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Wednesday, 25 February, 2004

State Peace and Development Council Chairman

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Kuwait

YANGON, 25 Feb — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2004. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San present documents, rice, edible oil, salt and offertories to Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Candima. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife attend merit-sharing of Sasana Jotika Ordination Hall and two-storey refectory of Myole Pariyatti Monastery in Lashio

YANGON, 24 Feb — The merit-sharing ceremony for newly-constructed Sasana Jotika Ordination Hall and two-storey refectory of Myole Pariyatti Monastery in conjunction with the offering of provisions to the monasteries in Lashio, Shan State (North), took place at

the refectory on 22 February morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha from the monasteries, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Thiha

Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-

Gen Myint Hlaing, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of social organizations and local people.

(See page 8)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends ceremony to hand over Bodhi sapling donated by Indian President

YANGON, 24 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony to hand over the Bodhi sapling donated by the President of the Republic of India and to donate English version treatises for International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University by Thitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nanissara at the University this evening.

Present on the occasion were Chancellor of Thitagu World Buddhist University ITBMU honorary professor Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujana Hitadhara Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Pandita Thitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nanissara (D Litt), ITBMU Pro-rector Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Kumara (D Litt) and Heads of Department Sayadaws, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, directors-general of the Religious Affairs Department and the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, the pro-rector (Admin) of ITBMU, officials and lay persons.

(See page 10)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt browses a treatise (English version) donated to International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanissara. — 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

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PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 25 February, 2004

Do more research on diseases and build more pharmaceutical factories

The Government of the Union of Myanmar is making every endeavour to build the nation into the one that can be on a par with other countries of the world. It calls for the active and enthusiastic participation of the entire people for the Government's efforts to meet with success. Health and fitness of the people is very important for all the national endeavours. This being so, the Government is taking all the necessary measures to provide health care services more and more widely.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party on 21 February visited the Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) and the pharmaceutical factory project (PyinOoLwin) and met with responsible personnel.

In his meeting with them, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye emphasized the need for research on common diseases in Upper Myanmar and urged the construction of a modern pharmaceutical factory.

The Ministry of Health, in providing health care services, gives special emphasis to prevention of diseases, higher health standard, diagnosis and treatment and rehabilitation work. And it is implementing the projects to prevent malaria, elephantitis, dengue haemorrhage, TB, leprosy and other seasonal diseases.

The purpose of establishing the Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) to do intensive research on common diseases in Upper Myanmar and other health problems. Now all together 10 branches under MRD (Upper Myanmar) are doing research work on malaria, TB, diabetes, hypertension, dengue haemorrhage, reproductive health and systematically planting 449 kinds of medicinal herbs.

The pharmaceutical factory (PyinOoLwin) is being built under the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries and on completion it will be able to produce all kinds of medicine enough to meet domestic demand. Therefore, we would like to call upon all those responsible to do more research on common diseases and to extend the construction of pharmaceutical factories.

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Wellwishers retired Deputy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myat Tun and family of Room 5, Building 170, Lower Kyimyindine Road, Ahlon Township, Yangon, donated K 100,000 for medical fund of the Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. — (H)

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State's seven-point policy programme
- To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people's militia strategy
- To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people
- To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold 'Our Three Main National Causes'

Soldiers' codes of conduct competition and extempore talks held

YANGON, 24 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative central-level soldiers' codes of conduct and extempore talks competition continued today at respective venues. The viva voce of soldiers' codes of conduct was held at the hall of Yangon Command, extempore talks at the halls of the Ministry of Defence in Chawdwin. Present were Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Chairman of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative central-level soldiers' codes of conduct and extempore talks Subcommittee Director of Defence Services Resettlements Maj-Gen Aung Thein and officials. — MNA

Annual meeting of MAMS to be held

YANGON, 24 Feb — The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Myanmar Academy of Medical Science will be held on 27 February 2004 from 9 am to 4 pm at the auditorium of the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street, Lanmadaw Township, here. As the technical activity of the Academy, a symposium on public health emergency management will be organized in conjunction with this annual meeting from 12 noon to 4 pm and all interested persons can attend it. The members of the Academy can get themselves registered from 8 am on 27 February 2004 at the Institute. — MNA



MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivers an address at the opening of the Workshop. — MNA

ICPD+10 Advocacy and Alliance Building Workshop held

YANGON, 24 Feb — The ICPD+10 Advocacy and Alliance Building Workshop jointly sponsored by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPE) was opened at the meeting hall of MMCWA at the corner of Thanthumar and Parami Road in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

It was attended by MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Tin Linn Myint and CEC members, patrons of the MMCWA Central Supervisory Committee, Patron of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay, representatives of UN agencies and officials, the secretaries of state and division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees, officials of Health Department and Population Department.

First, MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe made an opening speech. Next, Representative of UNFPA Mr Rajib M Assifi explained matters related to holding of the workshop. Next, the workshop continued. The workshop focused on measures taken in ten-year period in

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Kuwait

YANGON, 25 Feb — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2004. — MNA

Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Kuwait

YANGON, 25 Feb — On the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait.

MNA

Fisheries undertakings clarified

YANGON, 24 Feb — A meeting was held to clarify fishing undertakings under the Fishing Rights of Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries was held at the meeting hall of FD on Hsinmin Road, Ahlon Township this morning.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein attended the meeting and clarified matters related to fishing undertakings under the Fishing Rights.

Next, Director-General of FD U Than Tun assessed work requirement presented by officials of Sea Security Control Committee and officials of Marine Administration Department, Customs Department, Myanmar Ports Authority and Immigration and National Registration Department.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein. — MNA

Donate blood

Suicide bombing kills ten policemen in Iraq

KIRKUK, 24 Feb—A suicide bomber exploded a white Oldsmobile outside a police station in this northern city Monday, killing at least ten policemen and wounding as many as 45 other people. It was the fifth suicide attack in Iraq this month.

The bombing occurred as Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld visited Baghdad to check on the state of readiness of Iraq's security forces, which have borne the brunt of the suicide strikes.

US administrator L Paul Bremer told reporters after meeting with Rumsfeld that Iraq has seen "a real step up" by "professional terrorists from al-Qaida and Ansar al-Islam in conducting suicide attacks."

Kirkuk has also seen ris-

ing ethnic tensions as Kurds, Arabs and Turkomen compete for control of the city, located in one of the world's richest oil-producing regions, 180 miles north of Baghdad.

The bomber detonated his 1990 car as police were changing shifts at Rahimawa station, according to the station's chief, Col Adel Ibrahim. Col Thamer Abdul-Masih said the bomber's car followed policemen driving to the station in a Kurdish

neighbourhood and "ran into the last car in the convoy and exploded." US command in Baghdad said Iraqi police fired on the car but were unable to stop it.

Police Chief Torhan Yousef said seven policemen and the bomber were killed and 52 people were wounded. The US military said 35 people were wounded.

The blast devastated nearby buildings and injured civilians in a passing bus.

Internet

Former CIA official criticizes Bush's reasons for Iraq war

Iowa City, 24 Feb—In a speech in Iowa City, a former CIA analyst says the Bush administration's use of reports of weapons of mass destruction to justify the war in Iraq have created a constitutional crisis compared only to Watergate.

Raymond McGovern says the Bush administration should be held accountable for using post September 11th fears and allegations of Iraqi weapons to deceive Congress and the American public to justify war in Iraq.

McGovern, who once was in charge of preparing daily intelligence briefings for several presidents, gave a lecture at the University of Iowa Sunday.

He says it would also be appropriate for congressional leaders to pursue impeachment proceedings against President Bush.

Even though the former chief weapons inspector says that he has concluded Iraq didn't have weapons of mass destruction, Bush has defended the effort to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein as essential to American security.—Internet

Spacewalk to leave space station empty

WASHINGTON, 24 Feb—The two-man crew of the International Space Station go outside the craft at the same time this week, despite earlier concerns that the exercise was "a risk not worth taking." The Washington Post reported on Monday.

The Post cited NASA documents obtained by the newspaper. Ground controllers are to fly the empty space station, while British-born NASA astronaut Michael Foale and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri conduct the spacewalk, leaving no one inside to monitor systems directly or assist in a crisis, the newspaper said.

According to the Post, the Russians have made about 50 such spacewalks, but this would mark the first for the US-led space station. The spacewalk planned for Thursday was scheduled to begin about 4 pm EDT (2100 GMT) and was supposed to last five hours and 40 minutes, the report said.

The work that Foale and Kaleri will do on the spacewalk — deploy and collect science experiments — is not urgent but would have to be done eventually, NASA

officials told the newspaper.

According to a July review of spacewalk plans, station managers at NASA's Johnson Space Centre in Houston initially opposed this week's spacewalk and recommended that it be put off until shuttle flights resumed and the station had a three-person crew, the Post said.

"Crew safety and the vehicle while they are performing EVA (extra vehicle activity) without an [inside] crew is a risk not worth taking specially if the EVA tasks are not critical" to maintaining the space station, according to the NASA review quoted in the article.

