisions to members of the Sangha today (19-2-2004). We family members share with you the merits gained.

Wife Daw Khin Than Nwe

Sons and daughters -

- Major Maung Maung Kyaw (Retd) (BSI)-(Daw Cho Leh Oo)
- Phyu Phyu Tin Oo
- Dr Myat Noe- Yin Mar Oo
- Zaw Tun Oo- Khin Thida
- Nay Tun Oo

Grandchildren

- Maung Hein Htet, Ma Yin Mar Myat Noe, Ma Phu Ngon Kyaw, Maung Thant Thihan Zaw (Po Thila)

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပုံနှိပ်စရေးနှင့်စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်းတွင် အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သော ရုံးသုံးစက်များဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါစာရွက်စာတမ်းများ ခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့် စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေး လုပ်ငန်းတွင် အသုံးပြုရန်လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရုံးသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။

Item	Description	Qty
(1.)	30 KVA/40 KVA Generating Set	2 Nos
(2.)	Computer (With C.D Writer)	4 Nos
	- Pentium 4-2.4/2.66 GH Processor	
	- 128 MB DDR RAM 40 GB Hard Disk	
	- AGP 32 MB 3D 15" SVGA Digital Color Monitor PS/2 Mouse. PS/2 Key Board	
	52xCD Rom Drive 800 W Multimedia Speaker	
(3.)	Printer (Colour)	4 Nos
(4.)	Flatbed Scanner	1 No
(5.)	Air Conditioner (Window Type) (1.5HP)	25 Nos
(6.)	Air Conditioner (Split Type) (1.5HP)	6 Nos
(7.)	Pallet Truck (Hydraulic Type)	3 Nos
(8.)	Type Writer (Myanmar) 18"	3 Nos

၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၂၇-၂-၂၀၀၄)ရက် (၁၆း၃၀)နာရီတွင်ပိတ်ပါမည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့် ထုခွဲရောင်းချရေးကော်မတီ
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
အမှတ် ၂၂၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း-၂၄၅၆၃၃၊ ၂၄၅၆၄၂၊ ၂၄၅၆၄၅

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "MANDALAY" VOY NO 119/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MANDALAY" Voy No 119/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 18-2-2004 and will be berthing on about 19-2-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
Phone : 293147, 296507, 295754

Malaysia launches domestic tourism campaign

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Feb — Malaysia on Tuesday launched a domestic tourism campaign called the Cuti-cuti (holiday) Malaysia to cushion the external effects on the country's tourism industry.

All levels of society, including residents' associations and schools would be asked to organize tours for their multi-racial communities, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said at the launching of the Cuti-cuti Malaysia 2004-2005 campaign here.

"We will go all out on a larger scale to promote domestic tourism this time," he said.

The ministry hopes to achieve 25 million local tourists by end of the campaign compared to 18.3 million local tourists last year.

Domestic tourism could cushion the effects of external factors, such as war, the outbreak of diseases and the world economic recession which resulted in a decline in foreign tourist arrivals, Kadir said

Kadir said that according to a study, the number of domestic tourists had always outnumbered foreign tourists in this country.

There were 9.9 million local tourists compared to 5.5 million foreign tourists in 1998 and 18.3 million local tourists against 10.5 million foreign tourists last year.

He said a successful tourist-oriented nation depended largely on local tourists rather than foreign tourists. Domestic tourism, he said, also helped improve the quality of life among the people while increasing local currency circulation in the local market.

Kadir said previous Cuti-cuti Malaysia campaign had changed the mindset of locals who now consider holidays a necessary part of life, thus contributing to increased productivity after being refreshed and rejuvenated.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Microcredit had reached millions of poorest families by 2002

DHAKA,18 Feb— Microcredit has reached 41.6 million poorest families by the end of 2002, and 79 per cent of them are women, 87 per cent are in Asia.

This was revealed by the State of the Microcredit Summit Campaign (MSC) Report 2003 presented by its writer Sam Daley-Harris at the Asia Pacific Region Microcredit Summit which opened here.

Harris, director of MSC based in Washington, said sustainable microfinance for the very poor is not a panacea, but the most powerful tool to provide a dignified route out of poverty for hundreds of millions of those living below one US dollar a day.

He said the campaign was launched at the first global microcredit summit held in Washington in 1997 with a goal to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, with credit for self-employment and other financial and business services by 2005.

