

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 15 February, 2006

## 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

# Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing see off Prime Minister General Soe Win on departure for People's Republic of China

YANGON, 14 Feb — At the invitation of Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, and wife Daw Than Than Nwe left here this morning for the PRC to pay an official visit.

They were seen off at the airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior Gen-

eral Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye and their wives, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon

Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife, the ministers, Charge d' Affaires of the PRC Mr Yu Boren and officials and departmental heads.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and departmental officials.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing see off Prime Minister General Soe Win at the airport. —MNA

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Wednesday, 15 February, 2006

**Emergence of dream highways leads to people's socio-economic progress**

Mountain ranges, plains, basins, rivers and creeks are main geographical features of Myanmar. Some national people in some parts of the nation seem to be living away from each other though, in reality, they are not far away from each other. It is due to natural barriers such as mountain ranges and rivers and creeks. Therefore, the government is building transport infrastructures all over the nation for social and economic progress of the people.

The government is making all-out efforts for all-round development of various regions across the nation and Rakhine State is no exception. Rakhine State is mountainous and has many rivers and creeks. Therefore, new roads and bridges are being built to improve the transport in the state. Before 1988, there were only 448 miles of roads in Rakhine State but now it has 897 miles of roads. In the same way, the number of bridges 180 feet and above long stands at 44, up from 11 in 1988.

The Thazintan Pauk bridge built by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction was inaugurated on 12 February. The 592-foot-long bridge is situated on the Yangon-Taungup-Maei-Kyaukpyu road in Yanbye Township, Kyaukpyu District. The Sittway-An-Yangon and Kyaukpyu-Taungup-Yangon roads have been built across rivers and over the mountains to improve the transport in the state.

Due to the relentless efforts, goodwill and skills of Myanmar engineers, trucks and passenger buses are now plying to and fro between Kyaukpyu and Yangon and Yangon and Yanbye. In the past, these roads were possible only in the dream but now the dream highways have become reality. And the Yangon-Sittway, Yangon-Kyaukpyu, Ngathaingchaung-Gwa and Padaung-Taungup roads are the signs of goodwill shown by the government towards the people.

We believe that the people will be able to travel from town to town or from state to state easily and their social, economic and educational status will improve a lot as the government is building networks of roads and bridges across the Union.



In memory of late U Ba Han and Daw Saw and son U Kyaw San of Botahtaung Township, family members recently donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-treasurer of the administrative board U Maung Maung Gyi. — H

**Union Day Pledge**

**Disintegration of national solidarity will lead to loss of independence. We shall march towards a new peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation through the strength of the national solidarity in accord with seven-step Road Map.**

**Information Minister receives guests**



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets Mr Erich Garbers and Mr Markus Thiel of Germany. — MNA

YANGON, 14 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan this afternoon received Director of Rieckermann Machinery Industrial Equipment of Germany Mr Erich Garbers and Product Manager Mr Markus Thiel at Myanmar Radio and Television

on Pyay Road here.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and directors of the department and enterprises under the ministry. — MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn inspects tarmacking of Bogyoke Aung San Street in Pabedan Township on 14-2-2006. — YCDC

**Japan beat Myanmar 3-0 at volleyball friendly**

YANGON, 14 Feb — Japanese women volleyball team beat Myanmar women team 3-0 this afternoon.

The third match of the Myanmar-Japan women volleyball friendly was held at the Aung San Gymnasium here.

Among the spectators were Chairperson of Central Working Committee for Myanmar Women Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and officials of Myanmar Volleyball Federation.

MNA

**CICS (Upper Myanmar) marks seventh founding anniversary**

YANGON, 14 Feb — The seventh founding anniversary of Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) was held at the institute on 7 February. 'Soon' and provisions were offered to members of the Sangha on the occasion. Member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Myint Oo and Rector U Aung San Win presented awards to outstanding trainees. Later sports competitions were held and winners were presented with prizes — MNA



CSSTB Member U Hla Myint Oo awards first prize to Assistant Lecturer Daw Tin Mar Nwe. — NLM

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## China's Forbidden City to undergo overhaul within three years

**BEIJING, 13 Feb**—China's Forbidden City, one of the world's largest imperial palaces, will undergo overhaul in the coming three years, *Beijing News* reported on Saturday.

The move was aimed to restore the imperial grandeur of the palace halls and protect the relics collections inside, the newspaper cited Jin Hongkui, vice-curator of the Palace Museum, as saying.

Jin said the Imperial Palace underwent renovation projects in 2003. As for the

upcoming overhaul, he said that it is a priority to maintain the structure of palace halls and to protect the surrounding environment.

Meanwhile, keen attention will be paid to exhibition, fire control, and safety issues and other functions, Jin said.

Repairing materials will be China's

traditional architectural materials, including bricks, stones, glazed tiles, and gold foil, except a wall coating imported from South Korea, according to the paper.

The 585-year-old Forbidden City was the former residence of China's 24 emperors in the country's history.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese researcher from the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology checks a fossil from a tyrannosaur in Beijing on 13 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

## Space Station orbit adjusted in unusual manoeuvre

**Moscow, 13 Feb**—Russian space engineers have successfully conducted an unusual manoeuvre to adjust the orbit of the *International Space Station* (ISS), the Mission Control said on Sunday.

In what Russian space engineers called an extraordinary manoeuvre, the engines of the *Progress M-55* cargo ship, docked to the station's Pirs docking port, were switched on at 01:22 a.m. Sunday (2222 GMT Saturday) and activated for 522 seconds, a Mission Control source was quoted by the *ITAR-TASS* news agency as saying.

The ISS orbit was raised by about 1.5 kilometres, the source said. Russian cargo ships docked to the Zarya docking port are usually used as "a tugboat" for adjusting orbit. Space engineer Viktor Blagov said they experimented with using the cargo ship docked to the Pirs docking port to perform three tasks — adjusting the ISS orbit, roll orientation and escaping space waste.—MNA/Xinhua

## Britain investigates video of Iraq soldier abuse

**LONDON, 13 Feb**—A British newspaper released a video on Sunday apparently showing British soldiers savagely beating Iraqi teenagers in 2004, prompting Prime Minister Tony Blair to promise a full investigation.

"We take seriously any allegations of mistreatment, and this will be investigated very fully indeed," Blair told reporters after a meeting of left-of-centre leaders in South Africa.

The video, released by the *News of the World* and shown widely on British television as well as Arabic news stations, showed a group of soldiers dragging Iraqi protesters behind a wall while a demonstration is under way, and beating them with batons and kicking them.

The *News of the World* newspaper, which released the footage, said it had been filmed from the roof of a building by another soldier who can be heard egging on his comrades and mocking the Iraqis' pleas for mercy.

The Ministry of Defence said military police were investigating.

"We are aware of these very serious allegations and can confirm they are now the subject of an urgent Royal Military Police investigation," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The newspaper said the video had been filmed in early 2004 at a time of street riots in southern Iraq, where British troops are stationed.

The cameraman is said to be heard laughing.

British troops have been hit by abuse allegations in the past, though none approaching the scale of the abuse perpetrated by Americans against prisoners at Abu Ghraib Jail in Baghdad in a scandal that shocked the world in 2004.

Those pictures came to light when one of the soldiers took them to a lab to be developed and the lab technician alerted the authorities.

MNA/Reuters

## Angola, Mali join ban on poultry from Nigeria

**LUANDA, 13 Feb**—Angola and Mali have banned poultry and egg imports from Nigeria, joining other African nations which have imposed bans since the continent's first case of the H5N1 bird flu virus was confirmed in the West African state.

The Angolan state news agency *Angop* on Saturday quoted Filipe Vissesse, Director-General of Veterinary Services, as saying the Angolan Government had already stepped up security and monitoring at seaports, airports and border checkpoints.—MNA/Reuters

## Gas blast kills 12 in China coal mine

**SHANGHAI, 13 Feb**—Twelve miners were killed in a gas explosion and three others were reported missing at a coal mine in central China's Henan Province on Friday, the official *Xinhua* news agency said on Saturday.

Rescue operations continued into Saturday, *Xinhua* said, citing sources

at the Henan Provincial Coal Industry Bureau.