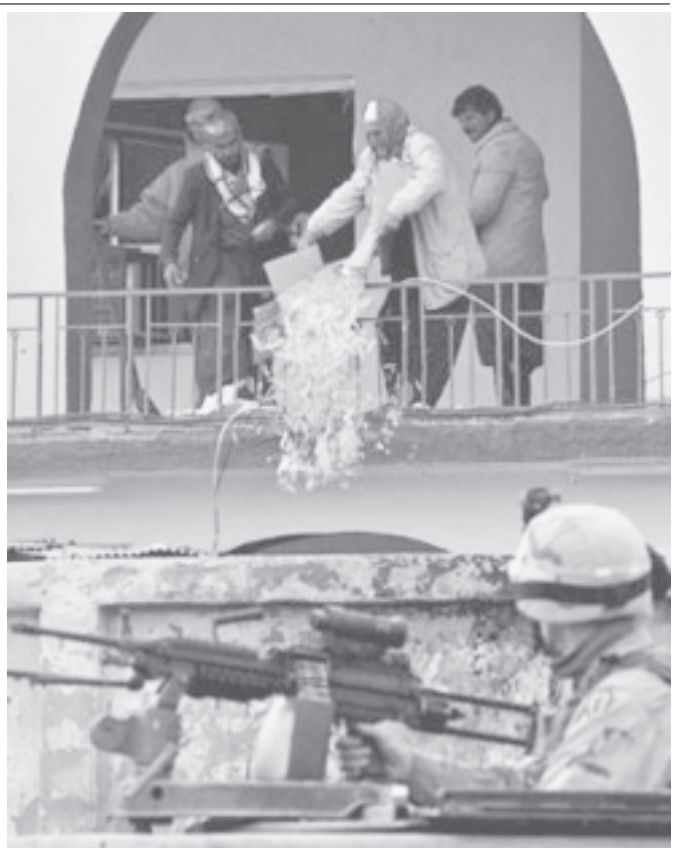
The report said the Russians refused to sign on to the document unless the spacewalk was planned for as a requirement.

MNA/Reuters



A demonstrator shows Nokia's new Communicator 9500 at the 3GSM World Congress in Cannes, southeastern France, on Monday, 23 Feb, 2004. The communicator is a full mobile office that runs on high-speed EDGE networks at up to 237 kilobits per second, almost half the speed of a standard broadband connection. Several European companies including Orange, Bouygues and Telecom Italia Mobile said they will use EDGE alongside their more expensive UMTS networks.—INTERNET

ထိုက်တုန်းက ဖိုမြေမြေ



Iraqi workers clear broken glass away from the police building which was target of a car bomb attack earlier in the day, in Kirkuk, northern Iraq, on 23 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

UN experts urge EU to tackle AIDS crisis

DUBLIN, 24 Feb—United Nations experts on Sunday urged the European Union to appoint a commissioner to take charge of the fight against AIDS to stem a growing crisis in Eastern Europe as the bloc prepares to enlarge in May.

Speaking on the eve of a two-day conference in Dublin, Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS, the UN's AIDS group said HIV/AIDS was spreading faster in Eastern Europe and central Asia than anywhere else in the world with a 50-fold increase in new cases during the past 10 years.

"Let's get serious. This is an underestimated and forgotten epidemic and if we don't take some very exceptional measures it's going to get out of hand," he told Reuters in an interview.

The conference, "Breaking the Barriers—Partnership to fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia," is the largest to be hosted by Ireland during its six-month EU presidency. It comes as the 15-strong EU prepares to welcome 10 new members, most of them from Eastern Eu-

rope, on 1 May.

"I have a double message for EU leaders," Piot said. "Don't think the problem is fixed in your own region—we're seeing a slow but steady increase in new infections in every country. Secondly, at your eastern borders there is a huge AIDS epidemic that is going to have major implications within the EU."

He said the focus in recent years on Africa, where up to 40 per cent of the adult population is infected in some sub-Saharan region, meant Eastern European had "slipped through the cracks."

Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, the UN children's agency, noted the rate of infection was growing among women but most rapidly among young people.—MNA/Reuters

Beijing invites design to revive Grand Canal

BEIJING, 24 Feb—Beijing has invited seven companies from six countries to bid for the design plan to revive the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, the country's grandest project in history after the Great Wall.

Designing companies from Japan, the United States, Canada, Germany and Australia as well as domestic companies were invited on Wednesday by the Beijing Planning Committee and the Tongzhou district government after a wide selection throughout the Internet worldwide, said Liu Delong, head of the Tongzhou District, where the Grand Canal starts.

The design bidding was invited for the first phase of the reviving project which covers the first 13.5 kilometres of the canal. The design would cover land use distribution, architecture layout, traffic, underground and environment along the section, Liu said. The plans provided by the seven companies will be discussed by a special committee in two or three months.

The public will be invited to decide the best plan as well.

The 1,794-kilometre-long Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, was dug about 1,400 years ago in the Sui Dynasty (581-618).

The new canal's water-course will be widened to 200 metres and be decorated with both historical and modern scenes along the bank, said Liu.—MNA/Xinhua

UN says Iraq elections possible but not likely in 2004

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Feb—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Monday Iraq needed to set up an independent commission immediately if it wanted fair elections before the end of the year.

But the report issued to the UN Security Council warned that a proper organization of elections would probably not be possible until next year in the turbulent country.

"If the work was started immediately and the required political consensus was reached fairly rapidly, it would be possible to hold elections by the end of 2004," the report said. It was written by a UN electoral team, led by Annan's advisor, Lakhdar Brahimi, who recently visited Iraq.

But the report said Iraqis might need until next year after setting up a legal framework for elections. It said Iraqis doubted whether electoral laws and institutions could be set up before May, after which at least eight more months would be needed before polls could be held.

Annan and Brahimi did not make any recommendation on the key question of how Iraqis would select a caretaker government once the US-led occupation ends on June 30.

Instead, the report listed options Iraqis had proposed, ranging from restoring the monarchy or putting a "technocrat" government in office, to expanding the current US-selected 15-member Iraqi Governing Council.

The report recommended that an "autonomous and in-

dependent Iraqi Electoral Commission be established without further delay."

Carina Perelli, head of the UN election unit, who went to Iraq, said such an independent commission was extremely important "to demonstrate a break with the past."

UN officials said it was likely Brahimi, a former Algerian foreign minister, would go to Iraq next month for another visit and help craft a plan if the Iraqis and the US-led coalition do not produce one.

The report also said the United Nations was willing to offer advisory services if the Security Council approved. Diplomats said the

electoral process would not be accepted by Iraqis unless a UN team helped organize it.

The Bush administration, which is trying to re-engage the United Nations in efforts to stabilize the country, had asked the world body to come up with proposals for Iraq's political future before and after the June 30 transfer of power.

But the report made clear consensus would be difficult.

The report listed a number of options.

It said a provisional government might be composed mainly of competent technocrats, which some diplomats interpreted as leaving

the current ministers in office until elections.

Other options included expanding the existing Governing Council to 150 to 200 members to act as a transitional legislative body that would elect an interim government.

Another was to convene a national conference of delegates from across Iraqi society to establish a temporary government.

And yet another suggestion was to convene a forum consisting of representatives of the main political, religious and other groups and develop a consensus on an interim caretaker authority.

Internet



A US soldier and an Iraqi police officer guard the scene where a car bomb exploded in front of an Iraqi police station, in Kirkuk, northern Iraq, on 23 Feb, 2004. —INTERNET

Danish PM speaks highly of ties with China

COPENHAGEN, 24 Feb — Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen has spoken highly of the development of Denmark-China relations, saying China would play an increasingly important role in the world with its growing economic strength.

In a recent interview with *Xinhua* before his first visit to China which begins on Tuesday, Rasmussen said he was looking forward to the trip to China, during which he could see by himself the country's rapid development.

The two countries have maintained good cooperation in many areas and there are no impediments to the further development of their ties, said Rasmussen.

As one of the first countries in the West to recognize China, Denmark set up diplomatic relations with the country in May 1950.

But exchanges between the two countries date back to the mid-17th Century, when the then Danish King sent letters to the Chinese Emperor for the establishment of trade relations.

Since then, their friendly cooperation has witnessed steady development with two-way trade growing 40 per cent last year, the Prime

Minister said. Rasmussen hoped that his five-day visit would further boost trade ties between the two countries, thus giving a greater impetus to the development of their friendly cooperation. A Danish business delegation will go to China together with Rasmussen.

Many entrepreneurs in Denmark have shown great interest in joining the delegation, and they attach great importance to trade relations with China, said Rasmussen, who wished that the two sides would expand cooperation in the fields of biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, transportation and agriculture.

The Danish Prime Minister also said there are broad prospects for the two countries to conduct cooperation in culture and education.

He hoped that exchanges of students, teachers and researchers would be intensified between his country and

Europe as a whole and China, which boasts a time-honoured civilization.

MNA/Xinhua

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Soldier from NC killed in accident in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Feb—A soldier from North Carolina died in Iraq when he was struck by a recovery vehicle while assisting a disabled vehicle, the Department of Defence said Monday.

Sgt 1st Class Henry A. Bacon, 45, of Wagram, died Friday in Ad Dujayl, Iraq. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Armoured Cavalry Regiment, 4th Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division of Fort Hood, Texas.

No other details were released. The incident is under investigation. —Internet

Fort Bragg soldiers wounded in Iraq cope with permanent changes

FAYETTEVILLE, 24 Feb—Some Fort Bragg soldiers wounded in Iraq must cope with permanent changes.

Staff Sgt. Maurice Craft remembers waking up in a hospital bed in Iraq after a roadside bomb attack. He said he asked why he could not feel his left leg, then pulled back the blanket to find that his leg was gone.

Two months later, the wiry, 26-year-old 82nd Airborne paratrooper is recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Centre in Washington, DC. Like thousands of other US troops wounded in Iraq, he is coping with the physical and psychological trauma left after being forced off the battlefield. Walter Reed said it has treated 2,775 patients from the Iraq war. Officials said 476 are classified as battle casualties, meaning their injuries were caused by "enemy action."

Internet

Newspaper reports supply shortage in British military

LONDON, 24 Feb — Eighty British Royal Marines have been flown home from training in Norway amid new claims against the Ministry of Defence (MoD) that inadequate sleeping bags led to frostbite, the *Mail* newspaper reported on Sunday.

The soldiers from 3 Commando Brigade were evacuated from their base in Norway three weeks into a three-month operation, the paper said, adding that further 50 have been injured in activities such as skiing.

Some Marines have brought their own sleeping bags to help cope with the freezing temperatures in Norway, the paper said.

