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Saturday, 21 February, 2004



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views products at Made in India Show.—MNA

## Prime Minister views Made in India Show

YANGON, 20 Feb —Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township where Made in India Show is being held under Myanmar-India bilateral trade and economic promotion programme, this morning.

He was welcomed there by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, departmen-

tal heads, the president of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Secretary of the Industrial Policy & Promotion Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India Mr Lakshmi Chand, the chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) of India and officials.

The Prime Minister and party viewed the booths of steel wares, industrial products, medicines and medical equipment, cosmetics, textiles, personal goods, weaving machines, leather wares, accessories, agricultural implements, hospital equipment, electric apparatus, furniture, rubber, beans and pulses and crops which are exhibited by 70 Indian companies.

The signing ceremony followed at the parlour of the centre. UMFCCI President U Win Myint and Confederation of Indian Industry Past President Mr Rajive Kaul signed the agreement on Setting Up of Joint Task Force between the UMFCCI and the CII.

The Prime Minister and party left the centre later in the morning. The admission-free trade fair will be kept open till 22 February.

MNA

### 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

## Commerce Minister meets Thai guests

YANGON, 20 Feb — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone met with Chairman of the Standing Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives of Thailand Mr Rewat Sirinukul, and delegation, accompanied by Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, at his office today.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye, Managing Director U Min Hla Aung of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading and officials of Border Trade Department.— MNA

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### Circulation

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UMFCCI President U Win Myint and Confederation of Indian Industry Past President Mr Rajive Kaul exchange documents in the presence of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.—MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 21 February, 2004

### Participate in nation-building tasks

The State Peace and Development Council is endeavouring for the Union that is made up of 14 states and divisions to keep abreast of nations of the world and to stand tall among international community. Consolidating national unity, efforts are being made to relay the fruitful results of development undertakings to future generations.

Nowadays, border areas and national races development projects, projects for development of the 24 special regions and the five rural development tasks are being implemented.

As special regions are being established in states and divisions to carry out development tasks, universities, colleges, government technical institutes and hospitals have emerged one after another.

The inauguration of the newly-constructed Government Technical Institute (Mohnyin) took place at the institute in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, on 10 February morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Nowadays, changes for the better and developments have been made with greater momentum in the field of science and technology and electronics. Changes and development in science and technology are overwhelming the economic, health and social sectors of the whole human society.

Therefore, it is of paramount importance for the people to learn and apply science and technology to keep pace with changes and developments, and efforts will have to be made to be able to produce outstanding intellectuals and intelligentsia.

Now, 147 students are attending Civil engineering course, Electrical (communication) engineering course, Electrical (power) engineering course, Mechanical (power) engineering course, Mechanical (Design) engineering course and IT engineering course that are being conducted at Government Technical Institute (Mohnyin).

A total of five institutions of higher learning have been opened in Kachin State for turning out human resources on science and technology — two technological colleges and two computer colleges in Myitkyina and Bhamo, and a government technical institute in Mohnyin.

In the past, students had to pursue their higher education in cities like Yangon and Mandalay but now they have the opportunities to pursue education within their reach.

At a time when efforts are being made in all sectors for national development, people are urged to participate in nation-building tasks realizing the goodwill and objectives of the State.

### 59<sup>th</sup> 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

## Commander attends Htidaw hoisting and enshrinement ceremony of Aungmingala Hsutaungpyay Pagoda in Thanlyin

YANGON, 20 Feb— The ceremony to enshrine religious objects in Aungmingala Pagoda was held at Aungmingala Monastery in Kayinseik Model Village, Thanlyin Township, this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

Also present on the occasion were Hanthawady Meditation Centre Sayadaw Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya Bhaddanta Javana and members of the Sangha, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi, Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyay and members, social organizations, wellwishers and guests.

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

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Javana administered the Five Precepts.

Next, the commander and wife offered Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and provisions to a Sayadaw; Minister Brig-



Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe fixes diamond orb atop Aungmingala Pagoda. MNA

Gen Maung Maung Thein, religious objects and offerings; Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, religious objects and donations; and wellwisher U Maung Maung Oo-Daw Thet Yi (Jacob) and others, provisions to Sayadaws.

Aungmingala Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Mandala delivered a sermon. Then, Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujana Hitadhara Nyaunggan-aye Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indaka gave Ovada Katha and shared merits gained.

Next, the Commander conveyed Sein-budaw, Daw Khin Thet Htay Hngetmyatnadaw, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein four parts of *Zun*, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko Hsaththaphudaw and well-wishers tiers of Htidaw

round the pagoda. The commander and the minister enshrined religious objects in middle and upper reliquaries and sprinkled scented water on them. Then, the commander, the minister and officials hoisted tiers of Htidaw and Hngetmyatnadaw atop the pagoda by Annawa decorated carriage. The commander then fixed Seinbudaw atop the pagoda and sprinkled scented water on it. At the same time, small Htidaws were hoisted atop encircling pagodas.

The ceremony ended with three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu* and they performed the rituals of golden and silver showers to mark success of the ceremony. Next, the commander and wife offered 'soon' to the

Sayadaws.

Afterwards, the commander and party went to 50-acre summer paddy high yield special zone near Sitpinkwin Village, Thanlyin Township and inspected thriving paddy. Yangon Division Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Aung Hsan reported on natural fertilizer instead of Urea fertilizer was broadcast in the paddy field so as to reduce cultivation and production expenses of local farmers. Later, the commander gave instructions that officials are to give advice to the local farmers to enable them to save cultivation expense.

MNA

### 22.35 acres of poppy plantations destroyed

YANGON, 20 Feb— Poppy plantations are being destroyed in 2003-2004 poppy growing season. A combined team comprising members of local Tatmadawmen, local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force, departmental officials and local people, destroyed 22.35 acres of poppy plantations illegally grown near Nampoke Creek in Hkamti Township on 10 February, making the total acres of destroyed poppy plantations grown in poppy growing regions in this year's poppy growing season to 6,316.44 acres up to 10 February 2004. —MNA



The combined team seen destroying poppy plantations. — MNA



## France, Germany want a UN resolution on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb—France and Germany said Wednesday that a new UN Security Council resolution on the world body's role in Iraq would be needed, prompting US concerns about possible delays in reconstruction efforts and in the planned hand-over of sovereignty this summer.

The US has been urging the United Nations to take a greater role in Iraq, but a new resolution may set up a new confrontation between the United States and two leading war opponents. The new complications arise as UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan prepares to issue recommendations on how a new Iraqi government should be selected.

Annan was expected to tell the Security Council today that direct elections were not possible before the scheduled on 30 June power transfer but would be desirable by the end of the year. Additional recommendations based on a UN team's visit to Iraq this month are expected next week.

Bush administration officials said

they feared that a debate over a new resolution could drag on long enough to force a postponement of the hand-over to a transitional Iraqi government. They also worry that it could provide the UN with enough leverage to force an overhaul of major infrastructure projects in the country, such as those for power plants and oil field redevelopment.

Any debate may reopen diplomatic wounds from the prewar period and suggests a repetition of a pattern in which the US has sought UN support but then been unhappy with the results. In 2002, the Bush administration asked for the United Nations' backing for the US effort to oust Iraqi President

Saddam Hussein but turned critical when it failed to get the Security Council's blessing.

If the Security Council adopts a new resolution, the UN "might want to stop projects that we're about to get underway. They might want to undo ones that are already going," said one administration official, who asked to remain unidentified.

Such a move "could have really major effects," the official said.

The US official added that the administration was especially concerned about the French, although relations between the two countries have warmed since the Chirac government led opposition to the war. —Internet

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## Roadside bomb kills two more Americans in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 Feb—An explosion killed two US infantrymen in an insurgent centre west of Baghdad on Thursday.

The blast occurred as troops from Task Force All-American were investigating an earlier attack on a US convoy near Khaldiya, a Sunni Triangle town about 50 miles west of Baghdad, witnesses said.

One Iraqi was killed and another US soldier was

wounded, the US command and witnesses said.

"About 20 US soldiers and two Iraqi policemen were on foot inspecting the area after the first blast," witness Bilal Hardan said. "Then the second explosion came. I think they hit a land mine."

US troops rounded up dozens of Iraqi suspects after the second attack, the witnesses said. The US command confirmed the American casualties but offered no further details.

The latest deaths brought to 545 the number of American service members who have died since President Bush launched the Iraq war on March 20. Most of the deaths have occurred after Bush declared an end to active combat on 1 May.

With casualties mounting in an election year, the Bush administration would like to transfer political power to the Iraqis by the end of June and shift more security responsibility to the US-trained Iraqi force. —Internet

## Bulgarian soldier in Iraq shoots at, wounds mate

BAGHDAD, 20 Feb—Private Zhivko Dolashkov, a soldier from Bulgaria's second Iraq unit in Karbala has accidentally shot at and wounded his mate Georgi Milev on the territory of the camp Kilo. Dolashkov shot with his Makarov gun.

The wounded soldier has been rushed to a hospital in Baghdad. His life is out of danger. The accident occurred at about 4 pm Bulgarian time.

The commander of the battalion has ordered an investigation into the case.

In August 2003 Private Pavlina Marinova Landeva from Bulgaria's first peace-keeping battalion in Iraq shot herself as she used her weapon inattentively. The injury was not a dangerous one.

Bulgaria imposed penalties over the shooting incident and despite the fact that Landeva is said to have caused the wound herself, the

General Staff of the Bulgarian army demanded that other soldiers should also be held responsible for the injury. Landeva and another two soldiers from the unit were recalled back to Bulgaria.

Earlier in the day Defence Minister Nikolay Svinarov announced that the commander who will head Bulgaria's third battalion in Iraq has already been selected. Minister Svinarov refused to disclose his name.

Bulgarian troops have been deployed in Iraq as part of a 9,000-strong Polish-led multinational contingent.

Internet



Iraqi women weep as they stand in front of their house destroyed in a car bomb attack in the city of Hilla, 100 kms south of Baghdad. —INTERNET

## Animal husbandry booming in Heilongjiang Province

HARBIN, 20 Feb—North-east China's Heilongjiang Province has been developing its animal husbandry business rapidly and contributed a great deal to local farmers' income, said an official with the provincial agricultural department.

Heilongjiang abounds in dairy resources, having ideal conditions for expanding its dairy industry, said the official. As the key dairy production base, it boasts the country's biggest fresh milk production and dairies processing industry.

In 2003, Heilongjiang's gross livestock breeding output value amounted to 29.4 billion yuan (about 3.5 billion US dollars), an increase of 15.3 per cent over the previous year.

This year, the province will continue to focus on the growth of dairies sector and beef processing industry, the official said.

MNA/Xinhua

## China to train millions of township enterprise employees

BEIJING, 20 Feb—The Ministry of Agriculture launched a training project Thursday, requiring all township enterprise employees in China to participate in pre-job and on-the-job training programmes.

Rural workers preparing to work in township enterprises, newly-recruited working staff, technicians and the managers of such enterprises will have to undergo training in professional knowledge and techniques, career ethics and law, and be awarded a "blue certificate" after completing the course.

Five million rural workers are expected to receive such training by 2008, and receive professional skills appraisal if conditions permit, as a move to attract rural la-

bourers, especially those in need, to work in township businesses.