An estimated 41 miners escaped the blast at the Malingshan mine in Dengfeng City, which is operated by the Zhengmei Group. China is home to the world's deadliest mines, with a death rate 100 times that for pits in the United States. It produces about one-third of the world's coal but accounted for more than 80 per cent of global coal mine deaths in 2004. Coal mining accidents in China killed 5,986 people in 2005, only 41 fewer than in 2004.

Booming demand and high prices for coal—which fuels about 70 per cent of China's energy consumption—mean regulations are often ignored, production is pushed beyond safe limits and mines that have been shut down are reopened illegally.

MNA/Reuters

## Greeks find largest Macedonian tomb of nobles

**ATHENS, 13 Feb**—Greek archaeologists said on Sunday they had discovered the largest underground tomb in Greek antiquity in the ancient city of Pella in northern Greece, birthplace of Alexander the Great.

The eight-chamber tomb rich in painted sculpture dates to the Hellenistic period between the 3rd and 2nd century BC and offers scholars a rare glimpse into the life of nobles around the time of Alexander's death.

"This is the largest, sculptured, multi-chambered tomb found in Greece, and is significant in that it is a new architectural style—there are many chambers and a long entrance arcade," the chief archaeologist at Pella, Maria Akamati, told *Reuters*. Akamati said that the tomb, accessible through a 16-metre long entrance, was uncovered in an agricultural plot bordering the ancient

cemetery of the capital city of the Macedonian kingdom. Until now, the largest chambered funeral tomb found in Greece contained up to three chambers.

Intact, inscribed tombstones, with the names of the owners still visible, and a vast array of rich artefacts including jewellery, copper coins and earthen vases, led archaeologists to the conclusion that the tomb belonged to a noble family.

"This was a very rich family. This is rare as the cemetery is full of plebeians (commoners)," said Akamati. "We actually learned the names of the owners from the tombstones."

MNA/Reuters



Iraqis search through the rubble following an explosion in Baghdad, on 13 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET



A flower vendor holds bundles of fresh long-stemmed red roses for sale at a 'flower alley' in Manila on 13 Feb, 2006, the eve of the world-wide celebration of Valentine's Day. —INTERNET

ဝက်မွှေးအား သေစီကျော်လွှား

## WHO says Nigeria starts testing people for bird flu

**KANO (Nigeria), 13 Feb**—Nigeria has started testing people who have fallen ill close to where the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus was found, a World Health Organization (WHO) official said on Saturday.

No human cases of bird flu have been reported in Africa's most populous country, where H5N1 has killed tens of thousands of poultry, but it is hard for authorities to monitor because of high mortality rates from many other diseases.

"Our field officers are

already there, in those farms and nearby. We are monitoring and taking samples. We are concerned about the possibility of a human case," said Lola Sadiq, in charge of coordinating the bird flu response at WHO headquarters in Abuja.

"This is a tropical environment where there are lots of diseases, so we need to watch closely and take a lot of swabs. They will be tested here first and if there is any suspicion

(of bird flu) they will send samples abroad," she said.

Sadiq said the WHO had received information about two people who were feared to have contracted the disease in Kaduna State, close to Sambawa Farms where one of the poultry samples that tested positive for H5N1 came from.

But she said there was no certainty for now and authorities wanted to avoid causing panic.

MNA/Reuters

## Gas pipeline blown up in southwestern Pakistan

**ISLAMABAD, 13 Feb** — A gas pipeline was blown up by suspected militants in Pakistan's restive southwestern province of Baluchistan in an overnight attack, disrupting gas supply to nearby areas from one well, a senior local government officer said on Sunday.

Abdul Samad Lasi, district coordination officer, blamed the private militia of a rebellious tribal chief, Nawab Akbar Bugti, for the attack that occurred near the Loti gas field in Sui, some 500 kilometres southeast of Baluchistan's capital Quetta.

"They (militants) were Nawab's (Bugti's) men who also fired rockets on one of the gas wells there and damaged it," he told Geo television.

MNA/Xinhua

## Blind S African completes cycle race, riding solo

**CAPE TOWN, 13 Feb**— South African adventurer **Hein Wagner, who last year broke the land speed car record for the blind, completed a long-distance cycle race on Saturday, riding solo, organizers said.**

Blind from birth, Wagner, 34, finished the 39-kilometre (24-mile) leg of the Construction du Cap Ninety Niner in Cape Town in just under two hours. He was the only blind competitor in the race.

"This feels amazing," he told *Reuters* shortly after the race, relieved that he managed to navigate the winding roads and busy traffic on the route.

"We finished up a lot quicker than we thought

—we hit 38 to 40 kilometres an hour at stages."

Wagner, from Cape Town, became the world's fastest blind driver in September last year when he reached 269 kph (167 mph) on a remote airstrip in a borrowed Maserati V8 GranSport.

He rode in Saturday's race on a solo bicycle behind a navigator, using only the helper's voice to direct him and a beeping device attached to the

navigator's cycle to judge speed.

Wagner said he had taken part in the race to increase public awareness of the problems facing blind people and to raise money for a national charity for the blind.

The biggest problem was the noise of the traffic, which at times made it almost impossible to hear the all-important instructions shouted by the navigator, Wagner said.

MNA/Reuters

## China, G-8 discuss global growth, trade

**Moscow, 13 Feb**— A Chinese high-level finance official on Saturday called on the Group of Eight (G-8) leading industrial nations to play a more active role in moving forward the Doha round of trade talks.

China's Vice Minister of Finance Li Yong and finance officials from rising economies of India, Brazil and South Africa discussed global economic growth and trade with G-8 finance ministers at a G-8 meeting in Moscow.

China believes efforts should be made to build

on the achievements of the World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting held in Hong Kong in December, 2005, and move forward the Doha Round of trade talks toward a comprehensive and balanced agreement, Li told the G-8 finance ministers.

While providing aid

for trade to developing countries, developed countries should take the lead in reducing tariffs on agricultural products and farm subsidies, enhancing market access, improving the trade environment and implementing special and differentiated policies for developing countries, Li said. — MNA/Xinhua

## New UAE Cabinet sworn in

**ABU DHABI, 13 Feb**— The new Cabinet of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, was sworn in on Saturday as the country's seventh government since its founding in 1971.

President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan addressed the swear-in ceremony, expressing his hope that the new government will devote itself to the development of the country and the well-being of the people.

The new Cabinet, proposed by Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, also UAE's Vice-President and Defence Minister, was approved by the President on Thursday.

In the new Cabinet, eight of whom are newly appointed ministers, the official news agency WAM said.

Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum made no change to the Defence, Finance, or Interior portfolios, WAM said. But Information and Culture Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan has been named the country's new Foreign Minister.

Two women ministers are included in the new government. — MNA/Xinhua

## Bottled water taxing earth

**QATAR, 13 Feb**—It may reportedly lead to a healthier body and mind but our increasing fondness for drinking bottled water could be having an adverse effect on the planet.

A new study published in the US says that bottled water consumption has more than doubled globally in the last six years and is heavily taxing the world's ecosystem. Emily Arnold, the author of the report published by the Washington-based environmental group the Earth Policy Institute, says bottled water can cost 10,000 times more than tap water despite often being no healthier. "Even in areas where tap water is safe to drink, demand for bottled water is increasing, producing unnecessary garbage and consuming vast quantities of energy," she says.

The study says that at as much as \$2.50 per litre, bottled water actually costs more than petrol. It added that the US was the largest consumer of bottled

water, with Americans drinking 26 billion litres in 2004. Mexico came in second at 18 billion litres followed by China and Brazil at 12 billion each.

In terms of consumption per person, Italians came first at nearly 184 litres, or more than two glasses a day, followed by Mexico and the United Arab Emirates with 169 and 164 litres per person respectively.

The study said that demand for bottled water soared in developing countries between 1999 and 2004 with consumption tripling in India and more than doubling in China. That has translated into massive costs in packaging the water, usually in plastic bottles made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) which is derived from crude oil, and then transporting it by boat, train or on land. "Making bottles to meet Americans' demand for bottled water requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually, enough to fuel some 100,000 US cars for a year," according to the study. —Internet



Iraqi policemen secure the scene of a suicide bomb attack in Baghdad on 13 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET



South Korean students peer Catherine wheels made of wood chips and straw, in celebration of the first full moon of lunar calendar at a park in Seoul, on 12 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

## Chinese Embassy in Pakistan holds Lantern Festival reception

ISLAMABAD, 13 Feb— The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan on Sunday held a reception for the Chinese community in the country to celebrate the traditional Chinese Lantern Festival.