The paper also quoted Norwegian Army chief Colonel Lars Sundnes as saying that British Marine's sleeping bags were not good enough. According to the paper, the injury rate, which the MoD admitted was higher than normal, was a fresh embarrassment for military chiefs who were already embroiled in accusations over shortages of basic kit in Iraq. —MNA/Xinhua

Tanzania to distribute "AIDS" drugs to 400,000 patients

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 24 Feb—The Tanzanian Ministry of Health has intended to develop an ambitious treatment plan to deliver anti-retroviral therapy (ART) to at least 400,000 people living with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2008, local newspaper *Sunday News* reported.

Permanent Secretary in the Health Ministry Mariam Mwaffisi was quoted as saying that the number of voluntary counselling and testing sites would also increase from 71 to 310 under the plan.

The permanent secretary also said that the overall goal is to decrease morbidity from HIV/AIDS, reduce tuberculosis and related mortality from these disease in Tanzania. — MNA/Xinhua



'Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,' already this year's most nominated Oscar film, has become the second movie ever to break the \$1 billion box-office mark worldwide, and did so in record time, distributor New Line Cinema reported on 23 February, 2004. The cast, top row (L-R) John Rhys Davies, Bernard Hill, Liv Tyler, Billy Boyd and John Noble and seated Sean Astin (L) and Andy Serkis hold their awards for outstanding performance by the cast of a theatrical motion picture at the Screen Actors Guild Awards on 22 Feb. —INTERNET

NO LET-UP IN ANTI-OCCUPATION ATTACKS



US soldiers help with security in front of a police station which was the site of a car bomb attack earlier in the day, in Kirkuk, northern Iraq, on Monday, 23 Feb, 2004. The blast killed at least ten people and wounding at least 45 others, police and other officials said. — INTERNET



Police and medics gather at a police station in Kirkuk, Iraq, where a suicide bomber detonated an explosive-packed vehicle on Monday, 23 Feb, 2004, killing at least 10 people and wounding 45 others, police and hospital officials said. —INTERNET



Members of the Army's 32nd Signal Battalion board a US Air Force C130 transport plane as they prepare to leave the country from an airstrip in Balad, Iraq, on Thursday 19 February, 2004 under the troops rotation programme.—INTERNET



A US army helicopter hovers over an electrical power station in the al-Dura district of Baghdad on 21 February.—INTERNET



US troops patrol on the streets of the city of Tikrit on 23 February 2004.
INTERNET



Iraqis survey the scene of a suicide attack in front of the police station in the town of Kirkuk, north of Baghdad, on 23 February, 2004. —INTERNET

Iraq oil pipelines hit as sabotage spreads south

MAKHUL, 24 Feb—Iraq's northern oil export pipeline is still coming under attack, officials said Monday, as sabotage hit infrastructure further south, raising fresh fears about the vulnerability of the country's oil industry.

Almost a year after the Iraq war, the country's US-led authority does not feel confident enough yet to try to restart the pipeline from Iraq's Kirkuk oilfields.

"We are making some progress. There is no date set yet," Rob McKee, the authority's oil chief, told *Reuters*. "The fact is that there are some wonderful oilfields in the north. It is important to figure out a way to export the northern crude."

Oil infrastructure sabotage has been rare in Iraq's mostly Muslim Shi'ite south, but Iraq's main internal pipeline was on fire Monday after coming under attack a few days ago near the Shi'ite holy city of Kerbala.

One option US and Iraqi oil officials were considering was to use the line, known as the strategic pipeline and currently out of commission, to pump Kirkuk crude south for export from the Gulf.

But a guard in the region said an explosive device ripped through a section of that link about a week ago. A *Reuters* photographer saw smoke still rising Monday from the reversible line west of Kerbala.

Attacks have mainly targeted the export pipeline from Kirkuk oilfields to the Turkish port of Ceyhan which runs through Muslim Sunni strongholds, co-religionists of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein. —*Internet*

US suspends 17 troops in Iraq detainee abuse probe

BAGHDAD, 24 Feb—US forces investigating allegations of mistreatment of Iraqi detainees at a prison west of Baghdad have suspended 17 soldiers including a battalion commander and a company commander, the Army said on Monday.

"We can confirm that 17 personnel have been suspended from duty pending the outcome of the investigation," a US military spokesman in Baghdad said.

Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez, commander of ground forces in Iraq, last month ordered an investigation into reports that prisoners had been abused at Abu Ghraib, which is now run by US forces. The Army gave no details of the alleged abuse.

On 5 January, the US Army said three soldiers had been discharged for abusing Iraqi prisoners of war at another detention camp. The three were found guilty of beating, kicking and harassing prisoners at Camp

Bucca in southern Iraq. The Army had said the three faced up to 25 years in jail if convicted of all charges. The soldiers said they acted in self-defence.

The US Army has said it is also investigating the treatment of three Iraqis working for *Reuters* and one working for US network NBC who were detained on 2 January while covering the aftermath of the shooting down of a US helicopter and held near the town of Falluja for three days.

Reuters made a formal protest last month to the American military about the treatment of the *Reuters* team while in detention.

MNA/Reuters

India's ALH chopper to be displayed at Asian Aerospace Show

NEW DELHI, 24 Feb—Indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), projected as India's biggest armament of export potential, would put up an air display at the Asian Aerospace Show beginning in Singapore from Tuesday.

The ALH, which elicited export queries from the United States and Israel, would be displayed for the first time to potential buyers in the South East Asia.

Air Chief S Krishnaswamy would lead the Indian contingent at the

show during which he is expected to hold talks with top defence officials from the US Pacific Command and Services Chiefs from Australia and South East Asian countries.

Along with a display by the ALH, the Indian Air

Force will put up an air show by its ace aerobatic team Surya Kiran comprising nine aircraft.

After a show in Sri Lanka, this is the first time that the Surya Kiran team would be performing on foreign sky.

MNA/PTI



Folklore, fun and mockery as Germans revel in carnival mood.

INTERNET

မြို့ခြံရွှေတာ၊ ထိန်းပါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်

545 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Feb—As of Monday, 23 Feb, 545 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 378 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, 407 US soldiers have died—263 as a result of hostile action and 144 of non-hostile causes, according to the military. Since the start of military operations, 2,698 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile

action, according to the Defence Department's figures as of Monday. Non-hostile injured numbered 416. The latest identifications reported by the military:

—Army Sgt 1st Class Henry A Bacon, 45, Wagram, NC; killed Friday when he was struck by a vehicle in Ad Dujayl, Iraq; assigned to Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Armoured Cavalry Regiment, 4th Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.—*Internet*



Iraqis shout during a rally in front of the Coalition Provisional Authority building in the port town of Basra, some 550 km (330 miles) south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 24 February, 2004.—INTERNET

Nepal, India sign agreement on free flow of passenger vehicles

KATHMANDU, 24 Feb—In a bid to facilitate smooth movement of people across borders, India and Nepal on Monday signed an agreement on free flow of passenger vehicles through five border points connecting major cities.

The agreement was signed by Indian Ambassador to Nepal Shyam Saran and Nepali Labour Secretary Narayan Prasad Silwal in the presence of visiting Foreign Secretary Shashank and his Nepali counterpart Madhu Raman Acharya here.

The agreement will be operationalized after signing of the protocol for procedures and modalities.

It envisages movement of regular passenger bus service through five border points on 14 different routes connecting important cities of Nepal to New Delhi, Lucknow, Patna, Kolkata,

Darjeeling and Varanasi among others.

Before signing the agreement, Shashank and Acharya held talks on the entire gamut of Indo-Nepal relations including trade, transport, security, terrorism, extradition treaty and border management.

Describing the talks as "very constructive" and "positive" where the whole range of bilateral relations including security issues were discussed, Shashank told reporters that matters relating to strengthening co-operation in the SAARC region and BIMSTEC were

also discussed.

"The bilateral talks were held in a friendly, cordial and constructive manner," Acharya told reporters after the talks.

During the parleys all issues of bilateral relations were covered and both sides expressed satisfaction over the progress made in various fields at various levels, he said.

To a question, he said the two sides have an ongoing arrangement to exchange intelligence information to tackle the security problem.

MNA/PTI

At least six dead in Indian space centre fire

NEW DELHI, 24 Feb—At least six people were killed and three injured in a fire in India's main space centre on Monday, an official said.

The fire broke out in the fuel testing area of the centre in the southeastern state of Andhra Pradesh, said the official.

"A test motor caught fire while being transported and as a result the building caught fire.

The fire is now more or less under con-

trol," said the space centre official, who did not wish to be named.

The spaceport, the launching centre of the country's satellite-bearing rockets, is located on Sriharikota Island, 60 miles north of the southern city of Madras.

MNA/Reuters

The success achieved at Salone Traditional Festival

U Maung Maung Soe Tint (Retired Ambassador)



The entrance archway of Salone Traditional Festival.

Multi-coloured fireworks including red, blue, green and yellow lighted the sky above the sea beach where we were taking our seats. At the same time, hot-air balloons are being lifted in the air one after another. The campfire festival on the sea beach was also a joyful one for everybody including tourists from other countries clapping their hands in admiration of the festival. It was on the evening of 15 February 2004, and the occasion was the Salone Traditional Festival held on the beach near Ma Kyone Galet Village on Bo Cho Island, in Myeik Archipelago. The beautiful evening scenery of the beach and the festival itself was a memorable moment for everyone at the ceremony.

That night, we stayed at logging houses that had been built in accord with the design of a typical Salone house. The sound of the sea waves from under the hut where I was sleeping and the cool breeze that came from the sea made me fresh and feel cozy all the night. My mind was free and I felt I was part of the mother nature, wandering up in the sky and on the sea at will. At that moment, I felt as if I was totally free from greed, anger and ignorance, or in other words, I understood the life and the mind of the Salone people, the brethren of all Myanmar.

The sea is their life. They were born at the sea and live there roaming about and also die at the sea. The sea has fulfilled all their requirements. They live on the kaban boats family-wise, freely travelling in the sea in search of food and other necessities. They do not need material luxuries such as cars or brick houses. The sea provides all their needs. Thus, I came to understand what they value in their life. They were so honourable.

