**Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Vietnamese military attaches**

YANGON, 27 Feb — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army), Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Military Attache of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Myanmar, Mr Ma Van Thanh at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall at Kommynttha here this morning.

Also present at the call were Military Adviser to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, General Khin Nyunt and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Prime Minister receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 27 Feb — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, General Khin Nyunt, received China Metallurgical Construction Group Corporation President, Mr Ma Yanli and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall at Kommynttha here this morning.

Also present at the call were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Foreign Affairs, U Win Aung, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office, Maj-Gen Them Swe, Vice-Chief of the Military Intelligence, Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Director for Industry, Brig-Gen Thein Tun, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of the Government Office, U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Protocol Department, Thura U Aung Htet and Managing Director, U Than Shwe of the Ministry of Industry.

**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

**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

**Established 1914**
For regional rice sufficiency

Being an agro-based nation Myanmar is striving for its national development based on agriculture and all-round development of other sectors of the economy.

At present, the State is providing necessary assistance to endeavours for agricultural development. In the process, ways and means are being sought to supply water for agricultural purpose.

Rice surplus, edible oil sufficiency and extending the cultivation and production of beans and pulses and industrial raw material crops are the main aims of the State in the agriculture sector. Farmers are being encouraged to extend cultivation of new items of crops that will generate their income, of crops that are in good demand and of vegetables.

At the same time, agricultural methods, modern farm implements and high yield strains are being provided to farmers.

During his tour of Shan State (North), Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attended the Hsinshwe high-yield paddy transplanting ceremony and the presenting of farm implements near Humon Village in Lashio Township, on 22 February.

On the occasion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the drive of those in charge of the region will contribute towards local rice sufficiency and economy of local farmers. He also said that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation are to render necessary assistance to local farmers.

At the ceremony, three combined harvesters, five threshers and Loya-16 power-tillers are presented to local farmers.

Although Shan State (North) has enjoyed rice sufficiency, it has now met over 90 per cent of the local rice demand, thanks to the combined efforts of the respective departments and local people. There was over 500,000 acres of cultivable land in Shan State (North) in 1998 and the number of cultivable land has increased to over 900,000 acres now. Furthermore, a total of 4,300 more acres of high land has been reclaimed.

Present on the occasion were Director-General of the Cooperative Department U Soe Win, Cottage Industries Department Director-General U Sein Than, General Manager of Cooperative Export & Import Enterprise U Myo Than and officials. — MMA

Matriculation exam identity cards to be drawn beginning 3 March

YANGON, 27 Feb—The identity cards and roll numbers for students who are going to appear for the matriculation examination to be held from 11 to 20 March 2004 at examination centres in states and divisions have already been sent to the respective examination centre supervisors and the students are to draw their identity cards from the examination centre supervisors beginning 3 March 2004. The roll numbers and examination centres for the students who are in townships of Yangon municipal area will be posted at the respective Township Education Offices beginning 4 March 2004.

The identity cards for the students who are in Yangon municipal area will be issued beginning 8 March 2004 and the students from Basic Education High Schools (Branch) and Affiliated Basic Education High Schools are to draw identity cards from their respective school heads and those who are going to sit for the examination as external students are to draw identity cards from their respective examination centre supervisors. — MNA

People’s Desire

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views regarding the State
- 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

Minister receives

Ambassador

YANGON, 27 Feb—Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Hla Oo received Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yacov Avrahamy at his office on Bogyoke Aung San Street here at 11 am today.

They discussed matters relating to enhancing cooperative cooperation. Present on the occasion were Director-General of the Cooperative Department U Soe Win, Cottage Industries Department Director-General U Sein Than, General Manager of Cooperative Export & Import Enterprise U Myo Than and officials. — MMA

Rural roads in Maubin Township inspected

YANGON, 27 Feb—Director-General of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Myo Myint, together with officials, arrived in Maubin this morning and inspected paving of tar road on Yawle Street as well as Aungheik-Seikha earthen road. The rural earthen road is 8 miles and 3 furlongs long and 18 feet wide for the people from Aungheik, Seikha, Sitchaung and Bilin villages to reach Maubin. — MNA

MWJA Central Executive Committee meets

YANGON, 27 Feb—The Central Executive Committee of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association held its meeting 2/2004 at the office of MWJA on Merchant Street here this afternoon, attended by MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hmaung), Vice-Chairmen U Tin Khin Khin Khin (Tee Kha), U Than Maung (Than Maung) and U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun Twantay), joint-secretaries and CEC members.

Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hmaung) presided over the meeting while Joint-Secretary U Khin Sae (Swe Swe Sun Nyo) acted as master of ceremonies. First, the meeting chairman made an address and MWJA Secretary U Hla Tun presented work progress on resolutions passed at the central committee’s meeting 1/2004. Next, leaders of the MWJA office, organizing committee, the financial committee, the welfare committee, the international relations committee and the literary funds supervisory committee made suggestions. — MNA
Philippines.

while 75 per day die in the
people die daily from TB in
58 per cent.

per cent with a detection rate of
the Philippines’ cure rate is 88
mortality rates of TB will fall to
is targeted that morbidity and
at least 70 per cent by 2005. It
include a cure rate of at least 85
TB rates per capita were in
TB, Voniatis said the highest
Organization, as saying in a
of the World Health
agency Thursday quoted
are done, and in the case of
Kofi’s office, it was being
done for some time.” Asked

about Britain’s role in the
cavesdropping, she replied:
“Well I know — I’ve seen
transcripts of Kofi Annan’s
conversations.

She added: “In fact, I have
dead people with
Kofi in the run-up to the
thinking, ‘Oh dear, there
will be a transcript of this
governmentactivity, whether in-
tentionally or not, under-
mine the essential security
of thecountry.
The United Nations re-
acted sharply to the allega-
tions, asserting that any at-
tempt to eavesdrop on the
secretary general would con-
stitute a violation of three
international treaties that
govern diplomatic relations.

“From our point of view
it is indeed illegal” to spy
on UN premises, said
Annan’s chief spokesman,
Feed Eckhard. But he noted
that there was little the
United Nations could do
about it. “The United Na-
tions doesn’t have a police
force or any other means of
enforcing these laws,” he
said.

Britain’s Prime Minister Tony Blair (R) takes questions from journalists during his monthly news conference at 10 Downing Street, London, on 26 Feb, 2004. Britain spied on UN chief Kofi Annan before the Iraq war, former minister Clare Short said on Thursday, threatening a fresh crisis for Blair as he tries to put the conflict behind him.—Internet

Britain accused of spying on Annan before Iraq war

LONDON, 27 Feb — British spies conducted surveillance on the office of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York during the intense diplomatic struggle over whether to invade Iraq, a former cabinet minister alleged Thursday.

Clare Short, who re-
signed in protest after the
invasion, said she had seen
transcripts of Annan’s con-
versations in the weeks be-
fore the war, which was
launched last March.

“The UK in this time was
also getting spies on Kofi
Annan’s office and getting
reports from him about what
was going on,” Short told
BBC radio. “These things are
done, and in the case of
Kofi’s office, it was being
done for some time.” Asked
about Britain’s role in the
cavesdropping, she replied:
“Well I know — I’ve seen
transcripts of Kofi Annan’s
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that there was little the
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tions doesn’t have a police
force or any other means of
enforcing these laws,” he
said.