At the reception, Ambassador Zhang Chunxiang gave a brief introduction to the representatives of the Chinese community about China's latest development. "Last year, China's economy growth rate was 9.9 per cent, becoming the fourth largest economic power in the world," he said. "The successful launch of *Shenzhou VI* manned spacecraft symbolizes that China has joined the world's most advanced scientific and technological group of countries." "Pakistan is an important and friendly neighbouring country of China. Last October, immediately after the catastrophic earthquake in Pakistan, China made

its relief efforts at full fledge, actively joined the reconstruction of the disaster-hit areas, which has gained high appraisal of the Pakistani Government and people," Zhang said.—MNA/Xinhua

## 22 ill after taking part in Hong Kong marathon

HONG KONG, 13 Feb— Twenty-two people were taken to hospital and two of them were in critical condition after taking part in Hong Kong's biggest marathon amid the worst air pollution levels in months, the government said on Monday.

A record 40,000 people took part in Sunday's Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon and many complained of the thick smog which obscured the Tsing Ma Bridge, a key landmark along the route of the annual race. Of the two runners in critical condition, one collapsed near the finish in Wanchai District, an area where the air pollution index (API) soared to nearly 150, the

highest level since September 2005. The other collapsed not far from the Tsing Ma Bridge. "They are still in critical condition", a government spokeswoman said.

The organizer, the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association, was not immediately available for comment and it was not clear if the two men collapsed because of

polluted air. However, Choi Kin, president of the Hong Kong Medical Association said their condition was more likely to be linked to their level of fitness rather than air quality. "When people suddenly perform exercise that aims to test their limits, their bodies may not be able to cope," the *South China Morning Post* reported Choi as saying.—MNA/Reuters

## Nepali Govt to offer VAT rebate

KATHMANDU, 13 Feb— The Nepali Government has decided to provide rebate of one per cent on Value Added Tax (VAT) added receipts, a senior government official said here on Sunday.

"The decision was taken with an aim to accelerate VAT enforcement to the retail level by encouraging people to demand VAT registered receipts," the official said on condition of anonymity.

Nepal's Council of Ministers, or the Cabinet, on Thursday made the decision, which will take effect from Monday, he added.

As per the latest decision, buyers will have to submit VAT registered receipts to receive the rebate. With

the decision, the effective rate of VAT has come down to 12 per cent from the existing 13 per cent.

The government has also decided to appoint 1,000 tax assistants to facilitate the rebate process, initially for three months.

"The decision of recruiting the tax assistance was taken mainly due to lack of government employees for the effective implementation of the scheme," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Smallest wild cat found in Mumbai

NEW DELHI, 13 Feb—Rusty Spotted Cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*), the smallest cat of the world, has been found in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) in the West Indian city of Mumbai, news website dnaindia.com reported on Saturday.

It is one of the last surviving members of its species and found only in select parts of India. Only 36 cats of this rare species are still surviving in 11 zoos across the world — two in the United States, four in Britain and one each in Canada, France, Germany, Puerto Rico and Sri Lanka. There is no record about their numbers in the wild.

The cat is a highly endangered animal included in Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1974. In India, little is known about its habitat in the wild, as the cat is extremely elusive. There is only one previous instance of its sighting in the SGNP ever. "Little is known about this cat as it is very shy. It is only found in Jammu (India-controlled Kashmir), Gujarat, Maharashtra and certain southern parts of the country. There is no data available on its habitat as well. It is great that we found one from the park," said the website quoting PN Munde, director of the park, as saying.—MNA/Xinhua



The smallest cat of the world has been found in Sanjay Gandhi National Park of Mumbai, India recently. —INTERNET

## Deadly H5N1 bird flu cases confirmed in Bulgaria

SOFIA, 13 Feb—The European central reference laboratory in Britain has eventually confirmed a case of the H5N1 strain of highly pathogenic bird flu in Bulgaria, the country's Agriculture and Forest Ministry said on Saturday.

The virus was detected in a swan found dead near the northwest town of Vidin at the end of last month. The virus was confirmed in the samples sent for testing to Waybridge, Britain, the central reference lab for avian influenza of the European Union. Bulgaria's first bird flu case was reported on 3 February. On 9 February, two more birds were tested positive. The samples will also be sent to the British lab on Monday. —MNA/Xinhua

## Religious leaders agree to build peace in the world

JAKARTA, 14 Feb — Religious leaders from Asian and Pacific countries agreed on Monday to revitalize religions as determinant factors and prophetic mission for building peace in the world, according to a joint messages issued at the end of a two-day East Asian Religious Leaders Forum. The leaders decided to optimize networking effort and cooperation among religious leaders and communities in pursuit of a peaceful and prosperous in East Asian countries, the messages said.

"They declared to improve religious education as the basis for empowering plural and multicultural communities in building peaceful, democratic and harmonies societies," it said, adding, "the representatives of 10 religions declared to promote peace education through schools and family education, especially among the younger generation."

MNA/Xinhua

## Blast destroys suspected Tamil Tiger boat in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 13 Feb—A suspected Tamil Tiger boat was blown off in an explosion in the sea off Sri Lanka's northern coast, defence officials said on Saturday.

The Navy said they had spotted a suspected boat in the sea 8 nautical miles off the coast of

Talaimannar, 360 kilometres north of Colombo on Saturday at around 5:00 pm local time (1100 GMT). The Navy signalled them to halt and approached the boat when it blew itself up. At least four people were seen on board the ill fated boat, the Navy added.

The Tigers may have been smuggling in arms in the boat, the Navy believed. The incident has come less than two weeks ahead of the proposed talks between the Tamil Tigers and the government in Geneva.

The two sides agreed to have direct talks for the first time in 3 years after a spate of violent incidents in the north and east since December 2005. The talks are aimed at strengthening the fragile Norwegian-backed ceasefire.

MNA/Xinhua

## Northeast Asian cooperation urged

SEOUL, 14 Feb — Renowned politicians, economists and entrepreneurs from China, South Korea and Japan on Monday called on Northeast Asian nations to enhance cooperation and exchanges, accelerate regional cooperation pace and promote common prosperity and stability.

About 30 delegates from the three countries gathered in Seoul earlier in the day to attend the one-day the first "Northeast Asia Celebrities' Meeting", which was held at the Lotte Hotel in central Seoul.

South Korean former Prime Minister Lee Hong-koo pointed out in his speech that to establish peaceful and tolerant good relations with neighbouring countries and maintain regional peace is the common goal

of the persons with breadth of vision.

Qian Qichen, China's former vice prime minister, said that to build the state relations based on "mutual respect and trust, equal treatment and harmony coexistence" is the prerequisite and guarantee for the realization of peace and development in the region.

The former senior Chinese official also urged the three major powers in the region to

"positively intensify exchanges among people of the three countries, facilitate the resolution of the pending regional issues as well as make joint efforts to expand the cooperation in the East Asia to the whole Asian region."

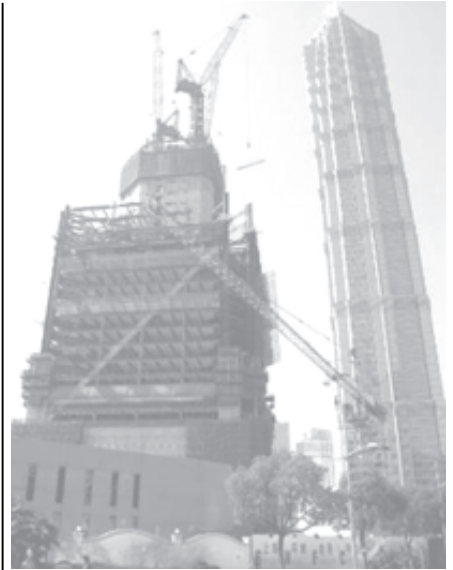
As responses, Japan's former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone recalled in his speech the principal put forward during his term on dealing with the pending issues in the Northeast Asia.

Nakasone underscored he still holds the principle today, which advocates developing relations of peace and friendship,

mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and prolonged stability. Nakasone also delivered his hope that China, South Korea and Japan would put forward the work of establishing a common community and common economic cooperation institution in the region.