I respect them for they are skilled at the sea and they understand the sea and the marine life without any advanced equipment. They will be much useful for the nation. We will have to preserve and promote their skills to improve their condition and help develop the nation.

During childhood days, I heard from others or read in books about the amazing life of the Salone people.

Thus, I was very happy to see them with my own eyes. I was thinking about the future of Salone people. Later I fell asleep.

The next morning, together with other persons, I attended the Salone Traditional Festival with much happiness and joy. While listening to the speeches delivered by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, I felt so encouraged and happy. The speeches reflected our will to preserve and promote the traditions and culture of Salone people, and to develop tourism. They explained the riches on land, and in and under the sea in the region and the investment procedures. All those at the festival were happy. We all danced together with the Salone people at the end of the opening ceremony. Happiness was shared among all those present.

The general-secretary of Thai-Myanmar Cultural and Economic Cooperation Association also danced together with the Salone people. The festival achieved greater success than expected.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence declared that next year's festival would be grander and more crowded than the present one. Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint looked satisfied and happy. I greeted Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, honouring him for his idea to hold the festival. I, on behalf of others, thanked and honoured the Government, for sponsoring the first Salone Traditional Festival at Ma Kyone Galet Village. I thanked Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, local authorities, officials and also friends who took part in giving close supervision to the festival from the start to the end. I would like to meet with them again at another Salone Traditional Festival next year.

While travelling on a motorboat from Kawthoung to Ma Kyone Galet Village on Bo Cho Island, I saw many islands large and small along the way. Myeik Archipelago has over 800 islands and islets. One big island in it is even

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

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

larger than Singapore. Some of the islands are like New Zealand. They have sand beaches, plains and hills. Some resemble Bali or Tahiti. Places with such natural riches are rare to be found in other places of the world. We have human resources to a certain degree. If we combine them with zeal and capital, we will also have urban areas like Singapore and New Zealand. Moreover, we can create places like Bali or Tahiti in our country. We already have examples and methods. We must take what is good for us, and to discard what is not good.

The Myanmar seas are inviting us to come visit them and properly exploit them. We can rely on the skill and experiences of Salone people. They are the people who love and protect the sea for many years since yore.

We will have to further develop the nation with the spirit we have achieved from the first Salone Traditional Festival. History teaches us that the countries which dare venture out into the high seas for trade and are able to control them become the developed, rich and most advanced countries. Hence, the time has arrived for us to extend businesses and develop zones in the sea.

(Translation: TMT)

(Kyemon+Myanmar Alin; 24 February 2004)



State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister for Hotels & Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw formally open the Salone Traditional Festival by cutting a ribbon.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party share merits at the merit-sharing ceremony in Myole Monastery, Lashio, Shan State (North). — MNA



Sasana Jotika Ordination Hall and two-storey refectory of Myole Pariyatti Monastery in Lashio. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party offer soon to members of the Sangha. — MNA



Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, presents robes and offertories to Nun Daw Kesi. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife...

(from page 1)

Head of Shan State Religious Affairs Department U Tun Tun acted as master of ceremonies.

Presiding Nayaka of Myole Monastery member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Candima administered the Five Precepts to the congregation.

Members of the Sangha recited the parittas.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife presented offertories and eight requisites, and rice, edible oil and salt donated

to the monasteries in Lashio through the Sayadaw.

Daw Mya Mya San also presented robes and rice, edible oil and salt to the nunneries in the town through Chairperson of Shan State Nun Executive Committee Maha Gantha-vacaka Pandita Nun Daw Kesi of Sasana Hitakari Nunnery.

The Secretary-1 and members of the State Peace and Development Council presented offertories and eight requisites, and rice, edible oil and salt to members of the Sangha.

The Sayadaw of Myole Monastery delivered a ser-

mon. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and party shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife performed rituals of golden and silver showers.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and party offered "soon" to members of the Sangha.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party sprinkled scented water on the bronze plaque of the Sasana Ordination Hall and paid reverence to the Buddha images in the hall.

MNA

Third four-monthly meeting of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council held

YANGON, 25 Feb — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council held the third four-monthly meeting this morning at conference hall of Yangon Command. Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addressed the meeting.

Present at the meeting were Yangon Division PDC Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, divisional departmental officials, chairmen of district and township PDCs and officials.

Addressing the meeting, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe stressed the need for respective local authorities and departmental officials in Yangon to implement the targeted work projects of 14 sectors such

as agriculture, industry and meat and fish.

They also need to make efforts for exceeding the targets, he said.

Only when the value of GDP of the projects is on the increase, will the economy of the State go up, he added. That is why officials concerned are to endeavour for successful implementation of their sector-wise projects.

Next, Head of Divisional Planning Department U Shwe reported on matters relating to implementation of the annual projects and the values of GDP for fiscal 2003-2004; Divisional Agriculture Supervisory

Committee Manager U Aung Hsan on measures being taken by four means and ways for exceeding the target of agriculture sector, paddy cultivation, and project implementation on irrigation facilities; and Commander of Myanmar Police Force (Yangon) Police Col Aung Daing on measures being taken for the rule of law and reduction of crimes in Yangon Division.

After that, those present at the meeting also participated in the discussions, and reported on their respective tasks. Later, the commander fulfilled the needs and made concluding remarks.—MNA

နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းဖြင့် စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်။

Drive safely

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife pay homage to Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image and Tiloka Vijaya Pagoda in Lashio

YANGON, 24 Feb — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General

Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party paid homage to Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image on Zeya Hayma Hill in Lashio at 8.45 am on 22 February. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye donated

cash and offered gold foils to the image. He then signed in the visitors' book. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife and party went to Tiloka Vijaya Hsutaungpyi Pagoda on Yaykan Hill and paid hom-

age to the pagoda. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife made cash donations to the funds of the pagoda. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party also signed in the visitors' book. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party pay reverence to Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image on Zeya Hayma Hill in Lashio. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San make cash donations to the funds of the Tiloka Vijaya Hsutaungpyi Pagoda on Yaykan Hill.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye donates cash to the funds of the Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image on Zeya Hayma Hill in Lashio.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye offers gold foils to the Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image on Zeya Hayma Hill in Lashio.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye being welcomed by departmental officials and local people in Lashio.

MNA

Commander inspects hostels of Armed Forces Day Parade columns

YANGON, 24 Feb — Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected the hostels where the columns that

will participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade are putting up this afternoon.

The commander arrived at the local battalion in South Okkalapa Township where Aung San Column is putting up.

The commander was welcomed there by 59th Anniversary Armed

Forces Day Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Commander of Aung San Column Col Maung Maung Than and officials.

Commander Maj-Gen

Myint Swe inspected the drills of Tatmadaw members, members of Myanmar Police Force, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Red Cross Society of Aung San Column, and gave instructions on ensuring betterment of the drill, health and fitness of the participants, and efforts to be made in unison abiding

by the rules and regulations in practising drill.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe viewed round hostels, mess, ration store, documentary photos and publications, and shops for Aung San Column.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe also inspected the hostels of Nawaday Column, clinic, mess, ra-

tion store, and documentary photos and publications in Ayeyawady Naval Region Command.

The commander looked into the drills of the column and left instructions on preparing meals in hygienic conditions, sanitation tasks and systematic practising of drills.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party pay homage to Tilawka Wizaya Hsutaungpyi Pagoda on Yaykan Hill. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party pay homage to Tilawka Wizaya Hsutaungpyi Pagoda



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects the site for building the Dokhtawady River (Nawngkhio) Bridge. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gives instructions on the Dokhtawady River (Nawngkhio) Bridge project. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends ...

(from page 1)

First, the ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. Next, the Thitagu Sayadaw invested the Prime Minister and congregation with the Five Precepts. The Sayadaws and members of the Sangha recited religious verses, and the Prime Minister and party presented offertories to the monks.

The Thitagu Sayadaw handed over the Bodhi sapling donated by the President of the Republic of India as a token of Dhamma gift. The Bodhi sapling was donated by the President of Republic of India for Myanmar through the Thitagu Sayadaw while the Sayadaw was attending the International Buddhist Conference and meeting on promotion of pilgrimage held in New Delhi, India from 17 to 19 February.

Then, at the treatise-donation ceremony, on behalf of the Thitagu Sayadaw, Lay person U Han handed over 1989 treatises worth 11,991,800 to Pro-rector (Admin) of ITBMU Dr Hla Pe. The Sayadaws and the Prime Minister and party next shared the merits gained, and the ceremony came to a close with the three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatu*. —MNA

Entries invited for Armed Forces Day commemorative colour photo contest

YANGON, 24 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literary and Photo Contests Organizing Committee today announced that it will conduct a colour photo contest.

The two titles for the contests are "Developing and Pleasant Myanmar" and "Preserve Cultural Heritage". The contestants may send four 10" x 12" print photos for each

contest. Those who have won first to third prizes in the previous contests will be categorized into a separate group.

If an entry wins a prize, its negative is to be submitted. Data and captions are to be written on a separate sheet. If there is a model, his or her permission is required. An entry is not to have been published before in any publications and it must not be a prize-winning work

at home or abroad. Digital camera photos are not allowed.

First to third prizes will be presented in Yangon on 27-3-2004, and consolation prizes at the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative ceremonies to be held at respective commands. Entries are to be sent to U Tun Min, Director of the Information and Public Relations Department on Pansodan Street, by 29 February. — MNA

State acknowledges nurses, health assistants as most basic forces of health sector...

(from page 16)

Now there are three nursing universities — Defence Services Institute of Nursing, Yangon Institute of Nursing and Mandalay Institute of Nursing — 23 nurses training schools and 20 midwifery training schools.

In 1988, there were over 8,300 nurses and 8,100 midwives.

Now there are over 15,400 nurses and 14,000 midwives in the nation.

At present, there are over 400 dispensaries, over 1,400 rural health centres and over 80 regional health units.

In the past there were 240 dispensaries, over 1,300 rural health centres and over 60 regional health units.