Britain’s Prime Minister Tony Blair branded Short’s alle-
gations deeply irresponsible
but refused to confirm or
deny them, saying that to do
so would violate his gov-
ernment’s policy of not dis-
cussing intelligence matters.
He said at a news confer-
ence that Britain’s intelli-
gence services always act in
accordance with domestic
and international law, and
those who disclose intelli-
encenotification of the
moral death rate of TB will fall to
is targeted that morbidity and
mortality in the
United States and third in the Western Pacific Region so far as

INTERNET

Philippines ranks 8th in TB
cases worldwide

MANILA, 27 Feb — The Philippines ranks eighth in the
world and third in the Western Pacific Region so far as
tuberculosis (TB) cases are concerned.

Each day, about 75
Filipinos die of TB which has
become the sixth cause of
morbidity and mortality in the
Philippines with an estimated
270,000 cases detected every
year, the Philippines News
Agency Thursday quoted
Dr. Michael Voniatis, a
Manila-based medical oficer of the World Health
Organization, as saying in a
symposium held recently.

In a global situation on
TB, Voniatis said the highest
TB rates per capita were in
Africa. Global targets for TB
include a cure rate of at least
85 per cent and a detection rate of
at least 70 per cent by 2005. It
is targeted that morbidity and
mortality rates of TB will fall to
50 per cent in 2010. At present, the
Philippines’ cure rate is 88
per cent with a detection rate of
58 per cent.

Voniatis said that approximately
5,000 people from TB throughout the
world every year; 5,000
people die daily from TB in the
Western Pacific region; while 75 per day die in the
Philippines.

Eight million people suffer from TB each year in the

Surinamese President expects
more cooperation with Dalian

DALIAN, 27 Feb — Visiting Surinamese President Ronaldo Ronaldo Venetiaan said here Thursday that Surinam is expecting more companies from Dalian, a city in
northeast China’s Liaoning Province.

Venetiaan, who arrived in Dalian City
Wednesday evening, made the remark in
meeting with Dalian Mayor Xia Deren.

Xia hoped the Surinamese Government
would continue to support the cooperative
project between Surinam and Dalian.

Venetiaan visited a software develop-
ment facility, a museum and a shipbuilding
company during his stay in Dalian.

Venetiaan arrived in Beijing Sunday,
starting his working visit to China. Chinese
President Hu Jintao and Chinese Premier
Wen Jiabao held talks and met with him.

The Surinamese President will fly to
Shenzhen on Wednesday to continue his
visit to China. — AP/AVA/Xinhua

Guerilla attacks rise in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 Feb — An Iraqi policeman was killed
and seven others were wounded in a bomb attack in eastern Iraq
late Thursday, Dubai-based television Al Arabiya reported.

The bomb, probably planted in one of two police cars
parked outside a restaurant in Baquba, 60 kilometres east of
Baghdad, exploded about 2:00 pm (1100 GMT), killing one
police officer.

Five other policemen and two civilians were injured,
said the news channel. The bomb could have been placed in
the vehicle when the policemen were having their lunch, said
one of the wounded men.

Thai Princess receives
“Friendship Ambassador” title

BANGKOK, 27 Feb — Thai Princess Maha Chakri
Sirindhorn was granted the title of “Friendshipamma-
 dor” in Beijing Thursday for her efforts in promoting
friendly exchanges between China and Thailand.

Sirindhorn has shown a
great love for Chinese his-
tory and culture, and has a
very deep friendship with
Chinese people. Her current
visit is her 18th to China.

Through her visits to China, Sirindhorn not only
made the Chinese people bet-
ter understand Thailand, but
also introduced China to Thai people through her books.

Chen Haosu, president of the Chinese People’s
Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, expressed
appreciation for Princess
Sirindhorn’s efforts in fur-
ther enhancing the China-
Thailand good-neighbourly
relations.

Sirindhorn said she will
continue to promote the
two countries’ cultural exchanges and the two peoples’ friend-
ship.
Injured US vets face long road to recovery

BAGHDAD, 27 Feb—Tears well up in a woman’s eye at a rodeo in Texas as the announcer introduces some special guests to this patriotic audience.

The guests are a graphic reminder of the real and mounting costs of the war in Iraq.

They are soldiers who were injured in Iraq and are now being treated at Brook Army Medical Centre in San Antonio, Texas.

Among those special guests was Staff Sgt Rashan Canady. He has paid a heavy price.

At the medical centre, he is learning to rehabilitate himself with the help of an army nurse.

He now wears an artificial right arm after his own was severed in an Iraqi attack. He is lucky in one sense. His new arm is state-of-the-art.

“This prosthetic works on nerve impulses from what is left of my arm,” he says.

Some 2,500 US soldiers have been injured in Iraq.

As he twitches a nerve, it sparks a sensor that opens and closes the hand.

“I’m not sure if I can get my golf swing back to what it used to be, but I can assist me,” he said.

This medical centre may be deep in the heart of Texas, but here alone, they have treated more than 800 injured soldiers from the Iraq operation.

This is also turning into something of a front line.

The army doctors at Brook have been able to apply new medical techniques to increase the survival chances of the badly wounded.

Dr Roman Hayda, head of orthopaedic trauma, said: “The changes that are occurring in medicine make a big difference in their ability to recover and what we can salvage.”

The doctors here believe the body armour soldiers wear now has also dramatically improved survivability.

Some 70% to 80% of the injuries now are to limbs, eyes, and the head. Treatment on the battlefield is also much improved.

The government’s vision includes turning Afghanistan into a top tourist destination of choice in the region by improving infrastructure such as road networks, airports, communication, water and sewage treatment and to promote local and foreign investment in the sector,” Kailifungwa said at the launching of the investment promotion drive for Kafue National Park, ranked among the world’s five biggest national parks.

He said the government has identified tourism as the number two priority sector in the national economy after agriculture.

Zambia has one of the best conditions for tourism development in Africa, including rich and well-preserved flora and fauna resources, a peaceful and hospitable people, mild climate and stable politics. Its 19 national parks comprising 8 per cent of the total land territory represent one of the largest concentration of wild animals and birds in Africa and the most diverse scenic beauty.

To promote local and foreign investment in tourism, Kailifungwa said his government will provide incentives such as zero rating value-added tax, constitutional protection against nationalization of investment, easy access to land, abolition of exchange controls and liberalized air policies that promote access into and within Zambia.

Japan Fair Trade Commission looks into Microsoft

TOKYO, 27 Feb—Japan’s Fair Trade Commission said on Thursday it was investigating the Japanese unit of Microsoft Corp, the world’s largest software maker, on suspicion of violating anti-trust laws.

The commission said it believed Microsoft imposed unfair conditions on computer makers wanting to license its Windows XP operating system software.

It said it hoped to resolve the matter as soon as possible.

A spokeswoman for Microsoft Japan confirmed that representatives of the fair trade body were at its headquarters on Thursday but said she had no further details.

The investigation is only the latest for微软 which is plagued by accusations that it has abused its monopoly on PC operating systems to push prices higher or harm rivals.

It is currently also in settlement negotiations with the European Commission, which says it abused its dominant position and curbed competition by tying its Media Player programme—used for playing music and videos—to its Windows operating system.

Shares of Microsoft closed off 18 cents at 26.70 US dollars on the Nasdaq on Wednesday.

China dominates Cologne household appliance fair

BERLIN, 27 Feb—HomeTech 2004, one of the world’s largest exhibition of household appliances so far, opened Wednesday in Cologne, with the largest corps of exhibitors from China.

