

e and footie

ping VND773 billion (\$48 million), while in other parts of the world one kilometre of road averages at a mere \$34 million, according to a survey by the *Tien Phong* (Pioneer) newspaper. In fact, VND600 billion of the above total investment capital has been paid for site clearance only. Three years ago, in Hanoi, VND113 billion (\$7.1 million) was needed for constructing a 550m-long section of the Cau Giay Road. Of this money, \$7 million was for site clearance. Crossroads are even more valuable. Nga Tu So crossroads cost \$57 million but Nga Tu Vong crossroads a cost a mere \$13 million.

◆ Have you ever seen something totally made of money, besides money that is? In Vietnam, young people often make rings with just one note. Now, Tien Phong Company, one of Vietnam's biggest antique copycat makers on Truong Dinh Street in Hanoi have made large chests from ancient bronze coins. But what would you put in these chests? More money? Or maybe your winter woolies would be more sensible.

◆ A book titled "Who moved my cheese?" by Spencer Johnson has been translated into Vietnamese and published in Vietnam, but by two different companies.



A whole box of money, or as the "case" maybe, a whole box made of money.

Both, First News and ECO Press, the respective publishers, claim to have a right to the "cheese". On August 9, this year, First News signed a contract for the publishing rights with Spencer Johnson and G.P Putman's Sons, a US publisher. Then, First News got the book translated and published. Only a few days after appearing on the market, it was amazed to see the same book in Vietnamese but published by ECO Press. Nguyen Van Phuoc, First News' director, said ECO violated the copyright law but the book by ECO dates from the fourth quarter last year, a period when the First News' contract was not finalised.

◆ A Southeast Asian derby of biblical proportions is sched-

uled for Saturday, November 26 at My Dinh National Stadium training ground, that's right, the clash of the titans of regional Aussie rules is on. The poetically inclined Hanoi Swans go up against the alliterative tongue twisting Thailand Tigers. The clash has been touted by many pundits to be, if not the match of the century, at least as the match of the season. The Swans, a.k.a the Bloods as they are known by die-hard fans, will be looking to re-establish themselves as a regional *tour de force* following a hard-fought away loss against the Malaysian Warriors in Kuala Lumpur last June. Team spokesman Phil Johns, who has been struggling with injuries during the past few weeks, says the Bloods are

ready to show Thailand some tough Hanoi hospitality as well as teach them a thing or two about the Australian national sport. Little known outside its founding country Australian Rules Football is a sport which is played using both the hands and feet, and combines the skills of soccer with the brutality of rugby, as well as the highflying athleticism of gymnastics. It has to be seen to be believed. The game is at 2pm, with food and drinks offered to spectators and after match celebrations or commiserations, presumably for the Tigers, will be held at Bar Barracuda, Phu Tan from 10pm.

*Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wab*
— Lewis Carrol