Moreover, the Government has been conducting nursing diploma courses, BNSc degree courses, MNSc degree courses and PhD courses for the nurses.

In addition, seven Myanmar nurses got the PhD degree at Latrobe University in Australia. Eight nurses got masters degree through distance education courses from the university. Thus, the State has paved the way for and is giving encouragement to is the nurses to get access to higher learning.

He said the number of highly-qualified nurses and special nurses have increased. Achievements have also been made in Myanmar medical history. It is heartening to learn that nurses participated in significant operations such

as kidney transplant, open heart surgery, conjoined twins, replantation of a crushed arm by hand micro surgery method and cleft lips and cleft palate.

He said they also took part in the tasks for eradication of diseases of smallpox, leprosy, trachoma, iodine deficiency and polio and preventive measures on health hazard as the mass movement.

He said the nurses are actively participating in health care services such as maternal and child care, school health activities, malnutrition, environment and on-job health care, tobacco free activities, care for elderly people, sanitation and pure water supply and national poison control work in cooperation with other social organizations.

With their active participation of the nurses, midwives and health assistants in public health care services, they will be an important force in realization of the health objectives of the State, he added.

He said their active performances much contribute towards the success of five rural development tasks and their correct education and systematic prevention create better foundations on health — high knowledge on health, potable water and practice of healthy living and clean surroundings. Health standard of rural people will improve, he added.

He said the government has assigned noble and extensive duties of



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views round the documentary photos on public health care services given by the Myanmar Nurses Association. — MNA

health care services to the nurses, midwives and health assistants with trust. With this knowledge, they are to make efforts for improvement of health standard of rural people with goodwill, he said. They can also be proud of their noble tasks and they are to win loving kindness of the people, he added.

Better foundations for development of nursing sector in Myanmar have been achieved in combination with the government's encouragement and nurses' efforts.

He urged veteran nurses of Myanmar Nurses Association to enhance efficiency of the nurses, to utilize their ability in the interest of the people and to turn out brilliant human resources continuously.

He urged the nurses, midwives and health assistants to try to become good ones as a consolidated

force under the banner of Myanmar Nurses Association.

In conclusion, he urged them to strive for uplift of national health standard as a brilliant, highly-qualified force, to take care of the people tenderly and warmly, to work hard under the banners of the association in accordance with its objectives and to take part in the tasks for implementation of the seven-point future programme of the State that can shape perpetuation of the Union, national solidarity and building of a peaceful, modern discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party viewed round booths of documentary photos on public health care services given by the MNA (Central) and its branch (Southern Shan State). — MNA

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့်ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကျွဲစွာနှင့် စွဲလန့်စွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများမှာ အသည်းရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည်းခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအန်ခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြောထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ —

၁။ ကယောင်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremors)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်၊ နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်နိုင်စွမ်း မရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများ မြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံဗဟများ ကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုမိုများများ ခန္ဓာကိုယ်ပေါ် ရုစိစိ သွားသလို ခံစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့် လူမရှိပဲ နားထဲတွင် ခေါ်သံများ၊ ခြိမ်းခြောက်သံများ၊ စော်ကားမော်ကားသံများ ကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinoses)။

၃။ အတက်ကြွရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits)

(ဝက်ရုဖြစ်ရောဂါကဲ့သို့တတ်ခြင်း)။

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း

(Depressive Illness)။

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)။

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချိုယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ် သောက်ရုံဖြင့် ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)။

၈။ မိမိ၏ဇနီးကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲမှားခြင်းများဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Morbid Jealousy)။

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှု ကျူးလွန်သည့်အထိဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။

အထက်ပါဆို ကျိုးများကို မခံစားရစေရန် အရက်သောက် သုံးခြင်း၊ အထူးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကို စွဲလန့်စွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန်တိုက်တွန်း အပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေးဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေးဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျ ကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Minister inspects Tyre and Rubber Factory in Thaton

YANGON, 24 Feb — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspected production process at No 1 Tyre and Rubber Factory in Thaton Township, Mon State, on 21 February.

Managing Director of Myanmar Tyre and Rubber Industries U Oo Zun and Factory Manager U Myint Naing conducted the minister round the factory. The minister gave instructions on installation of new machines, meeting the production target and ensuring fine quality of the products.

On 22 February morning, the minister held a meeting with the staff. On the occasion, the minister dealt with production in 2003-2004 fiscal year, future plans for meeting the target, and growing the rubber trees in the compound of the factory.

The managing director reported on work done for meeting the target and progress in installation of the machines to the factory. The minister gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs. — MNA

Industry-1 Minister inspects cigarette factory

YANGON, 24 Feb — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, together with Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, arrived at No 1 cigarette factory of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries on Thukha Road in Ward-8, Hline Township this morning. First, the minister and party inspected storage of tobacco and gave instructions on measures to be taken for prevention of fire and systematic storage of tobacco. They next viewed round the production line at the factory.

Afterwards, the minister met with officials at the briefing hall of the factory and gave instructions on carrying out the tasks according to the rules and regulations laid down by the ministry, replacing the old machines with new ones and making trips to regions such as Pakokku, Pauk and Langhkio to collect import-substitute quality tobacco. Later, the minister and deputy ministers visited Win Thuza Shop in Hline township and inspected sales of goods.

MNA

Operations performed on eye patients in Pyapon

YANGON, 24 Feb — Under the arrangement of the Ministry of Health, a team led by Professor Dr Kan Nyunt of Yangon Eye Specialist Hospital gave free medical treatments to eye patients in Pyapon,

Ayeyawady Division, from 16 to 18 February.

The team comprising eye specialists Dr Aye Aye Khaing, Dr Moe Kyaw, Dr Nilar Thein, Dr Hla Kathy and Dr Kathy Myint, nurses Daw Aye Aye Myint, Daw

Lwe Kapaw and Daw Saw Ohnmar Tin gave medical check-up to 536 local eye patients and performed operations on 152 eye patients.

Pyapon District Peace and Development

Council Chairman Lt-Col Ye Htut, District Health Department Head Dr Myint Myint Thein and staff, and members of social organizations provided assistance to team.

MNA

“သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား ဖြိုတွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတိမှတ်ခေါက်ရေနှင့်အညီ စက်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ပေးထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတိမှတ်နှုန်းထားများအတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက် တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင် ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြကြောင်း ကြားသိရပါသည်။ ယင်းသို့ ယာဉ်စီးခပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိထိ ရောက်ရောက် အရေးယူနိုင်ရေးအတွက် အောက်ပါဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

(၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း

၁၉၉

(၂) ကြီးမဲကြေးနန်းနှင့် ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့မှူးရုံး

၂၅၁၂၈၅/၂၅၁၂၈၄

(၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

၅၄၁၉၀၅/၅၄၁၉၀၄

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

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General Management
Total E&P Myanmar

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (599)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT Voy No (599) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-2-2004 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.

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ကျောက်တံတားမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

Bad weather costs Uganda over \$60m annually

KAMPALA, 24 Feb—Weather experts have said that harsh climatic conditions cost Uganda, with a population of 24.6 million, over 60 million US dollars annually.

Charles Twesigomwe, Commissioner for Disaster Preparedness in the Prime Minister's Office, was quoted by *The Monitor* newspaper on Monday as saying that the worst vagaries are drought, floods, mudslides, windstorms and hailstorms, which account for more than 70 per cent of natural disasters.

He said over 60 million dollars is value of more than 800,000 hectares of crops damaged by disasters alone.

"Economic losses resulting from transport accidents, fires and other climate-related disasters are estimated at 26 million dollars a year," he said. He said the bleak situation is not unique to Uganda, adding that more than 90 per cent of all natural disasters occurring around the world today are related to water — either too little of it, in case of drought, or too much of it, in the case of floods, landslides, diseases and pests." — *MNA/Xinhau*

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

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Yangon. 25 February 2004

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Dated: 25 February, 2004.

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၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့်ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာနအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရုံးသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။

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ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
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Study says no-smoking areas offer partial protection

LONDON, 24 Feb — Designated no-smoking areas in restaurants and clubs provide only partial or no protection against second-hand smoke, Australian researchers said on Tuesday.

Less than a week after Ireland announced it would become the first country in Europe to outlaw smoking in pubs, bars and restaurants, Professor Bernard Stewart of the South East Sydney Public Health Unit in Australia said that, at best, restricted smoking areas halve levels of environmental tobacco smoke.

"No-smoking areas may provide some reduction in the level of exposure of individuals to environmental tobacco smoke. However, the reduction may be marginal or trivial," Stewart said in a report in the journal *Tobacco Control*.

ETS, or second-hand smoke, is a complex mixture of more than 4,000 chemical compounds that are generated from smoking or burning tobacco products.

The British anti-smoking group ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) said the Australian findings provide more evidence for other countries to ban smoking in public places.

"It adds ammunition to what is already established — that environmental tobacco smoke is a major source of air pollution and has a major health impact on people," said

Amanda Sandford, a spokeswoman for ASH. "It is something we have been arguing for a long time," she added in an interview.

New York has already introduced a smoking ban and other European countries are considering similar measures. ASH called for legislation to prevent smoking in the workplace and in enclosed public places.

The Australian scientists measured atmospheric nicotine in 17 social and gaming clubs in and around Sydney.

They found levels varied but, on average, if a person moved from a smoking to a non-smoking area it would reduce the amount of nicotine inhaled by about 53 per cent. In a separate study in the magazine, scientists in the United States said smoking outdoors reduces toddlers' exposure to tobacco smoke but it does not completely protect them because environmental smoke lingers in dust and on household surfaces.

"To our knowledge, this is the first study to document that surfaces, dust and air are contaminated in homes of smokers with infants," said Dr. Georg (correct) Matt of San Diego State University in California.

MNA/Reuters

China to crack down on water polluters

BEIJING, 24 Feb — China will crack down on water polluters and revise laws and regulations to give its environmental watchdog more clout, said senior environment officials here Monday.

