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Kyaikhtihsaung Sayadaw and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt fix Hngetmyatnadaw atop Shwedagon Replica Pagoda.— MNA

Prime Minister attends ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw of Zabukshaung Myatphonekhaung Datpaungzone Pagoda

YANGON, 7 March —A ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw of Zabukshaung Myatphonekhaung Datpaungzone Pagoda was held in Mingaladon Garden City this morning, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Present were member Sayadaws led by Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Kyaikhtihsaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panñadipa and member Sayadaws of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee.

It was also attended by wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, Adviser U Arnt Maung, members of Division, District and Township Peace and Development

Councils, social organizations, religious associations, disciples led by Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title recipient U Khin Shwe, wellwishers and guests.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party took the Nine Precepts from Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. Members

of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta and parittas.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw of the replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda and offertories to the Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Kyaikhtihsaung Sayadaw.

Afterwards, the disciples led by U Khin Shwe presented Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw to the members of the Sangha. U Khin Shwe reported on the purpose of the building of the pagodas.

Kyaikhtihsaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panñadipa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. (See page 8)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe convey Seinbudaw round Zabukshaung Myatphonekhaung Datpaungzone Pagoda.— 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

Monday, 8 March, 2004

Invaluable force on which the womenfolk can rely

Today, 8 March 2004, is the International Women's Day.

In striving in all sectors for the Union of Myanmar to be developed, the Government is making arrangements for the womenfolk to be able to participate in the nation-building tasks.

Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs was formed to promote the women's sector, and now, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation has been formed with the aim of extending the functions of the women's sector. The MWAF has been formed with the following lofty aims:

- To promote the women's sector in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation
- To protect the rights of women
- To develop the economy, health and education of women and to ensure a secure life for them
- To nurture and train them to promote their spirit of cherishing and valuing the traditions and culture
- To systematically carry out the task of preventing violence against them and rehabilitation
- To launch the task to eliminate trafficking in women and children
- To cooperate with international, regional and local bodies in ensuring the rights of women in accord with the traditions and culture and customs of the national races

The State values and honours the spiritual ability and fine traditions of the womenfolk who have energetically taken part in the respective sectors throughout the successive eras of history and thus the MWAF has been founded to organize the women mass to become a national force, while enabling them to take part in the nation-building task in the respective sectors.

As the Government has been making systematic efforts for the progress and firmness of the Myanmar women's sector, the women's spirit to love the nation and the race, patriotism to preserve the race, and the spirit to serve the well-being of the nation and the people have been further vitalized, and their participation in various social organizations promoted.

About 27 million of women make up the nation's population of over 52 million, and 15 million of them are young ones or in their prime age. In addition, the women have been serving the national interest as a strong force throughout the course of history. Thus, efforts are to be made to further consolidate their strength.

We firmly believe that the MWAF has been formed for the women to lead the invaluable force and to take the task of sharing responsibilities by themselves, till the Federation has become a united organization on which the womenfolk can rely.

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'

China's national revenue hit record high in 2003

BEIJING, 7 March — China's national revenue exceeded two trillion yuan for the first time to reach 2.1691 trillion yuan in 2003, said Minister of Finance Jin Renqing Saturday at the Second Session of the Tenth National People's Congress (NPC).

The central and local budgets were implemented fairly well last year despite a complex and volatile international situation, the unexpected outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and frequent natural disasters, Jin told the national legislature.

National revenue, excluding revenue from generation of debt, was 278.7 billion yuan or 14.7 per cent more than the previous year and 105.8 per cent of the budgeted figure, the minister said in a report on the implementation of the central and local budgets for 2003 and on the draft central and local budgets for 2004.

National expenditures totalled 2.4607 trillion yuan, an increase of 255.4 billion yuan or 11.6 per cent year-on-year and 103.8 per cent of the budgeted figure. Expenditures exceeded revenue by 291.6 billion yuan.

Total revenue in the central budget amounted to 1.2465 trillion yuan after allowing for the additional 82.9 billion yuan used in export tax rebates, up 109.3 billion yuan or 9.6 per cent over the previous year and 104.4 per cent of the budgeted figure.

Total expenditures in the central budget came to 1.5663 trillion yuan, including 824 billion yuan in tax rebates and subsidies for local authorities, 119.5 billion yuan or 8.3 per cent more than the previous year and 103.5 per cent of the budgeted figure. The deficit in the central budget was held to 319.8 billion yuan as approved at the First Session of the Tenth NPC, the minister said.

MNA/Xinhua

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



The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

Minister says energy investors back to Indonesia

JAKARTA, 7 March — After being considered a pariah nation for years by power investors, Indonesia has started to regain investor confidence, largely due to the successful resolution of disputes with independent power producers (IPPs), a minister has said.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro said in an interview with *The Jakarta Post* published Saturday that proposals from IPPs to set up new power projects had been on the increase. The government, which until recently was gripped by worry over a possible power crisis in the future, has become more optimistic that such a crisis will not materialize. The investment climate (within the power sector) has been improving," Purnomo said.

Indonesia was embroiled in disputes with dozens of leading global power investors for years after the economic crisis, following the government's decision to suspend most of the power projects, and state electricity firm PT PLN's refusal to honour the contracts. After years of negotiation, the government managed last year to settle disputes with all 27 IPPs, apart from American firm PT Karaha Bodas Company, which is still pursuing legal redress in the US to win compensation for its suspended project.

The firm has a geothermal power project in Garut, West Java.

Of the 26 project owners, 14 agreed to continue projects and reduce the price of the electricity they generate, seven agreed to terminate their projects and five agreed to transfer their projects to state oil firm PT Pertamina and PLN. Purnomo is optimistic the dispute with Karaha Bodas can also be settled out of court.

Approximately 3,500 megawatts of additional power supplies will enter the market from 2004 to 2006 with the completion of the Cilegon, Muara Tawar, Cilacap and Tanjung Jati B power projects.

In June this year, completion of the re-powering project for the Muara Tawar power plant in Bekasi, West Java, will bring an additional 800 megawatt into the Java-Bali power grid, while the Cilacap and Cilegon power plants, which are expected to come onstream next year, will add 600 megawatts and 750 megawatts respectively to the existing supply. Another 1,329 megawatts of capacity will come onstream in 2006 with completion of the giant Tanjung Jati B power plant in Central Java.

"Thus, in the short run, we can cope with additional power demand," the minister said.

MNA/Xinhua

Best stamps contest to begin in China

BEIJING, 7 March — All-China Philatelic Federation announced here Friday to organize an annual national contest for the best stamps.

A spokesman from the federation said the best stamps would be voted from all the commemorative and special stamps issued by the State Post Bureau in 2003.

People who are interested in stamp collection could vote for the best stamps between April 1 and 15. The best stamps are to be chosen by voters while professional and printing awards will be decided by an expert team, the spokesman said.

In order to encourage

public participation, the federation provides ten lucky slots for people who vote. The ten will have free journeys to Singapore in August when the world philatelic exhibition is held.

Results of the contest would be unveiled at an awarding ceremony this June in Kunming, capital of south-west Yunnan Province, said the spokesman.

MNA/Xinhua



International Women's Day 8th March 2004

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Kerry accuses Bush of neglecting safety of US troops in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 7 March—White House hopeful Senator John Kerry accused President George W Bush of neglecting the safety of US soldiers in Iraq and called for recruiting another 40,000 active duty troops to ease the burden on reservists.

"If I am President, I will be prepared to use military force to protect our security, our people, and our vital interests. But I will never send our troops into harms way without enough firepower and support," he said in the Democrats' weekly radio address.

Kerry accused Bush of sending troops to Iraq without supplying them with enough body armour, without enough armour for

their Humvee vehicles, and without appropriate defences for helicopters to evade missiles.

"Tens of thousands of other troops arrived in Iraq to find that — with danger around every corner — there wasn't enough body armour to protect them," he said.

Families had dipped into savings to buy body armour, "which the army should be providing," he said.

Kerry called on Bush to support a law that would reimburse families who had bought body armour on their own.

"Today our security is being weakened, our military is being overextended, our reserves overstrained, and our allies driven away," he said. "That's why I believe we need to relieve the reserves by temporarily expanding the size of our active duty forces by 40,000

troops."

In response, Bush's campaign issued a statement accusing Kerry of voting against bills that would have provided the resources he calls for in the speech.

"John Kerry says he supports body armour for the troops, yet he voted against sending it to our soldiers. John Kerry voted against higher danger pay for our troops and against health care for active duty reservists," Bush campaign spokesman Scott Stanzel said.

Internet



A US soldier guards handcuffed Iraqis on 6 March, 2004—INTERNET

Chinese Premier, Vice-President urge officials to work for people's interest

BEIJING, 7 March—"As all its power is bestowed by the people, the government has to be held accountable to them, works for their interest wholeheartedly and accepts their supervision voluntarily," said Premier Wen Jiabao in a National People Congress (NPC) panel discussion Friday afternoon.

Meanwhile, Vice-President Zeng Qinghong joined in another panel discussion of NPC deputies from east China's Jiangxi Province, during which he spoke highly of remarkable achievements made by Jiangxi people in the past year despite the prolonged dry spells that were most serious in history.

Wen and Zeng made these remarks during panel discussions of NPC deputies from northwest China's Gansu Province and eastern Jiangxi Province in the Great Hall of People in Beijing following the opening of the plenum of the Second Session of the 10th NPC in the Chinese capital in the morning.

Lu Hao, Li Mei, Sheng Weide and other deputies from Gansu province aired their views on how to increase and improve economic macrocontrol, strengthen and enhance agriculture as the foundation of the national economy and deepen the reform of state-owned enterprises.

Wen listened to them attentively, and confer with them time and again on some related issues.

Acceptance of the peo-

ple's supervision, said Wen, is a basic guarantee for government departments to wield power for the people, perform their administrative duties in strict compliance with laws and do a good job pertaining to their government work.

Only with the supervision of government departments by the people, can they be prevented from being lax in its duties and its functiona-

ries from misusing their administrative power, Wen said.

Government departments at various levels must wield their power and perform their duties well within the scope of their authority as defined by law and report the performance of their duties honestly to the people's congresses and their deputies, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian police smash international drug ring

ROME, 7 March — An operation of arrests were carried out on Friday in Italy as part of a crackdown on an international drug smuggling ring run by the Mafia "Ndrangheta" in the southern Italian region of Calabria, the local media reported Friday. According to the report, the operation was ordered by prosecutors in Reggio Calabria, a city of southern Italy, who have issued 47 arrest warrants.

Several clans linked to "Ndrangheta" have been accused of smuggling vast quantities of heroin and cocaine into Italy and

recycling the profits by making important property investments in Belgium and the Netherlands, the report said.

In January, Italian Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu had sounded the alarm over the "Ndrangheta", describing it as the "biggest and most powerful criminal organization" in Italy.

He also said the "Ndrangheta" was believed to be the biggest trafficker in drugs in Europe and called on Parliament to step up the fight against the organization.

MNA/Xinhua

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US soldiers hurt in raid on truck

BAGHDAD, 7 March—US soldiers opened fire on a truck packed with explosives yesterday, killing the driver, and three Americans were wounded when the truck crashed on a bridge. Meanwhile, politicians conferred with Iraq's top Shi'ite cleric to resolve a dispute that held up the signing of the interim constitution.