Moreover, economists, scholars and entrepreneurs from the three countries also held discussions over the topics of free trade zone, common currency, cooperation among companies, management of foreign currency and research of state-of-the-art technology in the forum.

MNA/Xinhua



Shanghai global business centre, which will be the tallest building in China at 101 storeys and about 492 metres (1614 feet) tall when it is completed, is under construction in Shanghai on 13 Feb, 2006. It will be completed in 2008 and 30 storeys have already been built.—INTERNET

## Motorcycle bomb hits US patrol in eastern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 14 Feb — A motorcycle bomb struck a US military patrol in eastern Baghdad early on Sunday, causing unknown casualties, an Interior Ministry source said.

"An explosive packed motorcycle went off near the al-Tuffaha Casino in Baghdad al-Jadedah when a US patrol was passing by," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

It was not clear whether there was any casualties among the US forces as they sealed off

the area preventing the Iraqi police from approaching the scene.

"In a separate incident, a roadside bomb detonated on a highway, which passes through the capital's northern district of Raghba Khatoon, killing two civilians and wounding three others," the source said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Romania finds suspect bird flu cases in fowl

BUCHAREST, 14 Feb — Romania found cases of suspected bird flu in fowl close to the Black Sea port of Constanta, authorities said on Monday.

Avian flu has been discovered in 29 villages across the country since the virus was first detected in the Danube Delta in October, but Romania has not reported any human cases.

"Rapid tests on two dead hens found in a courtyard led to suspicion of the presence of the H5 type of the virus in the Topraisar Village, in the county of Constanta," the country's chief veterinarian Ion Agafitei told Reuters.

The village is 40 kilometres north of the border with Bulgaria.

MNA/Reuters

## Explosion rocks Istanbul, wounding six

ANKARA, 14 Feb — A huge blast, believed to be caused by a bomb, rocked a supermarket in Istanbul on Monday, wounding six people, local media reported. Istanbul Governor Muammer Guler was quoted by the semi-official

Anatolia news agency as saying that six people were wounded in the blast, one of whom in critical condition. Guler told reporters along with Istanbul Police Chief Celalettin Cerrah that an investigation into the cause of the blast was currently underway, adding "it seems to be caused by a device that exploded". Earlier, the private NTV cited Guler as accusing Kurdish militants of carrying out the attack. The explosion took place at a supermarket in the Bahcelievler District of Istanbul, which is Turkey's largest city and popular tourism destination, said Anatolia, adding that the entrance to the two-storey shop was badly damaged.

No group has claimed responsibility so far. The incident came shortly after a Thursday bomb explosion at an Internet cafe in Istanbul, which killed one person and wounded about 15 others. Istanbul also witnessed a series of suicide bombings targeting British and Jewish interests in the city in November 2003.

Some 60 people were killed in the attacks carried out by al-Qaeda-linked Turkish militants. Kurdish rebel groups also launched bombing attacks in Turkey in the past. — MNA/Xinhua

## WHO confirms another Indonesian effected by bird flu

JAKARTA, 14 Feb — The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed another 23-year-old Indonesian man of having avian influenza, bringing the total cases to 26 in the country, and 18 of them died, senior official of Indonesian Health Ministry said here on Monday. Hariadi Wibisono, a director at the ministry said that the man from Central

Java Province had contacted with birds and now survived. The WHO laboratory in Hong Kong has confirmed that his blood was positive," he told Xinhua on telephone.

More than 80 people were killed by the virus in Asia, Indonesia is the second biggest in term of the number of victim after Vietnam, said the WHO.

MNA/Xinhua

## BBC says British hospitals targeted for medical equipment

LONDON, 14 Feb — Criminal gangs are targeting British hospitals and stealing expensive medical equipment to sell it abroad on the black market, the BBC said on Monday.

A hospital in York

had 300,000 pounds worth of endoscopy equipment used for internal examinations taken in a recent raid and health trusts have been told to improve security.

Leicester General Hospital and Newcastle's

Freeman Hospital have both had endoscopes stolen while the University Hospital of North Durham had a heart scanner costing 35,000 pounds taken.

Detective Sergeant Judith Smith of North Yorkshire Police, who has been liaising with forces around the country, said she knew of 10 cases where medical equipment had been taken and thought it was being sold in eastern Europe or Africa.

"There are quite a few similarities in the cases we have seen," she told the BBC.

"It seems they are organized by groups or a group of individuals who know what they are doing."

"It is specialist equipment that has been taken and you would expect the thieves would have a market to sell them on to.—MNA/Reuters



A Spanish Civil Guard officer inspects the damages after an explosion at a fireworks factory in the town of Sollan, near Santiago de Compostela, northwestern Spain, on 13 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

## Nearly 2,000 dengue fever cases reported in Vietnam

HANOI, 14 Feb — Some 2,000 people in Vietnam's southern Mekong Delta were infected with dengue fever in January-early February period, of whom one died, local newspaper Saigon Liberation reported on Monday. Most of the sufferers are from the provinces of Hau Giang, An Giang and Dong Thap, where weather conditions and local people's habit of storing water in containers at their houses favoured the development of mosquitoes—the disease's transmitter.

To minimize the number of new infections, local health workers are encouraging residents to kill mosquitoes and their larvae more actively.

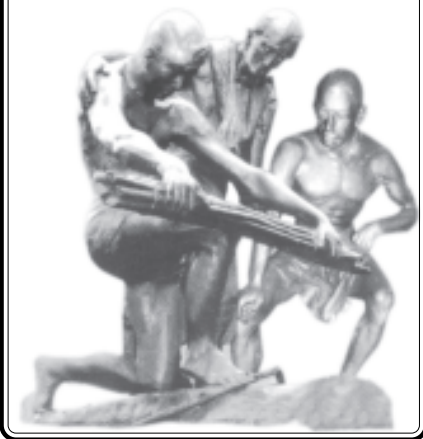
Vietnam reported 49,400 cases of dengue fever infections, including 51 fatalities last year, down 32.7 per cent and 49.5 per cent from the previous year, respectively, according to the country's General Statistics Office. — MNA/Xinhua

**Honouring the 59th Anniversary Union Day:**

# Be united through thick and thin

*Chit Naing (Psychology)*

## Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union



The Kachin nationals reside in the hilly regions in the northern part, the Kayin nationals in the regions near the lower reaches of the Thanlwin River and the Ayeyawady River, the Shan nationals in the eastern part and the Rakhine nationals in the western part of Myanmar. In Myanmar with an area of more than 260,000 square miles, various national races reside in different regions.

Since yore, all the national races have lived in amity and union in the nation. More or less, languages, literature, customs and traditions of the national races appear different. But in essence, their ideas and cultures are the same. By studying some proverbs of national races, one can realize the same ideas and unity of the national brethren.

Among the Kachin proverbs are:

- Water cannot leak into a bamboo without a crack in it (Lawwaw)
- Remember others' help to you and forget your help to others (Lesu)
- Build a bridge before tide.

There are many Kayah proverbs such as

- If we eat together, we enjoy our meals more and if we work together, we make more progress.
- Many birds come to a large tree and many children to a magnanimous person.

Among the Kayin proverbs are:

- Little drops of water make a lot of water
- A single stick can be broken, but a bundle of sticks cannot
- Muddy water cannot overwhelm clear water.

Chin nationals have their own proverbs such as

- A single stick of firewood cannot make a fire
  - Having meal together is pleasure. Cooperation makes light work.
  - Speak laconically and you will be hit. Speak sweet words and you will win affection.
- Some Bamar proverbs are:
- Unity is the key to success
  - Unity is strength

- make oil.
- Among Shan proverbs are:
- Live and work together
  - Farm on fertile soil, trade with kind words
  - Patience is gold.

A valuable lesson can be taken from the current international affairs that united nations have been able to transform themselves into developed ones, while the nations with

Myanmar stood as a strong nation in the times when its national people were united, and it was weak and fell under alien subjugation in the times when various regions were ruled independently by the respective leaders.

Therefore, national races should be united all the more and grapple with wedges driven among national brethren and instigation and hindrance by certain

showing generosity, magnanimity and forgiveness.