Alongside 1,300 companies from 53 countries and regions present their products in the Cologne Exhibition Centre, covering a total floor space of 90,000 square metres.

Blair up in arms as Short claims Britain spied on UN chief

LONDON, 27 Feb—A former cabinet minister alleged that Britain begged UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in the run-up to the Iraq war, sparking an angry rebuttal from Prime Minister Tony Blair.

In a BBC radio interview Thursday, Clare Short, who before her resignation in May was one of the longest-serving members of Blair’s government, was asked if Britain had eavesdropped on the secretary general.

“Ye, absolutely,” she replied. “These things are done and, in the case of Kofi’s office it’s been done for some time.”

She added she had even seen the transcripts of Annan’s conversations.

But he said he had “huge respect” for Annan, “a personal friend.”

The furor broke just a day after government prosecutors abruptly dropped their case against Katharine Gun, a British intelligence translator who had leaked a US intelligence memo requesting Britain’s help in spying on non-aligned UN Security Council members.

Zambia eyes top tourist destination in southern Africa

LEKKI, 27 Feb—Zambia is aiming at becoming one of the top tourist destinations in the southern Africa region, Minister of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources Patrick Kailifungwa said here Wednesday.

The government’s vision includes turning Zambia into a top tourist destination of choice in the region by improving infrastructure such as road networks, airports, communication, water and sewage treatment and to promote local and foreign investment in the sector.

Kailifungwa said at the launching of the investment promotion drive for Kafue National Park, ranked among the world’s five biggest national parks.

He said the government has identified tourism as the number two priority sector in the national economy after agriculture.

Zambia has one of the best conditions for tourism development in Africa, including rich and well-preserved flora and fauna resources, a peaceful and hospitable people, mild climate and stable politics. Its 19 national parks comprising 8 per cent of the total land territory represent one of the largest concentration of wild animals and birds in Africa and the most diverse scenic beauty.

To promote local and foreign investment in tourism, Kailifungwa said his government will provide incentives such as zero rating value-added tax, constitutional protection against nationalization of investment, easy access to land, abolition of exchange controls and liberalized air policies that promote access into and within Zambia.
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

A US military vehicle passes by the flames and smoke of a burning oil pipeline near the Iraqi town of Samarra on Thursday 26 Feb, 2004. Attackers were said to have thrown a homemade bomb into the complex of oil and gas pipes along the road igniting the pipeline. —INTERNET

A convoy of US troops cross a Kuwait Army’s check point into the military area near Camp Virginia, north of Kuwait City on Thursday 26 Feb, 2004. Under US troops rotation programme. —INTERNET

A US helicopter searches the area along the Euphrates River near the Iraqi town of Haditha during a search operation for an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter which crashed into the river on Wednesday 25 Feb, 2004, killing two crew members. —INTERNET

Flames and smoke rise from a burning oil pipeline near the Iraqi town of Samarra, Iraq on Thursday 26 Feb, 2004. —INTERNET

US soldiers close the highway leading to the city of Fallujah, 50 kms west of Baghdad, following an attack on a sports utility vehicle (SUV) that was riddled with bullets on the western edge of Baghdad recently. —INTERNET

An Iraqi fire fighter extinguishes fire from a car as people gather at site where a bomb went off in front of a restaurant in Baquba, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad. —INTERNET
Jordan issues new passports  
**Ammann, 27 Feb—** The Jordanian Civil Registration and Passports Department (CRPD) began to issue new black-covered passports to nationals, local Jordan Times said Thursday. “The new passports are electronically imprinted to prevent tampering and forgery and comply with international standards,” Awini Yervas, department director of the CRPD, was quoted by the paper as saying.

He said 500,000 copies of the new passports had been printed, adding that Jordanians black as covers of the new kind of passports because the color is one of the kingdom’s flag colors. — MNA/Xinhua

Syria not to play any role against Iraq  
**Damascus, 27 Feb—** Syria will not play any role against the Iraqi people, Syria’s official news agency SANA reported Wednesday, quoting a senior official.

Mahmoud al-Atrash, Speaker of People’s Assembly of Syria, said in a press conference that Syria has “fateful, historical and strong” relations with Iraq, stressing that Syria cannot do anything that harm the Iraqi people.

He made this statement when answering a question on the latest American statement which accused Syria of standing against the interests of the Iraqi people.

On Monday, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warned Iran and Syria about militants crossing their borders into Iraq during his visit to Iraq.

The speaker reiterated Syria’s firm stance over the necessity of establishing just and comprehensive peace in the region based on the international legal, political and legal-peace principle.

Syria will not part from the Arab consensus concerning the Iraqi and all other Arab issues, al-Atrash said. — MNA/Xinhua

Jordan signs free-trade-area accord with Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt  
**Ammann, 27 Feb—** Amman on Wednesday announced that Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt signed in Morocco’s capital of Rabat an agreement for setting up a free trade area among the countries, the official Petra news agency reported.

The accord is expected to raise the competitive capabilities of the four countries and allow their commodities to reach the European markets, the report said.

The idea of the sub-regional free trade zone, which is aimed at promoting joint Arab economic action, was initially proposed by the countries in May 2001, when the 13th Arab summit was held in Amman. The European Commission (EC) has been one of the main political supporters of the proposal and supported it with millions of US dollars.

“The agreement will create an integrated market of more than 100 million people in the four countries, thus providing new attractive opportunities for European investors in the region,” a statement issued by the EC said. — MNA/Xinhua

France says US ban on meat products unjustified  
**Paris, 27 Feb—** French Farm Minister Herve Gaymard said on Wednesday the US move to bar France from selling some meat products there was unjustified and he was working on having the ban lifted as soon as possible.

“Food safety standards in Europe, and in France, are the highest and most trustworthy in the world,” he told reporters.

“The US decision is completely unjustified,” Gaymard said at a news conference in London on Tuesday. “As a fellow farmer, I would like to say that the US has focused on the issue of Bravo instead of keeping a clear head. The situation is different in Europe, and in France, where we have strict food safety standards.”

Gaymard said he did not believe there was any connection between the US ban on French meat products and the EU ban on US poultry. — MNA/Reuters

Singapore, UAE sign Open Skies Agreement  
**Singapur, 27 Feb—** Singapore and the United Arab Emirates (UAES) signed an Open Skies Agreement (OSA) here on Thursday.

Under the agreement, airlines of the two countries will be permitted to fly on any route they choose between Singapore and any point in the UAE, via and beyond to any third country without restrictions in traffic rights, said Singapore’s Ministry of Transport (MOT) on Thursday. In addition, airlines of both countries can use each others’ airports to third countries, it said.

Minister of Transport of Singapore Yeo Cheow Tong said at the signing ceremony that the signing of the OSA demonstrated the “two countries’ common commitment to pursue a more liberal and open skies in the global aviation arena.”

“The Singapore-UAE OSA will send a strong signal of the support of our two governments towards the goal of a liberalized global aviation landscape,” said Yeo. — MNA/Xinhua

Kerry steps up criticism of Bush after winning three more states  
**Washington, 27 Feb—** US Democratic presidential front-runner John Kerry criticized President George W Bush on Wednesday over gay marriage and other issues after easily winning contests in three states.

The Massachusetts senator accused Bush of seeking to divide Americans by backing a constitutional amendment which would ban same-sex marriage, saying the President was using the issue to distract attention from “real issues” such as jobs and education.