Only 9.1 per cent of China's 480-million-strong rural labour force has received professional training, according to ministry sources.

The next five to ten years will witness a rapid increase in the supply of workers from the countryside, said the official, but secondary and tertiary industries will require more high-quality workers.

MNA/Xinhua

## Japan, Iran sign \$2b deal to develop huge oilfield

TOKYO, 20 Feb—Japan and Iran have signed a two-billion-US-dollar deal to jointly develop the massive Azadegan oilfield in southwestern Iran, according to Japanese official sources Thursday.

An announcement of the agreement is expected to be made Friday.

The agreement will grant the Japanese consortium rights to development of the oilfield in southwestern Iran, close to the border with Iraq.

The two sides will sign a formal contract after deciding details such as ratios of investment and the duration of the development, the sources said.

Actual production is expected to begin in 2006 with an estimated maximum output of more than 400,000 barrels per day. The Azadegan oilfield is believed to have crude oil reserves of 26 billion barrels. The agreement will give Japan the largest oilfield it has ever developed independently.

The government-backed Japanese consortium involving Tomen Corp, Inpex Corp and Japan Petroleum Exploration Co started negotiation with the Iranian Government in 2000.

But the talks had been stalled due largely to pressure from the United States which has urged Japan to withdraw from the project due to its concern about Iran's alleged nuclear programme.

Japan lost its preferential negotiation rights in June last year, and Iran apparently considered an international auction at one point.

But after Iran said recently it would accept inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United States softened its stance, Japan decided to push for the project. —MNA/Xinhua



A Polish soldier stands guard in front of the site where a car bomb exploded near his base in Hilla, 100 kms south of Baghdad, on 19 February. —INTERNET

## Explosive trace in hair could expose bombers

LONDON, 20 Feb — Traces of explosives in their hair could give away bombers and bomb-makers, a British journal reported on Wednesday.

A scientist at the University of Rhode Island found that certain explosives evaporate and bind to human hair, leaving more permanent clues than traces on clothes, the *New Scientist* wrote.

"The Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh was wearing a T-shirt with TNT on it, but he probably also had explosives in his hair," the scientist, Jimmie Oxley, was quoted as saying.

Oxley discovered traces of the explosives TNT, RDX and PETN in the hair of people who handle them daily. She did not fully understand how they bind to hair but her experiments showed they do so more readily to dark hair than light, suggesting the pigment melanin, which gives hair its colour, may play a part.

However, she did not find a chemical common to all three explosives that could cause the binding.

MNA/Reuters

## 545 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 Feb—As of Thursday, 19 February, 545 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 376 died as a result of hostile action and 167 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, 405 US soldiers have died 261 as a result of hostile action and 144 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,672 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department's figures. Non-

hostile injured numbered 415.

The latest deaths reported by the military: Two US soldiers were killed Thursday in a roadside bombing near Khaldiya, 50 miles west of Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

Army Spc. Christopher Taylor, 25, Daphne, Ala.; killed Monday in Baghdad when a roadside bomb hit his vehicle; assigned to the 1st Armored Division, 1165th Military Police Company, Fairhope, La.

Internet



A Polish army patrol blocks the road between Iraq's city of Hilla and Baghdad on 19 February. —INTERNET

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## Halliburton falling short in Iraq, says Pentagon

BAGHDAD, 20 Feb— Oil giant Halliburton is falling short in its billion-dollar commitments to supply US-led forces in Iraq and rebuild the country's oil industry, a senior Pentagon official said on Thursday.

"There is no doubt that more needs to be done. We have to make sure that we can provide the services as quickly as they are needed," Dov Zakheim, under secretary of defense and the Defence Department's comptroller — chief financial officer — told Reuters.

Halliburton, mainly through its Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) subsidiary, is the biggest contractor for the US military in Iraq with more than \$8 billion in deals covering everything from doing laundry, building bases and providing meals to repairing oil infrastructure.

A US draft audit has found evidence KBR might have overcharged by \$61 million for bringing oil and gas products into Iraq via the Kuwaiti subcontractor, Altanmia Commercial Marketing Co Kuwait's parliament formed a committee on Monday with broad powers to probe the deal.

The Defence Department is looking into the fuel issue and allegations that one or two KBR employees paid bribes to the subcontractor. In addition, military auditors are examining KBR's pricing for meals it served to troops in Iraq and Kuwait.

Last week, Halliburton said in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing it had agreed to delay billing for \$34.5 million until the auditors had completed their work.

"We are looking at every aspect of Halliburton and every other contract in Iraq. KBR has total contracts that can come up to \$15 billion. It is largest single combination of contracts. Naturally we have to spend a lot of time on it," he said.

Internet

## New Zealand tourist arrivals up in 2003

WELLINGTON, 20 Feb— The New Zealand tourism industry weathered global commotions caused by disease, terrorists and the stronger NZ dollar, with more than 2.11 million foreign visitors arriving last year — a 3-per-cent increase over 2002.

According to figures released by Statistics New Zealand Thursday, one-third, or just over 702,000 visitors, came from Australia, 264,800 from Britain and 211,600 from the United States.

In a statement Thursday, Tourism Minister Mark Burton said that the increase was "truly remarkable", especially given the challenges the industry had faced.

"In a year marked by terrorist events, international conflict, and the outbreak of the (severe acute respiratory syndrome) SARS virus, finishing the year even with 2002 would have been outstanding," he said.

Burton described the industry's success as "no accident", saying that the government had worked closely with Tourism New Zealand to leverage off high-profile events such as the films "Lord of the Rings" trilogy and "Whale Rider", and implemented a regional programme to bolster regional and cultural tourism.

Tourism supported one-in-11 jobs for the country, contributed 9 per cent of the GDP and was second only to dairy in export earnings, he said.

Meanwhile, 6 per cent more New Zealanders took overseas trips in 2003 compared with 2002.

MNA/Xinhua

## Australia may lift Philippine banana ban

CANBERRA, 20 Feb— Australia's quarantine agency recommended the lifting of a two-year ban on banana imports from the Philippines on Thursday but said strict conditions should be set to protect the 370 million Australian dollars (291 million US dollars) local industry.

Biosecurity Australia issued a revised draft report outlining the change but there was no immediate word on when a final decision would be taken. The import risk analysis report will be available for public comment until April 23.— MNA/Reuters

## Saudi Arabia, Yemen to settle border disagreement

RIYADH, 20 Feb — Saudi Arabia and Yemen issued a joint statement Wednesday stressing closer cooperation in curbing smuggling and infiltration along their common frontier.

The statement was issued after Yemeni Ali Abdullah Saleh's two-day visit for official talks focusing on the Saudi construction of a barrier along the border. Yemen sees it as a violation of the 2000 border agreement between the two countries.

The statement said the two sides agreed to run joint border patrols, put up security checkpoints, determine crossing points for shepherds and increase security arrangements on sections where smuggling and infiltration are most likely to occur.

"Security of the two nations is a joint responsibility that must be borne by their

security institutions, which must cooperate and work together constantly to remove what might hinder that," the statement added.

Last month, Saudi Arabia started constructing a barrier along its border with Yemen to prevent smuggling of weapons and khat, a stimulant popular in Yemen.

Yemeni news media recently criticized Saudi Arabia for building the concrete wall. They said the wall is being constructed in a disarmed area, and tribes in the border area have complained the barrier splits their farms and properties and makes transport difficult.—MNA/Xinhua



The ten day old giraffe calf 'Bangi' is seen at the Zoo in Basel, Switzerland on 17 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

## Ancient Penglai Port to be restored in east China

JINAN, 20 Feb— The city of Penglai, in east China's Shandong Province, would invest handsomely in the renovation of its ancient port, restoring it to its original look, according to sources with its cultural heritage bureau.

One of China's four leading ancient ports, the port of Penglai guaranteed the shipping between northeast China's Liaodong Peninsula and east China's Jiaodong Peninsula and it also served as a vital port for the travel to Japan and Korean Peninsula during Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

As the ancient port was increasingly exposed to trash pollution in recent years, the local government invited experts from Shanghai's prestigious Fudan and Tongji universities to make a restoration plan for the ancient naval port.

According to the plan, Penglai City government had decided to invest 450 million yuan (about 55 million US dollars) to preserve and renovate the port facilities within four years.

MNA/Xinhua

# NO LET-UP IN ANTI-OCCUPATION ATTACKS



Heat and dust covers a US tank in the city of Khaldiya. Two US soldiers and one Iraqi were killed in a bomb blast near Khaldiya, 80 kilometres (50 miles) west of Baghdad, a military spokesperson said.—INTERNET



Polish soldiers secure a military base in Hilla after two suicide bombers struck at the Polish military base in central Iraq, killing at least seven Iraqis and wounding dozens, including at least 58 coalition troops.—INTERNET



Two US soldiers stand guard on a highway after closing it following a warning of a roadside bomb on the outskirts of Baghdad on 19 February.—INTERNET



US soldiers question Iraqis as they patrol to search for the source of mortar barrage launched against a US base at Abu Ghraib, on the western edge of Baghdad, Thursday Feb. 19, 2004 and on the previous evening. The US command said attackers fired 33 mortars and five rockets between 6:30 pm and 6:50 pm on Wednesday.—INTERNET



Iraqi women grieve over the death of Iraqi Civil Defence Corps major Mohammad Abdul Jalil, his wife Iman and his daughter during their funeral in the village of al-Hasowa. — INTERNET

A Polish soldier walks through the rubble, as Iraqis survey the damage to their homes. Feb 19, 2004 after two explosives-laden trucks were detonated outside a Polish military camp in Hillah, south of Baghdad on Feb, 18, 2004. INTERNET



## UN against Iraq polls before occupation ends

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Feb— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has decided to oppose quick elections in Iraq before the US occupation relinquishes power on June 30 and suggest an alternate timeframe for a poll, diplomats said on Thursday.

But Annan will not recommend for at least a week how to choose a caretaker government that would assume sovereignty until elections could be held. The US plan of caucuses in 18 provinces has been virtually discredited.

"As you know, it's a complicated situation," Annan's senior envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi told reporters when he arrived at UN Headquarters. "The Iraqis have a lot of confidence in the United Nations and I am sure that the United Nations will try to help."

Brahimi, who just returned from Iraq, has concluded that organizing fair elections by June 30, as Iraqi

Shiite leaders want, was not feasible, UN officials said. But he and Annan have not yet decided on the shape of an Iraq interim government to take office on June 30, diplomats said.

Annan will probably give a "window" for elections for a permanent legislature and government to be held earlier than the United States had envisioned, such as between late this year and early in 2005, the diplomats said.

He is expected to suggest that the elections be held simultaneously with a referendum for a new Constitution.

UN officials said there was no question of delaying

the June 30 handover of power, important to the Bush Administration before the November presidential election as it struggles to hold back violence by insurgent groups.

The United States had proposed a caucus plan all but abandoned by both Iraqi and US leaders. That proposal, announced on November 15, called for a complicated caucus system in Iraq's 18 provinces to select members of an assembly, who would in turn form a provisional government. Elections for a permanent government would then be held in late 2005.