As part of the global efforts of MSC, the four-day summit in Dhaka is the biggest ever regional meeting to consolidate the achievements made by the microcredit sector and formulate policies for new challenges.

The summit will discuss a range of important issues including institutionalization of the microcredit sector, scaling up of microcredit, adopting evaluation tools for measuring impacts on the lives of the borrowers and their families, as well as empowerment of women.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in a message sent to the summit hailed the gathering as in support of the upcoming International Year of Microcredit in 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

6% of Vietnamese children suffer from goitre

HANOI,18 Feb— Six per cent of Vietnamese pupils aged 8-10 suffer from goitre, local newspaper *Youth* quoted a health official as saying on Tuesday.

In the country's Mekong Delta, up to 10.1 per cent of local pupils suffer from goitre, said Luong Ngoc Khue, deputy head of the Health Ministry's Treatment Department.

In order to eradicate goitre by 2005, Vietnam is to spend nearly 448,000 US dollars on anti-goitre activities this year, including further promotion of the use of iodized salt among local residents.

The ministry will organize training courses and campaigns on producing and promoting the use of iodized salt and iodized fish sauce, especially in the delta.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepal, Thailand agree to increase flight frequency

KATHMANDU,18 Feb — Nepal and Thailand have agreed to review the existing Air Service Agreement and increase the flight frequency between the two countries, the Nepali Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation said Tuesday.

According to a memorandum of understanding signed here Monday, the two countries are entitled to fly up to 10 flights per week with any kind of aircraft, up from the existing seven for specified airlines of both countries.

Besides, the designated airlines can fly additional 12 flights per week under the code sharing for specified airlines. During this round of talks, both sides also agreed to finalize the draft of the new Air Services Agreement in the next meeting. "The memorandum of understanding will bring positive impact in extension of areas of cooperation besides air traffic and tourism promotion between the two countries," the ministry said in a Press release.

MNA/Xinhua

Afghan women enrolled in police academy

KABUL,18 Feb— Seven Afghan women were enrolled in the first class exclusive for woman police cadets Monday afternoon, marking the beginning of a fresh progress for women to play more active role in the postwar country.

"Without the contribution of women in the society," Dr Soraia Rahim, Deputy Minister for Women Affairs said at a registration ceremony here, "we cannot progress in social, in law and every section of the society."

The seven women will be put on an eight-week police basic course.

"As a representative of Ministry for Women Affairs, I congratulate all the women for this day. We really feel the need for women in the police," Dr Soraia added.

MNA/Xinhua

New-generation TOEFL to come in 2005

BEIJING,18 Feb— A new-generation on-line Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) will come into operation in September 2005 for students who want to study in North American universities, the US Educational Testing Service (ETS) announced here Monday.

Susan Chyn, an ETS official, said the new test would examine comprehensive abilities in listening, reading, writing and speaking. After taking the test, each examinee would receive specific comments from ETS experts, so they would learn their strengths and weaknesses.

Chyn said the ETS would cooperate with its China partner, Tide Times Group, to promote the LanguEdge Courseware and Criterion On-line Writing Evaluation study tools for the new TOEFL.

Some Chinese universities, including Tsinghua and Capital Normal universities, have been allowed to use the tools.

The ETS, founded in 1947, was the largest non-profit private educational testing and evaluation organization in the world, with products represented by TOEFL, GRE and GMAT.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists discover most distant galaxy from Earth

LOSANGELES, 18 Feb— Scientists said Sunday that they have detected a tiny galaxy that they believe is the farthest known object from Earth, according to local media reports Monday.

The galaxy, just 2,000 light-years across or 50 times smaller than our Milky Way, lies about 13 billion light-years from Earth and appears to form stars at the rate of nearly three Suns per year.

An international team of astronomers, led by Jean-Paul Kneib of the Observatoire Midi-Pyrenees, said they uncovered the faint galaxy using two of the most powerful telescopes — one in space, the other in Hawaii — aided by the natural magnification provided by a massive cluster of galaxies.

Scientists believe what they see is a picture of what it was just 750 million years after the Big Bang, as the Universe was emerging from the cosmic Dark Ages.

Dark Ages is a murky period before the Universe's neutral hydrogen atoms were broken apart into the ions that made space transparent. No one knows how long the Dark Ages lasted in the wake of the Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago.