In the 21st Century, the world has witnessed rapid changes that are unprecedented in the history. And novelties have emerged. So, all the national races are to be further harmonious and united for greater development of the motherland. Union Spirit is indeed the attitude of making collaborative

**In the 21st Century, the world has witnessed rapid changes that are unprecedented in the history. And novelties have emerged. So, all the national races are to be further harmonious and united for greater development of the motherland. Union Spirit is indeed the attitude of making collaborative efforts sharing joys and sorrows.**

- A line cannot be drawn in water.
- Mon proverbs include
- United we stand, divided we fall
- Sailing in the same boat
- Ten heads are better than one.

Some Rakhine proverbs are:

- Being acquainted with a villager is being acquainted with entire village
- A line cannot be drawn in water
- A single seed of sesamum cannot

disintegrated national people are facing a variety of hardships and adversities.

nations. And they should study one another's traditions, customs, culture and languages

efforts sharing joys and sorrows.

**Translation: MS**  
\*\*\*\*\*





Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Soe Win at Yangon International Airport. (News on page 1) — MNA



## Work done by Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee briefed

YANGON, 14 Feb— The Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee held a briefing on the work done at Kanaung Hall of Dagon East Industrial

Zone in Dagon Myothit (East), Yangon East District this morning.

Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai made a speech on the occasion, and accepted 1,400 membership applications from townships of Yangon East District.

Next, Secretary of the Supervisory Committee Dr Hla Myint reported on work to be carried out in 2006 and Joint Secre-

tary Dr Daw Nwe Ni Ohn reported on assessment of work done in 2005, after which the meeting came to an end.

After the ceremony, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai and party viewed round documentary photos on activities of Yangon East District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Maternal and Child Welfare Associations in 14 townships in the district on display outside the hall.—MNA

*Charge d' Affaires of the embassy of PRC Mr Yu Boren and embassy staff see off Prime Minister General Soe Win at Yangon International Airport. (News on page 1) — MNA*

## Union Day delegates go sightseeing in Yangon River

YANGON, 14 Feb— Delegates to the 59th Anniversary of the Union Day Celebrations and cultural troupes, accompanied by Secretary of the sub-committee for reception and accommodation of the 59th Anniversary Un-

ion Day Lt-Col Tin Kyaing and officials, this morning went sightseeing in the Yangon River.

They also visited Yuzana Plaza in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

MNA



*Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee*

*Daw Mar Mar Wai delivers an address at the briefing of the committee.*

MNA



*Delegates to the 59th Anniversary Union Day celebrations go sightseeing in*

*Yangon River. — MNA*



## 59th Anniversary Union Day celebrated in Kengtung, Mawlamyine

YANGON, 14 Feb — The 59th Anniversary of the Union Day celebrations were held in Kengtung, Shan State (East), and Mawlamyine, Mon State, on 12 February.

At the ceremonies, Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Com-

mander of the Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of the South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing read out the message of Senior General

Than Shwe.

Departmental officials, civil servants, members of the Myanmar Police Force, members of social organizations and residents participated in the Union Day commemorative celebrations.

MNA

## Union Day Exhibition continues



Information Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein inspects the 59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition. — MNA

YANGON, 14 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition continued for the seventh day today at Tatmadaw Convention Centre on U Wisara Road here. Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, also Chairman of Infor-

mation Subcommittee for organizing the Union Day ceremony and the subcommittee for organizing the exhibition, visited the exhibition. It drew a great number of visitors including monks, teachers and students and the public.

At the exhibition

computer quiz and English language questions and answers are being held for students under the sponsorship of Soft Guide Computer Co Ltd. The exhibition continues till 16 February from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

MNA



The 59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition being crowded with students. — MNA

## S Korean Foreign Minister to run for UN top job

SEOUL, 14 Feb — South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon will run for the post of UN Secretary-General, the ministry said on Tuesday, becoming one of the few declared candidates to succeed Kofi Annan. Annan's second five-year term ends on

31 December and UN tradition calls for a rotation of the post to a certain region, which most countries recognize would be Asia this time. The United States has said the best person for the job should be selected without regard to region.

Ban, a career diplomat who is 61 years old, has been South Korea's Foreign Minister since January 2004.

He has served as South Korea's ambassador to the United Nations and his first overseas posting was in New Delhi in 1972. — MNA/Reuters

## Commander, Minister visit GTC, GCC in Lashio

YANGON, 14 Feb — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug met with the principal, the department heads, faculty members at Government Technological College in Lashio on 11 February.

After explaining the academic and research

programmes, they make arrangements for convenience of students.

At the three-storey main hall project of the college, they heard a report on salient points of the project, and formation of the inspection groups presented by officials. They laid down plans for landscaping of the college campus.

During inspection of Government Computer College, the commander

and the minister heard a report on academic matters presented by the principal.

Later, they observed a 100-acre thriving physic nut plantation near Yanaungmyin TatOo Pagoda. They also observed mixed cropping of perennial crops and physic nut and milling of the nuts. In the evening, they attended the Buddha pujanaya of Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image. —MNA

## Regional development tasks supervised in Waingmaw

YANGON, 14 Feb — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint made a tour around Waingmaw Township to inspect development tasks on 8 February.

The commander inspected the upgrading of

Waintmaw-Myitkyina Road and renovation of the bridge across Nantmyitkha Creek.

He viewed physic nut plantations along Waingmaw-Myitkyina Road and cold season crop plantations of local farmer U Kyaw Khaing at Nauktarlav Village, Waingmaw Township.

He also looked into

the nurseries in Maingnar Village and gave instructions on extended growing of physic nut and raising livestock on a small scale. He inspected Bala Min Htin Bridge across Ayeyawady River and the main electric power station of Mali Hydropower Project and provided assistance for the project. — MNA

## Traditional dances presented



National race cultural troupes entertain the audience with dances at the dance show at National Theatre. — MNA

YANGON, 14 Feb — Honouring the 59th Anniversary Union Day, the Ministry of Culture and Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Thabin Asiayon and

Myanmar Music Asiayon jointly sponsored a traditional dance show at National Theatre here this evening.

Present were Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-

Gen Soe Win Maung, heads of department, ambassadors of foreign missions and guests. Dances of national races and one-act plays were performed. MNA

## Malaysian PM likely to reshuffle Cabinet

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 Feb — Malaysia's Prime Minister is likely this week to reshuffle his Cabinet for the second time since becoming leader, but some of his longest-serving ministers are again expected to remain, local newspapers said on Tuesday.

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi gained the leadership in late 2003 from

his old boss, Mahathir Mohamad, who dominated Malaysian politics for two decades and whose ministers largely stayed in office.

Abdullah, who came to the leadership promising to root out corruption from politics, has been criticized for resisting a major overhaul of the Cabinet. He made only a minor re-

shuffle in 2004 despite having just won a massive election victory.

"For some ministers it will be curtains after more than three decades of public service..." the *New Straits Times* said in a front-page report that left a question mark over Rafidah Aziz, reputedly the world's longest-serving trade minister.

MNA/Reuters

## Seventh leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour commences



YANGON, 14 Feb — A ceremony to open the seventh leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour, organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation was held at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon in Insein Township this morning.

MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), Air Bagan Ltd Chairman U Teza, Vice-Chairman U Zaw Min and Director U Min Thein of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour Tournament teed off to open the golf tour. Altogether 47 golfers including four pro-golfers from Thailand, one each from Australia and Malaysia took part in the professional level events and 85 participated in the amateur level events.

After the first round, Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) led the professional division by shooting a two-under-par 70. Than Naing (Srixon) put

his position behind the leader with 72 strokes. Aung Win (Srixon), Panuwat Muenlek (Thailand), Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) and Myint Than (Aung Dagon) stood in the third position with 73 strokes each.

In the amateur division, Yan Naing Phy and Naing Naing Lin fired a one-under-par 71 each sharing the first position, followed by Tun Tun Lin with 74 strokes and Aung Win and Derek Htet Doe were in the third position with 75 strokes each.

The tour is being sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd together with co-sponsors KBZ Bank, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel, Aureum Palace Hotel Resort, Srixon, Yangon Golf Club, Kachin Golfers Group, Jade Land Myanmar Co Ltd, Max Myanmar Co Ltd and London. Han Event Management organizes the functions of the golf tour.