MNA/Reuters

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*Iraqis demonstrate in central Baghdad, on 19 Feb, 2004, demanding that they be allowed to stay in former government houses and military camps where they have been squatting since their homes were destroyed during the war.—INTERNET*



## Philippines, Thailand to set up regional oil hub

MANILA, 20 Feb— The Philippines and Thailand have agreed to push for the creation of a regional petroleum hub that will serve as strategic location for stockpiling and distribution points in Asia in a bid to counter continual increase in world oil prices.

In a joint statement, Philippine Energy Secretary Vince Perez and Thai Energy Minister Prommin Lertsuridej said the bilateral talks they held Wednesday was one of the concrete steps being undertaken in maximizing the use of existing infrastructures to bolster the energy security of the ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) along with China, Japan and South Korea.

"The Philippines has offered the use of its premier petroleum storage facility in Subic as a potential strategic and commercial site for stockpiling in this regard, while Thailand has recently opened its first petroleum trading centre in Sriracha, Chon Buri," the statement said. Perez and Prommin also expressed concerns about the continuing increase in oil prices in the world market, and urged oil producing countries to consider not implementing more cuts in their production. — MNA/Xinhua

## White House says Iraq oil exports may top \$1b monthly

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb— Iraq's oil export revenues could exceed one billion US dollars per month this year if prices hold at current levels and export capabilities are not interrupted, the Bush Administration told Congress in a report on Wednesday.

The White House report said Iraq's crude oil exports should increase significantly once a pipeline from Kirkuk to Turkey's Ceyhan Port is sufficiently secured from attacks to allow a reopening.

The report on progress in rebuilding Iraq, which Congress required in the resolution it passed authorizing the US-led invasion, also said Iraq is consuming 500,000-600,000 barrels of oil per day.

Refinery production of

kerosene, diesel and gasoline remains at prewar levels because of the sabotage of crude oil pipelines and electric power shortages, it said.

But the report said product imports have increased to meet domestic needs with the US-led Coalition Provisional Government spending seven million US dollars to eight million US dollars per day to import refined oil products from Turkey, Kuwait and Jordan.

As of early this month, the report said gasoline supplies consistently exceeded daily demand, and supplies of other products including diesel and kerosene also have improved.

The 15-page report also touched on progress in other areas, such as water and sanitation, electrical power, health care and transportation.

It gave few details on the sensitive subject of how and when to transfer governing authority from the

US-led provisional government to Iraqis, saying "Iraq's political transition is proceeding."

The report also was vague on the outlook for keeping US troops in Iraq, saying it was "not possible to know at this time either the duration of military operations or the scope and duration of the deployment of US Armed Forces necessary for the full accomplishment of our goals."

MNA/Reuters

## Slovenian in bid to swim almost three quarters of Yangtze of Yangtze

BEIJING, 20 Feb— Martin Strel, a marathon swimmer from Slovenia, has announced that he will try to become the first person to swim 4,600 kilometres of Yangtze River, China's longest river at a total length of 6,300 kilometres.

From June 1, Strel will spend two months swimming from the Batang stretch, in southwest Sichuan Province, to Shanghai, where the river meets the sea, he said at the Slovenian Embassy to China in Beijing. Strel, who holds several records for the longest swims in the world's biggest rivers, successfully swam the whole lengths of the Danube in Europe in 2000 and the Mississippi in the United States in 2002. He hoped his marathon swimming would promote friendship and cooperation between Slovenia and China, and contribute to clean river protection. — MNA/Xinhua

## Australia battles locust swarms after drought

SYDNEY, 20 Feb— A massive outbreak of crop-eating locusts has been triggered by heavy rains that broke the worst Australian drought in a century to generate record crops and flood parts of the outback.

It is the worst outbreak since up to 100 billion of the pests were spawned in December 2000.

"We're talking mega-numbers

here...you'd just be speculating (on exact numbers)," Walter Spratt, operations manager for the Australian Plague Locust Commission, said on Thursday.

Australia's big wheat, barley and canola crops have just been harvested and are safe in silos around the country, but locusts are breeding near sorghum and cotton crops.

MNA/Reuters



South Korean models pose with South Korean automaker Kia Motors Corp.'s new model Morning during the unveiling ceremony at Kia Motors headquarters in Seoul, South Korea Wednesday, on 18 Feb, 2004. The price of the Morning, a 1.0LX type equipped with a 1,000 CC engine, is 6.7 million won(US\$5,815). —INTERNET

## Rich countries must share for benefits on earth

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Feb — Rich countries looking to stem the loss of plants and animals on Earth and to profit from their genes must stump up the money, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said on Wednesday.

"They reap the harvest but are unwilling to share the benefits with the countries that own the biological resources," Najib said in a speech to dozens of environment ministers from around the world.

Najib, whose country is host to two weeks of talks under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), said industries in developed nations that are keen to exploit resources held by poorer countries must be willing to pay.

"This attitude and mindset of companies from developed countries towards the sharing of wealth must come about if we are to move forward on biodiversity conservation and on development of nature's full poten-

tial," he said in his opening address.

Malaysia, a tropical Southeast Asian nation, is one of around a dozen so-called mega-diverse countries around the world that are home to exceptional numbers of species.

Its forests harbour rare tigers, orangutans and elephants among 286 identified species of mammals as well as thousands of flowering plants and tens of thousands of invertebrates. Off its coasts lie some of the world's richest coral reef systems.

But like nearly all such nations it is also a developing country, albeit a relatively rich one, meaning conservation is not top priority. — MNA/Reuters



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views round the Made in India Show. (News on page 1) — MNA

## The taste of peace and stability of the Union

Moe Htet Myint (Delta Region)

Rivers and streams winding down the snow-capped mountain ranges in the far north of Myanmar are the sources of the mighty Ayeyawady. Like the artery of the nation, the river continuously flows to the south with tremendous force till reaching the delta where it splits into many watercourses before draining into the sea. River Ayeyawady is 15 million years old one.

Kachin State where the Khakaborazi, the only year-round snow-capped mountain in Southeast Asia region, and the Indawgyi, the largest inland lake, are located within the far east zone of Himalayas, the Assam-Myanmar metamorphic zone and the temperate zone of Myanmar.

Plans are under way to form the Khakaborazi National Park, the Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Phonkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary in Kachin State to become the Myanmar northern forest complex.

On the Malikha bank in the far north of Myanmar are Putao and Machanbaw, while Nagmon is on the Shankha bank, and Kawbude, Hsawlaw and M'Jangyang are on the bank of Malikha. The confluence is 28 miles far from Myitkyina.

The scenery along the two twin rivers — Maykha and Malikha is breath taking.

A dinner marking the Kachin traditional Inlon Innan harvest festival was held on the lawns of Malikha Villa in Myitkyina on 29 December 2003 evening, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present at the dinner were the responsible personnel of Kachin State, national race leaders of New Mon State Party, Kayan Pyithit Party, Kayinni National Democratic Party, and Kayah State National Races Liberation Front, and Kayin, Mon, Chin, Kayah and Wa peace negotiators, members of Kachin traditional cultural troupes and guests. The two MCs, who were ethnic Kachin ladies, announced the opening of the ceremony.

Kachin traditional cultural troupe members sang the song "The brethren of the Union".

Chairman of the Inlon Innan Festival Organizing Committee Reverend Gregory Nawdin and Chairman of the Nyein Foundation Rev Dr Sabwe Jum made speeches.

Kachin traditional cultural troupe members sang the song "The people who love Myanmar".

Speaking at the dinner, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, "First, I would like to express pleasure to meet with the national brethren again at the ceremony commemorating the honourable harvesting festival of the ethnic Kachin people in unity and oneness. I feel as if it is a reunion of the members of the same family.

"It is true that the brethren at the ceremony are also enjoying with happiness the peace and stability as well as the taste of tranquillity of the Union family born of the national solidarity firmly flourishing in the Union."

Like in all other states and divisions, the Government has built roads, bridges, institutions of higher learning, schools, hospitals and dams and canals for the development of Kachin State. In addition to Bhamo Degree College and Bhamo Airport in Bhamo region, it has built strategic highways in the state.

Hopin Bridge in Mohnyin Township was opened in June 2003. The 200-foot bridge is located on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road. It is the first major bridge on the road, an important infrastructure helping facilitate the transport

between the state and the regions in central Myanmar. Khakaborazi, the highest peak in Myanmar, is 19,315 feet above the sea level and is located in Kachin State where thick forests can be found. In winter, the mountain ranges including the Khakaborazi are covered with snow, and towering magnificently high above the sky as the pride of Myanmar.

Maykha passes through Nagmon and Khawbude townships for many miles, while Malikha flows through Putao, Machanbaw, and Sumprabum townships almost the same length before merging together at a place north of Myitkyina thereby forming the Ayeyawady. The area of Kachin state is 34,379 square miles, comprising 18 townships and 691 village-tracts. We left Myitkyina by car, and made a brief stopover on the Bala Min Htin Bridge. Under the bridge, we saw the Ayeyawady flowing impressively through the rock boulders.

Monsoon had retreated, and the winter was coming. The weather was cool as the land was surrounded by forests and mountain ranges. The freezing waters of Nanmyinkha Creek was flowing wildly along the mountain valleys. The current slowed down when it reached the place near Washaung village, for the Washaung Dam had stopped the flow of the creek to store water in its reservoir. While looking at the dam, I remembered a poem which featured all the names of the dams in the whole country. But now there are 294 dams and 265 river water pumping stations, 168 over 180-foot new bridges the length and breadth of the nation.

The Government has built roads including Myitkyina-Shwebo Road; Bhamo-Mansi-Momeik-Mandalay Road; Myitkyina-Mogaung-Mandalay Road; Bhamo-Momaik-Myitkyina road; and Bhamo-Katha-Tagaung-Mandalay Road linking Kachin State with other regions of the Union. It has also built large and small bridges at all necessary places of the roads. The bridges include the 320-foot Maliyan in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, on Bhamo-Myitkyina Road. The reinforced concrete bridge was built at a cost of K 70.3 million and 0.15 million foreign currency.

The Tanai Creek Bridge is on the road from Tanai to Nanyun in the state. The Ministry of Construction built the 942-foot facility that is 12 feet wide and has a maximum load-bearing capacity of 30 tons. The Tanai-Nanyun Road is a section of Myitkyina-Tanai-Nanyun Union Highway. As the road is linked with the Ledo town in the neighbouring India, it is well-known as the Ledo Road during the World War II. Myitkyina-Shwebo-Mandalay strategic road has been built, and Bhamo-CiU-Mabein-

## 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

Momeik-Mogok Road, Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road and Bhamo-Mansi-Namhkam Road are being upgraded. Panwa in Chipwe Township has been developed into a modern town.

A major bridge in the far north of Myanmar has been named Bala Min Htin, a Myanmar hero. It is a 2,688-foot long bridge supporting a 28-foot wide motorway flanked by two six-foot pedestrian lanes on both sides. Construction began on 7 August 1995 and the facility was opened in 1998.

Peace, stability and development of the Union of Myanmar can be felt through the progress of Kachin State. In fact, national unity has enabled the national brethren to enjoy the taste of peace and stability of the Union.