"You're seeing the Universe as it was in its infancy," reports quoted Andrew Bunker, an astronomer at Cambridge University of Britain, who studies distant galaxies, as saying. "It's a significant discovery because it's pushing into the epoch where the Universe is mostly neutral."

The *Hubble* space telescope revealed the first glimpse of the galaxy, backed up by observations made with the Keck Observatory's 10-metre telescopes atop Mauna Kea.

Word of the discovery came during the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Seattle. Kneib said he and his colleagues will report their observation in an upcoming issue of the *Astrophysical Journal.*

MNA/Xinhua

China's science foundation cooperates with US online firm

BEIJING, 18 Feb — The Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) announced here Tuesday it is to share information resources with a US online company which bridges tough scientific problems and possible solutions.

Yuan Youxin, director of the NSFC international exchange centre, said the cooperation between the foundation and InnoCentive Company would help resolve research problems throughout the world.

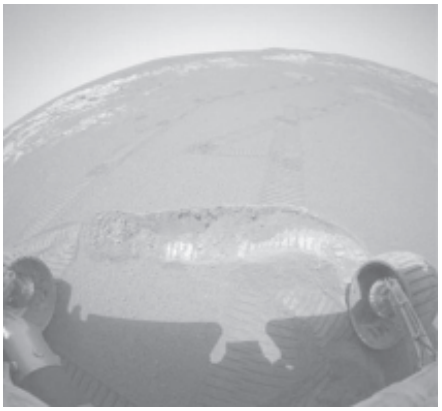
Yuan said his foundation would encourage Chinese researchers to bid for difficult issues listed by InnoCentive on its web site, http://cn.innocentive.com.

According to its official web site, InnoCentive is a "community matching top scientists to relevant R&D challenges facing leading companies." It creates an online forum enabling major companies to reward scientific innovation through financial incentives.

Ali Hussein, InnoCentive's vice-president in charge of marketing, said his company was willing to strengthen cooperation with China's scientific community.

The first endeavour, involving solutions for bio-chemical research problems, would be arranged by the NSFC and InnoCentive for Chinese college students and other amateur researchers.

Potential participants were welcome to compete, with rewards ranging from 5,000 to 100,000 US dollars. — *MNA/Xinhua*



NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity is shown in front of a trench created when it dragged one of its wheels back and forth across the sandy soil at Meridiani Planum on Mars on 16 Feb, 2004. "Yesterday, we dug a nice big hole on Mars," rover planner Jeffrey Biesiadecki told a news conference at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., on 17 Feb, 2004. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Roddick reels in Fish to win San Jose crown

SAN JOSE (California), 18 Feb— Top seed Andy Roddick overcame high school teammate Mardy Fish 7-6, 6-4 to win his first San Jose Open title on Sunday.

In a spectacular match between two close friends, both players served well and came up with big shots again and again but it was the US Open champion who produced the goods when it mattered most.

"It was pretty intense out there," Roddick told reporters. "We just know what each other's going to do. "That was evident. I found myself going against myself instinctively because he knows what I would do instinctively."

Roddick saved four set points in a long first set tiebreak when it appeared the pumped-up Fish was about to seize control of the match.

The tiebreak was finally won 15-13 by Roddick when he kicked a 119 miles per hour serve into Fish's backhand and followed up with a forehand volley winner.

In the second set, Roddick, 21, needed five break points before producing the first service break of the match at 4-4 and then served out for victory.

Roddick delivered 16 aces against 17 by Fish.

"I got a little tired," said Fish, who lived at Roddick's house when the pair attended high school in Boca Raton, Florida. Fish, who played two matches on Saturday and won the doubles title with James Blake on Sunday, added: "My legs started to feel it a little bit."

The title was Roddick's first since he won the US Open in September.

The American will now leapfrog Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero into second place in the ATP rankings when they are released on Monday.

Roddick is hoping to dominate the US winter and spring hardcourt season and wants to put pressure on world number one Roger Federer of Switzerland, who is approximately 700 points ahead in the rankings.

"I don't know if I'm capable of it but if I was capable of a big summer run (last year), why not switch in to spring?," said Roddick, who was undefeated in the 2003 US summer hardcourt season, winning four titles.

"It's tough to get back to that level but I feel I'm hitting the ball well, I'm serving well and I feel I'm pretty tough to beat."