The apparent vehicle-bomb attack came in Habaniyah, west of Baghdad. After soldiers fired on the truck, it veered into a bridge and exploded, wounding the three. Several unexploded artillery and mortar rounds were recovered.

A suspected bomb was found in a bag on a street next to Baghdad's Palestine Hotel, where many foreigners are based, and US soldiers blocked off the area while a disposal unit was called in. Four people near the package had been detained, said a soldier on a checkpoint at the scene. "It's a bag, a dog hit on a bag down here," the soldier said, adding that the bag contained explosives. "We are waiting for a team to come down," he said. —Internet

Internet

Rifkind attacks Blair over Iraq war

LONDON, 7 March—Sir Malcolm Rifkind, the last Conservative foreign secretary, has accused Tony Blair of taking Britain into the Iraq war "on a false prospectus".

Sir Malcolm has also urged that no government should ever again publish intelligence material in order to build up a case for war. He has added his name to the list of those demanding that the Attorney General, Lord Goldsmith QC, should publish the advice he gave at the time on whether the war was legal. However, Sir Malcolm added that he was content for the advice to be withheld from the public if it could be revealed to a properly constituted committee of inquiry.

Sir Malcolm, who lost his Commons seat in 1997, was adopted last month as Conservative candidate in the safe seat of Kensington and Chelsea, and is expected to join the Tory front bench after the next election.

His comments, in an article for *The Independent* on Sunday, will add to Labour's fears that the consensus with the Conservatives over Iraq is breaking down. Last week, Michael Howard withdrew his party's support for the inquiry headed by Lord Butler of Brockwell into intelligence reports of Iraqi weapons, although he subsequently supported Mr Blair's call for a change in international law to permit intervention against tyrannical regimes.

Today Mr Howard will give a major speech at the party's spring conference in Harrogate, in which he is expected to say that public services will be the main battleground of the general election. He is

also likely to call for cannabis to return to its old classification as a Class B drug, with greater penalties for users.

Sir Malcolm has gone further than other leading Tories in his criticism of the dossier published by Mr Blair in September 2002, six months before the Iraq war, which set out the evidence that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and warned that they could be made ready for use at 45 minutes' notice. Sir Malcolm said that accurate or not—it should not have been published in the first place. He writes: "I was in receipt of top-secret documents for five years both as Minister of Defence and as Foreign Secretary. Neither I nor any previous Labour or Tory minister would have dreamt of publishing material in the name of the Joint Intelligence Committee. That would have been to politicise the JIC on an issue that divided the nation."

Sir Malcolm calls for a wide-ranging inquiry modelled on the Franks inquiry, which looked into the causes of the Falklands conflict. "What the Government cannot do is refuse both publication and a full inquiry," Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, an attorney general in John Major's government, said there were a number of precedents for publishing law officers' opinions: he had done so on the legality of the Maastricht Treaty, for instance. "I do think that the Government is going to find it very hard to resist the pressure on this," he said. —Internet



Foreign tourists take part in tug-of-war competition against an elephant during the Elephant Festival in Jaipur, capital of India's desert state of Rajasthan on 6 March, 2004.—INTERNET

2004.—INTERNET

British troops kill three Iraqis

BAGHDAD, 7 March—British occupation troops have shot dead three Iraqis in a gunfight, which also left seven of its own soldiers wounded.

It was not immediately clear though whether the killed Iraqis were resistance fighters or innocent bystanders and a British military spokeswoman said an investigation has been ordered to ascertain the truth.

The spokeswoman said the firefight took place in the village of Oal at Sahil in southeast Iraq after a routine British patrol came under fire.

"Three Iraqis were shot dead and an investigation is now under way," a spokeswoman said.

"The soldiers came under fire from heavy machineguns and a rocket propelled

grenade," she said.

"None of the injuries are life threatening but some of them might be returned to the UK for further treatment," the spokeswoman added.

The soldiers were rescued by back-up forces and admitted to a military hospital near Basra.

Southern parts of Iraq under British forces have been relatively quiet for the past few months. In June, six British military policemen were killed in an attack in Majjar al-Kabir.

Internet



Iraqis are searched in Baghdad, Iraq on 6 March, 2004. —INTERNET

India, Israel ink "Phalcon" early warning radar deal

NEW DELHI, 7 March—India signed a 1.1-billion-US-dollar deal with Israel on Friday to buy three *Phalcon* early warning radar systems, an Indian official said.

"The deal was signed today and we have to make the first advance payment within 45 days," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

The two countries struck a preliminary deal in October and made further progress in January.

The *Phalcon* can pick up aircraft, including at low altitude, hundreds of kilometres away in any weather, day or night. It can also intercept and decode radio transmissions, anticipating in many cases the weaponry an enemy might deploy.

The *Phalcon* technology would enable India to pry deep into the territory of arch-rival Pakistan, which has repeatedly expressed concern at growing India-Israel defence ties.

"The delivery of the first radar system will take place in 44 months," the spokesman said.

The deal is similar to one Israel made a few years ago with China after which the United States forced Israel to cancel the agreement. Washington cited fears China could use the strategic systems against US ally Taiwan in any conflict.

MNA/Xinhua

NZ Govt looks to increase worker productivity

WELLINGTON, 7 March—The New Zealand Government has set up an advisory group to explore ways to increase workplace productivity, Labour Minister Paul Swain has announced.

Swain said in a statement Friday that he wanted to raise awareness and debate about the issue. "In essence, labour productivity means the value of what employees produce for each hour worked," he said.

"Improving labour productivity comes from smarter ways of working, selling higher value products, more investment and technology per worker, reorganizing work and firms, and gaining more skills."

Swain said improved productivity would make New Zealand more competitive internationally, thus contributing to economic growth.

New Zealand's economic growth rates have improved

over the past 15 years, but the growth has been largely driven by stronger employment growth rather than improved productivity, he said.

"Current economic conditions, such as skill shortages and relatively high labour participation rates, suggest that improvements in productivity will be the key to lifting economic growth even further," the minister said.

Chief Executive of the Department of Labour James Buwalda will be in charge of the group which includes officials from several government departments as well as private sector representatives. —MNA/Xinhua

Turkey, Syria plan to build dam across Orantes River

ANKARA, 7 March—Turkey's Hatay Governor Abdulkadir Sari said on Friday that Turkey and Syria were planning to construct a dam across the Orantes River to prevent floods, the *Anatolia* news agency reported.

The dam would be set up in an area of 32,000 hectares, Sari said, adding that 22,000 hectares of it would be within Turkey's border. He noted that the construction of the dam would end the floods which took place almost every year in Reyhanli Town of Turkey, adding that electric energy would also be provided from the project.

Experts from both countries were preparing a report on the project, which would be completed at the end of April, Sari said. The Turkish official said that efforts were launched to further improve Turkey's relations with Syria, adding that a border trade centre would be set up near the Cilvegozu border gate in Reyhanli. —MNA/Xinhua

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Expert says Iraq could rewrite archaeology books

BAGHDAD, 7 March—Iraq, torn apart by years of war and sanctions, remains so rich in hidden ancient wonders that a leading expert believes the world's archaeology books will have to be rewritten over the next decade.

As security improves to allow excavation, evidence may emerge that advanced societies existed in the area much earlier than previously thought, said Dr John Russell, professor of archaeology at the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston.

"A decade of research in Iraq could rewrite the books of archaeology, no question," Russell, who is currently serving as a senior adviser to Iraq's Ministry of Culture, told *Reuters* on Thursday at the opening of new conservation and restoration laboratory at Iraq's National Museum in Baghdad.

"There is just a phenomenal amount of history in this country and much of it is yet to be discovered. But over time it will be and we'll have to totally rethink what we know."

In 1989 and 1990, Russell led excavations at the site of Nineveh, the ancient capital of the Assyrian empire, which lies on the Tigris river in northern Iraq, near modern-day Mosul.

In each year, he said, his team made discoveries that essentially pushed back the timeline for ancient civilization by a millennium. "It was just absolutely incredible, they were unprecedented discoveries. But Iraq is like that," he said.

Often referred to as the cradle of civilization, Iraq's modern-day boundaries encompass ancient Mesopotamia, the area between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, which was the foundation for the world's earliest societies.

Over the centuries, hugely important discoveries have been made in the area, from the Sumerian city of Ur in southern Iraq with its massive ziggurat, to ancient Babylon south of Baghdad.

Beyond those widely known sites, there are scores of other, lesser known settlements

that are steadily being excavated and perhaps dozens more that have yet to be discovered.

But the big hurdle is security. Almost a year after Saddam Hussein was overthrown, many areas remain unsafe and armed looters are a common enemy, particularly at remote sites.

In April last year, looters struck another terrible blow against Iraq's ancient heritage, stealing scores of priceless artifacts from the National Museum, many of which have yet to be recovered.

Some 5,000 cylinder seals, small cylindrical stones carved with decorative designs and used to identify tablets and ceramics, were stolen, along with the so-called Sumerian Mona Lisa, a 5,000-year-old alabaster sculpture of a woman's face.

That mask and some 1,000 of the seals have been recovered, but Russell, who is helping to oversee the restoration of the museum, says about 20 "unique, world-class pieces" are still missing, along with an estimated 10,000 smaller works.

Some of the pieces were smuggled out of Iraq, and investigators are working through the courts to try to recover items taken to Switzerland, the United States and Britain.

But Russell believes most of the outstanding artifacts are still in Iraq, and says the recovery rate for those stolen, at around 25 percent, is far better than it might have been.

He hopes the museum, which has been extensively renovated, will re-open in the next couple of months if security permits, allowing many of Iraq's greatest treasures to be on show again.

"This is one of the great museums of the world," he said. "In time, we hope to turn it into a truly viable academic research institute that draws art historians and archaeologists from all over the world." —Internet

Vietnam, Laos waive visas

HANOI, 7 March—Vietnamese and Laotian tourists will enjoy visa-free travel to each other countries beginning on July 1, the *Vietnam News* reported on Saturday.

Vietnam and Laos will allow people of the two countries carrying ordinary passports valid for at least six months from date of entry to stay for 30 days without a visa or transit permit. People

who want to stay more than 30 days will require a visa.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien and his Laotian counterpart Somsavat Lengsavat signed an agreement on Friday in HaLong Bay on the final day of the Association of the South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministerial Meeting (AMM) Retreat lifting visa requirements for people holding ordinary passports. Vietnam and Laos agreed to lift visa requirements for business travellers earlier.

MNA/Xinhua



US astronaut Michael Fincke and Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka (L) hang in space suits above a water pool after a training session in Star City outside Moscow, on 4 March, 2004. Padalka, Dutch ESA astronaut Andre Kuipers and Fincke are to blast off to the International Space Station from Baikonur cosmodrome on 19 April. —INTERNET

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



A US soldier rushes to his post to carry out security duty in Baghdad, Iraq on Saturday 6 March, 2004.