“I think he’s a President in trouble and he’s just looking for a political change of subject,” Kerry told “Good Morning America” on ABC.

Kerry swept to victory in Tuesday’s contests in Hawaii, Utah and Idaho, winning 18 states in the first 20 contests. Since only 61 delegates to Democratic nominating convention were at stake in the three states, Kerry and his last major rival Senator John Edwards of North Carolina skipped campaigning there.

Both senators focused on the Super Tuesday showdown on March 2 when 10 states including California, New York and Ohio hold primaries. More than the 162 delegates needed to win the nomination are at stake. Kerry campaigned in Cleveland, Ohio, focusing on trade agreements and job losses. Edwards was travelling to California to begin a three-day swing there. — MNA/Xinhua

EU to impose sanctions on US on Monday  
**Washington, 27 Feb—** European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said on Thursday the EU would slap a one-month ban on imports of chicks and eggs from the United States after the discovery of bird flu in Texas.

Gaymard said there was any connection between the US ban on French meat products and the EU ban on US poultry. — MNA/Reuters

France receives 2 million less foreign tourists in 2003  
**Paris, 27 Feb—** Seventy-five million foreign tourists visited France in 2003, two million or 2.6 per cent less than in 2002, the French Government announced Wednesday.

Foreign tourists stayed shorter and spent less in France. Their nights in France were 3.6 per cent less than in 2002, and total spending stood at 32.34 billion euros, 5.4 per cent less than in 2002, said the government in its annual report on tourism.

The report noted that tourist destination countries across the world registered an average 1 per cent cut in number of foreign tourists last year compared to 2002 because of the Iraq war, the SARS impact and the gloomy global economy.

In France, the fall in foreign tourists number is mainly explained by the reduction of non-European tourists who avoided Euro-tourists who avoided Euro-tourists who avoided Europe.

The report predicted that the gloomy situation will persist in 2004. — MNA/Reuters
Dear Nephew,

Recently, I went on short journeys, one-night-stay or two-night-stay visits, to rural areas in various parts of the country. I visited many villages including the villages in Kyaukphyu, Yanby, Taungup and Thandwe townships in Rakhine State, those in the environs of Monywa and Yinnabag in Sagaing Division, the rural areas lying near Bago and Th烩 Division and the Kyeninse and Hwoodyingyi villages in Wakhema Township, Ayeyawady Division.

I went to the villages to study them and to organize the rural people at the Sarsodaw Day commemorative literary talks to increase their reading power and hours. My journeys to the rural areas included flights, and car rides and boat travels. But even if I can visit over 100 villages in a year, it will take over 650 years for me to visit all over the 65,000 villages in the entire Myanmar. So, it will be enough to enhance the knowledge of village people only if youths holding the same vision as mine and books, dailies and radio and TV programmes reach people only if youths holding the same vision as mine and books, dailies and radio and TV programmes reach

People need knowledge, in order that they may not be frightened whenever intimidated. Making disturbances to hamper progress is easy. But there is no single country in this world that achieves progress without hard work. In every nation, all the people have to strive in harmony in their respective sectors for development of their country. The people can enjoy the fruits of progress only after five or more years after launching the national development drive.

People need knowledge, in order that they may not be deceived by outside instigation. They should have the ability to view the situation from the correct point of view. Knowledge can be found in books. The longer hours one reads, the better knowledge he will gain. Books are man’s true companion.

A man’s actions, behaviour and living style will improve if he gains more knowledge. Every farmer knows how to harrow the land. But he must also know the greater advantage of using machines in his farm work. Machines increase production and reduce costs.

Thus, goods can be produced at lower expenses, and can be sold at reasonable prices, giving a competitive edge for the nation’s goods in the global export market. The products of Myanmar will not be competitive in the world market if they are manufactured with human labour alone. Even if the quality is high, we cannot lower the production cost. So the price will not become cheaper.

True, we are an agro-based nation. But mechanization and industrialization are required in every sector. In the future, the rural people will have basic knowledge about the various kinds of machines. So, they should have knowledge. And if they have wider knowledge, it will not be difficult for them to skillfully use the machines. They will need only one or two days to learn the method of driving the machines.

Over 70 per cent of the nation’s population still live in the rural areas. Roughly, we can say that around 45 million are rural dwellers.

National development and modernization will be impossible without the improvement of their social standard. The area of the rural area is wide, and the rural population is large. We should pay attention to the development of the social standard of the rural people. We will have to organize them to learn literature and read more books. Only then, will our harmonious drive to develop the rural areas achieve success.

From Uncle, with love

(Translation: TMT)

Myanmar Alin, 25-2-2004

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

**Efficient use of electricity**

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

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

**Efficient use of fuel**

- Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- Thus, a total of 445,022 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**

Stake driven for rebuilding of Prayer Hall at Shwephonepwint Pagoda

YANGON, 27 Feb...

The ceremony to drive stake for rebuilding of Phayar Yoe Koesu Prayer Hall as the third renovation task of Shwephonepwint Pagoda was held at the pagoda in Pandawar Township this morning.

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Po Wa (Trs)

**POEM:**

Come, see for yourself

- Can’t take hearsay seriously
  - As a sure thing you can’t really say
  * Only when you yourself see for sure
  Can you say it’s true?

- Our race Myanmar
  - Worthy of attachment
  - Our abode Myanmar
  Isn’t it pleasant?
  * With “byaw drum” calling to sermon
  With conception
  It can be true
  To perceive and assess
  Come, see for yourself.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanmar Alin, 23-2-2004
Myanmar’s trade deficit...

(continued from page 16)

and IMF to develop trade and economy. As the nation is a member of the regional organizations such as ASEAN, BIMST-EC, GMS and EAS, efforts should be made to improve economic relations in accord with the agreed notes. Some countries are reducing trade tariffs on Myanmar goods. Hence, arrangements should be made for the private sector to benefit from these measures.

The ministry will have to join hands with the entrepreneurs to develop trade on the correct trend. The Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the ministry will have to play a leading role and give guidance to find markets for new export items, strengthen market for existing export items, get the deserving prices for exports, receive information, balance the ratio of exports and imports, control the quality of export goods, transport goods within the scheduled period and conduct remittances.

The ministry will have to strive for further strengthening of the national economy, while exchanging and sharing the knowledge and experiences at the meeting.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone reported to the meeting on the targeted gross domestic product of the ministry, the aims of the trade sector, the GDP, the trade volume, trade deficit and surplus, exports and imports, sector-wise accomplishments, export of rice and rice-based products, the number of registered exporters and importers and trade agencies, border trade tax, and trade fair.

Also present were Chairmen of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and enterprises, advisers, officials, the president and members of UMFFI and guests. — MNA

Cash donated to Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation

YANGON, 27 Feb — Halting the meeting of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and delegates of State and Division Organizations for Women’s Affairs to be held in March 2004, wellwishers donated cash and kind to MWA at International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this afternoon.

Present were President of the federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Daw Than Thant Nwe and Daw Khin Win Kin, General Secretary Prof Daw Khin Aye Win, CEC members and wellwishers.

First, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe spoke words of thanks for donations.

Next, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Vice-Presidents Daw Than Thant Nwe and Daw Khin Win Kin accepted Hyundai Star Atena Plus (2000 model) for the federation donated by SOS Daehan Starex Ambulance (9 Seater) Win accepted Hyundai Star Atena Plus (2000 model) for the federation donated by SOS Daehan Starex Ambulance (9 Seater) — MNA.