Chen Shanrong, deputy director of the emergency and investigation centre of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), said a team formed by six central government departments will begin an inspection tour later this year to identify factories that illegally discharge pollutants into major waterways.

The SEPA said last week that China's major waterways were still severely polluted after years of cleaning. Many factories along the main rivers and lakes discharged more toxic and organic pollutants than the maximum allowed in the regulations.

"A crackdown action is urgently needed to stop illegal polluters. The SEPA plans to clean the major waterways before 2005," said Chen, who joined the 2003 campaign against small chemical plants and paper makers that used outdated technologies.

However, he admitted that the environmental watchdog was restricted by its limited powers.

China's environmental law and regulations state that the SEPA has no powers to close polluters, but must resort to local governments to do so. "When some local governments think gross domestic products (GDP) is more important and thus shields polluters, the cleaning plan is halted," said Chen.

"The SEPA expects to have the powers to enforce decisions without the intervention of local governments," said Wang Suli, vice-director of SEPA's legislation office.

He said the country's legislative body was reviewing a law which endowed public service departments like the SEPA such rights.

"Another problem is that the fine stipulated in the current regulations is too small to deter the polluters," said Chen.

The solution is to eliminate industries that are highly polluting or using outdated technologies, said Wang.

MNA/Xinhua

China to see railway construction peak period

BEIJING, 24 Feb — China is to see another peak period of railway construction in the coming years, which aims to relieve the transportation pressure and meet the needs of rapid economic growth.

China's railway length is expected to extend from 72,000 kilometres to 100,000 kilometres by 2020 and the technical equipment will near international level, said Chinese Railways Minister Liu Zhijun here Sunday at a working conference.

The investment in railway will increase greatly in 2004, the first year of China's railway construction blueprint, said Liu.

China will also launch a series of new railway projects this year, and much reconstruction work will be carried out to improve the transportation efficiency, said Liu.

The medium-term and long-term goal of railway construction was described in a blueprint on China's railway network, which was passed on January 7 at a meeting held by the State Council.

MNA/Xinhua

WTO official sees no chance to end Doha round this year

LONDON, 24 Feb — The stalled Doha round of trade liberalization talks cannot be concluded on schedule by the end of this year, a senior World Trade Organization (WTO) official said on Monday.

"That now looks completely unachievable," Richard Eglin, director of the WTO's trade and finance division, told a meeting at the Royal Institute for International Affairs, a think-tank.

Eglin said a more realistic deadline for completion of the talks was mid-

2007, when the United States' fast-track negotiating mandate is due to expire.

The talks, falteringly launched in Doha, Qatar in 2001, ground to a halt at a follow-up meeting in Cancun in Mexico last September.

MNA/Reuters

US panel recommends to restrict TV ADs for kids

WASHINGTON, 24 Feb — Children under the age of eight are unable to understand that television advertisements are not real and should be protected from seeing them, a task force of psychologists said on Monday.

TV ads for sugary cereals, snacks and other food have been shown to encourage young children to beg for and eat such food, which in turn is contributing to the obesity epidemic among children, the American Psychological Association panel said.

"While older children and adults understand the inherent bias of advertising, younger children do not, and therefore tend to interpret commercial claims and appeals as accurate and truthful information," psychologist Dale Kunkel of the University of California at Santa Barbara said in a statement.

"Because younger children do not understand persuasive intent in advertising, they are easy targets for commercial persuasion," added Brian Wilcox of the University of Nebraska, who chaired the task force.

"This is a critical concern because the most common products marketed to children are sugared cereals, candies, sweets, sodas and snack foods. Such advertising of unhealthy food products to young children contributes to poor nutritional habits that may last a lifetime and be a variable in the current epidemic of obesity among kids."

The six-member task force reviewed all the research it could find on advertising and its effects on children.

They estimated that advertisers spend more than 12 billion US dollars a year on advertisements aimed at the youth market, and that the average US child watches more than 40,000 television commercials a year.

Several studies show that children remember details about advertisements they

have seen and will express preference for a product after even a single viewing of a commercial for that product.

And children also see ads aimed at adults, the researchers noted.

"For example, beer ads are commonly shown during sports events and seen by millions of children, creating both brand familiarity and more positive attitudes toward drinking in children as young as 9 to 10 years of age," Kunkel said.

"Another area of sensitive advertising content involves commercials for violent media products such as motion pictures and video games." The American Psychological Association made several recommendations based on the report, including regulations that could restrict advertising aimed at children eight years and under. — MNA/Reuters

China holds first Yi medicine conference

CHUXIONG (Yunnan), 24 Feb — The first national conference on protecting the medicine of the Yi nationality in China opened in the Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Chuxiong in southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Participants agreed that a solid foundation has been laid in the research and development of the Yi medicine. The current stage is the golden age for industrialization of the medicine.

The Yi medicine draws from the essence of Indian, Persian and local medicine. People of the Yi nationality have accumulated rich ex-

perience in curing a variety of diseases with Yi medicine, making it the third largest herbal medicine system in China after the Tibetan and Miao medicine, said Chu Guoben, president of the China Society for Medicine of Ethnic Nationality.

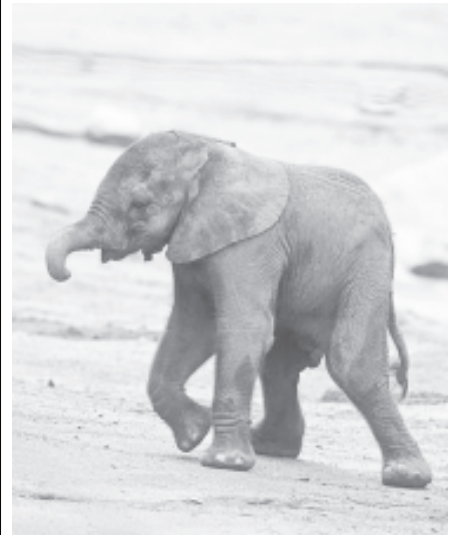
Medical workers in Yunnan and Sichuan provinces have compiled 28 volumes of Yi medicine books, which included more than 1,000 kinds of medicine used in treating common diseases.

Chuxiong, which has

1,381 kinds of Yi medicine, has made Yi medicine a pillar industry in the prefecture. It has earmarked nearly 100 million yuan (12 million US dollars) in building natural herbal medicine farms, a participant from Chuxiong said.

The output value of the Yi medicine in Chuxiong, which is still in the initial stage of production, exceeded 534 million yuan (64 million US dollars) in 2002, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



A newborn African elephant calf took its first steps on 23 Feb, 2004, at the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park in San Diego. The healthy male calf was born to a first-time mother who was rescued by the 1,800-acre Wild Animal Park in August 2003. — INTERNET

Don't smoke

SPORTS

Moldovan earns 10-man Nantes 1-1 draw at Marseille

PARIS, 24 Feb—A goal by Romanian Viorel Moldovan gave 10-man Nantes a 1-1 draw against Olympique Marseille at the Stade Velodrome in a Ligue 1 match on Sunday.

Marseille remain sixth in the standings with 42 points from 25 games, 12 points adrift of leaders Monaco, who thrashed Montpellier 4-0 on Friday.

Nantes are seventh with 38 points.

The hosts opened the scoring after 29 minutes when a cross by Matthieu Flamini was deflected by Steve Marlet for Didier Drogba to slot the ball past Mickael Landreau.

Six minutes later Sylvain Armand was shown the red card after a late tackle on Marseille's Habib Beye. The Canaries, however, equalized five minutes before the interval. The 32-year-old Moldovan pinched the ball from Marseille defender Philippe Christanval to score from just inside the box. Nantes' rearguard, with an outstanding performance from Colombia's Mario Yepes, thwarted Marseille's desperate attacks. — MNA/Reuters



Irapuato player Jaime Ruiz, left, fights for the ball with America's Alvaro Ortiz, right, during their Mexican Soccer League match at the Sergio Leon Chavez Stadium, on Sunday, 22 Feb, 2004, in Irapuato City, Mexico.—INTERNET

Lyon beat Le Mans 2-0 to stay second in Ligue 1

PARIS, 24 Feb—Olympique Lyon kept their title hopes alive with a 2-0 victory against 10-man Le Mans on Saturday, Ligue 1 leaders Monaco having hammered Montpellier 4-0 24 hours earlier. Lyon closed to within four points of the pace-setters, thanks to goals from Florent Malouda, who headed home in the 23rd minute, and Sidney Govou, who doubled the lead after 61 minutes.

One man down in the 39th minute after South-African Thabang Molefe was sent off for a foul on Peguy Luyindula, promoted Le Mans were always under pressure.—MNA/Reuters

Portsmouth make Liverpool pay the penalty in FA Cup

LONDON, 24 Feb—Substitute Richard Hughes gave Portsmouth a shock 1-0 victory over Liverpool in their FA Cup fifth-round replay on Sunday to set up a quarterfinal against holders Arsenal.

Liverpool's England striker Michael Owen fluffed a penalty before Hughes lashed a low shot into the far corner of the net after 72 minutes to decide a tense encounter at Fratton Park. It was the Scottish midfielder's first goal for Portsmouth, who have only won the FA Cup once, in 1939. They will face Arsenal, where Hughes was once a trainee, at Fratton Park in the last eight on March 6. After a tepid first half controlled by Liverpool, the match came to life with two bizarre penalty area incidents after the break.

The first occurred after 49 minutes when bumbling referee Matt Messias gave a penalty to Liverpool after Liverpool striker Milan Baros handballed inside the Portsmouth box.

Messias mistakenly thought a Portsmouth hand had touched the ball but, to Portsmouth's relief, reversed his decision and gave them a free kick after consulting his linesman.

Twelve minutes later Messias did award a Liverpool penalty and again Portsmouth had reason to feel aggrieved, with defender Matthew Taylor appearing to win the ball cleanly when he tackled Baros in the area.