—INTERNET



An Iraqi man walks past a US tank during a demonstration in Baghdad, on 6 March, 2004. —INTERNET



Iraqi youths weep during a memorial service on 6 March, 2004 to honour their friends who were killed in Tuesday's suicide attacks in the Iraqi capital Baghdad and Karbala. —INTERNET



A US soldier sits on top of a M1 battle tank in front of Iraqi Health Ministry during a demonstration in Baghdad on 6 March, 2004. —INTERNET



US troops put plastic cuffs to an Iraqi health worker when the Iraqi workers tried to enter the Health Ministry office in Baghdad, Iraq on Saturday 6 March, 2004. —INTERNET



A British trooper frisks an Iraqi commuter as British soldiers stepped up their security in Basra, approximately 342 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq on Saturday 6 March, 2004. Four British troopers were injured during a clash with militants overnight in Amara, north of Basra. —INTERNET

US cancels big Iraq Army contract

WASHINGTON, 7 March — The US Army cancelled a 327-million-US-dollar contract to equip the Iraqi Army on Friday, citing technical problems with the bidding process, and denied cronyism played a role in awarding the original deal.

An Army official told reporters the original contract to Virginia-based company Nour USA, whose chairman is a close friend of Iraqi Governing Council member Ahmed Chalabi, had been withdrawn and new proposals for the work would be sought.

The official said a review of the contract found a huge

spread in competing bids, an indication competing suppliers had not understood the contract requirements in a uniform way.

"When we looked at the statement of work we saw that there were some ambiguities in there," said the official who spoke on condition he was not further identified.

The contract covers items from military vehicles and assault rifles to basic equipment such as backpacks.

The cancellation is a blow to the US military, which is racing to equip the Iraqi Army ahead of the scheduled handover from US forces to the Iraqis on June 30.

MNA/Reuters



US soldiers patrol the road leading to Baghdad international airport on 5 March, 2004.

INTERNET

NZ mountaineers to mark 50th anniversary of K2 climb

WELLINGTON, 7 March — Four New Zealand mountaineers from the South Island will leave for Pakistan later this month for K2, the world's second highest peak, to honour the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of K2 by Italian mountaineers, *New Zealand*

Press Association reported here Friday.

Christchurch climbers Geoff Gabites and Colin Monteath will be accompanied by Mark Gabites and Jef Desbecker, both professional back-country skiers from Queenstown.

They plan to ski up the 80km-long Baltoro glacier to the flanks of K2, 8,611m.

The expedition will start and finish from the township of Skardu, completing a 300 kilometres round trip after crossing the 5,200 metres Gondogorra Pass above Hushe Valley.

It will be late winter-early spring in the Karakoram mountains so the expedition, which leaves New Zealand on March 23, is expecting cold conditions and deep snow on the glaciers. This means hauling food and fuel supplies on plastic sledges.

MNA/Xinhua

Timber companies urged to protect China's forests

BEIJING, 7 March — Timber dealers and wooden flooring manufacturers must contribute to forest protection in order to preserve the natural environment and their own livelihoods, said analysts here Friday.

Yang Meixin, deputy director with the China Timber Distribution Association, said excessive felling was definitely short-sighted and would bring disaster to the environment and the timber industry.

On Friday, about 30 wood flooring manufacturers signed an agreement to donate three million yuan (360,000 US dollars) to the China Green Foundation for tree planting projects over five years. "It's a good initiative, and we expect more to join us," Yang said.

Zhu Lieke, acting director with the State Forestry Administration, said that protection and exploitation were not contradictory.

The priority was to protect natural forests and sustain forests in areas under state protection. Felling of natural forests is prohibited in China.

Meanwhile, the administration supported deve-

lopment of the timber industry and the State Council had approved a general plan of fast-growing trees to meet the rising demand for timber, he said.

In 2003, China reported 630,000 hectares of fast-growing plantations in 18 provinces and a total of 333 new nurseries covering 4,663 hectares.

The state administration would provide more favourable tax and financing policies for their development, Zhu said.

The value of China's wood flooring market, which exceeded 20 billion yuan (2.4 billion US dollars) in 2003, was growing very fast partly because of the thriving real-estate and home decoration sectors, so it was important to ensure a balanced development for the sake of consumers, companies and the environment, said Yang.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့စွေတာ သိန်းပါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်တုန့်မြင့်

Explosions echo across Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 7 March — Several explosions echoed across Baghdad on Friday, hours before the Iraqi Governing Council was due to sign a transitional Constitution.

A loud blast reverberated through the city centre at around 11.30 am (0830 GMT), rattling windows across the river from the main US headquarters. There were no further details.

Earlier, a US military spokesman said there had been six or seven blasts at Baghdad International Airport southwest of the city, where there is a major US base, between 10:15 and

10:30 am. There were no reports of damage or injuries.

US bases across the country regularly come under fire from mortars and grenades.

Police in the Ameriyah District in the west of the capital said a roadside bomb had detonated at around 9.30 am (0630 GMT), leaving a crater in the street but causing no casualties.

The Council had delayed

the signing for two days out of respect for at least 181 people killed in a series of attacks on Tuesday.

Three people were killed in the capital on Thursday in a rocket attack. There are frequent explosions in Baghdad, some caused by roadside bombs planted by guerrillas, others controlled by US troops destroying ordnance.

MNA/Reuters

Kerry blasts Bush's eco stewardship

HOUSTON, 7 March — Democratic White House candidate John Kerry blasted President George W Bush's economic stewardship on Saturday and declared in the Texan's own backyard, "Houston, we've got a problem."

During a Southern swing through four states — Texas, Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana — that hold primary contests next week, Kerry said Bush had produced a "barrel of broken promises" on jobs, health care and the federal budget.

At a rally in San Antonio, he accused the president of telling "tall Texas tales".

"He's trying to suggest — he says to Americans, 'you elect John Kerry, he's going to raise your taxes,'" the Massachusetts senator said.

"That's the old scare tactic. I hope this early in the campaign he's not running so scared he's already got to run from the truth."

Kerry was on his first trip since he won nine out of a possible 10 states on Super Tuesday and drove his only major competitor, North

Carolina Senator John Edwards, from the race.

In San Antonio, and earlier in Houston, he took several Texas-related swipes at Bush, who was born in Connecticut, but moved to the state when he was a toddler.

"If George Bush can move in, so can you," he told one newcomer.

When another lamented the fact that the president would return to Texas to live if he lost to Kerry on November 2, the senator shot back: "Well every state has its burden."

"Didn't the (Bush) promise 4 million jobs would be created with those tax cuts?" a raspy-voiced Kerry asked during a town hall meeting at Houston Community Col-

lege.

"We lost 3 million... 2.8 million Americans have lost their health care, he promised he was going to reduce the debt of our country by one trillion US dollars and he's added one trillion US dollars to the debt of our country," Kerry said.

"As the phrase goes, 'Houston, we've got a problem.'" He was referring to the now-legendary report of trouble aboard the US Apollo 13 lunar mission in 1970.

Kerry has promised to roll back Bush's tax cuts for Americans earning more than 200,000 US dollars a year, but supports targeted middle-class tax cuts for college, child care and health care.

MNA/Reuters

Alleged bribes could derail Lockheed-Titan deal

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 March — Top US defence contractor Lockheed Martin Corp and Titan Corp on Friday said they had learned of allegations of bribes by Titan consultants, which could jeopardize their proposed merger.

In nearly identical statements, the two companies said the US Justice Department had launched a criminal probe of the alleged payments to foreign officials, possibly opening a door for either side to cancel Lockheed's 1.8 billion US dollars buyout of Titan, which makes military communications gear.

A joint review by Lockheed Martin and Titan, as well as a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation and the Justice Department's inquiry might not be completed by a Titan stockholders meeting to consider the buyout deal on March 16, the companies said.

"If the merger is not completed by March 31, 2004, either Lockheed Martin or Titan may terminate the agreement," the companies said.

Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin announced plans to buy San Diego-based Titan last September for 22 US dollar per share. Titan shares closed at 20.93 US dollar on Friday. —MNA/Reuters



Philippine former Miss Philippines Carla Gay Balingit (R) transfers her crown to a new Miss Philippines, Maricar Bagatas, during the Miss Philippines beauty pageant in Manila on 6 March, 2004. Bagatas will represent the Philippines in the Miss Universe pageant which will be held in Ecuador.—INTERNET

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 7 March —

The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming. Kitchen crops, fruits and herbal plants are being shown. Poultry farming and fish breeding are also exhibited there. MNA



The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

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.

Myanmar pearl: a popular jewel around the world

Myint Lwin

Myanmar Tasaki Company Ltd (MTC), a branch of Tasaki Shinju Co Ltd of Japan, displayed 117,124 pieces of standard quality pearl in Thiri Yadana Hall at the Ministry of Mines in Yangon on 23 February. Myanmar Tasaki is a foreign company running a joint-venture business together with Myanmar Pearl Enterprise (MPE) of the ministry. Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, Managing Director of MPE U Maung Toe and officials visited the pearl exhibition.



Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint inspects Myanmar pearls. — Photo: Tha Nyan (MNA)

Production of more quality pearls in cooperation with joint-ventures in the coming years and their penetration in the global market are required, said Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint in his instructions given to officials at the exhibition.

The 117,124 pearls weighing 52,965.5 mommes worth six million euro. At the exhibition, Myanmar Tasaki officials announced that the company would increase production of natural pearls and quality cultured pearls, while trying to maintain the status of the Myanmar pearls at the global markets. The MPE is producing and selling natural and cultured pearls of its

own and also running joint-venture operations with local and foreign enterprises. The MTC netted the highest number of pearls during the current fiscal year in its history. The company will sell its pearls at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium to be held from 13 to 21 March, and is expecting to earn a large amount of foreign currency.

There are four kinds of pearl in the world. They are — Japanese pearl, South Sea pearl, black pearl and sea pearl. The type of Myanmar pearl is of same with the South Sea pearl. Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines are also producing South Sea pearls, famous for their brightness and compactness. Their colours vary

from pink, gold to silver. The pearls with golden hue are produced only in Myanmar, Indonesia and the Philippines. They are formed inside the oysters of larger species. These large oysters are found in the coastal seas in the south of Myanmar starting from Maungmakan islands in the north to Zadetgyi Island in the south.

Myanmar started the South Sea pearl production business in cooperation with Japan in 1954. In 1957, it started to produce South Sea pearls. Because of their quality, Myanmar pearls were famous in the world once.

As foreign merchants came to buy the Myanmar pearl at the Myanmar Gems Emporium

held in 1964, once again, Myanmar pearls have become popular in the world.

In the past, the whole pearl industry was totally under the State's control. Starting from 1993 the Government has permitted two local joint-venture firms and three foreign joint-venture companies to take part in the industry. Of the foreign joint-ventures, MTC is the most successful firm, producing 117,124 pearls valued at over six million euro.

At the State-owned pearl production centre at Pearl Island, over 100,000 oysters will be grown artificially beginning coming year as a means to boost pearl production. They will yield about 70,000 pearls within a two-year period. Plans are under way to artificially raise 50,000 oysters annually at another State-owned centre at Mali Island.

Under the agreement reached with the three foreign companies, each of the company will raise 200,000 oysters annually, and the total production of the three will reach 400,000 and 500,000 pearls every year.