The second round of the tour continues tomorrow at the same venue. MNA

*MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) tees off at the opening of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour. — MGF*

## Information Minister calls for improvement of movie standards



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses the meeting of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayone. — MNA

YANGON, 14 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan yesterday met with officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayone and called for improvement of Myanmar's

movie standards. In his address at the meeting of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayone

held at Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise (Headquarter) here, the minister urged officials concerned to make collaborative efforts in the framework of the organization for improvement of movie standards.

Ministry of Information will provide as much assistance as possible to MMPA he added.

The meeting focused on future tasks of the MMPA to be laid down in accordance with five objectives of the organization. MNA



## Boost per acre yield for progress

### Raise economy of farmers

Physic nut being nationwide popular as a short-term cash crop, local people come to pay more attention to the cultivation of the crop.

So, in the near future, the growers will be able to reap the benefits

of their farming physic nut.

Physic nut is a promising crop and yields high. At the age of two to five years, a physic nut plant bears two small tins of fruits in summer and eight small tins of fruits in monsoon.

If it is at the age of

six years, a physic nut plant bears three small tins of fruits in summer and 11 small tins of fruits in monsoon. An acre of physic nut plants can bear around a hundred baskets of seeds. The following tables show yields of physic nut fruits acre-wise or age-wise.



A farmer plucks physic nut.

### Yield (seed) rate at age from 2 to 5 years

Subject	Measure	Yield
A plant		
-in summer	small tin	2
-in monsoon	small basket	1
An acre of plants	basket	93
An acre of plants	ton	1.5

### Yield (seed) rate at age of 6 years

Subject	Measure	Yield
A plant		
-in summer	mall tin	3
-in monsoon	small basket	11
An acre of plants	basket	124
An acre of plants	ton	2

## Russia wants all Iraq inspections files referred to UNSC

Moscow, 14 Feb — Russia wants all findings of the international weapons inspections in Iraq to be presented to the UN Security Council, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday.

"We are proposing that all materials, gathered by your commission and by the occupation forces be combined and referred to the UN Security Council," Lavrov was quoted by Russian news agencies as telling Demetrius Perricos, acting head of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) at a meeting in Moscow.

"Russia is interested in full and final clarity on the issue of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programmes," Lavrov said at the meeting with the head of the now inactive UN weapons inspection team.

Lavrov also said the findings should be combined with those of US-led inspectors who combed the country for weapons of mass destruction after Saddam Hussein's ousting in 2003.

Perricos said at the meeting that the Iraq dossier needed to be finalized, saying "We cannot have these files open three years afterward, it is not good for Iraq, it is not good for anyone."

UNMOVIC withdrew its inspectors on the eve of the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003, which was justified by the US and its allies on the grounds that Saddam's regime was developing weapons of mass destruction. But this was not verified by either UN or subsequent US weapons inspectors.

MNA/Xinhua

## Study shows thousands would die if US attacked Iran

LONDON, 14 Feb — Thousands of military personnel and hundreds of civilians would be killed if the United States launched an air strike on Iran to prevent it developing nuclear arms, a British think tank said in a report released on Monday.

The report by the Oxford Research Group said any bombing of Iran by US forces, or by their Israeli allies, would have to be part of a surprise attack that would inevitably catch many Iranians unprotected and could eventually lead to a lengthy confrontation involving many other countries in the region.

An attack could lead to the closure of the Gulf at the Straits of Hormuz and would probably have a substantial impact on oil prices, as well as spurring new attacks by Muslim radicals on Western interests, the report said.

"A US military attack on Iranian nuclear infrastructure would be the start of a protracted military confrontation that would probably involve Iraq, Israel and Lebanon as well as the United States and Iran, with the possibility of

west Gulf States being involved as well," it said.

"Military deaths in (the) first wave of attacks against Iran would be expected to be in the thousands, especially with attacks on air bases and Revolutionary Guard facilities," said the report by Paul Rogers of the University of Bradford.

"Civilian deaths would be in the many hundreds at least," it said. "If the war evolved into a wider conflict, primarily to pre-empt or counter Iranian responses, the casualties would eventually be much higher."

Western states suspect Iran of secretly aiming to build a nuclear bomb. Teheran says its nuclear facilities are intended to produce only electricity.

Washington and Jerusalem have said they would prefer to solve the dispute through diplomacy but have not ruled

out military action.

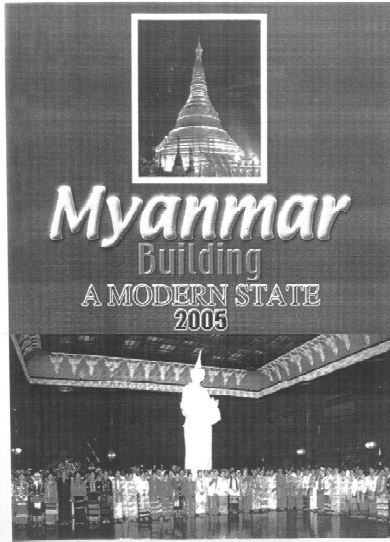
The report said an attack by the United States or Israel on Iran would probably spur Teheran to work as rapidly as possible towards developing a nuclear military option.

It said US forces, already tied down in Iraq, would have a limited number of military options when dealing with Iran and would have to rely almost entirely on the Air Force and Navy.

Any attack would almost certainly unify Iran and bolster the government in Teheran, and mean that any future US relationship with Iran would have to be based on violence, the report said.

A military response to the crisis would be a "particularly dangerous option and should not be considered further", the report concluded.

MNA/Reuters



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## One arrested over British video of Iraq soldier abuse

LONDON, 14 Feb — One person has been arrested after the release of a video apparently showing British soldiers beating Iraqi teenagers in 2004, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Monday.

A spokesman said the arrest was on Sunday

night but declined to give further details.

The video has been shown widely on British television as well as Arabic news stations and shows a group of soldiers dragging Iraqi protestors behind a wall while a demonstration is under way, beating them with batons and kicking them.

The News of the World newspaper, which released the footage, said

it had been filmed from the roof of a building by another soldier who can be heard egging on his comrades and mocking the Iraqis' plea for mercy.

The MoD said on Sunday that military police were investigating the alleged mistreatment.

British troops have been hit by abuse allegations in the past, though not on the scale of that perpetrated by the Ameri-

cans against prisoners at Abu Ghraib Jail near Baghdad in a scandal that shocked the world in 2004.

Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Sunday he took the latest allegations very seriously and his spokesman said on Monday it was important the public in Iraq understood the government's abhorrence of any abuse.

MNA/Reuters

## Moderate quake jolts east India

NEW DELHI, 14 Feb — A moderate earthquake centred in the Indian mountain state of Sikkim on Tuesday sent people running from their homes in the neighbouring eastern state of West Bengal, officials and witnesses said.

An Indian Meteorological Department official told Reuters that the 5.7-magnitude earthquake's epicentre was over 1,120 kilometres (700 miles) north of the eastern city of Kolkata and occurred at 6:25 am (0055 GMT).

"Lots of people panicked and ran out of their homes. But I have not heard of casualties," local journalist Niraj Lama said from the hill town of Darjeeling in West Bengal, which is close to Sikkim.

Witnesses in central West Bengal also felt the earthquake.

MNA/Reuters

## D-Day set for alcohol ban at Thai Public Health Ministry

BANGKOK, 14 Feb — Thailand's Ministry of Public Health has set the first of March as its D-Day to start enforcing its ban of every kind of alcoholic drinks at all ministry premises throughout the country, the Public Health Minister Pinij Jarusombath said on Monday.

The minister's latest move followed the earlier announcement he made last Friday that the ban on smoking and drinking in the ministry's headquarters in suburban Nonthaburi would be strictly enforced.

Starting 1 March, the 24-hour ban against selling and drinking alcohol on public health department premises be imposed at over 10,000 locations under the supervision of the Public Health Ministry, ranging from provincial public health offices, hospitals of all sizes and levels, to all state medical and health service centres nationwide, said Pinij.

"From the next month on, every square inch of the Public Health Ministry, including the minister's and high-ranking officials' rooms, must be free from alcohol of all kinds, no matter whiskey, beer, wine, and anything with an alcohol content," he said.

Under the terms of the ban, Pinij said, alcohol will not even be allowed for any celebration on any occasion at all ministry premises nationwide. Only fruit and vegetable juices, soft drinks or water are allowed to be served, he said.

The minister noted that the official announcement would be made by the Disease Control Department to notify all ministerial employees prior to the effective date of the ban.