MNA/Reuters

Leandro Silva (R) of Brazilian club Cruzeiro is challenged by Joahan Rodriguez of Mexican club Santos Laguna during their Copa Libertadores soccer match at the Mineirao stadium in the Brazilian city of Belo Horizonte, on 17 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

Julio Cesar Enciso (R) of Paraguayan club Olimpia jumps for the ball with Josafa dos Santos of Brazilian club Coritiba FC during their Copa Libertadores soccer match at the Couto Pereira stadium in the southern Brazilian city of Curitiba, on 17 Feb, 2004. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.—INTERNET

Beckham confident player rows with FA are now over

LONDON, 18 Feb— England captain David Beckham believes his team have put behind them last year's selection rows between the players and the Football Association and are fully focused on Euro 2004.

"We are on the right road now to getting things sorted," Beckham told Sky Sports News on Monday before England travel to Faro for a friendly against Portugal on Wednesday.

"We've got to be on the same side, we can't have these situations. It doesn't help for the preparation of the game or for the players. We've got to put it behind us."

Last October, players threatened to go on strike before England's deciding Euro 2004 qualifier against Turkey when defender Rio Ferdinand was suspended from international duty after missing a drugs test.

The following month, Leeds United striker Alan Smith was dropped for a friendly against Denmark after being arrested for throwing a plastic bottle into the crowd in a club game, causing further unrest in the squad.

However the two sides have since taken steps to improve their relationship and talks last month between senior players and the FA aimed at clarifying international selection policy were hailed as a success.

"I'd like to think it couldn't happen again because it's not fair for fans and players," said Real Madrid midfielder Beckham, who said there was now a more relaxed atmosphere in the England training camp.

"We were all looking forward to the Turkey game and the game after that and we were concentrating on something else instead of the game.

"We're a few months on and a few changes have been made...so hopefully we are on the right road now."

Beckham was scheduled to meet FA chief executive Mark Palios, executive director David Davies and Trevor Brooking, recently appointed director of football development, later on Monday.

The England captain also said he was looking forward to his team's clash with European champions France on June 13 in Lisbon, the opening match of the tournament in Portugal. England are also drawn with Switzerland and Croatia in Group B.

"It's a tough group we're in and the match everyone looks forward to is the French game, that's going to be a tough game," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Portugal, England sign Euro hooligan pact

LISBON, 18 Feb — Portugal and Britain signed a pact on Monday aimed at combating soccer hooliganism at this summer's European soccer championship, with measures including barring about 2,500 England fans from travelling.

The signing comes two days ahead of Wednesday's international friendly between England and Portugal. The match is seen as a trial run for fan-friendly security procedures at the tournament in Portugal.

"It's a test match for how things might turn out in the main tournament," Hazel Blears, a British Home Office Minister, told a news conference after signing the document.

"We're testing out some of our ways of working...to be sure we get it right."

Under the accord, British police officers will work with Portuguese security forces during the tournament. British police will also monitor fans leaving for Portugal and check whether they have a history of violence.

Among other measures, about 2,500 hooligans will be barred from leaving Britain by having their passports seized. The accord is customary ahead of big international matches.

Europe's soccer governing body UEFA has warned a repeat of past violence at matches could result in England's expulsion from the tournament.

Nuno Magalhaes, an Interior Ministry secretary at the signing, told reporters Portugal and Germany also were discussing possible moves to bar about 4,000 German hooligans.

Organizers expect the 16-team tournament to attract about 500,000 fans. About 60,000 police, firefighters and other emergency personnel are being mobilized for the three-week event.

Wednesday's friendly between Portugal and England in Faro, about 150 miles south of Lisbon in the Algarve resort region, is expected to attract about 2,500 English fans. That number is far below the 50,000 foreseen for when the event starts in June.

Policing at the match is aimed at winning over England fans and preventing the unruly behaviour for which they are notorious. Officers will mingle with fans from early on and there are plenty of welcoming events.

"The police are making all the right noises at this stage," Kevin Miles, international coordinator of England's Football Supporters' Federation, said in a phone interview from Faro.

MNA/Reuters

Leaders Porto held to 1-1 draw at Benfica

LISBON, 18 Feb — Leaders Porto preserved their unbeaten record in the Portuguese Premier League with a 1-1 draw at Benfica on Sunday. Porto, the League's only unbeaten team, stay top on 56 points, with Lisbon's Sporting in second a further five points adrift. Sporting beat Moreirense 1-0 at home on Friday to keep their championship hopes alive.