Inlay Shoes Manufacturing Co Ltd Managing Director U Win Yan Aung presents K 2.5 million to Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe. — MNA

Drugs possessors sentenced

YANGON, 27 Feb — Members of Myanmar Police Station of Myaungmya District, acting on information, searched the house of Zaw Moe (a) Zaw Moe Win of 12th Street, Ward 5, Myaungmya, on 17 March 2003 and seized WY brand 260 stimulant tablets. Myanmar Police Station filed Zaw Moe (a) Zaw Moe Win, son of U Hla Aye, under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 24 October 2003, Myaungmya District Court sentenced him to serve 5 years imprisonment under Section 15 and 16 years under Section 19 (A). Similarly, a combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit, Bago Anti-Drug Squad and Phyu Police Station, acting on a tip-off, searched the house of Bran Mayang of Bote Ward, Kanyutkwin, on 3 October 2003 and seized 0.1387 kilo of marijuana.

Mr Mayang, son of Mr Mu Thila, was filed by Phyu Police Station under Section 15/19(A)/23 under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 2 January 2004, Toungoo District Court sentenced him to serve 5 years’ imprisonment under Section 15 and life sentence under Sections 19 (A)/23. — MNA

Heroin, arms and ammunition seized in Muse

YANGON, 27 Feb — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force and Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, on 15 February intercepted a Mark II saloon with number plates 2 Kha/9287 near Nandaw Bus Terminal on Pyidaungsu Highway in Muse, Shan State (North) and opened fire at the vehicle as the driver tried to flee. The authorities arrested Hwaw Kwe Chan, son of U Rauk Si, of Yan Kya Kyang Village, Kutkai Township and Ngso AL, son of U Mo Wint Chin, of Panpeik Village, Kutkai Township together with 74 blocks of heroin weighing 25.9 kilos, three assorted arms, six assorted magazines, 125 rounds of ammunition and two hand grenades. The driver managed to escape, fleeing to Juekong region, the People’s Republic of China.

Action is being taken against the two according to law. — MNA

MWAF explains its functions in Pyay

YANGON, 27 Feb — The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held the ceremony to explain functions of the federation to members of Bago Division (West) Organization for Women’s Affairs in Pyay on 25 February afternoon.

Vice-President Daw Khin Kin Kin Win gave a speech, saying that concerted efforts are to be made to gain success in implementing the lofty aims of the federation.

Joint-General Secretary Daw Khin Htar May, Working Group leaders Daw Kyi Kyi Mya and Rector Daw May Win Aung Khin explained their respective sections. Next, Patron of the Bago Division (West) Organization for Women’s Affairs Daw Naing Naing Maung and wellwishers presented cash to Vice-President Daw Khin Kin Kin Win.

Recently, the Vice-President gave a concluding remarks and cordially conversation with those present. — MNA

Israeli tourism entrepreneurs arrive

YANGON, 27 Feb — Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and arrangements of the Asian Trails Tours Ltd, 56 tourism entrepreneurs from Israel arrived here by air yesterday.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services and the Asian Trails Tour Ltd and members of the cultural troupe. 

During the stay in Myanmar, they will make tours of Yangon, Heho, Pintaya, Inlay, Bagan and Popa and will leave here on 4 March. — MNA

Myanmar’s Women’s Affairs Federation President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe speaking at the ceremony to donate cash and kind to MWAFF. — MNA

Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation explains its functions in Pyay

MWAF and IMF to develop trade and economy. As the nation is a member of the regional organizations such as ASEAN, BIMST-EC, GMS and ECA, efforts should be made to improve economic relations in accord with the agreed notes. Some countries are reducing trade tariffs on Myanmar goods. Hence, arrangements should be made for the private sector to benefit from these measures.

The ministry will have to join hands with the entrepreneurs to develop trade on the correct trend. The Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the ministry will have to play a leading role and give guidance to find markets for new export items, strengthen market for existing export items, get the deserving prices for exports, receive information, balance the ratio of exports and imports, control the quality of export goods, transport goods within the scheduled period and conduct remittances.

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Also present were Chairmen of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and enterprises, advisers, officials, the president and members of UMFFI and guests. — MNA
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than... (from page 16) reported on progress of works. Then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected upgrading tasks and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at the construction site of Pathein-Dhaka-Thongwa section, District Senior Engineer U Myint Thein reported on tasks being carried out. The 12 feet wide road section is being expanded into the 24 feet wide one. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Koehsaung Village in Pathein Township where they met with local farmers and inspected thriving model summer paddy plantations. Officials reported on cultivation of summer paddy in 2003-2004 and future tasks. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on cultivation matters. In 2003-2004, a total of 46,613 acres of land has been so far put under summer paddy against the target of 61,152 acres in Pathein Township.

On 27 February, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe and officials, went to the bridge construction site. At the briefing hall, officials reported on construction of the approach bridges (Mayanchaung) and (Kanna), the main bridge and approach roads. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on timely completion of construction tasks meeting the set standard and worksite safety.

Pathen Bridge crossing Ngawun River is located on Pathein-Shweyinnyint-Wayachaung Road to link Mayanchaung Village on the eastern bank of Ngawun River and Kanni Village on the west bank. On completion, the bridge can contribute to not only better transport and regional development of Ngaupaw and Thabaung townships including Ngwe Hsawng and Chaungtha beaches which are on west bank of Ngawun River but also smooth transportation of fisheries, agricultural produce and commodities from that region to Yangon and other regions.—MNA

Ministry of Commerce holds coordination meeting

YANGON, 27 Feb—The Ministry of Commerce held the second and third four-monthly coordination meeting for 2003 at the meeting hall of the ministry this morning.

Present were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Son, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Director-General U Nyunt Aye of Directorate of Trade, Director-General U Nai Win of Border Trade Department, Managing Director U Min Hla Aung of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading and officials.

Officials reported on accomplishment of their tasks. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun gave a supplementary report.

Before concluding the meeting, the minister gave a speech. —MNA

Women’s football tournament held

YANGON, 27 Feb—Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Trophy inter-district women’s football tournament for 2004 was opened at the sports ground of Myanmar Railways in Insein Township, Yangon North District at 3.30 pm today, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Patron of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Trophy inter-district women’s team played against Yangon North District women’s team.—MNA

Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport meets

YANGON, 27 Feb—Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe of the supervisory committee, divisional authorities, members of the supervisory committee, registrars and officials of universities and colleges, chairmen and officials of bus lines.

The chairman gave instructions on tasks of the supervisory committee for passengers who are traveling from Yangon City to various regions of the country by car, by train, by boat and by plane daily and those in Yangon City. Next, the supervisory committee members, the registrars and chairmen of bus lines reported on supervision for ensuring smooth and secure transport in Yangon City.

The chairman then gave a speech, saying that though accidents of buses could be reduced as a result of supervision of officials at different levels, it can be seen that accidents of private cars, taxi and ferry have been occurred because of lack of following traffic rules. Officials are to take deterrent action against those who broke traffic rules. And, officials at different levels should supervise reduction of traffic accidents in Yangon City. Later, the chairman attended to their needs. —MNA

First day session of Tenth...