(Translation: TMT)

(Keymon: 20-2-2004)

## ပျားရည်နှင့် အစွမ်းသတ္တိ

- \* ပျားရည်သည် အင်အားဖြည့်တင်းပေးရာတွင် အသန့်စင်ဆုံး အာဟာရတစ်မျိုး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- \* ပျားရည်တွင် သတ္တုဓာတ်၊ အင်ဇိုင်း နှင့် အာဟာရဓာတ် အများအပြားပါဝင်ပါသည်။
- \* ပျားရည်သည် သစ်သီး၊ သကြားဓာတ် အဓိကပါဝင်သော သကြားဓာတ်ပေါင်း တစ်မျိုးဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- \* ပျားရည်တွင် ဘက်တီးရီးယားပိုးများ သန့်စင်ပါသည်။
- \* ပျားရည်တွင် ပဋိဇီဝ စွမ်းရည်သတ္တိပါရှိသဖြင့် အနာဒဏ်များ၊ အနာကျက် ဖြန့်စေပြီး လျင်မြန်စွာ ပျောက်ကင်းစေပါသည်။
- \* ပျားရည်စားသုံးပြီး မိနစ်ပိုင်းအတွင်း စွမ်းအားတိုးတက်လာစေနိုင်ပါသည်။

## ကုသကာကွယ် မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်

၁။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲလျှင် အသည်းရောင် အသားဝါရောဂါ၊ အသည်းခြောက်ရောဂါ၊ အသည်းကင်ဆာရောဂါ၊ သွေးဆိပ်တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ အဆုတ်ရောဂါများ၊ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုရောဂါ (AIDS) နှင့် စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာရောဂါများ စသည်တို့ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည့်အပြင်၊ စီးပွားရေးနှင့် လူမှုရေးများ ထိခိုက်ပျက်ပြားခြင်း၊ ဥပဒေအရ အရေးယူခံရခြင်းတို့ဖြစ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

၂။ ထို့ကြောင့် အဆိုပါဒုက္ခများမှ ကင်းဝေးစေရန် မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးကို လုံးဝ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

၃။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲသူများသည် သတ်မှတ်ဆေးရုံများတွင်၊ မှတ်ပုံတင်၍ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Mr Bhubneswar Kalita, Honorable Minister for Industries and Public Enterprises, Government of Assam and party.  
(News on page 16)— MNA

## Commander attends coord meeting...

(from page 16)

upgrading and keeping Yangon City clean and pleasant.

Next, Director of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee U Kyan Taing Hsaung reported on progress in carrying out development tasks such as roads, bridges, water supply and rural roads of the outside townships of the municipal area in 2003-2004 fiscal year and tasks to be carried out in 2004-2005.

Township executive officers of Thanlyin, Taikkyi, Hmawby, Hlegu, Kyauktan, Twantay, Kayan, Thongwa, Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Htantabin and Cocokyun townships reported their respective sectors.

Next, the commander gave instructions that local authorities and executive of-

ficers are to conduct field trips to respective townships and villages and efforts are to be made earnestly. Then, the commander attended to their needs.— MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe speaking at coordination meeting of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee.— MNA

## Seminar on ICT Linkages Connecting India & Myanmar held

YANGON, 20 Feb— The Seminar on ICT Linkages Connecting India & Myanmar, co-organized by Myanmar Computer Federation and Confederation of India Industry (CII), was held at MICT Park in Hline Township this afternoon, attended by Chairman of

e-National Task Force Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw.

Also present were members of the e-National Task Force, the Indian Ambassador and officials, chairmen and officials of Myanmar Computer Federation,

Myanmar Computer Scientists Association, Myanmar Computer Industry Association, officials of Confederation of India Industry (CII) and enthusiasts. The Indian Ambassador and the minister gave speeches. The seminar concluded in the evening.— MNA

## Import-substitute domestic industrial products exhibition opened

YANGON, 20 Feb— The opening of import-substitute domestic industrial products exhibition organized by the Cottage Industries Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives took place in conjunction with the meeting 2004 at the department on Thudhamma Street in North Okkalapa Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, officials, chairmen of cooperative syndicates and industrialists.

The master of ceremonies explained the purpose of the exhibition and meeting. The director-general of the Cottage Industries Department and the chairman

of the Industrial Cooperative Syndicate U Tun Yi formally opened the exhibition and meeting 2004. The minister unveiled the signboard of the exhibition. The minister and guests viewed 54 booths of the exhibition. The free exhibition opens daily until 22 February from 9 am to 6 pm.— MNA



Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw addresses Seminar on ICT Linkages Connecting India and Myanmar.— MNA

## Commander meets officers and other ranks who will take part in 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade

YANGON, 20 Feb—Chairman of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe met with officers and other ranks who will participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade at the hall of Yangon Command this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Parade working group for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Vice-Chairman Brig-Gen Nyan Win and senior military officers, Parade Commander for the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade Brig-Gen Min Thein, the reserve parade commander and column commanders, battalion commanders, company commanders, officers and other ranks.

First, Chairman of the 59th Anniversary Armed



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe meets officers and Tatmadawmen of parade columns.—PUPR

Forces Day Supervisory Committee Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe made a speech. He stressed the need for officers and other ranks of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), members of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade and Red Cross, who will take part in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade, to successfully

implement the 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 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 and to build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold 'Our Three Main National Causes'. He added that those who will take part in the parade are to strive in unity for enhancing the standard of the parade ceremony, observing rules and regulations

strictly.

Next, Chairman of Parade working group for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint reported on matters related to the parade, Vice-Chairman of Parade working group for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Vice-Chief of

Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Nyan Win on rules and regulations.

After that, Parade Commander for the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade Brig-Gen Min Thein explained parade procedures to be followed for successful observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade.

MNA



Minister for Labour U Tin Winn addresses second meeting of Organizing Committee for Nation-building Endeavours Exhibition.—MNA

## Ancient Hsaddan Cave All-round Renovation Leading Committee meets

YANGON, 20 Feb—The Leading Committee for All-round Renovation of Ancient Hsaddan Cave in Hpa-an, Kayin State, held a meeting at the office of the Ministry of Culture on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of the Leading Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Member Minister for Livestock and

Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Secretary Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Members Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and members.

The chairman of the Leading Committee delivered a speech on the occasion. In his speech, the chair-

man gave instructions on forming of a work committee for launching all-round renovation tasks in June and preservation of the edifice without damaging its original style.

The secretary of the Leading Committee reported on all-round renovation tasks, followed by a general round of discussions.

The chairman gave closing remarks.—MNA

## Development works inspected

YANGON, 20 Feb—Col Myo Myint, Director-General of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, together with officials, inspected development works in various townships in northern Chin State on 17 and 18 February.

On 17 February, the di-

rector-general and party arrived at Haka and inspected the Chin State Development Affairs Department. He left necessary instructions. Next, he inspected the construction of Ha Ohsan bridge across a creek and tarring of Yinmabin road. He also gave necessary instructions to officials concerned to keep the town green and pleasant. He also inspected the site for

building the Township Development Affairs Department office. They proceeded to Thantlang and inspected the development works, paving of Htaunglein road.

On 18 February, the director-general met with staff at the Falam Township Development Affairs Department Office. He also went to Tiddim and Tonzang and inspected development works.—MNA

## Organizing Committee for Nation-building Endeavours Exhibition meets

YANGON, 20 Feb—Chairman of the Organizing Committee for Staging Nation-building Endeavours Exhibition of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Minister for Labour U Tin Winn delivered an address at the second coordination

meeting of the committee at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

The minister gave a speech on display of latest photos, data, maps and graphs related to project implementation of ministries concerned

and timely completion of tasks for displaying the exhibits.

Those present participated in the discussions. The minister inspected the booth of the Ministry of Labour after the meeting.

MNA



Drug liaison officers, Thai drug control committee officers and UNODC officers seen at opium-substitute plantations in Shan State. (News on page 16)—CCDAC



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party convey Seinbudaw (Diamond Orb), Hngemyatnadaw (Vane) and tiers of Htidaw to be hoisted atop the Theindawgyi Pagoda built by Rahanta Shin Araham on Wipula Hill in Hsataung Village, Pyawbwe Township, on 18-2-2004. (News reported). — MNA

## China publicizes list of 656 spam servers

BEIJING, 20 Feb — The Internet Society of China (ISA) Wednesday publicized a blacklist of 656 spam servers across the world, and set a deadline for them to stop sending junk mail.

Of these spam servers, 62 are on the Chinese Mainland, 65 in Taiwan Province, six in Hong Kong and 523 from outside China.

The ISA will closely monitor the operation of the servers on the list. Sanctions will be imposed on those which continue sending junk mail after March 20. Once these servers stop sending junk mail, the ISA will eliminate them from the blacklist, said Li Yuxiao, an ISA official.

In order to fight against the increasing amount of junk mail on the Internet, the ISA publicized two separate lists of a total of 397 spam servers in 2003, and imposed a large-scale spammer blockade against servers which refused

to stop their activities. Email messages from the sanctioned servers were automatically refused by recipient servers.

The new blacklist was the result of several months' monitoring work by the state-run Internet Society of China, which is made up of 140 members drawn from private companies, schools and research institutes. The Beijing-based group aims to promote the development of the Internet throughout the country.

The number of Internet surfers in China grew to 79.5 million at the end of 2003, up 34.5 per cent over the previous year, making it the world's second-largest Web population after the United

States, the China Internet Network Information Centre said on its web site.

Many Chinese Internet users have been complaining that their email in-boxes are being choked with junk mail daily, and some have had to give up email addresses used for years.

An estimated 50 per cent of all email messages in circulation by the end of 2003 could have been unsolicited "spam", which may have cost as much as 20.5 billion dollars in wasted technical resources, a report from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has warned.

MNA/Xinhua

## Indian Minister says Buddha's teachings more relevant today

BODH GAYA, 20 Feb — India's Tourism Minister Jagmohan on Thursday said Buddha's message of "ahimsa" (non-violence) and peace had far greater relevance in today's world riven by sectarian violence and hatred. Speaking after the dedication ceremony of the Mahabodhi Temple here in eastern part of the country, where Buddha is believed to have attained Enlightenment, which was attended by Buddhist scholars and monks from 25 countries, Jagmohan thanked UNESCO for accepting his ministry's proposal to declare the temple as a world heritage site.

Jagmohan also urged the government of Bihar State, where Bodhi Gaya is situated, to improve infrastructure facilities at important Buddhist sites to attract pilgrims and promised all help to the state government in overcoming any fund shortage coming in way.

MNA/PTI



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe present Seinbudaw to Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Shweyinye Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijjabala on 18-2-2004. (News reported). — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe offer "soon" to members of the Sangha on 18-2-2004. (News reported). — MNA

## Road accident kills 11 in Egypt

CAIRO, 20 Feb — Eleven people were killed and three others wounded in a road accident in northwestern Egypt at dawn on Wednesday, the official MENA news agency reported.

The tragedy occurred when a vehicle that carried the victims collided with a truck on the Matrouh-Siwa Road, MENA said.

The injured were taken to Matrouh Hospital for treatment, the report said.

Earlier this month, 19 people were killed and four

others injured in a road accident on a highway about 190 kilometres south of Cairo.

Road accidents, caused by hazardous roads, careless driving, speeding and badly maintained vehicles, are fre-

quent in Egypt.