This time the decision stood but Owen's pitiful penalty effort was easily gathered by Portsmouth goalkeeper Shaka Hislop who was celebrating his 35th birthday.

Liverpool were made to pay when Nigerian striker Yakubu Aiyegbeni fed Hughes and his accurate drive beat flat-footed Liverpool keeper Chris Kirkland.

Owen drew a superb finger tip save from Hislop as Liverpool pressed for the equalizer but the result heaped further

pressure on Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier.

The Frenchman must now lift his team for their UEFA Cup third round, first leg game against Bulgarian team Levski Sofia at Anfield on Thursday. — MNA/Reuters

Villarreal suffer heavy blow to European hopes

MADRID 24 Feb—Villarreal lost further ground in the race for European places in Spain when they were beaten 4-1 at relegation candidates Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

Zaragoza were 2-0 up inside 20 minutes with goals from Leonardo Ponzio and Cani and Villarreal's fate was sealed when Quique Alvarez was sent off after 24 minutes.

Former Barcelona striker Dani got the third six minutes before halftime and even though the referee evened up the numbers with the sending-off of Carlos Quintero after 63 minutes, the home side went on to clinch a comfortable win.

Villarreal, who spent much of the first half of the season challenging for a Champions League spot, are now in seventh place with 36 points and in danger of missing out on a place in Europe altogether.

Real Madrid hold a five-point lead at the top of the table after their 4-2 win at Espanyol on Saturday was followed by a 1-0 defeat for their chief title rivals Valencia at home to Barcelona.

With 25 games played, Real lead the table with 56 points, followed by Valencia on 51 and Deportivo on 50 after their goalless draw at Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

Ferguson says Man Utd face biggest mountain

LONDON, 24 Feb—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson refused to give up on the Premier League title after his side drew 1-1 with Leeds United to slip seven points behind Arsenal on Saturday.

"It is a big mountain to climb now but it's achievable," Ferguson told the club's web site. "It's amazing what this team can do when they get into their stride but this is as big a mountain as we have ever had to climb."

The champions overturned an eight-point deficit on Arsenal last season to seal their eighth title in 11 seasons but the unbeaten leaders, 2-1 winners over third-placed Chelsea on Saturday, are in ominous form with 12 matches remaining.

"We will have to perform far better than we did today if we are going to catch them," Ferguson said. "We have put ourselves in a really difficult position."

Ferguson also faces a defensive crisis following an injury to Mikael Silvestre who is very doubtful for Wednesday's Champions League trip to Porto.

With Rio Ferdinand suspended and Gary Neville about to begin a three-match ban following his sending-off against Manchester City last week, Ferguson has few experienced central defenders to call on.

Defensive frailty contributed to the Leeds defeat, with the visitors' England striker

Alan Smith heading an equalizer only three minutes after Paul Scholes had put United ahead. "We got into a lead, and at that point you should consolidate but we only kept the lead for three minutes, that is not good enough," Ferguson said.

He may well be regretting his decision not to bolster his defence in the January transfer window, when striker Louis Saha, left out of the team against Leeds after scoring on his international debut for France on Wednesday, was his only purchase.

Ferguson blamed the internationals for his team's jaded performance against Leeds.

"There were a few chances we should have buried," he said. "There were good bits of play but we looked off-colour. We had 12 away on international duty and that takes its toll."

That comment made it hard to understand the manager's decision to leave his captain Roy Keane on the substitutes' bench against Leeds until midway through the second half since the former Ireland midfielder was one of the few United first-team players who did not play for his country in midweek.

MNA/Reuters

Dortmund beat Cologne 1-0 to stay on course for Europe

BERLIN, 24 Feb—Borussia Dortmund stayed on track for a place in Europe with a 1-0 victory over bottom club Cologne in the Bundesliga on Sunday.

Antonioli howler helps Parma win at Sampdoria

ROME, 24 Feb—A mistake by goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli gifted Parma their first goal as they went on win 2-1 at Sampdoria in their Serie A match on Saturday.

The game was deadlocked until the 59th minute when Parma striker Alberto Gilardino poked a weak shot towards goal. Antonioli bent to gather it but the ball slipped between his legs and rolled into the net.

Parma striker Mark Bresciano added a second after 73 minutes before Sampdoria pulled a goal back through 20-year-old forward Antonio Flores seven minutes from time.

Both sides had problems finding their rhythm on Sampdoria's sticky rain-soaked pitch and long-range strikes by Parma midfielder Simone Barone and Sampdoria defender Aimo Diana were the best efforts of a subdued first half.

Antonioli's howler injected urgency into the match and Bresciano doubled Parma's lead with a shot from the edge of the area before Sampdoria finally got their goal. But despite a late spell of pressure the home side could not find an equalizer.

MNA/Reuters

Brazilian striker Ewerthon scored in the 26th minute for the 1997 European champions, who need to secure a UEFA Cup spot to save their season.

The Ruhr Valley club, who have denied media reports about their financial situation, remain in sixth place 15 points behind leaders Werder Bremen.

A goal in the 66th minute from Greek striker Ioannis Amanatidis earned Eintracht Frankfurt a 2-1 win at fellow strugglers Hertha Berlin in Sunday's other game.

Second-placed champions Bayern Munich closed the gap on Werder Bremen to seven points by beating Hamburg SV 1-0 on Saturday in their last game before facing Real Madrid in the Champions League.

Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld's men entertain the glamorous Spanish side in the first leg of their first knockout round tie on Tuesday. Werder, chasing a fourth German title that would be their first since 1993, were held to a 0-0 draw at Schalke 04 on Saturday. — MNA/Reuters



Virginia Tovar, the first female referee to work in Mexico's professional soccer league (R), makes her debut between Irapuato vs America, during their Mexican league championship soccer match at the Sergio Leon Chavez Stadium, in Irapuato, on 22 February, 2004. Irapuato won the match, 2-1.—INTERNET

MRTV-3**25-2-2004 (Wednesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission**

- (9:00 - 10:00)**
9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 Let's Enjoy Mann
Shwe Sattaw Pagoda
Festival
9:10 **Headline News**
9:12 The National
Museum (I)
9:15 **National News**
9:20 Beautiful Taninthayi
9:25 Smart Beautiful Cart
9:30 **National News**
9:35 Paper Toys
9:40 Song "Bagan the Won-
der Land"
9:42 What an Interesting
Souvenir Shop
9:45 **National News**
9:50 Shan Traditional
"Hsoon" Offering Ce-
remony
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**25-2-2004 (Wednesday)
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 Let's Enjoy Mann
Shwe Sattaw Pagoda
Festival
15:40 **Headline News**
15:42 The National
Museum(I)
15:45 **National News**
15:50 Beautiful Taninthayi
15:55 Smart Beautiful Cart
16:00 **National News**
16:05 Paper Toys
16:10 Song "Bagan the Won-
der Land"
16:12 What an Interesting

- Souvenir Shop
16:15 **National News**
15:20 Shan Traditional
"Hsoon" Offering Ce-
remony
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
16:30 **National News**
16:35 The Splendour of Mt.
Victoria (Natmataung)
16:40 Green Turtle
16:45 **National News**
16:50 Lacquerware made
from Porcelain and
glaze
16:55 Traditional PaO Dance
17:00 **National News**
17:05 Palm Leaf Inscription
Myanmar Modern
Song "Lodestar"
17:15 **National News**
17:20 Travelogue (Kalaw)
17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

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

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
19:36 Hsinbyushin Temples,
Stone Carving and
Monasteries
19:40 **Headline News**
19:42 New, Modernized
Myanmar Food
19:45 **National News**
19:50 The Unique Pindaya
Shan Paper
19:55 Traditional Lamp
Dance
20:00 **National News**
20:05 Myanmar Profile
"Myanmar's answers
to Skin-care"
20:10 Song "A Way for Lov-
ers"
20:15 **National News**
20:20 Panwa with its Tourist
Attractions
20:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Come visit
Myanmar"
20:30 **National News**
20:35 Myanmar Musical

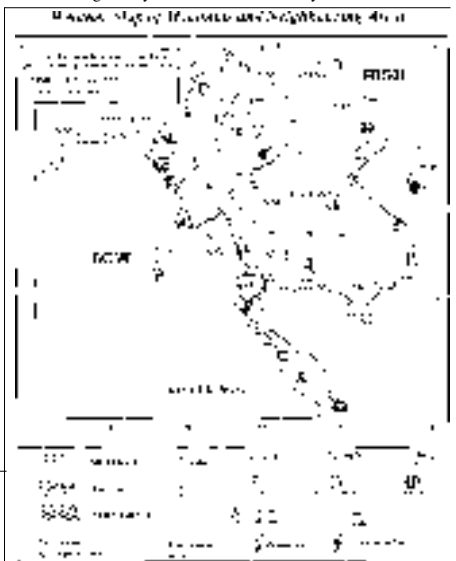
- Orchestra (Bwe Song)
20:40 Finished Products of
Teak
20:45 **National News**
20:50 Myanma Tapestry Art-
ist
20:55 Wararya Dance
20:57 The Inlay Khaun Dain
Hotel and Spa
21:00 **National News**
21:05 The Ancient City of
Myanmar (Bagan)
21:10 Song "Mawlamyaing
The Jewel of the
Crown"
21:15 **National News**
21:20 Preservation of
Myanmar Star Tor-
toise
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
21:30 Let's Enjoy Mann
Shwe Sattaw Pagoda
Festival
21:40 **Headline News**
21:42 The National
Museum (I)
21:45 **National News**
21:50 Beautiful Taninthayi
21:55 Smart Beautiful Cart
22:00 **National News**
22:05 Paper Toys
22:10 Song "Bagan the Won-
der Land"
22:12 What an Interesting
Souvenir Shop
22:15 **National News**
22:20 Shan Traditional
"Hsoon" Offering Ce-
remony
22:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "To Golden
Mandalay"
22:30 **National News**
22:35 The Splendour of
Mt. Victoria (Nat-
mataung)
22:40 Green Turtle
22:45 **National News**
22:50 Lacquerware made
from Porcelain and
glaze
22:55 Traditional PaO Dance
23:00 **National News**
23:05 Palm Leaf Inscription
23:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Lodestar"
23:15 **National News**
23:20 Travelogue (Kalaw)
23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