(From page 16) Jothikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara chaired the meeting and Joint-Secretary of the SSMNC Sayadaw of Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho Monastery in Pyay, Bago Division, Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kudalajoti acted as master of ceremonies. The master of ceremonies announced the number of the Sayadawas present and the meeting valid. Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Sayadaw of Maha Aungmye Bonsan Monas- tin Bahan Township, Yangon Division, Abhi- dhaja Maha Raththa Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Panthanda Bhavamsa read the Ovadakatha of Chairman of the SSMNC Abhidhaja Maha Raththa Guru Abhidjha Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Myingyan Koehsaung Mon- sty Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sibhit.

The minister for Religious Affairs supplicated on religious matters. In his sup-
Trade representative says US cannot close door to China goods

**New York, 27 Feb—** US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick took aim on Wednesday at growing protectionist sentiment against China, while insisting Beijing live up to the commitments it has made to open its markets.

"The manufacturing sector’s struggle to cut out the robot geologist’s life on the Red Planet, a NASA official said on Wednesday.

A switch that operates an onboard heater has been stuck in the “on” position since shortly after the golf cart-sized rover landed at the Meridian Planum near Mars’ equator on 24 January. The malfunction has not affected the rover’s ability to move or do science experiments but is a constant drain on the vehicle’s solar-powered batteries, project manager Richard Cook told reporters on Wednesday.

"The amount of power per day is slowly dropping,” Cook said. “(The switch) consumes a sizable amount of energy every day. Opportunity is shortening down its day of operations as we move forward.”

Cook said engineers planned to upload new software to Opportunity in about a month that will shut off a few minor systems that now stay on during its overnight “sleep” mode.

"We essentially are removing the power source from this... heater. We will turn it off by removing the power source it uses,” Cook said. The new system will recapitulate about two-thirds of the energy now lost to the malfunction, he added.

Opportunity is examining an outcrop of finely layered bedrock that scientists believe holds clues to the planet’s composition.

The rover spent its 31st martian day, or sol, ending early Wednesday, charging its batteries and beaming back scientific data about a rock it drilled into one sol earlier to batteries and beaming back scientific data about a rock it drilled into one sol earlier to

Canada receives less overseas visitors

**Ottawa, 27 Feb—** Canadians made more trips and spent more money out of the country in the third quarter of 2003, but the number of overseas visitors to Canada dropped sharply, Statistics Canada reported Wednesday.

According to the report, overnight travel by Canadian residents to overseas countries hit a new peak between July and September last year, with 1.2 million people taking trips, up 6 per cent from the same period in 2002. Spending on those trips was also up 5 per cent to over two billion Canadian dollars (about 1.5 billion US dollars).

Statistics Canada attributed the decline in the number of overseas visitors to the fall-out of the September 11 attacks in 2001 in the United States and the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003.

**China, Philippines sign loan agreement on railway project**

**Manila, 27 Feb—** The Chinese and Philippine governments Thursday signed here a 400-million-US-dollar loan agreement on a railway project to promote economic development north of Metro Manila.

China's failure to enforce copyright and patent protections on goods ranging from music CDs to manufacturing equipment threatens to subvert knowledge industries and innovation around the world, Zoellick said Wednesday at growing protectionist sentiment against China, while insisting Beijing live up to the commitments it has made to open its markets.

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However, he warned Beijing’s failure to enforce copyright and patent protections on goods ranging from music CDs to manufacturing equipment threatens to subvert knowledge industries and innovation around the world, Zoellick said Wednesday at growing protectionist sentiment against China, while insisting Beijing live up to the commitments it has made to open its markets.

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Cultural paper-reading session commences

YANGON, 27 Feb—Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung formally opened the cultural paper-reading session at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyauk Street in Dagon Township this morning.

Present were Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, directors-general of departments under the ministry and faculty members of Yangon and Mandalay Universities of Culture and guests.

The minister gave a speech.

At the paper-reading session, resource persons U Hla Kyawng (Paraga), Adviser U Aung Maung (Maung Arni) (MA-Bombay), U Kyaw Swa (Chit Oo Nyo) and Philosophy Department of Yangon University Professor U Thein Zan (Nanda Thein Zan) read out their papers and answered the queries raised by those present.

The paper-reading session will continue tomorrow. — MNA

Russian cafe blast death toll rises to 17

MOSCOW, 27 Feb — The death toll from Thursday’s cafe blast in Russia’s Eastern Siberia has so far reached 17, an official of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said.

The blast took place at 10:30 am Moscow Time (0750 GMT) in the city of Ulan-Ude and injuring 19, said ministry official Irina Anriavova.

“Among the injured, 15 have been hospitalized,” she said, adding that seven of those hospitalized are in grave condition.

Rescuers had found four exploded gas tanks. “The most probable cause is the gas explosion,” she said.

Prosecutors are investigating allegations of violation of fire safety rules.

The cafe was an annex to a five-storey brick house. The explosion completely destroyed the cafe, but did not damage the house. — MNA/Xinhua

Macedonian PM appeals for national unity

SKOPJE, 27 Feb — Macedonian Premier Branko Crvenkovski said on Thursday that the Republic of Macedonia had suffered a huge loss, whereas these were moments when the nation’s unity was more necessary, the MIA news agency reported.

Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski and eight other staff members were killed Thursday morning when their plane crashed in the mountainous terrain near Mostar in the south of Bosnia and Herzegovina on their way to the 10th international economic conference scheduled in Mostar.

“The eyes of the entire world are set on us. I am convinced that even in these tragic circumstances, we will confirm our statehood capacity, democratic maturity and high social consciousness. The state institutions will continue to function in a normal and responsible manner, according to the Constitution and the laws,” said Crvenkovski when he interrupted his visit in Dublin and returned immediately to Macedonia after the tragic air crash.

“The loss is huge, we need to mourn, but not fear. Macedonia is firm and stable state and will continue on its path,” Crvenkovski said.

Crvenkovski convened an extraordinary session on Thursday evening to make decisions about necessary measures in such circumstances. The session of the Security Council was held afterwards. — MNA/Xinhua

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

French wine producers battle sales slump

PARIS, 27 Feb — French wine producers, faced with competition from new world producers and a health-conscious nation that is drinking less, launched a battle to halt a slump in sales on Wednesday after a less than vintage year.

Wine producers demanded looser alcohol advertising laws before a meeting with Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, who wants to head off protests threatened by wine growers before regional elections next month.

A 3.4-cent per litre fall in wine exports last year has left a bitter taste and government campaigns against drunk driving have contributed to a drop in consumption — which producers put at 58 litres per head in 2002 after 100 litres in the early 1990s.

“It’s disguised prohibition because any product not able to advertise is dead,” said Roland Ferey of the CIVB interprofessional Council for Bordeaux wines, putting the case for a change in the advertising law.

The wine producers say the government has tightened the interpretation of a law which forbids wine advertising on television and the sponsoring of sports events. “We want rules that are able to distinguish,” said Jerome Agostini, director of the CNIV wine association.

“It is absurd to have alcohol ads at sports events, telling young people to drink more. But I don’t see any health concerns in a campaign on a cable TV channel mostly watched by adults.”

Wine producers cite many factors behind the drop in sales and exports. They say the fall in consumption could partly be due to health concerns and the fact many French today opt for takeaway lunches rather than sit-down meals with wine. They also refer to a heatwave last summer which cut production, the strength of the European currency which dented exports, and competition from new, cheaper wine producers from other parts of the world such as South America, Australia and South Africa. They will not have it their own way as they take on the advertising law. Some French doctors want stricter rules limiting the promotion of wine, such as the introduction of health warnings on wine bottles similar to cigarette packs.