According to official figures, traffic accidents kill about 5,000 people and wound 24,000 others annually.

MNA/Xinhua

## ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ ဓာတ်အားစွမ်းရည် ရှိသူများ ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခ ဖြည့်ဝခြင်းတို့ကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရဖြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များ ကိုစားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုကင်းစင်၍ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာ ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင့်တော်မျှတသော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့ရုပ်သိမ်းကွယ်ရန် ခြင်္သေ့တောင်ခြင်အိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသဘောတရားပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလှိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက်မွေးမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အမြဲအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

## စေတနာရှင်ပြည်သူများခင်ဗျား

စည်ပင်သာယာရေးဦးစီးဌာနသည် ရေရှားပါးသော ကျေးလက်ဒေသများတွင် သန့်ရှင်းသော သောက်သုံးရေဖူလုံစွာ ရရှိရေးကို ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ရေလျှော့ချခြင်းဖြင့် အောက်ပါ အကျိုးဆယ်ပါးကို ရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။

- (၁) လျှင်မြန်ခြင်း၊
- (၂) သန့်ရှင်းစင်ကြယ်ခြင်း၊
- (၃) ကျော်ကြားလူသိများခြင်း၊
- (၄) ဆာလောင်မှုတိသိမ်မွေ့ခြင်း၊
- (၅) အခြေအရာများခြင်း၊
- (၆) အသက်ရှည်ခြင်း၊
- (၇) အဆင်လျင်ခြင်း၊
- (၈) ချမ်းသာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊
- (၉) ခွန်အားဗလကြီးမားခြင်း၊
- (၁၀) ဉာဏ်ပညာကြီးမားခြင်း တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

စည်ပင်သာယာရေးဦးစီးဌာနသည် ရေရှားပါးသော ဒေသများမှာ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေဖူလုံစွာရရှိရန် စီမံချက်များချမှတ်ပြီး အင်တိုက်အားတိုက် ဆောင်ရွက်နေပါသည်။ ရေအကျိုးဆယ်ပါး ရရှိစေရန် ရေရှားပါးသည့် ကျေးလက်ဒေသများသို့ စက်ရေကွင်းများ လျှော့ချလျှောက် အောက်ပါနည်းတရားအတိုင်း လျှော့ချနိုင်ပါသည်။ ဥပမာအားဖြင့် စက်ရေကွင်း အနက် ၂၀၀ပေ တစ်ကွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစုံ) ကျပ် ၂၅၀၀၀၊ ဥပမာအားဖြင့် စက်ရေကွင်း အနက် ၄၀၀ပေ တစ်ကွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစုံ) ကျပ် ၅၀၀၀၀ နှင့် ၄၀၀ပေ စက်ရေကွင်း အနက် ၂၀၀ပေ တစ်ကွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစုံ)ကျပ်၅၀၀၀ ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

မည်သည့်မြို့နယ်တွင်မဆို စေတနာရှင်များအနေနှင့် ပါဝင်လျှော့ချလျက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စည်ပင်သာယာရေး အဖွဲ့အစည်းများနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်လျှော့ချနိုင်ပါသည်။

- (၁) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်၊ ၀၁-၂၄၄၄၂၀၊ ၂၄၄၀၈၈။
- (၂) ဒုတိယညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်၊ ၀၁-၂၄၄၀၁၈။
- (၃) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (အင်ဂျင်နီယာ)၊ ၀၁-၂၄၄၀၆၇။
- (၄) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်းစည်ပင်အဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၇၁-၂၄၁၀၂။
- (၅) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (မကွေးတိုင်းစည်ပင်အဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၆၃-၂၄၁၀၄။
- (၆) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (မန္တလေးတိုင်းစည်ပင်အဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၂-၄၄၆၇။

MNA/PTI



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party hoisting Seinbudaw (Diamond Orb), Hngetmyatnadow (Vane) and Htidaw atop the Theindawgyi Pagoda built by Rahanta Shin Araham on Wipula Hillock in Hsataung Village, Pyawbwe Township, on 18-2-2004. (News reported). — MNA

## Africa, EU seek to rescue global trade talks

**MOMBASA (Kenya), 20 Feb —** Africa and the European Union sought a compromise to help rescue global trade talks on Wednesday, but there were few new proposals to break the deadlock between rich and poor.

The meeting at a luxury resort on Kenya's Indian Ocean coast aimed to bridge gaps between Europe, the United States and Africa which contributed to last year's collapse of negotiations to promote free trade, seen as vital to the world economy.

European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy encouraged African ministers to take a fresh look at existing EU proposals to help exporters in poor countries, who say trade rules are biased against them.

"Basically, we are still stuck," Tanzanian Trade Minister Juma Ngasongwa told reporters. "I don't think we're making much progress, but at least we're getting to know each other, where we stand," he said.

Africa wants the EU and the United States to cut

billions of dollars they pay to subsidize farmers, saying the handouts prevent millions of impoverished Africans from winning a share of world markets.

The European Union has said it was willing to eliminate subsidies on exports of particular interest to developing countries, but many African states say the proposals do not go far enough.

"The fundamentals have not changed," said Mauritian Trade Minister Jaya Krishna Cuttaree. "We're still holding our positions on agriculture, which is the important one."

The Kenya meeting is part of wider efforts to revive the stalled round of negotiations held under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which sets the rules of global trade.

The WTO negotiations broke down at a meeting in Cancun, Mexico last September because of disputes over rich countries' farm subsidies and whether to extend trade rules into new areas.

At stake is a deal to remove trade barriers that the World Bank says could add more than 500 billion US dollars a year to global incomes by 2015, lifting 144 million people out of poverty.

MNA/Reuters

## Chinese doctors say separated Siamese twins "stable"

**SHIJIAZHUANG, 20 Feb —** Conjoined twin girls, who were separated by Chinese doctors on Saturday, are both in a stable condition, doctors said on Wednesday.

The girls, Bao Bao and Bei Bei, were born joined at the chest and abdomen on 2 January.

Their parents are a farmer couple in Handan City, in southern Hebei Province of north China.

The infants could now drink milk without the help of stomach tube, said Fu Song, a surgeon with the No 1 Hospital attached to Hebei Medical University in the provincial capital of Shijiazhuang, where the three-hour operation was carried out.

Before the operation, the

livers, ribs and midribs of the two infants were almost completely linked, doctor Fu said.

The well-being of Bei Bei, the younger of the two, who was diagnosed with a genetic heart condition, remained a concern, with the doctors saying her life would remain in danger for up to 12 months if another operation was not performed to correct the disease.

But it was not right to operate on Bei Bei as she was still too weak after the separation, said Fu.

A heart operation was

planned as soon as she recovered from the initial surgery, Fu said.

The hospital performed the operation free of charge and will continue to care for the infants without charge, it said.

It was the third such operation on Siamese twins who were born joined at the chest and abdomen in China.

Twenty-seven sets of Siamese twins have been reported in China since 1949, 15 pairs of whom have undergone separation operations.

MNA/Xinhua

## Vietnam reports more high blood pressure patients

**HANOI, 20 Feb —** Up to 14.9 per cent of Vietnamese population suffered high blood pressure in 2003, five fold compared to the rate in 1960.

Specifically, 3.5-4 per cent of local people aged under 40, 9.1-10.2 per cent aged 40-60, and 15.4-19.8 per cent aged 60-75 suffer the disease, local newspaper *Young People* reported on Thursday.

But, only two-thirds of the sufferers realized that they are victims of high blood pressure. Of them, one-third undergo frequent treatment.

In an effort to reduce the number of patients, Vietnam's Health Ministry is strengthening propaganda about main causes of the disease: little exercise, obesity, smoking, and drinking.

MNA/Xinhua

## China launches nationwide public safety inspection

**BEIJING, 20 Feb —** The government has launched a nationwide campaign to check on hidden hazards in public places, following a series of major accidents at industrial sites or public facilities in the past few weeks, which claimed hundreds of lives across the country.

In an emergency notice dated February 17, the General Office of the State Council ordered local governments to be completely aware of the seriousness of the issue, and take measures to eliminate hidden hazards and curb the occurrence of accidents of all kinds in public places.

The State Council will send teams to study the causes of some especially serious accidents that occurred recently, according to the circular.

Governments at all levels should set up their own responsibility systems to ensure public safety and prevent such accidents, the notice says.

MNA/Xinhua

## Netherlands appoints first HIV/AIDS Ambassador

**BRUSSELS, 20 Feb —** Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot and Minister for Development Cooperation Agnes van Ardenne have appointed Laetitia van den Assum to the post of HIV/AIDS Ambassador, the first-ever Dutch ambassador on HIV/AIDS affairs, the Dutch Foreign Ministry announced Thursday.

The new ambassador is expected to deal with the broader dimension of the AIDS problem and the key focus areas are health, education, security and stability, and the impact of HIV/AIDS on economic development, according to the ministry.

Laetitia van den Assum, currently Dutch Ambassador to South Africa, has acquired extensive experience in the field of HIV/AIDS when she worked at the Dutch Foreign Ministry as well as served as representative of the United Nations Children's Fund in Tanzania.

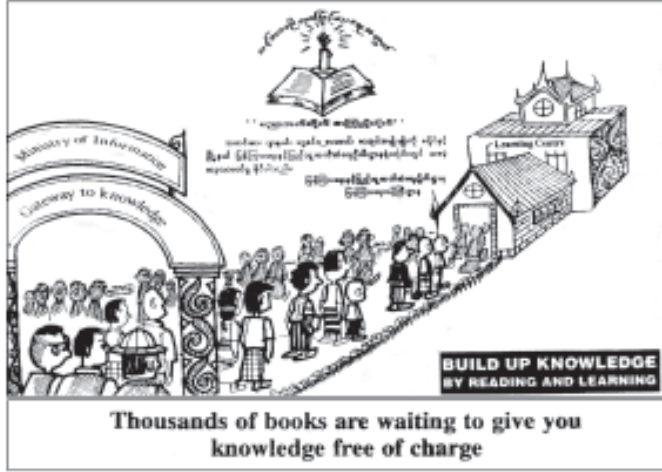
With this appointment, the two ministers wish to show that the war on HIV/AIDS has a high priority, said the website of the ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း  
တစ်တောင် တစ်တောင်ဆက်  
မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။



Aerial view of Salingyi Textile Factory Project. (News reported) — MNA



## ADVERTISEMENT

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (495)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (495) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER  
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

### British car park named one of world's safest places

LONDON, 20 Feb — A humble car park in Derby, central England, has been named alongside the bank vault at Fort Knox and the US President's plane *Air Force One* as one of the most secure places in the world.

A study by British science magazine *Focus* said the Bold Lane multi-storey car park had not had one break-in or act of vandalism in the six years it had been in operation.

"Bold Lane uses a sophisticated web including CCTV cameras, panic buttons, entry doors and bar-coded tickets," said the magazine.

Sensors monitor all ve-

hicles in the parking bays and if there is any disturbance, the cameras are activated and the incident transmitted to the car park's control room.

Bold Lane was included in the magazine's top ten of secure places in the world, among more established sites such as the Fort Knox bank vault — which boasts a 25-tonne door and granite walls — and the Baghdad bunker used by former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"We didn't want to fill the list with banks and bases, we wanted something down to earth," said a magazine spokesman.