He said he believed that the prohibition of alcohol sale and consumption at the Public Health Ministry would lead to the imposition of the ban at other ministries soon. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Bolivia's President urges limits on coca crops**

**COCHABAMBA (Bolivia), 13 Feb**— Bolivian President Evo Morales urged his coca farmer allies on Saturday to respect limits on cultivation, saying that was the best way to fight cocaine trafficking and support his government.

Standing in front of a banner reading "Long live coca, Death to the Yankees", Morales told a congress of coca growers that sticking to the plot each family is allowed to grow would "stop the US talking badly about us". "Planting only a 'cato' of coca would be a slap at the government of the United States in the fight against the drug trade," said Morales, the leftist coca farmer sworn in as Bolivia's

first indigenous President last month.

A so-called cato of coca is a plot of four-tenths of an acre (1,600 square metres) which can be grown by families in the tropical Chapare region -- an area at the heart of US-funded programmes to destroy coca plants -- under a 2004 agreement with a previous Bolivian Government.

Bolivia is the world's third-biggest producer of

**N-W China city to introduce \$1.3b of foreign investment**

**XI'AN, 13 Feb**— Xi'an, capital city of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, plans to lure 1.3 billion US dollars of foreign investment in 2006, and 39 billion yuan (4.88 billion US dollars) of domestic investment, according to a source with the city's foreign trade and economic cooperation bureau.

Statistics issued by the Ministry of Commerce show that Xi'an utilized 571 million US dollars of foreign investment in 2005, topping all other capital cities in western China, up 107 per cent over the previous year.

An official with the bureau said the bureau will make in-depth research of transnational company's investment requirements,

and strive to attract more multinationals to participate in city infrastructure construction.

Besides luring foreign investment, Xi'an has also

attached importance to cooperation with other Chinese cities, and will set up exchange mechanism with a number large cities.

MNA/Xinhua

**Romania tests Danube delta fowl, suspects bird flu**

**BUCHAREST, 13 Feb**— Romania said it had found new cases of suspected bird flu in fowl in the Danube delta where the disease was first detected in October, and confirmed the presence of the H5 strain of the virus in a nearby village.

The delta is Europe's largest wetlands and lies on a major migratory route for wild birds, believed to be the carriers of the virus in its highly pathogenic H5N1 form.

"Rapid tests made on dead fowl in the village of Sarina Suf in Tulcea County led to a suspicion of the presence of the bird flu virus," the Farm Ministry said in a statement on Saturday. A Bucharest laboratory will carry out further tests, it said.

A local laboratory has

detected the H5 bird flu strain in samples from the village of Jurilovca, which has been placed in quarantine and where fowl are being culled, it said.

Samples will be sent to a British laboratory to see whether the birds had the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain that can infect people.

Earlier this week, authorities confirmed the presence of the H5 type in poultry in a southern village close to the border with Bulgaria.

MNA/Reuters

**Zambia to get fund to deal with bird flu**

**LUSAKA, 13 Feb**— Zambia will get an international aid of 500,000 US dollars to deal with bird flu, local newspaper *Sunday Mail* reported.

Finance Minister Ng'andu Magande was quoted as saying that the deadly H5N1 bird flu is a real threat especially now that the bird flu has been reported and confirmed in Nigeria.

He said some international organizations will send resources to African countries in four weeks to put preventative measures against the virus and Zambia will receive about 500,000 dollars to deal with bird flu.

Zambia's western neighbouring country Angola has poultry dealings with Nigeria so Zambia has to be extra careful, said the minister.

MNA/Xinhua

**WFP says no food shortages in Uganda**

**KAMPALA, 13 Feb**— Uganda is still food secure despite the drought in the East African region, that has left many malnourished and some dead in neighbouring countries, the World Food Programme (WFP) has said.

Kevin Davies, WFP country representative, was quoted by *Sunday Vision* as saying that "there is no drought-caused food insecurity in Uganda, but we are working with the ministries (of Agriculture and Disaster Preparedness) to monitor the situation".

In Uganda, the November and December rains were inadequate, but food scarcity has only been reported in the cattle-rearing areas. — MNA/Xinhua



A fireman gets up a ladder to extinguish a fire at a publishing house in central Moscow on 13 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

**Spanish police break up tax fraud gang, arrest 21**

**MADRID, 13 Feb**— Spanish police arrested 21 people in a fraud scheme in which petty criminals and homeless people were duped into acting as owners of imported luxury cars and receiving huge tax bills for vehicles they had never owned or seen, authorities here said on Saturday.

Authorities believe the government was cheated out of up to 3 million euros (about 3.6 million US dollars) in tax revenue, the Interior Ministry said.

The arrests were made last week, the ministry said.

The mastermind of the scheme, who was also arrested in the action, paid a small amount of money

to poor or homeless people or petty criminals in exchange for their signing documents stating they were owners of used Mercedes Benz or other luxury cars imported from Germany, Belgium or the Netherlands.

Most of these arrested were people who had been tricked, the ministry said.

Most of these arrested were people who had been tricked, the ministry said.

MNA/Xinhua

**Guangdong Province becomes No 1 motorcycle producer**

**CHONGQING, 13 Feb**— The southern Guangdong Province has wrested the title of China's number one motorcycle producer from Chongqing Municipality, the *Chongqing Daily* reports.

Guangdong produced 4.56 million motorcycles in 2005 while Chongqing produced 4.2 million, according to statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics. China produced a total of 17 million motorcycles last year.

Guangdong began to outdo Chongqing in the monthly output of motorcycles from March, and has continued to produce more every month bar June. A dozen of medium- and small-sized motorcycle manufacturers in Chongqing have gone bankrupt in the past two

years due to the rise in costs, while their Guangdong counterparts have performed much better.

"The cost of each motorcycle rose about 200 yuan (25 US dollars) last year," a source from the motorcycle industry said.

MNA/Xinhua

**Foreign firms invited to join Thailand's water management projects**

**BANGKOK, 13 Feb**— The Royal Irrigation Department (RID) of Thailand has invited foreign consulting firms to take part in bidding for contracts to Thailand's water management projects in 25 river basins across the kingdom.

"The foreign consulting firms are welcome to study and present their proposed approaches on effective water management for all the country's 25 river basins and adjacent areas," RID Director-General Samart Chok-

kanapitak was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying on Saturday.

"When fully developed and integrated, the country's water management system will assure the country of sufficient water resource for domestic

consumption — household, business and agricultural sector use — and of protection from flooding," he said.

E-auctions to choose successful bidders to contract for the projects will be launched later this year. — MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒြားစနစ်တက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

### Northeastern United States hammered by snowstorm

**BOSTON, 13 Feb —** A powerful snowstorm belted the northeastern United States on Sunday with flashes of lightning and whiteout conditions, forcing airports to close, snarling traffic and bringing joy to New England's ski resorts.

As much as 22.8 inches (57.9 centimetres) of snow fell in New York's Central Park, the second heaviest snowfall on record, topped only by a blizzard in 1947, said the National Weather Service.

"It is quite a storm," said Brian Ciemnecki, a meteorologist at the National Weather

Service's New York bureau.

"And it's still going on. In some areas we're seeing snow fall at a rate of 10 inches (25 centimetres) in two hours."

Whiteout conditions shut airports from Boston to New Jersey and Washington DC, the Federal Aviation Administration said, as

the storm churned up the northeast coast from Virginia to Maine. Flakes of snow were reported as far south as Tennessee.

As much as 21.3 inches (54.1) had fallen in Columbia, Maryland and 19 inches (48.3 centimetres) in Birdsboro, Pennsylvania, according to Accuweather.

MNA/Reuters



Snow covers a car and tree in Waldorf, Md., on 12 Feb, 2006. Many Maryland residents woke up on Sunday to the biggest snowstorm of the year, with 21 inches reported in Columbia, Md.—INTERNET

### Int'l support promotes protection of wild species in N-W China

**LANZHOU, 13 Feb—** Nearly 20 international cooperation programmes for wild animal protection were carried out in 2005 in northwest China's Gansu Province which boasts a wide variety of wild species, a source with the local wild animal protection department said.

In the past few years, the province has acquired more than 10 cooperation programmes for the protection of giant pandas, one of the world's most endangered animals only found in China, with Gansu as one of their major habitats.