They say opinion polls suggest a majority of respondents support this. The CNGOF association of gynaecologists and obstetricians wants a label telling pregnant women not to drink alcohol because they risk neurological defects and other health risks. — MNA/Reuters
China bans imports of two types of Isuzu automobiles

BEIJING, 27 Feb — China on Wednesday imposed a ban on the imports of two types of Isuzu automobiles from Japan after detecting a flawed design in their steering system that may be a hidden factor for accidents.

According to a circular issued jointly by the Chinese State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and the State Regulatory Commission of Certification and Accreditation on Wednesday, the border inspection and quarantine bureau of south China’s Guangdong Province has found that the steering systems of some of the Isuzu CX905S and CX905T automobiles cannot function smoothly, failing to measure up to the safety requirements.

Check-ups and experts’ analysis have confirmed that there are problems in the design of the two types of vehicles, which can be a hidden factor leading to trouble, the circular said.

China bans imports of two types of Isuzu automobiles

Pet cat kills woman owner in N-E China

SHENYANG, 27 Feb — A woman in northeast China’s Liaoning Province was killed by her pet cat after she locked it in the kitchen to block out its noise, police said Tuesday.

The woman, named Wang, died of gas poisoning in her sleep after the inoperative cat ruptured the indoor gas pipeline.

Wang’s daughter, sleeping with her in the same room, had a narrow escape and is receiving treatment in hospital, said police officers who learned of the accident during a routine inspection of Wang’s home while her family was preparing the funeral.

ARIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV “MANDALAY” VOY NO 120/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “MANDALAY” Voy No 120/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 1-3-2004 and will be berthing on about 2-3-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
New protein blocker of HIV replication identified

LONDON, 27 Feb—Scientists have identified a protein in monkeys that blocks the replication of the HIV virus that causes AIDS and could provide a new method to stop the deadly infection in humans.

Although a similar protein in people is less potent than it is in monkeys, researchers at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, said it could have potential as a drug against the illness that affects 40 million people worldwide.

“The discovery is important not only because there is a new way to intervene in HIV infection but there is also a sense that we have suddenly got some insight into a potential role for what have previously been very mysterious cell components,” Dr. Joseph Sodroski, who reported the finding in the science journal Nature. “We may be tapping into a system of innate or intrinsic resistance to viruses,” he said.

Trim5-alpha is a very specific inhibitor of HIV. Sodroski and his colleagues believe its potency may differ in individuals, which could explain why some people infected with the virus do not progress to AIDS more quickly than others. It may also be possible for scientists to find a way to increase its potency.

The researchers also suspect it could be the basis of more Trim5 proteins in humans which determine the susceptibility of cells to viruses and other infectious agents.

“It could be used in various settings,” said Sodroski.— MNA/Reuters

Six persons charged over cannabis crops seizure in Australia

CANBERRA, 27 Feb—Police have seized 500 cannabis crops worth about one million dollars (780,000 US dollars) in Tasmania, Australia, and six people were charged with drug trafficking, Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio reported Wednesday.

The cannabis plants were discovered growing in two separate lots in northeast Tasmania and the seizure operation began from last Friday and ended on Tuesday, local police said.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV QING CHUN MEN VOY NO (063)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN Voy No (063) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-2-04. The vessel will be arriving on 29-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GEE HONG VOY NO (404)

Consignees of cargo carried on GEE HONG Voy No (404) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

TRADE MARK CAUTION

HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY of # 140-2, Ke-

Dong, Chongro-Ku, Seoul, Korea, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:

Reg. No. 565/1995
HYUNDAI COUPE
Reg. No. 684/1996

In respect of “Apparatus for locomotion by land including passenger cars, trucks and buses; parts and fittings thereof, components and accessories for all the foresaid goods included in Int’l Class 12”

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademarks will be dealt with according to law.

WIN MU TIN, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L

for HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY

P.O. Box 60, Yangon: Dated: 28 February 2004

Bank Holidays

All Banks will be closed on 3rd March (Tuesday) and 5th March (Friday) 2004, being Public Holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

An employee of Panasonic, a Japanese consumer electronics manufacturer, shows off the world’s smallest and lightest digital video camera, the ‘DIGICAM NV-C1’.

Japan’s economy is gathering strength on the back of strong demand abroad and at home for digital cameras, semi-conductors and mobile phones.—INTERNET

Winds delay “Ariane” rocket launch

KOUROU (French Guiana), 27 Feb—High winds have delayed for at least 24 hours the launch of an Ariane-5 rocket with a probe designed to try to unlock mysteries of the solar system by studying a comet, officials said on Thursday.

The Rosetta comet-chasing probe had been set for launch from French Guiana. “We have a weather no-go because of high altitude winds,” Ariane-space president Jean-Yves Le Gall said 15 minutes before planned lift-off from the European Space Agency (ESA) launch centre in French Guiana on South America’s northeast coast.

“It’s not possible to go ahead. It’s not possible to do anything except come back tomorrow same place and same time to try again,” Le Gall said.

The Rosetta probe is designed to chase and then land on the comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko after a 10-year voyage. Rosetta was initially scheduled to have been launched in early 2003. But the mission was postponed after an upgraded version of Ariane-5 exploded on its maiden flight in December 2002.— MNA/Reuters

Primitive man’s remains from 10,000 years ago found in China

CHANGSHA, 27 Feb—Almost-fossilized remains, believed to belong to a primitive pithecanthropus man who lived over 10,000 years ago, have been discovered in a cave in central China’s Hunan Province.

Before this discovery, archaeologists unearthed the stone tools two kilometres from the cave, and they were digging to find out the possible users of the ancient stone tools.

The Paleolithic Age is the period beginning with the earliest chipped stone tools, about 750,000 years ago, to the beginning of the Mesolithic Age, about 15,000 years ago.

The skull was largely calcified, an indication that it is in the process of fossilizing, experts said.

The operation of a local hydropower reservoir, in Longshancun, pushed the water level of the Youshi River up to 10 metres below the cave in the cliff, making access to the cave easier. The water level was previously 30 metres below the cave.

Pithecanthropus man was the creature having characteristics of both apes and humans. It also refers to various extinct primates and sometimes is considered intermediate in evolution from anthropoid apes to modern human beings.—MNA/Xinhua

60% of US adults drink, 23% smoke

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb—Sixty per cent of US adults drink alcohol and up to 20 per cent are binge drinkers, according to a new comprehensive report of American habits and vices released on Wednesday.

About 23 per cent are smokers, and half have never touched a cigarette, according to the survey from the National Center for Health Statistics.

More than 60 per cent claim to get some sort of leisure time exercise, and one in four say they work out with weights or do some other form of strength training.

About 22 per cent were obese, meaning they are 20 per cent or more overweight, and an additional 35 per cent were overweight in the 1999-2000 study period.

About 40 per cent were in a healthy weight range and despite fears about media images contributing to unhealthy expectations about thinness, just 2 per cent were under weight, the report found.

The NCHS, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the fact sheet released on Wednesday is the most detailed look yet at the health habits of Americans.

It said six in 10 US adults were current drinkers in 1999-2001 and about 25 per cent said they were lifetime abstainers. “Nearly one-third of adults were classified as light drinkers (3 or fewer drinks per week),” the NCHS said in a statement.