The following table shows the year-wise pearl production of the MPE and local and foreign companies in Myanmar:

According to the table, the nation's annual pearl

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



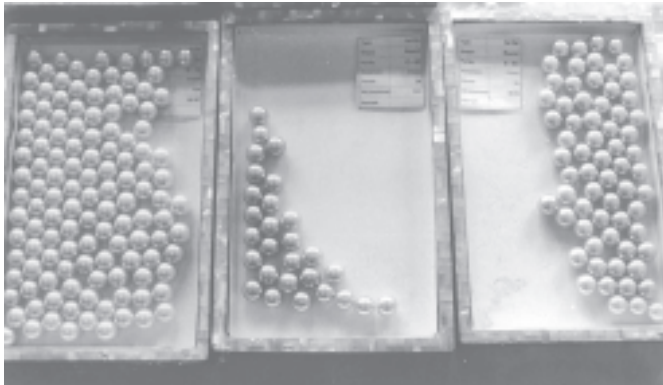
Significant Myanmar pearl. — Photo: Tha Nyan (MNA)

production has exceeded 100,000 since fiscal 2002-2003. As the MPE and the local and foreign companies are successfully conducting pearl culture, it is sure that the nation will be producing a greater number of standard quality pearls in the coming years, and will be earning more foreign currency.

Myanmar pearls are

is the one among the nine precious jewels. Myanmar believe that wearing pearl brings glory, health, youthfulness, longevity, prosperity and happiness.

Thus, efforts are required for the Myanmar pearls to find ready markets abroad, to produce more standard quality pearls, to make Myanmar pearls popu-



Myanmar pearls to be on display at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium. Photo: Tha Nyan (MNA)

Year	Pearls	Weight (momme)
2001-02	60288	22695
2002-03	127852	39318
2003-04	179295	72309
2004-05	237100	103830
		(estimated)
2005-06	323481	132612
		(estimated)
2006-07	432000	188160
		(estimated)

being displayed and sold with the aim of enabling them to regain their place in the world market as a popular jewel. In Myanmar, pearl

lar in the world, and to earn more foreign exchange.

(Translation: TMT)
Myanmar Alin Kyemon:
7-3-2004



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt fixes Seinbudaw atop Bagan Dhammarazaka Replica Pagoda.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hoists Seinbudaw atop Maha Muni Replica Pagoda.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe offer Hngetmyatnadaw to Kyaikhtihsaung Sayadaw.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt fixes Seinbudaw atop Kelasa Hsindawshin Replica Pagoda.— MNA

Prime Minister attends ceremony to hoist...

(from page 1)

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe conveyed the Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw of the Shwedagon replica Pagoda and the commander, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers and disciples the Seinbudaws, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwehtidaw of Datpaungzone Pagodas.

At the auspicious time, Kyaikhtihsaung Sayadaw and the Prime Minister hoisted Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda and sprinkled scented water on them.

Kyaikhtihsaung Sayadaw and the Prime Minister hoisted Hngetmyatnadaws and Seinbudaws of Mandalay Maha Muni Buddha Image and Kaylatha Hsindawshin replica Pagoda atop the pagoda and sprinkled scented water on them.

Next, Kyaikhtihsaung Sayadaw and the Prime Minister hoisted tiers of Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaws and Seinbudaws of Bagan Dhammarazaka replica pagoda and Kyaikhtiyoe Hsindawshin replica pagoda atop the pagoda and sprinkled scented water on them.

Kyaikhtihsaung Sayadaw and the Prime Minister



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveils bronze plaque of ZabuOkshaung Myatphonekhaung Datpaungzone Pagoda.— MNA

ter hoisted Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw of Kyaikhtihsaung Hsindawshin replica pagoda and sprinkled scented water on them.

At the auspicious time, the Prime Minister hoisted a religious flag on the Dagundaing and performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the success of the ceremony.

Next, Kyaikhtihsaung Sayadaw and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cleansed the replica image of Mandalay Maha Muni in the reliquary and offered flowers and Shwethingana to the pagoda.

The Prime Minister cleansed the replica images of Shinupagutta and Shinsivali.

Next, the prime minister cleansed the seven rep-

licas. Afterwards, he enshrined the pagoda, and fixed the Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw and sprinkled scented water on it.

The Prime Minister and party also offered soon (day meal) to Kyaikhtisaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panñadipa.

Next, they offered lights to replicas and went round the Shwedagon replica clockwise.

The Sayadaw and the Prime Minister unveiled the bronze plaque and sprinkled scented water on it.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister planted the Bandara mango tree in the compound and performed the rituals of silver and golden showers to mark the successful completion of the ceremony.

MNA

Yangon North District women's team wins championship trophy in soccer

YANGON, 7 March—The prize presentation ceremony of the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Women's Football Tournament was held at the sports ground of Myanma Railways in Insein Township this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division

Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Patron of Yangon Division Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Khin Thet Htay.

In the final match, Yangon North District women's team beat Yangon West District women's team 2-1.

After the final match, officials presented cash prizes to the winning teams. Wife of the commander Daw Khin Thet Htay presented K 200,000 to Yangon North District women's team.

Later, the commander presented championship trophy to Yangon North District women's team.— MNA

Htidaw hoisted atop Zeyatheikdi TadaU Pagoda in Myitnge

YANGON, 7 March—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun today attended the ceremony to hoist Htidaw atop Zeyatheikdi TadaU Pagoda near Myitnge Bridge construction project in Mandalay and hoisted the tiers of Htidaw of the pa-

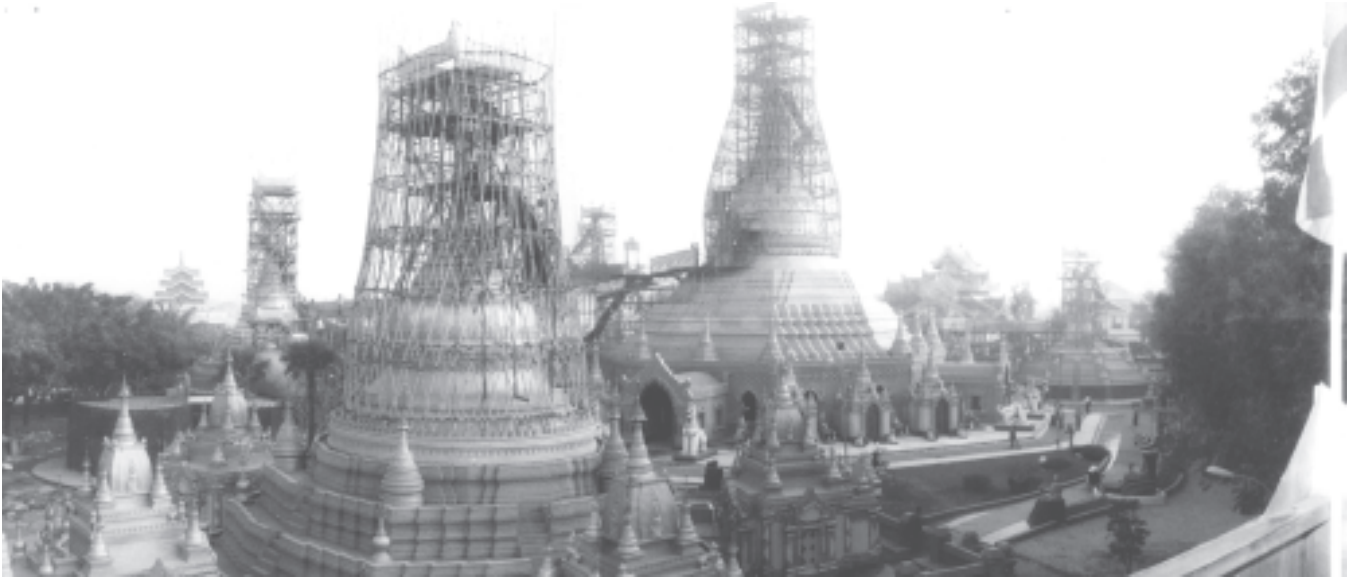
goda. First, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw of Hsinphyumae Monastery Bhaddanta U Uttara, and the members of the Sangha recited the Parittas.

Next, officials of the ministry donated Seinphu-

daw, Hngetmyatnadaw and offertories to the members of the Sangha.

To mark the successful completion of the ceremony, the minister and wellwishers performed the rituals of golden and silver showers.

MNA



The Zabau Okshaung Myatphonekhaung Datpaungzone Pagodas at Mingaladon Garden City. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers gold foils to the Replica of Mandalay Maha Muni Buddha Image. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party offer "soon" to Kyaihtsihsaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panadipa. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sprinkles scented water on Sattahtana Buddha Images at the Mingaladon Garden City on Sunday. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt plants a sapling of Bandara mango in the premises of Zabau Okshaung Myatphonekhaung Datpaungzone Pagodas. — MNA

Thai delegation tours Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan-NyaungU

YANGON, 7 March— A visiting Thai delegation led by Minister of Sports and Tourism Mr Sontaya Kunplome together with Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, the Thai ambassador to Myanmar and officials viewed exhibits on display at the National Museum on Pyay Road here on 5 March.

Next, the visiting delegation proceeded to Lawka Chantha Abhaya

Labha Muni Image on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township where they paid homage to the image and made cash donations.

Accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials, the visiting delegation on 6 March arrived in Mandalay where they viewed Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace, Shwe Kyaungdawgyi, U Sein Myint embroidery and Lunyakyaw lac industry.

Next, the visiting delegation paid homage to Shwesikhon Pagoda, Lawkananda Pagoda, Ananda Pagoda and Dhammarazaka Pagoda in Bagan-NyaungU. They also observed the production process of lacquerware there.

This morning, the visiting delegation together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials visited Shwedagon Pagoda where the Thai

minister signed in the visitors' book and made cash donation for the pagoda.

The visiting Thai delegation and Myanmar hoteliers and tour operators led by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu discussed matters related to tourism development between the two countries at Kanyektha Road this morning.

MNA

Say No To Drugs



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hears reports on construction of Bago-Nyaunglaybin road section of Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway by officials of Shwe Than Lwin Highway Co Ltd.— MNA

Secretary-2 inspects upgrading...

(from page 16)

companies and construction of under 50-foot long bridges.

Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave a supplementary report.

After that, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave instructions on completion of the work sooner, meeting the set standard, stockpiling of machinery, proper flow of drains either sides of the road and making strenuous efforts in the open season.

Next, the Secretary-2 and party proceeded to the briefing hall of Yangon-Nyaunglaybin railroad section upgrading project being undertaken by Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation in the compound of Phayagyi Railways Station in Bago Township.

The Secretary-2 and party were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than and officials. At the briefing hall, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min reported on progress of Yangon-Mandalay railroad upgrading project, upgrading of 92.75 miles long Yangon-Nyaunglaybin railroad section as the first phase, purchase of heavy machinery, construction of the Concrete Sleeper Factory (Pyundaza), substitution of concrete sleepers along Yangon-Nyaunglaybin railroad sec-

tion, welding of rail tracks and requirement of another circular railroad for extended plying of more trains in suburban sections.

General Manager (Civil) U Thi Han reported on upgrading of 57-mile long Yangon-Phayagyi railroad section being carried out by Myanmar Railways Divisions 6 and 7 and 132-mile long Mandalay-Tatkon railroad section by Divisions 3, 4 and 5 for the first phase of Yangon-Mandalay Railroad Upgrading Project and 196-mile long Phayagyi-Tatkon section upgrading project for the second phase to be carried out in coming financial year.