MNA/Reuters

### Ireland bans smoking in pubs

LONDON, 20 Feb — The Irish Government has announced that smoking in pubs, restaurants and other enclosed workplaces in Ireland will be banned starting from March 29, according to reports reaching here on Wednesday.

Irish Health Minister Michael Martin said he hoped the ban would contribute to protecting the health of the nation. "Quite frankly, people should not have to be unwillingly ex-

posed to this toxic substance," he said.

Some bars have already begun setting up wall-mounted ash-trays outside their premises as well as heated outdoor areas for smokers. The government has rejected proposals by some pub owners for allowing special smoking sections.

The ban will not apply to hotel rooms, prisons, nursing homes and psychiatric hospitals, reports said.

MNA/Xinhua

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**  
**British Cod Liver Oils Limited**, of Hedon Road, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU9 5NJ, England, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg. No. 1071/1966

in respect of "Fish oils and by-products for pharmaceutical and veterinary purposes, and for use as food or as ingredients in food"

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 **British Cod Liver Oils Limited**  
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.  
Dated: 21 February 2004

### Britain, Ireland seek quick Norway Salmon decision

BRUSSELS, 20 Feb — Britain and Ireland hope the European Commission will back their proposal to raise barriers to salmon imports from non-EU states, including Norway, although any decision will take months, EU diplomats said on Wednesday.

EU states have until Friday to react formally to British and Irish requests on salmon imports and to their demand for import restrictions, which are worrying Norwegian producers.

The Commission is set to decide on Friday or Monday to start an investigation which could take from three to nine months, the diplomats said.

The British and Irish are afraid their salmon farmers are being overwhelmed by supplies of farmed Atlantic salmon, from Norway in particular. But their demand for import restrictions also covers shipments from Chile and the Faroe Islands

MNA/Reuters

## မြန်မာ့ပြန်လည်အေးပေးပါ

### China to enhance relations with Romania and its Parliament

BEIJING, 20 Feb — Two Chinese leaders vowed to promote friendly relations with Romania and its Parliament here when they met with Valer Dorneanu, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament.

Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said that China and Romania had enjoyed traditional friendship, and the co-operation between the two countries have maintained good momentum.

Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Romanian counterpart Ion Iliescu signed a joint statement last

year, which laid the political foundations for the development of ties, he said, adding that China would promote cooperation with Romania on economy, trade and culture. Wu hoped the high-level exchanges of visits and the contacts between the young Parliament members would continue.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, told Valer Dorneanu that relations had developed despite ups and downs of the international and domestic situations since the two countries forged diplomatic ties 55 years ago. He said the Chi-

nese new collective leadership valued Sino-Romanian friendship, and held Romania as a reliable friend in southeast Europe, and was ready to work with Romania to push forward ties.

Jia said the CPPCC and the Romanian Parliament had maintained smooth contact, which enhanced relations.

Dorneanu said Romania and China had enjoyed long-term friendship, and the development of friendly relations had long been Romania's top priority. He hoped the Romanian Parliament would further relations with the NPC and the CPPCC.

MNA/Xinhua

### Wallstrom says EU, US likely at odds on GM foods for years

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Feb — Transatlantic differences over the safety of genetically modified foods will drag on for years more and may widen and get worse, European Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom said on Thursday.

Disagreements over potential risks to human health and the environment from genetically modified crops such as maize and soy, versus the benefits and economic potential promised by their creators, has already sparked a US suit against the European Union at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

While EU countries are inching towards lifting a five-year unofficial ban on authorizing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for use, the acid test of approvals for commercial plantings

is unlikely any time soon.

"I think we will have a basic difference in views on GMOs for a very long time," Wallstrom told *Reuters* in an interview, referring to Europe and America.

The debate would also spill over into other countries, she added.

"We will see it in China, we will see it in Brazil, it will not become any easier. It will be a more heated debate," she said, speaking on the margins of a United Nations meeting on slowing the rate of global species loss.

Negotiators will meet on Monday for their third week of talks under the Convention on Biological Diversity, focusing from then on on the UN Cartagena Protocol and its implications for trans-boundary trade in GMOs.

Protocol signatory coun-

tries now number more than 80, but exclude all the major GMO growers, including the United States.

The law, whose specifics remain to be negotiated in detail, will oblige exporters to give more information about genetically modified products like maize and soybeans before any shipment to recipient countries, to help them decide whether to accept it.

Questions of liability for any problem shipments, redress and labelling still need to be sorted out.

Wallstrom said biotech companies must shoulder blame for the way things had turned out in the international debate on GMOs and called on the industry to be more transparent about its activities.

MNA/Reuters



A baby Pudu deer named Jon scratches his ear as he feeds from his mother Amber at Edinburgh Zoo in Scotland, on 18 Feb, 2004. Jon was born as part of a conservation breeding programme involving the Pudu, the world's second smallest deer, which is a native of South America and currently in danger of extinction.—INTERNET

# ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Smog engulfs the Great Wall of China on the outskirts of Beijing, on 18 Feb, 2004. China's capital is trying to improve its air quality by shutting down factories that fail to comply with new pollution regulations before the 2008 Olympic Games.—INTERNET

## Study says Aspirin may help prevent Hodgkin's disease

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb—Regular Aspirin users may be protecting themselves against a form of cancer called Hodgkin's lymphoma as well as against colon cancer and heart disease, US researchers reported on Wednesday.

In the latest report to suggest that Aspirin has effects that could prevent cancer, a team at the Harvard School of Public Health found that patients who took two or more Aspirins a week over five years reduced their risk of Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of immune system cancer.

Ellen Chang and colleagues questioned 565 patients with Hodgkin's lymphoma and 679 healthy people about their use of Aspirin and related drugs called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, or NSAIDs.

They found the regular Aspirin users were only 60 per cent as likely as non users to be in the cancer group.

To their surprise, they found that regular users of acetaminophen, a non-aspirin pain reliever, nearly doubled their risk of the cancer — but said it may have been because

patients started taking the drug to control their as-yet undiagnosed cancer symptoms.

Chang's team said the findings must be confirmed in bigger studies but said it could be Aspirin actively prevents the immune disruption involved in Hodgkin's disease.

"Given the extensive inflammation and immune dysregulation accompanying Hodgkin's lymphoma, an attractive hypothesis is that anti-inflammatory drugs guard against the onset of disease," they wrote in their report, published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

"If Aspirin use is indeed found to protect against Hodgkin's lymphoma, this relationship could afford insight into the pathogenesis of the disease and offer possible clues toward its prevention," they added.

MNA/Reuters

## Chinese scientists say Plants help clean poisonous soil

BEIJING, 20 Feb— Chinese scientists are developing a technology to create special plants that "suck" poisonous elements, mostly heavy metals, from soil.

Chen Tongbin, a senior researcher with the Geographic Science and Resources Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), is leading the research on soil recovery technology, which is funded by the state high technology advancement plan, initiated in March 1986 and known as the 863 Programme.

Soil recovery technology

depends on poison-accumulating plants, widely regarded as a "hyperaccumulators" in academic circles. The heavy metals accumulated by those plants are to be recycled. The primary targets of the technology are arsenic, copper and zinc.

A global leader in technology for collecting arsenic from soil, Chen's team proved that a brake fern

widely found in southern China, with the scientific name of *Pteris vittata* L., has a strong ability to draw arsenic from the soil.

Arsenic density in the mature plant's leaves averages 0.8 per cent, a far cry from organic nutrients of nitrogen and phosphorous," said Chen, who started his

research in 1998.

Since the 1980s, global scientists have blazed a new way in cleaning polluted soil with hyperaccumulators.

Decontamination by plants and recycling technologies would make heavy industries less environmentally damaging.

MNA/Xinhua

## Birds and bees inspire British micro spy-plane science

LONDON, 20 Feb—British scientists are studying the mechanics of insect flight in their development of a tiny spy aircraft no bigger than a bee.

"We are looking for the most efficient way of flying, and the rapid flapping of a flexible wing is one of these," said Dr Ismet Gursul, head of the aerospace research group at the University of Bath.

"In this respect we are imitating nature and the flight of insects and birds," he added in a statement.

"The micro-planes could send back detailed video footage of battle grounds and avoid the need for human scouts to risk their lives."

They could also land on the roof of enemy vehicles and mark them for future attack or as carriers of chemical or biological weapons, the university added.—MNA/Reuters

## China to develop English test data bank for college students

BEIJING, 20 Feb— China will develop a national data bank on English tests for college students, so as to make their English learning better serve economic and social progress.

Chinese Vice-Minister of Education Wu Qidi announced this here Wednesday, adding that English teaching in Chinese universities and colleges, though seeing rapid development since the reform and opening-up policies were introduced some 20 years ago, still cannot meet the needs of society. Currently, China has 19 million college students but only 50,000 English teachers.

Chinese universities should further improve their English teaching, seizing the opportunity brought by the development of the information industry, especially the construction of the Internet and campus networks, Wu said.

She also pointed out that Chinese college English teachers, when evaluating a student's language skills,

should focus on listening and speaking instead of reading. Students should be more active in learning English by using computer networking and teaching software. Besides, the language skills of each student should be graded so that they can have lessons accordingly.

An investigation of 340 Chinese universities by the Ministry of Education showed that the number of schools giving one English lesson with fewer than 40 students attending only accounts for 37 per cent, while 20 schools still have English classes with more than 80 students each. Most teachers who give English lessons are required to teach 16 to 20 class hours on average every week, leaving them no time to improve their teaching methods.—MNA/Xinhua

## Henry VIII's women may have been footballer's wives

LONDON, 20 Feb—He was famous for drinking, hunting, jousting and having six wives. But historians now think King Henry VIII may have had a secret passion — football.

Researchers have found the much-married king ordered a pair of football boots from the Great Wardrobe, the office responsible for supplying his attire, in 1526.

The boots were made of leather, hand-stitched by the royal cordwainer, Cornelius

Johnson, and cost King Henry the royal sum of four shillings. Dr Maria Hayward, a clothes historian who discovered the order among records of Henry's wardrobe, says she finds it difficult to believe he played football, but cannot see why else he

would have ordered the boots. "Football in Tudor times was a very vicious game with no teams and no rules...It was not a game for gentlemen," Hayward, who works at the textile conservation centre at the Winchester School of Art in southern

England, told Reuters. In the King's younger, slimmer days Hayward said he was a keen jousting, tennis player and occasionally went in for man-to-man wrestling, so the rough and tumble of a football match probably appealed to him.—MNA/Reuters



A man tries out the new wireless internet services at a cafe along Orchard Road in Singapore. Indians will soon be able to use their laptop computers in coffee houses thanks to US wireless connectivity giant Compex Systems.—INTERNET

## Singapore seizes 9,600 illegal DVDs

SINGAPORE, 20 Feb—Of-fices from Singapore's Immigration and Checkpoints Authority recovered 9,600 illegal DVDs at a land checkpoint bordering Malaysia on Wednesday, the largest haul so far this year, said local Press. According to Channelnewsasia, a local English language TV station, cartons of obscene and uncensored DVDs worth about 34,000 US dollars were found in a truck driven by two Malaysians, who claimed they did not know what the contents were. The transshipment permits listed the contents as books, clothing and other automotive parts, said the Channelnewsasia report.