Just 5 per cent were classified as heavier drinkers, which for a woman means seven or more drinks per week and 14 a week for men.

But 20 per cent said they sometimes drank five or more drinks a day, which qualifies as binge drinking.

Among all adults, about 19 per cent said they smoked daily, taking in on average one pack a day. More than 40 per cent of smokers said they had tried to quit in the past year.

The study found that men and women are equally likely to be obese, and men were more likely than women to be physically active in their leisure time.—MNA/Reuters
Porto a deserved 2-1 win over Manchester United as they celebrated the first knockout round of the Champions League.

The solitary goal of a tight if unspectacular first leg came from unlucky Portuguese defender Fernando Meira who intercepted a Glen Johnson cross into his own net. The 1-0 scoreline was a repetition of the 1998 European Cup Winners' Cup final which Porto won in Stockholm with a Gianluca Zola goal.

The win eases pressure on Ranieri whose side are out of the FA Cup and are a distant third in the Premier League despite an outlay of some 230 million US dollars on players this season. The victory makes them clear favourites to advance to the quarterfinals.

McCarthy, who shot in on goal for his team throughout the match, had half-fit keeper Carlo Cudicini to thank for several good saves. The Italian, who could not take goal kicks because of a groin strain, dived low twice to keep out first-half headers from Zvonimir Soldo, the only survivor from the Cup Winner's Cup final, and Marcelo Balboa.

The Portuguese defender Fernando Meira who intercepted a Glen Johnson cross into his own net. The 1-0 scoreline was a repetition of the 1998 European Cup Winners' Cup final which Porto won in Stockholm with a Gianluca Zola goal.

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Luque strike gives Deportivo win over Juventus

The Spanish side's determined midfield denied Juve time on the ball and last season's beaten finalists had just a couple of clear chances, Alessandro del Piero missing the best of them when shot clean through in the 31st minute.

Deportivo's bid to avenge last season's defeat almost got off to the perfect start as Juan Carlos Valeron stole the ball from a careless Nicola Legrottaglie after just four minutes and teed up Diego Tristan.

The Spanish striker, under pressure after a poor run in front of goal, waited far too long to shoot and the defence managed to hustle the ball clear.

Depor's midfield bite brought them more chances in the first half but Sergio, Victor and Valeron all failed to hit the target with shots from around the edge of the box.

The only early threats from Juventus came from a couple of promising runs by Pavel Nedved before del Piero let fly with a 25-metre blast that was well over in the 28th minute.

In the 31st minute, Juve finally managed to spring the Deport defence but del Piero's attempt to lift the ball over Joe Refaeli brought a fine save.

Smith double puts Sunderland into FA Cup quarters

The single goal, in the 12th minute, came from Chelsea's first real attack. Without Luque's interception, Chelsea might well have opened their account as Argentine striker Hernan Crespo was waiting to pounce on Glen Johnson's long curved ball.

However it could have been a more comfortable night for the Londoners if Iceland striker Eidur Gudjohnsen had not skied a neat pass from Crespo in the 32nd minute. United forced a few goalmouth scrambles in the second half as they pressed to equalize and Chelsea dropped back, but failed to make any pressure tell.

"After 20 minutes we showed our foot-
ball but we were anxious and nervous before that," Ranieri said. "It wasn't easy to play. Sturtevant are a good team. It was important to close all the space, not to allow them to counter-attack."
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Saturday, February 28, 2004

National News
16:45 Architecture of the Great Ananda
16:10 Son of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
16:30 National News
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
17:00 Weekly News
17:20 The King of Musical Instrument
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
17:50 Myanmar Gems Mosaic
18:05 Usefulness of Nipa Palm
18:55 Myanmar-ah-bla-Yat-tung-Aha

Saturday, February 28

View today:
7:00 am

7:25 am
To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
5. Delicacies
8:05 am
6. 
8:15 am
7. 
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Grammar made easy
11:00 am
11:10 am
2. Musical programme
11:30 am
3. News
11:40 am
4. Games for children
11:55 am
5. Roundup of the week’s TV local news
1:35 pm
6. "$\text{Language}_1$": "$\text{Language}_2$" (continued)
2:00 pm
7. Dance of national races
2:15 pm
8. "$\text{Language}_3$": "$\text{Language}_4$" (continued)
2:45 pm
9. International news
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
1:15 pm
5. "$\text{Language}_5$": "$\text{Language}_6$" (continued)
6:05 pm
10. Musical programme
6:15 pm
11. Delicacies
6:30 pm
12. News
16:00 pm
17. International news
16:00 pm
18. Weather report
18:00 pm
19. Myanmar video feature: "$\text{Language}_7$" (continued)
21. The next week’s programme
20:45 pm
20. National News
20:30 pm
21. Myanmar Gem Mosaic
20:55 pm
22. Magazine Hill
21:05 pm
23. The Art of Making Paper Toys
21:15 pm
24. Travelogue (India)
21:25 pm
25. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Dakhaluka”
21:35 pm
26. Fantastic Scenic Sights of Myanmar
22:00 pm
27. National News
22:05 pm
28. Architecture of the Great Ananda
22:10 pm
29. Song of “Misermerize Your Longing Wish”
22:15 pm
30. National News
22:20 pm
31. Child Art Competition
22:25 pm
32. Myanmar Modern Song
22:30 pm
33. National News
22:35 pm
34. Artist Maung Kyaw Nyunt “Cover Poster and Creative Painting”
22:40 pm
35. Dry Dockyard in Pathein Island (Southern Division)
22:45 pm
36. National News
22:50 pm
37. Myanmar Movie Impact “Dream Angel”
23:00 pm
38. National News
23:05 pm
39. Marquetry
23:10 pm
40. Myanmar Modern Song “Glory of Myanmar”
23:15 pm
41. Weekly News Highlights
23:20 pm
42. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Saturday, February 28, 2004

R-489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No. 223/30, Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon, Cable: Newslight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296664, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office)/ 297028 (Press).
Myanmar’s trade deficit with foreign countries falls thanks to introduction of more systematic import and export programmes
Ministry of Commerce holds work coordination meeting

YANGON, 27 Feb — The Ministry of Commerce held a work coordination meeting at its meeting hall this morning, with an address delivered by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win. The Secretary-1 said Myanmar’s trade deficit with foreign countries falls thanks to more systematic import and export programmes, introduced since fiscal 1999-2000 in a bid to increase the nation’s trade volume annually.

He then elaborated on the functions of the ministry, saying that its motto is “Leap forward through trade and commerce”.

Because of the relationship between the production sector and the trade sector in the nation’s economy, the volume of trade grows depending on the production sector covering the agricultural, fish and meat and industrial businesses, and in reciprocation, production sector sees progress in all aspects owing to the increase in the trade.

In addition to maritime trade, the State has already permitted the land trade, running five border trade centres at the border with China, four at the border with Thailand, two at the border with Bangladesh, and two at the border with India. Arrangements are under way to open more border trade centres in the future. Thus, efforts will have to be made in time to effectively handle with the growing border trade.

Myanmar enjoyed surplus in border trade during the second and third four-month periods of 2003 and in 2002. The Commerce Ministry has formed joint trade committees, holding meetings to boost trade, share information, exchange delegations and organize trade fairs to increase the nation’s trade with neighbouring countries.

Cooperation will have to be made with international organizations including WTO, World Bank, UNCTAD, and others.

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Circulation
23,131