- 25-2-2004 (Wednesday) &
26-2-2004 (Thursday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30-1:30)**
23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36 Let's Enjoy Mann
Shwe Sattaw Pagoda
Festival
23:40 **Headline News**
23:42 The National
Museum (I)
23:45 **National News**
23:50 Beautiful Taninthayi
23:55 Smart Beautiful Cart
24:00 **National News**
00:05 Paper Toys
00:10 Song "Bagan the Won-
der Land"
00:12 What an Interesting
Souvenir Shop
00:15 **National News**
00:20 Shan Traditional
"Hsoon" Offering Ce-
remony
00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
00:30 **National News**
00:35 The Splendour of
Mt. Victoria (Nat-
mataung)
00:40 Green Turtle
00:45 **National News**
00:50 Lacquerware made
from Porcelain and
glaze
00:55 Traditional PaO Dance
01:00 **National News**
01:05 Palm Leaf Inscription
01:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Lodestar"
01:15 **National News**
01:20 Travelogue (Kalaw)
01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

- 26-2-2004 (Thursday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**
03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
03:36 Hsinbyushin Temples,

- Stone Carving and
Monasteries
03:40 **Headline News**
03:42 New, Modernized
Myanmar Food
03:45 **National News**
03:50 The Unique Pindaya
Shan Paper
03:55 Traditional Lamp
Dance
04:00 **National News**
04:05 Myanmar Profile
"Myanmar's answers
to Skin-care"
04:10 Song "A Way for Lov-
ers"
04:15 **National News**
04:20 Panwa with its Tourist
Attractions
04:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Come visit
Myanmar"
04:30 **National News**
04:35 Myanmar Musical
Orchestra (Bwe Song)
04:40 Finished Products of
Teak
04:45 **National News**
04:50 Myanma Tapestry Art-
ist
04:55 Wararya Dance
04:57 The Inlay Khaun Dain
Hotel and Spa
05:00 **National News**
05:05 The Ancient City of
Myanmar (Bagan)
05:10 Song "Mawlamyaing
The Jewel of the
Crown"
05:15 **National News**
05:20 Preservation of
Myanmar Star Tortoise
05:25 Song of Myanmar

- Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
05:30 Let's Enjoy Mann
Shwe Sattaw Pagoda
Festival
05:40 **Headline News**
05:42 The National
Museum (I)
05:45 **National News**
05:50 Beautiful Taninthayi
05:55 Smart Beautiful Cart
06:00 **National News**
06:05 Paper Toys
06:10 Song "Bagan the Won-
der Land"
06:12 What an Interesting
Souvenir Shop
06:15 **National News**
06:20 Shan Traditional
"Hsoon" Offering Ce-
remony
06:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "To Golden
Mandalay"
06:30 **National News**
06:35 The Splendour of Mt.
Victoria (Natmataung)
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07:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**WEATHER**

Tuesday, 24 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Rakhine State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Mon State, Magway, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, (6°C) below normal in Kayin State, (7°C) below normal in Chin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was (1°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 23-2-2004 was 35.5°C (96°F). Minimum temperature on 24-2-2004 was 17.0°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-2-2004 was 86%. Total sunshine hours on 23-2-2004 was (9.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 24-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Southeast at (14:30) hours M.S.T on 23-2-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 25-2-2004: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-2-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-2-2004:** Fair weather.



Wednesday, February 25

View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. ဓမ္မစာအုပ်ဖတ်ရန်အရာတော်
တရားကြီးမိုင်းတော်သံဃမဟာ
နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
အဘိဓမ္မာအရာတော်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ
မဟာသမ္ပယောဂ်တော်၊ ဝိသုဒ္ဓိတရား
အကျဉ်းချုပ်အရာတော်အဖွဲ့၊ ဝိသုဒ္ဓိ
အရာတော်သံဃာတော်တရားတော်
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
5. မြန်မာ့မြေကြွယ် ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအတတ်
8:00 am
6. အတိတ်နှင့်
8:15 am
7. ရွှေလောင်းတံတား

- 8:30 am**
8. International news
8:40 am
9. Learning English the easy
and happy way for
children and beginners
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. Practice in reading
4:45 pm
4. Dance of national races
5:00 pm
5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လို့ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု
ရုပ်ပြပွဲကြား၊ သင်ခန်းစာ
တတ်ယူပုံ (အရာတော်အဖွဲ့ကြွယ်)
(ဓမ္မစာအုပ်)
5:15 pm
6. Classical songs
5:30 pm
7. ဝိသုဒ္ဓိတရားသံဃာတော်
5:40 pm
8. လာဘ်ဆင်နားပေးဂီတတော်
5:50 pm
9. ရွှေလောင်းတံတား

- 6:00 pm**
10. Musical programme
6:15 pm
11. Discovery
6:30 pm
12. Evening news
7:00 pm
13. Weather report
7:05 pm
14. Milo success in soccer
7:10 pm
15. Strong and healthy
Myanmar
7:25 pm
16. Musical programme
7:40 pm
17. (၇၉)နှစ်မြောက်တော်မူသောနေ့လွှဲပြု
အခါအခွင့် (ခန့်ချီ၊ ခန့်ချီ၊ ခန့်ချီ၊
တရား) (အပိုင်း-၂) (ဂီတသုလင်
အတတ်သံဃာတော်တရားနှင့် ယဉ်ကျေးမှု
တရားသင်တန်းသံဃာတော်အဖွဲ့)
8:00 pm
18. News
19. International news
20. Weather report
21. ဝိသုဒ္ဓိတရားသံဃာတော်
အရာတော်သံဃာတော် (အပိုင်း-၃)
22. The next day's
programme

Wednesday, February 25
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
8.35 am Music
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music
8.50 am National news/
Slogan
9.00 am Music
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music
9.15 am News/Slogan
9.20 am Lunch time music
9.25 am -Bring it all back (S
Club 7)
-Big big world (Emilia)
Variations on a tune
"Do I love you"
-Paul Anka
-Englebert
Humberdinck
9.30 am Article/Music
9.35 am Music at your
request
-Shape of my heart
(BSB)
-Our song (M2M)
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears a report presented by Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun on the Dokhtawady Bridge (Nawngkhio) Project. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Dokhtawady Bridge (Nawngkhio) Project

YANGON, 24 Feb — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council (North) Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, helicoptered to the Dokhtawady Bridge (Nawngkhio) Project in Nawngkhio Township, Shan State

(North) on 21 February afternoon.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials.

On the occasion, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on the project; and Deputy Superintending Engineer of Special Group-14 of the Bridge Project U Hsan Win, on work progress and measures being taken for ensuring timely completion of the project.

In response to the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye delivered a speech, saying that among the roads that link Shan State (South) and (North) and Mandalay Division, Yaksawk-Indaw-Kyauku-Taungkham-Nawngkhio Road is the shortest one. The project is being implemented on the road, he said, adding that the bridge will be a small one, but efforts are to be made for ensuring a strong facility and timely completion of the project.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye stressed the impor-

tance of upgrading strategic road sections for regional development and speedy flow of commodity. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and entourage inspected the project site, and conditions of the Dokhtawady River and its environs. On completion, the 468-foot-long reinforced concrete facility will have a 28-foot-wide motorway and two three-foot-wide pedestrian lanes on each side. It will be able to withstand 60 tons of loads.

In the evening, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to Lashio by helicopter, where they were welcomed by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint, Brig-Gen Soe Oo of Hsenwi Station, departmental personnel and local people. — MNA

State acknowledges nurses, midwives, health assistants as most basic forces of health sector Prime Minister addresses opening of Myanmar Nurses Association Conference

YANGON, 24 Feb — The 49th Nursing Conference of the Myanmar Nurses Association was opened this morning at the Institute of Nursing here with an opening address by Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of the committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, members of the committee, departmental officials, officials and residence representatives of the organizations under the UN, officials of the social organizations, the directors-general, deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, medical superintendents under the Ministry of Health, the principals of the nursing schools in Yangon and lecturers, Chairperson of the Myanmar Nurses Association (Central) Daw E Barbro and committee members, members of the MNA and guests.

Next, Prime Minister gave an address. He said the MNA has been steadfastly standing as an organization working in the interest of the people for 56 years till now since it was founded in 1948. And it is a pride worthy to be taken by every member as well as the MNA itself.

From the world-class hospitals to rural health centres, it has been playing a leading role in conducting health care services for people of all walks of life in the entire

nation, organizing nurses, midwives and health assistants as a single united national force.

At present, endeavours are being made through self-reliant efforts, and with the strength that lies within, to build a modern and developed nation for the progress and prosperity of the people and the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder other world nations.

In this regard, the Government has been further raising the health standard of the nation for the health and fitness of the entire people and enabling them to take part in the national development endeavours with full strength and enjoy the fruits of progress with peace of mind.

The Government has been laying down and implementing the national health projects to raise the health standard of the whole nation. It has been extending the primary health care services to reach all the remote areas including the border regions and to narrow the health gap between the rural and the urban areas.

Thus, the nurses, midwives and health assistants working at the places from major cities to rural areas play a key role in the Government's endeavours to extend health care services till covering the entire nation. Moreover, nurses are discharging the most basic duties of the health sector as they are closely assisting the physicians, and practically conducting the treatment and rehabilitation services.

As the State has acknowledged nurses, midwives and health assistants as the most basic forces of the health

sector, it has been making arrangements for producing more nurses, midwives and health assistants, enhancing their skills, enabling them to pursue further studies and assigning them at higher level posts.

In the past there were seven nurses training schools and 15 midwifery training schools.

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the opening of the 49th Conference of Myanmar Nurses Association. — MNA