MNA/Xinhua

## SPORTS

**Stam targets Milan move**

ROME, 20 Feb.— Dutch international Jaap Stam has said he would only consider a move to one of the Milan clubs if he left Lazio.

Lazio said on Tuesday that they would consider offers for the 31-year-old defender after he rejected talks on extending his contract beyond June 2005.

Serie A rivals Juventus, AC Milan and Inter Milan have all been linked with moves for Stam, but the player ruled out a transfer to the reigning Italian champions.

"If I leave Rome I will only accept a transfer to Milan," he was quoted as saying in Wednesday's La Gazzetta dello Sport.

"I've got the greatest respect for Juventus, but a move there doesn't interest me.

"I like the idea of winning something with Milan or Inter. I want to bring home a few more medals before I retire."

Lazio recently lost Serbian midfielder Dejan Stankovic to Inter on a cut-price deal as he was nearing the end of his contract and the cash-strapped club are keen that the same does not happen with Stam.— MNA/Reuters



Ireland's Andy Reid (R) challenges Brazil's Cafu during their international friendly match at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, on 18 Feb, 2004. The game ended in a 0-0 draw. —INTERNET

**South Korea beat spirited Lebanon in opening qualifier**

SUWON (South Korea), 20 Feb.— Cha Du-ri and Cho Byung-kuk scored with close-range headers to secure South Korea a 2-0 win over Lebanon in their opening World Cup qualifier on Wednesday.

South Korea, who became the first Asian team to reach the World Cup semifinals in 2002, faced a tougher task than many had anticipated in seeing off a spirited Lebanon team on a cold clear night at the Suwon Stadium.

For most of the first half Lebanon team defended well in numbers and they could even have taken the lead in the 31st minute when they were awarded a penalty for a push by South Korea captain Kim Tae-young on Mahmoud Chahoud.

But to the relief of most of the 28,425 crowd, South Korea's goalkeeper Lee Won-jae guessed correctly, diving to his right to save from Mohammad Kassas. The save roused the home fans and two minutes later South Korea went ahead when Germany-based striker Cha Du-ri scored with a glancing header from a cross whipped in by Lee Young-pyo.

The home side increasingly took control and five minutes into the second half, centre back Cho Byung-kuk made it 2-0 when he headed home from Park Ji-sung's swinging corner.

MNA/Reuters

**De La Hoya to face Hopkins for middleweight crown**

NEW YORK, 20 Feb.— Oscar De La Hoya is looking to move up a weight division and take on Bernard Hopkins for the world middleweight title in a big money bout this fall.

Unable to work out a deal with Felix Trinidad or Shane Mosley, De La Hoya has turned his attention to Hopkins (43-2-1, 31 knockouts), the undisputed middleweight champion, for a fight that could come as early as September 18.

"Bernard Hopkins is very, very dangerous," De La Hoya told Tuesday's Los Angeles Times. "I'm not doing this for the money. I'm doing it for history. This guy (Hopkins) is strong, an animal. I know I'm in deep water."

No contracts have yet been signed but the LA Times said De La Hoya would tune up for Hopkins with a June 5 bout against World Boxing Organization champion Felix Sturm of Germany.— MNA/Reuters

**FIFA warns Leeds over Viduka**

LONDON, 20 Feb — FIFA have warned Leeds United that striker Mark Viduka will not be able to play in Saturday's game at Manchester United if he fails to join the Australian squad for Wednesday's friendly against Venezuela in Caracas.

World soccer's ruling body said in a statement on Wednesday that following a request from the Australian Soccer Association, it had asked the English FA to inform Leeds of their obligation to release Viduka for the match. Viduka had been scheduled to fly to Caracas on Sunday but did not travel. Leeds say the player has a hamstring injury, according to British media reports.

MNA/Reuters

**Pennant's Leeds loan extended for another month**

LONDON, 20 Feb — Jermaine Pennant's loan spell at Leeds United has been extended until March 19, the struggling Premier League club said on its web site on Wednesday. The 21-year-old winger has been on loan at Elland Road from Arsenal since last August and has made 23 appearances for Leeds, scoring once. Relegation-threatened Leeds play Manchester United at Old Trafford on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

**Vietnam whitewashes Maldives 4-0 in World Cup qualifier**

HANOI, 20 Feb.— Vietnam crushed the Maldives 4-0 in a 2006 World Cup Asian Zone qualifying match at the My Dinh National Stadium here on Wednesday.

Eight minutes into the match, Vietnamese half-back Phan Van Tai Em scored the opening goal from nearly 20 metres away. The host doubled its lead four minutes later with a header by striker Nguyen Minh Hai from a Tran Truong Giang pass.

Phan Van Tai Em scored his second goal of the match in the 58th minute after his teammates had a series of tactical coordination just around the goal area. His powerful shot went into the left high corner of the goal.

In the 77th minute, Pham Van Quyen sealed the victory for Vietnam by converting a penalty kick after a Maldives player fouled Le Van Truong.

Portuguese coach of the Maldives team, Manuel Goncalves Gomes said he was not surprised at the result at all. "Vietnam has recently made great progress. Maldives came here for learning," said Gomes. Vietnam will play Lebanon on March 31 and South Korea on June 19 for its Group Seven round robin play. — MNA/Xinhua

**China beat Kuwait 1-0 in World Cup Asian qualifier**

GUANGZHOU (South China), 20 Feb.— A second-half header by veteran striker Hao Haidong handed China a 1-0 victory over Kuwait in their 2006 World Cup Asian opening qualifier here on Wednesday.

Hao, who had played a pivotal role in China's qualification to the 2002 World Cup, reaffirmed his place in the team as he headed home a right cross from midfielder Wei Xin in the 75th minute.

The match turned sour thereafter as the Kuwaiti players got ill-tempered and committed many fouls. Fahad Al-Hamad was sent off in the closing moments for spitting at Chinese defender Li Weifeng on his face.

China coach Arie Haan, who had vowed to beat his Kuwaiti opponents by at least two goals, said he was satisfied with the result. "My players have done a good job in the match," said the Dutchman at the post-match Press conference.— MNA/Xinhua

**Late Kubo strike gives Japan lucky 1-0 win**

SAITAMA (Japan), 20 Feb.— Substitute Tatsuhiko Kubo snatched an injury-time goal to give Japan a lucky 1-0 win over Oman in their opening Asian 2006 World Cup qualifier on Wednesday.

Kubo pounced on a defensive error in the third minute of stoppage time to spare Japan's blushes after the home side had squandered a string of chances, Shunsuke Nakamura missing a first-half penalty in an absorbing Group Three match.

Italian-based midfielder Nakamura had a penalty saved in the 30th minute after Oman defender Khalifa Ayil was harshly adjudged to have brought down Naohiro Takahara.

Japan were booed off the pitch at halftime by the crowd of 60,000 in Saitama and they continued to struggle after the interval in their first World Cup qualifier since 1997.

The Asian champions qualified for the 2002 finals automatically as co-hosts with South Korea.

Brazilian-born defender Alex squandered a decent opportunity for Japan in the 61st minute, volleying just wide from an acute angle after a clever pass from captain Hidetoshi Nakata.

Nakamura was guilty of another glaring miss in the 70th minute, firing over from point-blank range after a knock-down from Kubo.

But with disgruntled fans streaming for the exits, Kubo came to Japan's rescue right at the death, firing a low left-foot shot past Oman goalkeeper Ali Al-Habsi after an ill-timed stumble from Ayil.

"We were lucky but we expected a very hard match from Oman," said Japan's Brazilian coach Zico.

"There are no easy games at this level and Oman put us under enormous pressure in midfield. But the players were mentally very strong and kept battling right to the end."

Oman coach Milan Macala bemoaned his team's luck after a brave display in freezing conditions.

"What a mistake," shrugged the Czech. — MNA/Reuters

**Philippines awarded swimming gold medal from S-E-A Games**

HANOI, 20 Feb.— Two months after the close of the South-East Asian Games in Vietnam, the Philippines was awarded a gold medal for the men's 4x200 metres freestyle relay swimming event, a Vietnamese sports official said here on Wednesday.

The gold medal was originally given to the Malaysian team due to a technical mistake associated with the race timing, said SEA Games Organizing Committee member Ngo Chi Thanh.

"We have re-examined and determined it was the clock's mistake," said Thanh.

As a result, the Malaysian team receives the silver medal, Singapore takes the bronze and the bronze medal originally awarded to the Thai team, is withdrawn, he said.

The medal boosted the Philippines' gold medal tally to 49, six ahead of Malaysia. Vietnam hosted the SEA Games for the first time from December 5-13 last year. — MNA/Reuters



France's Louis Saha (L) celebrates with team-mate Zinedine Zidane (R) after scoring against Belgium during their international friendly match at King Baudouin Stadium, Brussels on 18 Feb, 2004. — INTERNET

**MRTV-3**
**21-2-2004 (Saturday)  
(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 The Pindaya Natural Cave
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Kachin hand-woven material
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Travelogue "Ngapali"
- 9:25 Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Ancient Architectural heritage of Taungthaman Kyauktawgyi Pagoda
- 9:40 Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers in Profusion"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-VI)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**21-2-2004 (Saturday)  
Regular Programmes for  
Viewers from Abroad  
Evening Transmission  
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 The Pindaya Natural Cave
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Kachin hand-woven material
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Travelogue "Ngapali"
- 15:55 Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Ancient Architectural heritage of Taungthaman Kyauktawgyi Pagoda
- 16:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers in Pro-

- fusion"
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-VI)
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 The Alaung Daw Kathapa National Park Myanmar Profile
- 16:40 "Antique ?...may be"
- 16:45** **Headline News**
- 16:50 Myanmar Movie impact "Sun Father, Moon Son"
- 17:00** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 17:05 The Beauty and the Chinlon
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Everlasting"
- 17:15** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 17:20 Kambozathadi Palace of Conquerors
- 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 Chin State
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Traditional Chin Cuisine
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Let's visit the Grand Mawtinzun Pagoda Festival
- 19:55 Scenic Beauty of Tiddim & Cultural Dance
- 19:58 Mythun (Counterpart of Cattle)
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Myanmar Art of Mari-onettes
- 20:10 Song "Greetings from Chin Hills"
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-V)
- 20:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Moonlight"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Manufacturing of Home Furniture and Accessories
- 20:40 Chin Cultural Museum
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Paintings decorated by

- art of goldsmith
- The Ozi (or) Kettle-drum Dance Variety
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Nipa Palm Forest
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern Song "You can take me but not my love"
- 21:15** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 21:20 The Natural Beauty of Inlay Lake Bird's Rest
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:36 The Pindaya Natural Cave
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Kachin hand-woven material
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Travelogue "Ngapali"
- 21:55 Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Ancient Architectural heritage of Taungthaman Kyauktawgyi Pagoda
- 22:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers in Profusion"
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-VI)
- 22:25 Songs on Screen "Hmoneshweyee"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 The Alaung Daw Kathapa National Park
- 22:40 Myanmar Profile
- "Antique ?...may be"
- 22:45** **Headline News**
- 22:50 Myanmar Movie impact "Sun Father, Moon Son"
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 The Beauty and the Chinlon
- 23:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Everlasting"
- 23:15** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 23:20 Kambozathadi Palace of Conquerors
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**21-2-2004 (Saturday) &  
22-2-2004 (Sunday)  
Evening & Morning  
Transmission  
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 The Pindaya Natural Cave