Director-General of Transport Planning Department U Kyaw Hsan reported on arrangements being made for extended plying of trains in suburban railroad sections of the city for ensuring smooth transport of daily passengers, comparison of Yangon City population with the passengers of trains, income of circular trains and plan under way for extended plying of trains.

The minister then gave a supplementary report.

Next, the Secretary-2 delivered a speech, saying that the Government manages for ensuring smooth and secure transport. Motor roads and railroads are being upgraded to enable the passengers to save transport charges as well as to improve transport in a short time. Better transport can contribute to development of not only education and

health sectors of the people but also the national unity. It will also contribute to ensuring correct flow of commodity and it will reflect sufficiency of basic needs of the people. Therefore, concerted efforts are to be made with goodwill for timely completion of upgrading the motor roads and railroads.

In building the suburban circular railroad of Yangon City, priority tasks are to be implemented step by step. And, arrangements are to be made for plying of trains on right time, power supply, security and sanitation of toilets.

Then, the Secretary-2 and party inspected grinding of stones at the compound of rail track welding workshop of Yangon-Nyaunglaybin Railroad Section Upgrading Project.

Afterwards, they inspected upgrading tasks along Phayagyi Station to Shwehlay Station by railway trolley with the use of the Automatic Levelling, Lining and Tamping Machine.

The Secretary-2 and party then saw over substitution of sleepers and welding of rail tracks and gave necessary instructions.

Next, they inspected completion of upgrading tasks from Shwehlay Station to Bago Station and left Bago for Yangon in the afternoon.

MNA

Work Committee for development of environs of Kandawgyi Garden and upgrading Yangon Zoological Gardens meets

YANGON, 7 March — Work Committee for development of environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Garden and upgrading Yangon Zoological Gardens held its coordination meeting at briefing hall for construction of water plaza in central forest zone in Kandawgyi this afternoon.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe said significant progress has been made in implementation of the tasks for development of Yangon City Kandawgyi Garden and upgrading Yangon Zoological Gardens.

He said departments concerned are carrying out the tasks for upgrading Kandawgyi Garden in four zones. He called for making efforts in harmony.

Heads of departments reported on progress of work in the respective zones and arrangements for maintenance.



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses coordination meeting on all-round upgrading of environs of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens (Yangon).— YANGON COMMAND

nance.

The commander then fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the commander inspected construction of conference hall in relaxation zone and timber walkway and gave instructions on early completion of the projects in accord with the standard set.

MNA

Stake driven for building Youth Nurturing Unit in Muse

YANGON, 7 March — A ceremony to drive stake for the building of Youth Nurturing Unit, to be built by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, was held in Tima Village, Namh-un Village-tract, Muse Township, Shan State (North) on 4 March morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint, CCDAC member Deputy Director-General Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win of Myanmar Police Force, Director of CCDAC Office Police Col

Sit Aye, Shan State (North) Additional Police Commander Police Col Win Naing, local authorities and people, totalling about 1,000.

At the ceremony, Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win gave a speech, saying that there are a sizeable number of drug addicts in Shan State (North) area according to the current data. This is why drug addict treatment hospitals and clinics are required in the region. In meeting with high-ranking officials of the State, local national race leaders reported to open the drug ad-

dict treatment camps in the region. So, the CCDAC Special Meeting No 2/2003 led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt held on 7 September 2003 decided to open a drug addict treatment and rehabilitation unit in the suitable region of Shan State (North) area. In accord with the decision of the meeting, the place near Tima Village, Namh-un Village-tract, Muse Township, was chosen for opening the Youth Nurturing Unit.

Next, Additional Head of Shan State (North) Health

Department Dr Nyo Win Myint explained functions of the Health Department to participate in carrying out drug addicts treatment and rehabilitation tasks.

Then, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, Deputy Director-General of MPF Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win, Director Police Col Sit Aye of CCDAC Office, Police Col Win Naing and Chairman of Muse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Soe Win and officials drove stakes for the building.

MNA

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မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း

**Wellwishers
invited for
sinking tube-wells**

YANGON, 7 March — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in states and divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, the Director (Engineering), the Director (Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee). — MNA



The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

**Chinese President reaffirms support for HK,
Macao governments**

BEIJING, 7 March — President Hu Jintao said Saturday that the central government will continue to implement the basic policy of “One Country, Two Systems”, pledging full support for the governments of Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions (SAR) to maintain long-term prosperity and stability in the two regions.

President Hu made the remarks while meeting with Tung Chee Hwa, chief executive of the Hong Kong

SAR, and Edmund Ho Hau Wah, chief executive of the Macao SAR, on two separate occasions Saturday evening in Beijing.

The two chief executives are attending the ongoing session of National People's Congress (NPC) as non-voting delegates.

During his meeting with Tung Chee Hwa, Hu acknowledged that the economy of Hong Kong has shown the momentum of recovery with increased confidence of local residents, which is the result of common efforts of all walks of life in Hong Kong under the support of the central government.

The President pledged the central government would continue support the Hong Kong SAR Government's work in line with the Basic Law, and help Hong Kong to recover its economy. He called on personages from all walks of life in Hong Kong to concentrate their efforts through uniting as one in their efforts to overcome difficulty and constantly strive for a

better future of Hong Kong. Hu spoke highly of the positive discussion on the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” in Hong Kong, and said that it is necessary to review Deng Xiaoping's theory on “One Country, Two Systems”, which is still playing a significant role in guiding the practice.

During his meeting with Edmund Ho Hau Wah, the President praised the government for its efforts and progresses in maintaining the good situation in Macao.

Hu hoped that the Macao SAR Government and all walks of life in Macao would continue implement the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and the Basic Law, and press ahead with the momentum of economic development and stable society, and explore and accumulate new experiences on successful practice of “One Country, Two Systems” policy. Vice-President Zeng Qinghong was present at the two meetings. — MNA/Xinhua

**Ugandan army rescues 148
abducted people in two weeks**

KAMPALA, 7 March — The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) has rescued 148 abducted people in the last two weeks in the three northern districts of Lira, Pader and Kitgum.

UPDF 5th Division spokesman Chris Magezi was quoted Saturday by local media as saying that “the majority of them are girls who were wives of senior commanders of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels in the bush in the Sudan.”

Magezi, who handed over the former abducted children to a rehabilitation centre in Lira, said among those rescued were 70 girls who are now child mothers, aged between 14 and 19 years, but with a few as young as seven years old. There were 60 children born in the abducted period, among them 37 girls and 23 boys.

The spokesman said nine children had come back without their mothers who were killed in the bush.

Some of the former abducted children were taken to Kampala on Wednesday to meet President Yoweri Museveni.

“We are hunting for the remaining LRA rebel commanders responsible for these abductions,” the spokesman said. “We must track down and punish these terrorists for harming our children.”

The LRA rebels, based in the southern part of Sudan, have abducted over 20,000 children and displaced over one million people in northern Uganda in their 18-year rebellion.

MNA/Xinhua

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့် ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကဲစွာသုံးစွဲခြင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများမှာ အသည်းရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည်းခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအနံ့ခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြော ထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါများဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ —
၁။ ကယောင့်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremens)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်၊ နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်းနိုင်စွမ်း မရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများမြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံဗလများ ကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုမိုများများ ခန္ဓာကိုယ်ပေါ် ရုစိစိ သွားသလို ခံစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန့်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သည့်အခါတွင် လူမရှိပဲ နားထွင် ခေါ်သံများ၊ ဇီဝိမိခြောက်သံများ၊ ခေါ်ကားခေါ်ကားသံများ ကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinations)။

၃။ အတက်ကြွရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits) (ဝက်ရူးပြန် ရောဂါ ကဲ့သို့တတ်ခြင်း)။

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Depressive Illness)။

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)။

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချို့ယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ်သောက် ရုံဖြင့် ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)။

၈။ မိမိ၏ခန့်ကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲမှားခြင်းများဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Morbid Jealousy)။

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှု ကျူးလွန်သည့်အထိဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။

အထက်ပါဆိုကျိုးများကို မခံစားရစေရန် အရက်သောက် သုံးခြင်း၊ အသုံးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကို စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန်တိုက်တွန်း အပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေး ဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေး ဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျ ကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

**Sri Lankan PM calls for strong
mandate to boost economy**

COLOMBO, 7 March — Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has called on the people in the country to extend a strong mandate to his United National Front (UNF) in the forthcoming general election to boost the country's war-affected economy, the official Daily News said on Saturday.

“We have to establish an economy which could create employment and increase the income level of the people. The UNF has comprehensive plans to improve the economy and we have already identified relevant sectors that need to be upgraded,” Wickremesinghe said while addressing several election rallies in the country on Friday.

He said that his government has already prepared plans to strengthen the economy in the south of the country. “We have focused our attention to further improve the tourism sector, specially in the southern area and already several projects have been earmarked for implementation,” he added. He noted that with those plans the tourism sector in the south will be upgraded to a greater extent creating thousands of employment.

The Sri Lankans are set to cast their votes to select a new 225-member Parliament on April 2. —MNA/Xinhua

“သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တင် ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား မြို့တွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတိမှတ်ခေါက်ရေခွင့်အညီ ဝတ်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ဝေ ထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတ်မှတ်နှုန်းထားများ အတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက် တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင်ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနည်းတို့များ သတိတိုက်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

- (၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉)
- (၂) ကြီးမဲကြေးနန်းနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့ချုပ် (ဖုန်း ၂၉၁၇၄၇/၂၉၁၇၄၈)
- (၃) ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

(ဖုန်း ၅၄၁၉၀၅/၅၄၁၉၀၄)

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းရုံ သာမက ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခ ဖြည့်ဝခြင်းတို့ကိုဆိုသည်။

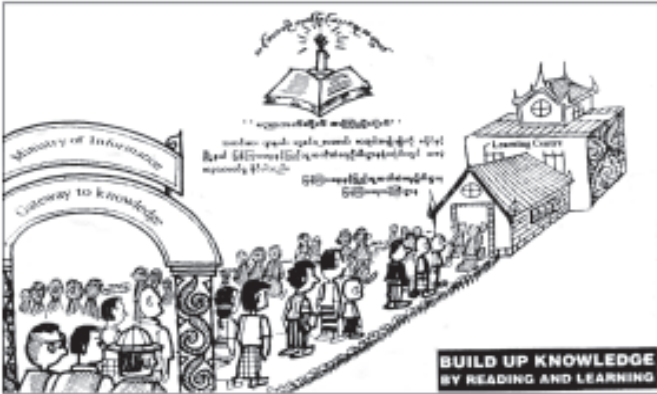
ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များကို စားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုများကင်းစင်၍ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာ ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင့်တင့်မျှတသော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်အန္တရာယ်မှကာကွယ်ရန် ခြင်တောင်ဖြင့်အိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယင်လုံအိမ်ဘောင်းဘီဝတ်ပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက် မွေးဖွားပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ပျားရည်နှင့် အစွမ်းသတ္တိ