Benfica are third, four points behind Sporting and nine off the lead with 12 games remaining.

Porto went ahead on the half-hour when midfielder Francisco Costinha found space between defenders to head home following a right cross from playmaker Deco Souza.

Roared on by a near-capacity crowd at the new 65,000-seat Luz stadium, Benfica hit back in the second half and Brazilian midfielder Geovanni Mauricio struck Porto's bar with a long-range shot in the 47th minute. Benfica's equalizer came after 50 minutes when winger Simao Sabrosa scored from close range after rounding two defenders.

MNA/Reuters

Belgium's Kim Clijsters (R) celebrates with her sister Elke after winning their first round doubles match at the Antwerp Open WTA tennis tournament, in Antwerp, on 17 Feb, 2003. Elke Clijsters failed in her bid to set up a match with her elder sister, Belgian world number two Kim, in the Diamond Games after losing 6-3, 6-2 to Spain's Arantxa Parra in the first round.—INTERNET

MRTV-3

19-2-2004 (Thursday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

9:00 Signature Tune Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
9:06 Ancient City MraukU
9:10 Headline News
9:12 Traditional Food of the Region Myeik
9:15 National News
9:20 Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
9:25 Kachin Dance
9:30 National News
9:35 Shan Market Day
9:40 Myanmar Modern Song "Love Boat"
9:45 National News
9:50 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-IV)
9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

19-2-2004˚(Thursday)
Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

15:30 Signature Tune Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
15:36 Ancient City MraukU
15:40 Headline News
15:42 Traditional Food of the Region Myeik
15:45 National News
15:50 Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
15:55 Kachin Dance
16:00 National News
16:05 Shan Market Day
16:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Love Boat"
16:15 National News
16:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-IV)
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
16:30 National News
16:35 Poppy Substitute Crop Cultivation in Border Areas
16:40 The Beauty of Zwegabin and Livelihood of Kayin National
16:45 National News
16:50 Percussion of "Pan" (or) Communal Drum
16:55 Nay Yar Daw Khin
17:00 National News
17:05 A Journey to Research Taron Race
17:10 Song "Sumprabum"
17:15 National News
17:20 The Royal Animal Weights of the Myanmar Empires
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)

19:30 Signature Tune Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
19:36 Sagaing Pogoda-Studded Hills
19:40 Headline News
19:42 Attractive Myanmar Snacks
19:45 National News
19:50 Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp
19:55 Taking Shelter at Mandalay Hill
20:00 National News
20:05 The Myanmar Turban-Unique
20:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flower Alike"
20:12 Yangon, The Capital
20:15 National News
20:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-III)
20:25 Myanmar Modern Song"Golden Myanmar Golden Welcome"
20:30 National News
20:35 Quality Rice Production in Myanmar
20:40 Modern Embroidery
20:45 National News
20:50 Border Towns in Northern Shan State
20:55 Performance of King Brahminy Bird Dance
21:00 National News
21:05 Traditional Folk Weaving Works
21:10 Song "Beauty of Wakema"
21:15 National News
21:20 A Day in the life of the PaO Family
21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
21:35 Ancient City MraukU
21:40 Headline News
21:42 Traditional Food of the Region Myeik
21:45 National News
21:50 Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
21:55 Kachin Dance
22:00 National News
22:05 Shan Market Day
22:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Love Boat"
22:15 National News
22:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-IV)
22:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Land of Beauty"
22:30 National News
22:35 Poppy Substitute Crop Cultivation in Border Areas
22:40 The Beauty of Zwegabin and Livelihood of Kayin National
22:45 National News
22:50 Percussion of "Pan" (or) Communal Drum
22:55 Nay Yar Daw Khin
23:00 National News
23:05 A Journey to Research Taron Race
23:10 Song "Sumprabum"
23:15 National News
23:20 The Royal Animal Weights of the Myanmar Empires
23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