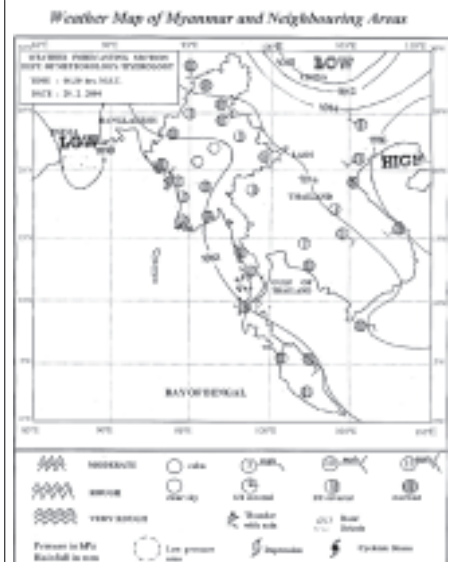
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Kachin hand-woven material
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 Travelogue "Ngapali"
- 23:55 Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 Ancient Architectural heritage of Taungthaman Kyauktawgyi Pagoda
- 00:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers in Profusion"
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-VI)
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 The Alaung Daw Kathapa National Park
- 00:40 Myanmar Profile
- "Antique ?...may be"
- 00:45** **Headline News**
- 00:50 Myanmar Movie impact "Sun Father, Moon Son"
- 01:00** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 01:05 The Beauty and the Chinlon
- 01:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Everlasting"
- 01:15** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 01:20 Kambozathadi Palace of Conquerors
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**22-2-2004 (Sunday)  
Morning Transmission  
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 03:36 Chin State
- 03:40** **Headline News**
- 03:42 Traditional Chin Cuisine
- 03:45** **National News**
- 03:50 Let's visit the Grand Mawtinzun Pagoda Festival
- 03:55 Scenic Beauty of Tiddim & Cultural Dance
- 03:58 Mythun (Counterpart of Cattle)
- 04:00** **National News**
- 04:05 Myanmar Art of Mari-

- onettes
- 04:10 Song "Greetings from Chin Hills"
- 04:15** **National News**
- 04:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-V)
- 04:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Moonlight"
- 04:30** **National News**
- 04:35 Manufacturing of Home Furniture and Accessories
- 04:40 Chin Cultural Museum
- 04:45** **National News**
- 04:50 Paintings decorated by art of goldsmith
- 04:55 The Ozi (or) Kettle-drum Dance Variety
- 05:00** **National News**
- 05:05 Nipa Palm Forest
- 05:10 Myanmar Modern Song "You can take me but not my love"
- 05:15** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 05:20 The Natural Beauty of Inlay Lake Bird's Rest
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 05:36 The Pindaya Natural Cave
- 05:40** **Headline News**
- 05:42 Kachin hand-woven material
- 05:45** **National News**
- 05:50 Travelogue "Ngapali"

- 05:55 Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
- 06:00** **National News**
- 06:05 Ancient Architectural heritage of Taungthaman Kyauktawgyi Pagoda
- 06:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers in Profusion"
- 06:15** **National News**
- 06:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-VI)
- 06:25 Songs on Screen "Hmoneshweyee"
- 06:30** **National News**
- 06:35 The Alaung Daw Kathapa National Park Myanmar Profile
- 06:40 "Antique ?...may be"
- 06:45** **Headline News**
- 06:50 Myanmar Movie impact "Sun Father, Moon Son"
- 07:00** **National News**
- 07:05 The Beauty and the Chinlon
- 07:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Everlasting"
- 07:15** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 07:20 Kambozathadi Palace of Conquerors
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**WEATHER**

Friday, 20 February, 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:**

During the past 24 hours, except for the light rain has been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Yangon, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions, Chin and Rakhine States, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and Mon State and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 19-2-2004 was 36.5°C (98°F). Minimum temperature on 20-2-2004 was 17.5°C (64°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-2-2004 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 19-2-2004 was (8.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 20-2-2004 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 10 mph from West at (22:30) hours MST on 19-2-2004.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in Andaman Sea and Souty Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 21-2-2004:** Isolated light rain are likely in Kachin and Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Mon State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions and fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Isolated rain are likely in Northern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-2-2004:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-2-2004:** Fair weather.

**Weather outlook for the third weekend of February 2004:** During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.


**Saturday, February 21  
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
- 7:55 am**
5. စာကြွယ်ပေးကောင်းကောင်း
- 8:05 am**
6. အတိတ်ပြန်
- 8:15 am**
7. လူ့လောကဏ်း
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Grammar made easy
- 11:00 pm**
1. Martial Song

- 11:10 pm**
2. News
- 11:20 pm**
3. Dance of National Races
- 11:30 pm**
4. Roundup of the week's local news
- 1:00 pm**
5. ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင် တေးအကြွယ် အသက် (၁၈)နှစ်ခံရသူ အိမ်ထောင်စုလေး (ပြန်ပို့ရေးအဖွဲ့)
- 1:55 pm**
6. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နက်ရှင်းမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)
- 2:45 pm**
7. International news
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English For Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**
4. တီးကွက်ညွှန့်
- 5:00 pm**
5. အစောဆုံးတက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ဂုဏ်ပြုဆုကြီး သင်္ချာစာပေဆု (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားလုံး) (ဗုဒ္ဓမာဏ)

- 5:15 pm**
6. Dance variety
- 5:30 pm**
7. စိတ်မြတ်ထူးကောင်း
- 5:40 pm**
8. Musical programme
- 5:55 pm**
9. Games for children
- 6:20 pm**
10. စာကြွယ်ပေးကောင်းကောင်း
- 6:30 pm**
11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
12. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
13. Discovery
- 7:15 pm**
14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နက်ရှင်းမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
- 7:35 pm**
15. Musical programme
- 8:00 pm**
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. Myanmar Video Feature "ဆင့်မြှင့်" (အပိုင်း-၂) တွေ့ရှိရန်အတွက် (ဒါကြိုက်တာ-အတွက်အားလုံး)
20. The next day's programme


**Saturday, February 21  
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
- 9.05 am** Music
- 9.10 am** International news
- 9.15 am** Music (Spotlight on a star)
- Jennifer Paige News/Slogan
- 1.30 pm** Request
- 1.40 pm** -Let it all be muk (Boney M)
- Is the thanks I get? (Rod Stewart)
- Boogie Child (Bee Gees)
- 9.00 pm** ASEAN review
- Exchange News
- 9.10 pm** Article
- 9.20 pm** Myanmar culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- Myanma lacquaware Part III
- 9:30 pm** Souvenirs
- Welcome to my world (Jim Reeves)
- No more (Elvis Presley)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses meeting on Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy Implementation Steering Committee.— MNA

## Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy Implementation Steering Committee meets

YANGON, 20 Feb — Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy Implementation Steering Committee held a meeting at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta, here at 4.30 pm today.

Speaking at the meeting, the Steering Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy was approved at the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, hosted by Myanmar in Bagan in November 2003.

The meeting has also agreed to promote economic cooperation among the four countries and between the respective two countries. At the meeting, Myanmar has

agreed to extend bilateral economic cooperation with Thailand. The agreement covers the relocation of manufacturing industries of Thailand, transport facilitation between the two countries, further development of border areas and raising of the standard of living, and industrial and infrastructure development. Thus, speedy realization of the agreement is required.

Yesterday, a Thai delegation led by Minister for Industries arrived in Yangon, and discussed with Myanmar counterparts the relocation of manufacturing industries, trade and economic development, tourism promotion, industrial and energy sectors, construction of deep-sea port in Dawei, and speedy implementation of Dawei-Kanchanaburi road. Myanmar will have to help facilitate the swift materializa-

tion of the discussions. Sector-wise discussions are invited for expeditious realization of agreements that serves the interest of both countries.

Secretary of the Steering Committee Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung reported to the meeting on the Myanmar-Thai economic cooperation project to implement the Bagan Declaration and the tasks of the ACMECS.

The ministers and the deputy ministers presented sector-wise implementation and future programmes.

The Prime Minister looked into their requirements.

Also present were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the Yangon mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department and officials. — MNA

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Honourable Minister for Industries & Public Enterprises of Assam

YANGON, 20 Feb — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Honourable Minister for Industries and Public Enterprises, Government of Assam Mr Bhubneswar Kalita and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Commerce

Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

The Indian Minister and party were accompanied by Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Mr Bhubneswar Kalita, Honourable Minister for Industries and Public Enterprises, Government of Assam.— MNA

## Commander attends coord meeting of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee

YANGON, 20 Feb — Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee held the coordination meeting to upgrade development tasks for 2003-2004 fiscal year at the meeting hall of the committee in Thanlyin at 11.30 am today, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Also present were No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development

Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi, Director of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee U Kyan Taing Hsaung, Divisional Superintendent Engineer U Nyunt Maung San of Public Works, Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyay, township authorities and executive officers.

First, the commander gave a speech, saying that township development ex-

ecutive officers are to cooperate with respective township authorities in carrying out development tasks in accord with the motto of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs that towns and villages must quickly be developed. At present, the Government has laid down and is implementing five rural development tasks with a view to narrowing the development gap be-

tween rural and urban regions, he added.

As 12 outside townships of Yangon City municipal area are connecting with 33 interior townships, concerted efforts are to be made for enabling respective towns to have town characteristics, he said. Next, the commander stressed the need to strive for development of outside townships of the city municipal area in (See page 8)

## Bangkok-based drug liaison officers view opium-substitute cultivation and development works in Shan State

YANGON, 20 Feb — Drug Liaison Officers being attached to Bangkok-based UN Drug and Criminal Office and embassies and senior officers of Thai Drug Control Committee Office went on one-day trip to view Yaungkha Village All-round Development tasks in Monghsat District, Shan State (East) and opium-substitute coffee and tea plantations in Wa region via Maesai-Tachilek on 17 February. On 17 February morning, Joint-Secretary of Central Committee for Drug

Abuse Control Police Col Hkam Aung and officials welcomed the excursion group at the border bridge. They went to 1,000 acres of opium-substitute coffee plantations and 400 acres of Woolon tea in Lwehsanhsong region where officials of the local national organization conducted the guests round the plantations.

Afterwards, the guests proceeded to Yaungkha All-round Development Model Village being jointly implemented by Myanmar and Thailand under the drug

elimination programme. The guests viewed the primary school, the hospital and water availability in the village.

The excursion group included Doitung Project Executive Director-General Mr Disnadda Diskul, UNODC Regional Director Mr Akira Hujino, Deputy Secretary-General of Thai Drug Control Committee Ms Rasamee Vistavet, drug liaison officers from 18 countries and DEA, INTERPOL officers totalling 136.— MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo and wife being welcomed at the reception Friday by Russian Military Attaché Col Victor S Timoshkov and wife at the reception of Armed Forces Day of the Russian Federation.—MNA