- * ပျားရည်သည် အင်အားပြည့်တင်းပေးရာတွင် အသန့်စင်ဆုံး အာဟာရတစ်မျိုး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် သတ္တုဓာတ်၊ အင်ဇိုင်းနှင့် အာဟာရဓာတ် အများအပြားပါဝင်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်သည် သစ်သီး၊ သကြားဓာတ် အဓိကပါဝင်သော သကြားဓာတ်ပေါင်း တစ်မျိုးဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် ဘက်တီးရီးယားပိုးများ သန့်စင်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် ပဋိဇီဝ စွမ်းရည်သတ္တိပါရှိသဖြင့် အနာဒဏ်ရာများ အနာကျက်မြန်စေပြီး လျင်မြန်စွာ ပျောက်ကင်းစေပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်စားသုံးပြီး မိနစ်ပိုင်းအတွင်း စွမ်းအားတိုးတက် လာစေနိုင်ပါသည်။



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U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B., DBL, Dip in Marine Affairs (UK)
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Tanzania's external debt increases
DAR-ES-SALAAM, 7 March — Tanzania's external debt increased by 97.5 million US dollars by last December to an alarming figure of almost 7,900 million, local newspaper reported Friday. A report from Bank of Tanzania cited by the *Business Times* indicated that the debt had reached 7,890.7 million dollars due to interests arrears accumulation and exchange rate fluctuation. It is reported that the currency had depreciated by 1.6 per cent in less than six months last year. The Tanzanian Government signed bilateral debt relief agreements with all Paris Club creditors except Brazil and Japan last December. — *MNA/Xinhua*

ပြည်တွင်းဖြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်းတွင်
အသုံးပြုရန်အတွက်
လုံခြုံစိတ်ချရသော စည်းကမ်းချက်များ
၁။ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဝတ္ထုတိုက်ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။
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၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၁၁-၃-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၃၀)နာရီ တွင် ဝိတ်သိမ်းပါမည်။
၃။ တင်ဒါပုံနှိပ်နှင့်အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါ လိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်စုံစမ်း ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။
ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ ဝတ္ထုတိုက်များဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့် ထုတ်ဝေရေးဈေးကော်မတီ
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
အမှတ် (၂၂) သီရိဗြဟ္မာ၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့
ဖုန်းနံပါတ် ၂၄၅၆၂၄၊ ၂၄၅၆၃၁၊ ၂၄၅၆၄၇

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Panasonic

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U OHN MAUNG, B.Sc., B.L.
Advocate & Notary Public
No. 3, 34th Street, Yangon.

HK jewellers interested in expanding Mainland business

HONG KONG, 7 March — The free trade arrangement between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong, which came into effect on 1 January, increases Hong Kong jewellers' interest in the Mainland market, according to a survey conducted during the Hong Kong International Jewellery Show this week.

The survey conducted by Oracle market Research was commissioned by Hong Kong's Trade Development Council (TDC). A total of 495 exhibitors and 759 buyers were interviewed during the fair, which ended on Friday.

According to the Mainland/Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), several fine jewellery items made in Hong

Kong, subject to the CEPA's rules of origin, can enjoy duty-free access to the Chinese Mainland.

Moreover, in the area of distribution services, Hong Kong jewellers qualified under CEPA are granted additional market access to the Mainland market.

For exhibitors who are currently selling products to the Mainland market, 64 per cent of them are interested in expanding their business under CEPA. For those who have yet to sell to the mainland, 40 per cent of them plan to start up soon.

Key strategies of respondents to open-up the Mainland market include establishing retail stores and distribution centres, developing a new brand or promoting overseas brands, producing "made in

China's reliance on global oil market to further mount this year

BEIJING, 7 March — China is expected to import 120 million tons of oil, including more than 90 million tons of crude oil, to fuel high GDP growth this year, with the nation's dependence on the world oil market bound to aggravate.

Official statistics show that in 2003, net oil imports by China amounted to 97.39 million tons, including 82.99 million tons of crude oil, up 30 per cent or so over the previous-year level.

The proportion of overseas crude oil processed by refineries nationwide went up from 28 per cent in 2002 to 34 per cent last year, according to the statistics. The mounting reliance on imports is attributed by experts from China Petroleum Group to a limited domestic crude oil production and a substantial increase in demand.

China produced 169.319 million tons of crude oil in 2003, a timid growth of 1.5 per cent over 2002. And the growth rate slowed by one percentage point from the previous year. Last year the country's oil demand was shored up mainly by the combination of a 9.1-per cent economic growth, oil-firing power generating as against a backdrop of electricity shortage in the eastern and southern parts of China and a significant increment in car population, according to Tian Chunrong, a senior engineer with the nation's another oil mogul China Petrochemical Group (Sinopec). — *MNA/Xinhua*

သစ်တောသစ်ပင် ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး
သစ်ပင်ကိုနှစ်စဉ်စိုက် ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုး

မဟာရားပြင် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Second NASA Rover finds signs of water on Mars

LOS ANGELES, 7 March—The Mars rover *Spirit* found the first indications that small amounts of water may have welled up in the soil of Gusev Crater where the rover landed in January, a NASA scientist said on Friday.

The finding comes three days after NASA officials announced that *Spirit's* twin, *Opportunity*, had uncovered geologic evidence that its landing site on the other side of the Red Planet, the Meridiani Planum, once was covered with water.

Scientists working with *Spirit* deduced that water formed small holes, or vugs, and left mineral deposits in a rock nicknamed Humphrey. The rover drilled a 0.85-inch-deep hole into Humphrey and examined its interior with instruments to determine its mineral composition.

"If we found this rock on Earth we would say this is a volcanic rock that has had a little bit of fluid move through it either when it formed or shortly thereafter," Ray Arvidson, deputy lead scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, said on Friday.

"The best bet is that water was in the magma. I don't think it was a groundwater percolation but water that came up with the magma," he added.

The amount of water found at Gusev

Crater — a canyon the size of Connecticut that scientists believe is an ancient lake bed — "is by no means the gobs of water at Meridiani, but it again demonstrates that when rocks are made on Mars, fluids are involved."

Spirit, now in the 61st martian day, or sol, of its mission, is making its way through a rock-strewn plain toward the Bonneville Crater, about 500 feet in diameter.

Scientists hope to direct the golf cart-sized rover to the rim of the crater and peer inside, or drive into it, in hopes of finding rocks from below the planet's lava-capped surface.

Along the way, the team of scientists and engineers will look for dark-coloured split rocks that they can use to verify the findings at Humphrey, Arvidson said.

"We will stress to the (drilling) team to make deeper holes to make sure we're not being fooled," he said. "We want to make sure we are not looking at dust that has infiltrated into the rock's surface."

MNA/Reuters

The Mars Exploration Rover *Spirit* casts a shadow over the trench that it is examining with tools on its robotic arm. The US rover *Spirit*, which landed on Mars in January, has found additional signs that water existed on the Red Planet, NASA said in a statement.

INTERNET



S African President urges more input in education

JOHANNESBURG, 7 March — South African President Thabo Mbeki said the government should put more money into further education Friday.

Campaigning for the general election in April, Mbeki braved the driving rain to meet the students and staff in Tshwane North College's Mamelodi campus outside Pretoria, executive capital of the country.

"I have learnt a lot, I am ashamed to say," he said while visiting an engine repairing class. Mbeki said he realized that the government would have to provide more

support in funding and scholarships.

"What is being done here is critical to the future of the country," he said, adding that it should not be treated as a sideshow.

Students screamed and shouted as the President made his way to the campus — bodyguards working hard to fend off his admirers. "We love you Mr President," the star-struck students screamed.

And when Mbeki asked jokingly whom they would vote for, the students answered: "Isn't it obvious, Mr President?"

MNA/Xinhua

Thousands stranded after South Korean snowstorm

SEOUL, 7 March—Helicopters dropped food and fuel supplies to thousands of drivers marooned on highways across South Korea, officials said on Saturday, after the worst March snowfall in a century blanketed the country's central region.

By noon, about 2,200 cars with 4,000 passengers were stranded on two major highways linking the capital Seoul to cities in the south, the Korea Highway Corporation said.

Besides deploying vehicles to clear the roads, the government mobilized 34 helicopters to meet the basic needs of motorists, some of whom had been struggling for more than 24 hours on the snow-covered highways.

MNA/Reuters

No new SARS cases on Chinese Mainland

BEIJING, 7 March—China's Ministry of Health said here Saturday that no new cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) were reported in the 24 hours from 10:00 am Friday to 10:00 am Saturday on the Chinese Mainland.

Chinese Mainland reported a total of four SARS cases in south China's Guangdong Province so far this year. The four patients have been released from hospital after recovery.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore rules "misadventure" in Iranian twins' death

SINGAPORE, 7 March—A Singapore court ruled on Saturday that "misadventure" was the cause of death for conjoined adult twins from Iran who died during surgery to separate them.

The Coroner's Court had heard three days of testimony on the deaths of 29-year-old Laleh and Ladan Bijani from massive blood loss at Singapore's Raffles Hospital following a marathon 52-hour surgery to separate their tightly enmeshed brains on July 8.

"I am satisfied on the evidence before me that there is no one criminally concerned in these two deaths," said state coroner Malcolm Tan.

A coroner's court inquiry is standard procedure when people die under surgery in Singapore.

The team of 28 doctors

and about 100 assistants was led by Dr Keith Goh of Singapore and assisted by Dr Benjamin Carson of Johns Hopkins University Hospital, who was recently appointed to US President George W Bush's Council on Bioethics.

Alireza Safaian, an Iranian doctor who adopted the twins and raised them for 27 years, had accused the surgeons of killing the women. A neurosurgeon in Germany, Madjid Samii, who declined to separate them when they were 14 years old, has said he was stunned it was even attempted.

MNA/Reuters

EU opens trade probe into salmon imports

BRUSSELS, 7 March—The European Commission decided on Friday to launch a probe into whether salmon imports are flooding the EU from Norway, Chile and the Faroe Islands as British and Irish fish farmers seek protective trade measures.

Barely a year after the European Union ended anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on salmon imports, the Commission said it would act on the British and Irish complaints.

"The European Commission has decided to open a safeguard investigation into imports of farmed salmon,"

Commission trade spokeswoman Arancha Gonzalez told a news conference.

"We have been given sufficient evidence to open the case. There has been a sudden increase from all sources. Britain and Irish governments have quoted a rise of 14 per cent in input."

MNA/Reuters

World's oldest man dies at 114 in Spain

MADRID, 7 March — A retired Spanish shoemaker born in the same year as Adolf Hitler and officially the world's oldest man has died at his home at the age of 114, his family said on Saturday.

Guinness Book of World Records recognized Joan Riudavets Moll as the world's oldest man following the death of Japan's Yukichi Chuganji, also 114, in September.

Riudavets, who attributed his longevity to a life of moderation, was born on December 15, 1889 — the year Hitler and Charlie Chaplin were born and the year the Eiffel Tower was completed.

He had been retired for half a century. He died at home in Es Migjorn Gran on the Spanish Mediterranean island of Menorca on Friday night, a police spokesman there said.

"I spoke to him a few days ago and he had all his faculties," the spokesman said. "He spoke and reasoned perfectly well without any problems. It was a natural death; he had not been ill."