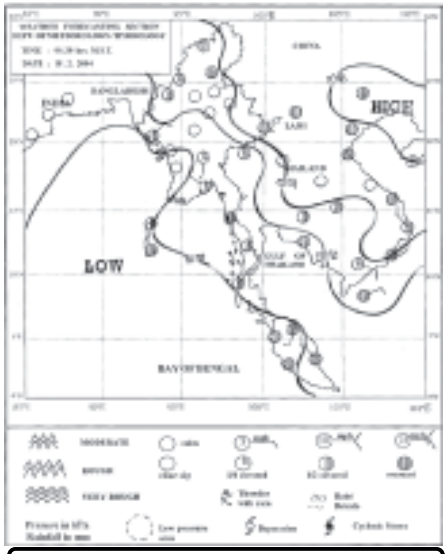
19-2-2004˚(Thursday)&
20-2-2004 (Friday)
Evening & Morning Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)

23:30 Signature Tune Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36 Ancient City MraukU
23:40 Headline News
23:42 Traditional Food of the Region Myeik
23:45 National News
23:50 Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
23:55 Kachin Dance
24:00 National News
00:05 Shan Market Day
00:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Love Boat"
00:15 National News
00:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-IV)
00:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
00:30 National News
00:35 Poppy Substitute Crop Cultivation in Border Areas
00:40 The Beauty of Zwegabin and Livelihood of Kayin National
00:45 National News
00:50 Percussion of "Pan" (or) Communal Drum
00:55 Nay Yar Daw Khin
01:00 National News
01:05 A Journey to Research Taron Race
01:10 Song "Sumprabum"
01:15 National News
01:20 The Royal Animal Weights of the Myanmar Empires
01:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

20-2-2004 (Friday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)

03:30 Signature Tune Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36 Sagaing Pogoda-Studded Hills
03:40 Headline News
03:42 Attractive Myanmar Snacks
03:45 National News
03:50 Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp
03:55 Taking Shelter at Mandalay Hill
04:00 National News
04:05 The Myanmar Turban-Unique
04:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flower Alike"
04:12 Yangon, The Capital
04:15 National News
04:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-III)
04:25 Myanmar Modern Song"Golden Myanmar Golden Welcome"
04:30 National News
04:35 Quality Rice Production in Myanmar
04:40 Modern Embroidery
04:45 National News
04:50 Border Towns in Northern Shan State
04:55 Performance of King Brahminy Bird Dance
05:00 National News
05:05 Traditional Folk Weaving Works
05:10 Song "Beauty of Wakema"
05:12 Yangon, The Capital
05:15 National News
05:20 A Day in the life of the PaO Family
05:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
05:35 Ancient City MraukU
05:40 Headline News
05:42 Traditional Food of the Region Myeik
05:45 National News
05:50 Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
05:55 Kachin Dance
06:00 National News
06:05 Shan Market Day
06:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Love Boat"
06:15 National News
06:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-IV)
06:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Land of Beauty"
06:30 National News
06:35 Poppy Substitute Crop Cultivation in Border Areas
06:40 The Beauty of Zwegabin and Livelihood of Kayin National
06:45 National News
06:50 Percussion of "Pan" (or) Communal Drum
06:55 Nay Yar Daw Khin
07:00 National News
07:05 A Journey to Research Taron Race
07:10 Song "Sumprabum"
07:15 National News
07:20 The Royal Animal Weights of the Myanmar Empires
07:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 18 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours,weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin, Shan, Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Taninthayi and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin, Rakhine States, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 17-2-2004 was 36.0°C (97°F). Minimum temperature on 18-2-2004 was 14.5°C (58°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-2-2004 was 69%. Total sunshine hours on 17-2-2004 was (9.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 18-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Northwest at (17:30) hours MST on 17-2-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19-2-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain in Kachin State, upper Sagaing Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Posibility of isolated rain in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-2-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-2-2004: Partly cloudy.

TV Myanmar

Thursday, February 19

View today:

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
5. Dance of national races
8:00 am
6. Dance Variety
8:15 am
7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Let's Go
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 am
3. English For Everyday Use
4:45 am
4. Cute Little Dancers
5:00 pm
5. အစေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒ အထူးပြုများ) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)
5:15 pm
6. "အဒီမှာစတွေ့တာပဲ" (မင်းအုပ်စိုး၊ ဥက်ကျောကြေး၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်၊ နန်းတော်ရည်သောင်း)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
5:20 pm
7. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား
5:35 pm
8. Musical programme
5:50 pm
9. နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောဇုန်းဖြင့် စိမ်းလန်းစေရေးညီ
6:00 pm
10. သက္ကံတံရောင်သစ္စာ
6:30 pm
11. Evening news
7:00 pm
12. Weather report
7:05 pm
13. Milo success in soccer
7:10 pm
14. နိုင်ငံခြားဘတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မိုးမြေဆုံးစေတော့ကွယ်" (အဓိပ္ပိုင်း-၁၉)
7:35 pm
15. Musical programme
8:00 pm
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ် (၅၇) နှစ်မြောက် မြဲညီထောင်စုနေ့ တိုင်းရင်းသားမိုးရာ ပဒေသာကပွဲ
20. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဦးဝိစိတ္တာသရတိပဝိသေ၏ အရပ် ဆယ်ပျက်နှာ မေတ္တာဘာဝနာ ပွားများခြင်း တရားတော်
21. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Thursday, February 19
Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music
8.50 am National news/ Slogan
9.00 am Music
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music
-Cold enough to snow (Jennifer Waires)
-Kiss the girl (Peter Andre)
9.00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
-Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra
9.10 pm Article
9.20 pm Pourri
Astronomical events forecast for year of the Monkey
-WHO raises Vietnam deaths from bird flu by 1 to 4
9.30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
-I wanna forever tonight-(Peter Cell)
Especially for you (Kylie Minogue)
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) /297028 (Press).

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 inspects regional development tasks in Magway, Mandalay Divisions

YANGON, 18 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, together with the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left here by air and arrived at Bagan-NyaungU, Mandalay Division, on 16 February afternoon. They were welcomed there by Brig-Gen Than Tun of Kyaukpadaung Station, Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Zaw Min and military officers.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to Myaing Basic Education High School in Pakokku District, Magway Division. Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected computer skills room, computer aided instruction room and language lab of the school.

At the assembly hall, the Prime Minister met with the principal and teachers. On the occasion, Principal U Hsan reported on academic matters, pass rate of matriculation students and requirements. Minister for Education U Than Aung dealt with measures to be taken for raising education standard and pass rates of the students. The General upgraded a basic education primary school to a middle school in Myaing. The General and entourage inspected classrooms of the school. Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party looked into Myaing People's Hospital (16-bed) and upgraded it to a 25-bed one. At the office of Township Peace and Development Council, the General met with local authorities, service personnel and members of social organizations. Township Chairman U Hla Than reported on location, area, population and climate conditions of the region, land resources, sown acreage, construction of irrigation facilities, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil and cotton, condition of local rice sufficiency, and education, health and communication sectors; Pakokku District Chairman Lt-Col Htay Oo, on annual rainfall of the district, growing of nine major crops, output of monsoon and summer paddy, local rice and edible sufficiency, cultivation of beans and pulses, cultivation of edible crops and edible oil sufficiency in the district, education, health and communication sectors

(See page 8)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects practical labs of Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University in Meiktila.— MNA

Salone Traditional Festival opens to enable the world witness objective conditions of Myanmar

YANGON, 18 Feb — The Salone Traditional Festival was opened at the beach of Ma Kyone Galet Village, Bo Cho Island, Kawthoung Township, on 16 February, under the co-sponsorship of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended the opening ceremony.

Also present were Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Chairman of Work Committee for Organizing the Salone Traditional Festival Deputy Minister for H&T Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and members, members of subcommittees, senior military officers, military attaches of foreign missions in Myanmar, officials of the State Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, members of Myanmar Hoteliers Association, Myanmar Travels Association, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, Thai-Myanmar Friendship Association and social organizations, local entrepreneurs, Dawei cultural troupe members, ethnic Salone people, guests and tourists.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw formally opened the festival.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said in the past the Salone living in the Myeik archipelago are called Moken. Since the time of their forefathers, the Salone people have been living in Myanmar and Malay archipelago. And since the 19th Century, they have been the fishermen roaming on the sea along the Myeik archipelago on their small boats which are called kaban. They are nomads, moving from place to place in the sea, staying at the places on islands that are safe from strong gust of monsoon winds and waves from the sea, and where they have access to fresh water. They venture into the seas as soon as the monsoon retreats. Most worship traditional spirits, while those living on Ma Kyone Galet, Zadetgyi and Nyaungwi islands are of the Buddhist faith.

The Myeik archipelago, where the festival is being held to enable the world witness the objective conditions of Myanmar, is a pleasant place in the sea. Efforts are being

(See page 9)

Tourists enjoy Salone and Dawei traditional dance troupes at Salone Traditional Festival. — MNA