Riudavets' grandson said he was still taking walks at the end of his life and was always surrounded by friends.

"He nearly always had people around

him and he had a great gift for words," his eldest grandson, Pablo, told Reuters. "There were a lot of anecdotes."

Riudavets, who joined the family shoemaking business and retired in 1954, lived to see huge advances in medicine and science, but he never stopped marvelling at inventions like the aeroplane — first flown when he was a teenager — and electricity.

"The aeroplane was something incredible, but the most important change was electricity — without doubt, it changed everything," the *Guinness* web site quoted him as saying.

He attributed his long life to doing everything in moderation, including smoking "but not too much". He used to sleep up to 14 hours a day but also enjoyed playing football and the guitar.

Trini Pinto Alvarez, who lives in the village, said: "He was a shoemaker, he worked hard, had a good life... Everybody knew him. When he had birthdays, the village threw fiestas."—MNA/Reuters

Panda centre turns down mating request from Shanghai Zoo

CHENGDU, 7 March—The Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Centre, in southwest China's Sichuan Province, on Friday turned down a request for one of its 16 adult female giant pandas to mate with Guoqing, the only fertile male raised at Shanghai Safari Park.

Yu Jianqiu, deputy head of the centre, said a study of Guoqing's records showed he was too closely related to the centre's pandas.

The 120-kilo Guoqing, four years and a half old, was born at the famous Wolong-based China Giant Panda Protection and Research Centre in 1999. He has reached his reproductive prime.

On March 3, the Shanghai Safari Park published a nationwide notice seeking a suitable mate.

Giant pandas are famous for their low propagation rates. They mature at four or five years old, and often rut in spring and deliver cubs in autumn, said Yu.

Yu said Chinese researchers had overcome three major difficulties in

propagation of the giant pandas — mating, pregnancy and survival of the cubs, which no exceeds 90 per cent.

The giant pandas are one of the most endangered species in the world. Only about 1,000 are estimated to live in the wild, all in the mountainous areas of west China. More than 140 live in captivity around the world.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Wenger says FA Cup replays part of English culture

LONDON, 7 March — FA Cup replays are a cherished part of English soccer culture and the Premier League should remain a 20-club competition, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said on Friday.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said on Monday he was considering changing FIFA's statutes to force a cut in leagues to 18 clubs from 20 and he said officials should also consider cutting out replays in the FA Cup, soccer's oldest competition. "Replays in the FA Cup are part of the English culture and I prefer 20 clubs in the league," said Frenchman Wenger, who guided Arsenal to their second successive FA Cup triumph last season.

"Many countries have tried 18 clubs and have come back to 20. There is no basic reason to change it in England," he told the London Evening Standard newspaper.

Blatter wants to cut the number of games so that top players stay fit and clubs and countries can fit into a coordinated soccer calendar.

"There is a minimum of freedom you have to protect in every country so they can make their own decisions," Wenger added.

"This kind of freedom is linked with culture, tradition and history. You have to leave that."

"In England the replay is part of the culture of the country and I don't want them scrapped. No one wants to give up the chance to play at home if you have earned a draw in a difficult tie (away). "You sense the passion in England in the FA Cup. Am I committed to it? Just look at our record."

Arsenal travel to Portsmouth for an FA Cup quarterfinal on Saturday. If they reach the final on May 22, they will be the first club to reach four consecutive finals.—MNA/Reuters



Porto soccer player Pedro Mendes (foreground) is challenged by Belenenses Jose Sousa during their Portuguese Premier League match at Dragon stadium in Porto on 5 March, 2004.—INTERNET

Transsexual misses cut at women's Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 7 March — Transsexual golfer Mianne Bagger missed the cut at the women's Australian Open in Sydney on Friday, finishing at 14-over par after two rounds. Bagger, whose participation in the event has been widely criticized as a publicity stunt, fired a respectable second round of 74 after shooting a disastrous opening round 84.

Briton Laura Davies shot a second round 68 for a 36-hole total of eight-under-par 136 to lead Italy's Sophie Sandolo by four strokes.

Australia's Nadina Taylor was a further two shots adrift in third place. Danish-born Bagger, who started playing golf at aged eight, had sex-change surgery in 1995 after a lifetime of feeling "something wasn't quite right."

She started playing social golf again in 1998 and swiftly chalked up amateur victories, winning the South Australian State Championship in 1999 and again in 2001 and 2002.—MNA/Reuters

Keane escapes with one-match ban for Porto red card

LONDON, 7 March—Manchester United captain Roy Keane received the minimum one-match Champions League ban on Friday for his dismissal against Porto last Wednesday.

European body UEFA could have imposed a three-match ban but opted for a lesser punishment which means the Irish midfielder will be able to play in the quarterfinals if United overturn their 2-1 first-leg deficit.

UEFA said on its web site. Keane was sent off for stepping on Porto goalkeeper Vitor Baia in the 87th-minute of the first leg defeat. Keane will sit out the second leg at Old Trafford next Tuesday. MNA/Reuters

Crunch time for Man United, says Ferguson

MANCHESTER (England), 7 March — Manchester United face a make-or-break week in their bid to win honours this season, their manager Alex Ferguson said on Friday.

United meet Fulham in the FA Cup quarterfinals on Saturday before trying to overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit against Porto in the Champions League on Tuesday.

"The next five days are extremely important to our season, they really are."

We are going into two massive one-off games. The positive thing is that we are at home in both," Ferguson told a news conference on Friday.

With United nine points behind Arsenal in the Premier League, their main chances of success are the FA Cup and Champions League.

"The Cup ties are always sudden death and we have two one-off games now," Ferguson said. "Although we are a goal behind against Porto, we have an away goal which is an advantage to us."

"And while Fulham have improved a lot

this season, if you have a home draw in the quarterfinal, you have to take advantage of that."

United won the last of their record 10 FA Cups in 1999 and Ferguson, whose team missed the competition the following season to play in the World Club Championship, regards it as a priority.

"There could be a Nationwide League team in the final but I just say let's make sure we are in the pot for the semifinal."

"We haven't been in a final for five years. We are determined to get there."

"We have served our penance for withdrawing that year and hopefully we can go the whole way."

"We have a fantastic record in semifinals, if we get there hopefully that will stay strong."

MNA/Reuters

Raul out, Beckham doubtful with tonsillitis

MADRID, 7 March—Raul will miss Real Madrid's league game at Racing Santander on Saturday because of injury, while David Beckham is a doubt because of illness, the club said on Friday. Spain striker Raul was left out of the squad on Friday after failing to recover from an ankle injury.

The club's medical staff will now concentrate on getting him fit for the Champions League clash with Bayern Munich at the Bernabeu on Wednesday.

England captain Beckham missed training on Friday because he has tonsillitis and a decision will be made on whether he can play against Racing on the day of the game. — MNA/Reuters



Spain's Maria Sanchez Lorenzo hits a forehand return to Ukraine's Julia Vakulenko during their quarterfinal of the Mexican Open tennis championships, in Acapulco, on 5 March, 2004. Lorenzo won the game 6-7, 6-4, 6-1. INTERNET

Answer for yesterday's Crossword Puzzle



HK rout Japan to meet China in championship final

DOHA (Qatar), 7 March—Hong Kong carried out a quick demolition of Japan to enter the women's final of the world table tennis championships on Friday, the victory that made defending champions Chinese blush.

Tie Yana powered Hong Kong over Japan 3-0 in 80 minutes to set up a championship clash with China, which survived Japan's challenge with a close 3-2 scoreline on Thursday. Lau Sui Fei put Hong Kong ahead with a 11-7, 11-7, 12-10 victory over Aya Umemura and world No 6 Tie Yana walked away 11-6, 11-7, 11-8 winner against high school student Al Fukuhara.

Penhold player Zhang Rui completed Hong Kong's triumph by beating Al Fujinuma 12-10, 11-4, 11-7.

The women's grand finale takes place on Saturday.

China has taken part in 18 finals, winning 14 and losing four -- twice to Japan, one each to South Korea and a joint team of South Korea and North Korea.

MNA/Xinhua

China plays smart in 3-0 win over Germany

DOHA (Qatar), 7 March — China formed a clever lineup against the German team led by former world No. 1 Timo Boll and won the men's semifinal 3-0 at the world table tennis championships here on Friday.

Fully aware of Boll's threat, the defending champions sent Ma Lin, Wang Hao and Wang Liqin to the game, benching Liu Guozheng and Kong Linghui who both have poor

records against the German left-handed star.

World No 2 Wang Liqin was relegated as a third player to avoid a meeting with Boll. Boll had beaten Wang in the World Cup and Grand Finals in 2002 and Japan Open in 2003.

Top-ranked Ma Lin, who crushed Boll in three Pro-Tour Opens in 2002 and the 2003 World Cup, used his lethal forehand attacks and placement shots to subdue Boll 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7.

Both players looked nervous at the beginning yet as the game went on, the Chinese penhold attacker combined his usual array of table tennis wares to deadly effect. Boll had chance to turn the tables but his nerves cracked midway in the fourth set.

Wang Hao, world No 3,

put China 2-0 ahead with 11-7, 11-9, 11-3 win over the 71st-ranked Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth.

Wang Liqin, world singles champion in 2001, beat an aging Jorg Rosskopf 11-5, 11-6, 11-9.

Roskopf, former European and World Cup winner who held Chinese in awe in the early 1990s, has been battling shoulder injuries. After losing the first two sets, Rosskopf fought back to 9-9 in the fourth set, but a return into the net and another too long sent China to the championship final.

China has taken part in 25 men's team championships and played 17 grand finales, winning 13.

In the 2001 world championships, China knocked out Germany 3-1 in the quarterfinals.

MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3**8-3-2004 (Monday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 Ngwe Hsaung Wel-
comes Everyone
9:10 National News
9:12 Myanmar Traditional
Tamarind Juice
9:15 National News
9:20 Outstanding Myanmar
Women (I)
9:25 Kayin Dance (Ton
Pana (or) Kywe Min
Don Dance)
9:30 National News
9:35 A Journey to Research
Taron Race
9:40 Song "Missing you so
much"
9:45 National News
9:50 Outstanding Myanmar
Women (II)
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**8-3-2004 (Monday)
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 Ngwe Hsaung Wel-
comes Everyone
15:40 National News
15:42 Myanmar Traditional
Tamarind Juice
15:45 National News
15:50 Outstanding Myanmar
Women (I)
15:55 Kayin Dance (Ton
Pana (or) Kywe Min
Don Dance)
16:00 National News
16:05 A Journey to Research
Taron Race
16:10 Song "Missing you so
much"
16:15 National News
16:20 Outstanding Myanmar
Women (II)
16:25 Song of Myanmar

- Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
16:30 National News
16:35 Myanmar's Pride: The
Art of Carving
Ancient Pakhangyi
Monastery
16:45 National News
16:50 Clothes decorated with
Sequin-like Colourful
Plastics
Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taung-Ahka
17:00 National News
17:05 Fabulous Glassware
Decorations
Myanmar Modern
Song "Come to
Myanmar (The Golden
Land)"
17:15 National News
17:20 Myanmar Traditional
Handiwork of Casting
Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

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

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar
(K.Ja Nu)"
19:36 Taninthayi, Land of
Oil Palm
19:40 National News
19:42 Lucky Bamboo
19:45 National News
19:50 The Incredible Edifice
(The Ananda Temple)
Scenic Beauty of Ha-
Kha and Cultural
Dance
20:00 National News
20:05 Kusinara -
Mahaparmibbana
Statue
20:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Summertime"
20:15 National News
20:20 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (V) (Wang
Mung Camp 2 to 4)
Song "Come, Visit My
Home"
20:30 National News
20:35 Oil Painting Model
Demonstration
Towards Pondaung
Ponnya Yaw Region
(Part-I)
20:45 National News
20:50 Usefulness of the
Whole Toddy Palm
Dance of the Kon-
baung Era

- 21:00 National News**
21:05 Myanmar Musical In-
struments (Brass Gong)
(Maung Saing)
21:10 Song "Tranquil Bagan"
21:15 National News
21:20 Greening of Hill and
Mountain for
Temperates Climate
(Sagaing-Minwun)
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
21:35 Ngwe Hsaung Wel-
comes Everyone
21:40 National News
21:42 Myanmar Traditional
Tamarind Juice
21:45 National News
21:50 Outstanding Myanmar
Women (I)
21:55 Kayin Dance (Ton
Pana (or) Kywe Min
Don Dance)
22:00 National News
22:05 A Journey to Research
Taron Race
22:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Missing you so
much"
22:15 National News
22:20 Outstanding Myanmar
Women (II)
22:25 Song "Creating of a
love-like song"
22:30 National News
22:35 Myanmar's Pride: The
Art of Carving
Ancient Pakhangyi
Monastery
22:45 National News
22:50 Clothes decorated with
Sequin-like Colourful
Plastics
Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taung-Ahka
23:00 National News
23:05 Fabulous Glassware
Decorations
23:10 Song "Come to
Myanmar (The Golden
Land)"
23:15 National News
23:20 Myanmar Traditional
Handiwork of Casting
Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**8-3-2004 (Monday) &
9-3-2004 (Tuesday) Evening
& Morning Transmission
(23:30-1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36 Ngwe Hsaung Wel-

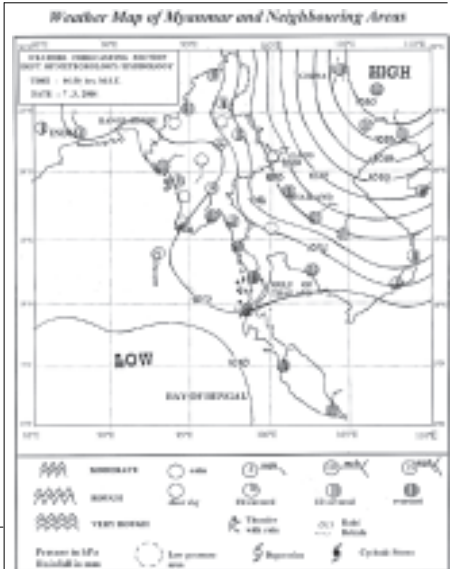
- comes Everyone
23:40 National News
23:42 Myanmar Traditional
Tamarind Juice
23:45 National News
23:50 Outstanding Myanmar
Women (I)
23:55 Kayin Dance (Ton
Pana (or) Kywe Min
Don Dance)
24:00 National News
00:05 A Journey to Research
Taron Race
00:10 Song "Missing you so
much"
00:15 National News
00:20 Outstanding Myanmar
Women (II)
00:25 Song of Myanmar
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rama & Myanma Sen-
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00:45 National News
00:50 Clothes decorated with
Sequin-like Colourful
Plastics
Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taung-Ahka
01:00 National News
01:05 Fabulous Glassware
Decorations
01:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Come to
Myanmar (The Golden
Land)"
01:15 National News
01:20 Myanmar Traditional
Handiwork of Casting
Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**9-3-2004 (Tuesday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36 Taninthayi, Land of
Oil Palm
03:40 National News
03:42 Lucky Bamboo
03:45 National News
03:50 The Incredible Edifice
(The Ananda Temple)
Scenic Beauty of Ha-
Kha and Cultural
Dance
04:00 National News
04:05 Kusinara -
Mahaparmibbana
Statue
04:10 Myanmar Modern

- Song "Summertime"
04:15 National News
04:20 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (V) (Wang
Mung Camp 2 to 4)
Song "Come, Visit My
Home"
04:30 National News
04:35 Oil Painting Model
Demonstration
Towards Pondaung
Ponnya Yaw Region
(Part-I)
04:45 National News
04:50 Usefulness of the
Whole Toddy Palm
Dance of the Kon-
baung Era
05:00 National News
05:05 Myanmar Musical In-
struments (Brass Gong)
(Maung Saing)
Song "Tranquil Bagan"
05:15 National News
05:20 Greening of Hill and
Mountain for
Temperates Climate
(Sagaing-Minwun)
Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
05:35 Ngwe Hsaung Wel-
comes Everyone
05:40 National News
05:42 Myanmar Traditional
Tamarind Juice
05:45 National News

- 05:50 Outstanding Myanmar
Women (I)
05:55 Kayin Dance (Ton
Pana (or) Kywe Min
Don Dance)
06:00 National News
06:05 A Journey to Research
Taron Race
06:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Missing you so
much"
06:15 National News
06:20 Outstanding Myanmar
Women (II)
06:25 Song "Creating of a
love-like song"
06:30 National News
06:35 Myanmar's Pride: The
Art of Carving
Ancient Pakhangyi
Monastery
06:45 National News
06:50 Clothes decorated with
Sequin-like Colourful
Plastics
Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taung-Ahka
07:00 National News
07:05 Fabulous Glassware
Decorations
07:10 Song "Come to
Myanmar (The Golden
Land)"
07:15 National News
07:20 Myanmar Traditional
Handiwork of Casting
Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**WEATHER**

Sunday, 7 March, 2004

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

Maximum temperature on 6-3-2004 was 36.0°C (97°F). Minimum temperature on 7-3-2004 was 15.8°C (60°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-3-2004 was 73%. Total sun shine hours on 6-3-2004 was (9.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 7-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southeast at (13:30) hours MST on 6-3-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 8-3-2004: Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Northern Shan and North Rakhine States, Northern Mandalay, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-3-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-3-2004:** Possibility of isolated rain (or) thundershowers Degree of certainty is (40%).

"Untimely Rainfall Warning"

(Issued at 12:30 hrs M.S.T on 7th March, 2004)
According to the observations at (12:30)hrs M.S.T today, isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Northern Shan States and North Rakhine State, Sagaing and North Mandalay Divisions within next (48) hrs commencing afternoon today.



Monday, March 8

View today:

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်
တရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သမ္မတ
ဇာယာတ အဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်
အဘိဓမ္မာတရား အဘိဓမ္မာ
မဟာသုမ္မနာဘိဇ္ဇာ တိပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မ
အာဇာနည်တော် ဆရာတော်ဘုရားရှင်
သောတဿိသမဇီ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- တိပိဋကဓမ္မတရားအကျဉ်းအကျဉ်း
လှူဒါန်းသည့် အသံခံစား
(သံသရာတော်) မဟာကြားတော်
ဓမ္မသံသရာ ဥပုသ်သုန္ဒရီတော်
- To be healthy exercise
- Morning news
- Nice and sweet song
- Song of national races

8:10 am

- Cute little dancers

8:20 am

- ရိုက်မြတ်သူနိုးတံတား

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Let's go

10:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Musical programme

4:30 pm

- Songs to uphold
National Spirit

4:45 pm

- တော်တော်တော် လူကြီးတော်တော်တော်
ဆရာတော်များ

5:00 pm

- အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လေ့လာရ
ရရှိခြင်းသည့် အသံခံစား
ဒုတိယနှစ် (သမ္မာအသံခံစား)
(သမ္မာ)

5:15 pm

- Musical programme

5:30 pm

- Dance variety

5:40 pm

- Musical programme (The
Radio Myanmar Modern
Music Troupe)

5:50 pm

5:50 pm

5:50 pm

5:50 pm

5:50 pm

5:50 pm

5:50 pm

5:50 pm

5:50 pm

- မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ တေးဂီတ ကျေးသက်
တေးသံ

6:05 pm

- သင်ပုန်း ရေလှောင်တံတား

6:15 pm

- Discovery

6:30 pm

- Evening news

7:00 pm

- Weather report

7:05 pm

- (၇၅)နှစ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့တိုင်
အခါအခါ

7:15 pm

- Industrial Achievement

7:25 pm

- Musical programme

7:40 pm

- (၇၅)နှစ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့တိုင်
အခါအခါ (ခေါင်း၊ ခေါင်း၊ ခေါင်း၊
တေး) (အပိုင်း-၁) (ဂီတလှောင်
အကယ်ဒမီ ဦးကိုရိုးနှင့်ယဉ်ကျေးမှု
တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းသား/သူများ)

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

8:00 pm

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Thai Minister of Sports and Tourism

YANGON, 7 March—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Thai Minister of Sports and Tourism Mr Sontaya Kunplome and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call

were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint

Kyu, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department and Director-General U Thaug Tun of Political Department.

The Thai minister and party were accompanied by Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Thai Minister of Sports and Tourism Mr Sontaya Kunplome at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Japanese entrepreneurs

YANGON, 7 March—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Nissho Iwai Corporation President & CEO Mr Hidetoshi Nishimura and party of Japan at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta at 4.45 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and

Technology U Thaug, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Nissho Iwai Corporation President & CEO Mr Hidetoshi Nishimura and party.— MNA

Secretary-2 inspects upgrading of Yangon-Mandalay Union highway, Yangon-Nyaunglaybin railroad section

YANGON, 7 March—Chairman of Supervisory Central Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister

Thura U Thaug Lwin and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, inspected measures being taken at Bago-Nyaunglaybin section of Yangon-Mandalay Union highway in Bago Division and upgrading of Yangon-Nyaunglaybin railroad sec-

tion being undertaken by Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation.

On arrival at the place near Wanbawdat Bridge at the entrance to Bago Division along Yangon-Mandalay Union highway, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein

and party were welcomed by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and officials.

Next, the Secretary-2 and party, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, arrived at the briefing

hall of Shwe Than Lwin Highway Co Ltd which is undertaking the upgrading of Bago-Nyaunglaybin Section of Yangon-Mandalay Union highway. They were welcomed there by Superintendent Engineer of the company U Saw David Tha, Managing Director U

Maung Maung and officials.

At the briefing hall, Superintendent Engineer of the company U Saw David Tha and Managing Director U Maung Maung reported to the Secretary-2 and party on upgrading of 48-mile long road section between milepost No 50/0 and milepost No 98/0 of Yangon-Mandalay Union highway and upgrading of 56-mile and 3-furlong long Phayagyi-Kyaikto road section between milepost No 60/4 and milepost No 116/7 of Yangon-Myeik Union highway and Bago Division Superintendent Engineer of Public Works U Tin Htut on conditions of roads and bridges in Bago Division, roads and bridges being upgraded by Public Works, upgrading of road section in Bago Division of Yangon-Mandalay Union highway by four private

(See page 10)



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects maintenance of railroad between Phayagyi and Shwehlay stations.— MNA