MNA/Xinhua

### Leading non-state airway company rents five planes

**SHENZHEN, 13 Feb—** Shenzhen Airlines, China's largest non-state-owned airline, based in this special economic development zone of southern Guangdong Province, has recently signed letters of intent to lease planes from two partners in Britain and the United States.

According to the accords, Shenzhen Airlines will rent three A320s from RBS based in Britain and two Boeing 737-800s from CIT based in the United States.

CIT are the world's third and RBS the fourth largest plane leasers. Sources with Shenzhen Airlines said the three A320s would be put into operation in May and

September 2007 and January 2008 respectively.

The two Boeing 737-800s would start service in October and November this year respectively, the sources added. China began to encourage private capital to enter civil aviation sector in early 2005. Last June, Shenzhen Airlines became the nation's largest non-state-owned airline after having

65 per cent of its stake auctioned to two private companies in Guangdong. Last year Shenzhen Airlines carried 5.73 million passengers and 83,000 tons of cargo, up 18.5 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, over the previous year. It garnered more than 100 million yuan (12.3 million US dollars) in profits. — MNA/Xinhua

### China bans discrimination against AIDS sufferers

**BEIJING, 13 Feb—** China on Sunday issued its first detailed regulations on AIDS, banning discrimination against sufferers and requiring regional authorities to provide free testing and treatment.

China has lowered its estimate of the number of people with HIV/AIDS to 650,000 from 840,000, but international experts have warned the disease may be spreading due to ignorance and because

many people are too afraid or too poor to seek help.

The new policy guidelines were approved by the State Council, China's Cabinet, and signed by Premier Wen Jiabao, who in 2003 became China's first senior leader to publicly shake hands with AIDS patients.

Wen also made a point of visiting villages in central Henan Province, where thousands were infected after donating blood in unsanitary clinics.

No organization or individual is allowed to discriminate against AIDS patients or their families and AIDS patients will be entitled to free treatment, according to the guidelines published by the official Xinhua news agency.

MNA/Reuters

### Experts warn of computer viruses as Valentine's Day draws near

**TIANJIN, 13 Feb —** Experts warn computer users to guard against computer viruses as Valentine's Day draws near.

A virus, known as "Vbs\_Valentin A" to break out next Tuesday, will spread chiefly through e-mails or on-line chat systems, according to China National Computer Virus Emergency Response Centre on Sunday.

Other viruses like "Worm-blebla B" and "VBS-ILoveyou" will also assault computers if users open e-mails or attachments disguised with Valentine blessings.

The computer virus centre reminded users of being wary of unidentified e-mails, update anti-virus software and use the real-time computer virus monitoring function whenever surfing the Internet.

Among other viruses to break out next week are "W97M-Concept F", which will break out next Thursday. When users running Word documents, an infected computer will show a dialogue box of "Parasite Virus 1.0X Your computer is infected with the Parasite Virus, version 1.0." The virus will substitute "with", "and" with "not" and "a" with "e" in the computer's Word documents. MNA/Xinhua

### Greece sends goose sample to Britain for H5N1 tests

**ATHENS, 13 Feb—** Greece said on Saturday it had sent a sample from a wild goose on Skyros Island in the Aegean Sea to England for tests for the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, a day after sending samples from three swans in northern Greece.

The goose was found to have the H5 strain of bird flu, as did the three swans tested earlier in the week, leading to tougher safety measures on poultry farms in northern Greece.

"The new sample is now being sent to the EU laboratory in England for further testing to see if the virus strain belongs to the H5N1 type", the agricultural development and Food Ministry said in a statement. Results of the tests were expected within seven days, it said. The deadly H5N1 strain of the virus has killed four people in neighbouring Turkey and at least 84 in Asia since early 2003 and forced affected nations to cull millions of domestic fowl.

Health experts fear it could mutate into a form that passes easily between humans, possibly triggering a pandemic that could kill millions.

MNA/Reuters



South Korean models wearing royal traditional dress pose with a Jaguar XJ3.0 during a Press unveiling in Seoul, on 13 Feb, 2006. The New XJ3.0, equipped with V6 3000cc engine, will be on market on Tuesday. —INTERNET

## SPORTS



Juventus' Alessandro Del Piero, right (10), watches the ball go into the net from free-kick for the winning 2-1 goal, during the Italian Serie A first division soccer match between Inter Milan and Juventus of Turin, at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, Italy, on 12 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

## Juventus makes profit in second quarter

MILAN, 14 Feb — Juventus made a net profit of 20.9 million euros (24.9 million US dollars) in its fiscal second quarter, after a 6.8 million euro loss in the same period a year ago.

In a statement, the Italian champion said it narrowed its losses in player management to 14 million euros in the second quarter from 16.7 million a year ago.

Player management is the difference between gains and losses made on signings, sales and loans

of players.

The Turin club, part of the business empire of the Fiat-owning Agnelli family, said total revenues for the quarter jumped 63.1 per cent to 95.9 million euros. Gross operating margin rose to 42.6 million euros from 11 million euros.

"The result of the 2005/06 financial year could be significantly influenced by trends in the current football season, in particular by the results achieved by the First Team in the UEFA Champions

League," the statement said.

Juventus plays Werder Bremen in the first knockout round of the Champions League later this month.

MNA/Reuters

## Del Piero strikes late as

### Juve beat Inter 2-1

ROME, 14 Feb — Juventus' grip on Serie A tightened to a stranglehold on Sunday when a late goal by Alessandro Del Piero gave them a 2-1 win at nearest challengers Inter Milan.

The striker's 85th-minute free kick gave Juve 66 points from 25 matches, 12 ahead of AC Milan, who moved up to second with a 4-1 win at Reggina. Inter slipped to third, also on 54 points.

Juventus started the game at San Siro stadium aggressively, pinning In-

ter back on the edge of their area.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Emerson forced early saves from Julio Cesar while a low cross by Mauro Camoranesi flew dangerously across goal but somehow failed to find a Juve boot.

Gradually, though, Inter found a rhythm. Adriano's header was turned behind by a defender and Juve's Gianluigi Buffon came off his line to punch the ball away from Esteban Cambiasso.

MNA/Reuters

## Betis' Assuncao out for up to a month with injury

MADRID, 14 Feb — Real Betis's Brazilian midfielder Marcos Assuncao will be out for up to a month after dislocating his shoulder in training on Monday, the club said. The 29-year-old will miss Wednesday's UEFA Cup tie against AZ Alkmaar.

"He will not be able to move for around 15 to 20 days," the head of Betis's medical services, Tomas Calero, told the Marca website.

"Only after that period will he be able to start exercising again very carefully."

Assuncao had returned to action after a month and a half out with a muscle injury in Sunday's 1-0 home defeat by Deportivo Coruna in the Primera Liga.

MNA/Reuters

## Luxemburgo gives Santos edge over Corinthians

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 Feb — Santos coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo delivered a tactical masterstroke on Sunday to help his team to a 1-0 victory over reigning Brazilian champions Corinthians.

The win, clinched with a second half solo-effort by Geison, lifts Santos to second place in the Sao Paulo state championship race.

Luxemburgo's club is level with Noroeste on 19 points but the team from the Sao Paulo satellite town of Bauru boasts a superior goal difference after beating Paulista 3-1 on Saturday.

Sao Paulo stayed in touch with the leaders by thumping Portuguesa Santista 5-0 and moving up to 16 points.

Corinthians came into the clash with Santos as strong favourites, having several first-choice players back from suspension or injury.

Luxemburgo declined to reveal his lineup until kick-off and surprised Corinthians by playing with three central defenders.

The tactic worked as Santos neutralized Corinthians' playmakers Carlos Alberto and Ricardinho and kept striker Carlos Tevez at bay, while posing a threat on the break.

Santos were saved by the woodwork twice before the interval but lost Reinaldo when the striker pulled a muscle and was

substituted for Geison.

Things got worse 15 minutes from time when central defender Luiz Alberto was dismissed for complaining too strenuously after having a penalty appeal turned down.

But three minutes later Santos nosed ahead when Geison used his blistering pace to escape his markers and slid the ball past goalkeeper Marcelo.

Santos's defence held firm against a final onslaught from Corinthians for the win.

Sao Paulo outclassed Portuguesa Santista to notch a fourth consecutive win since shaking off some New Year cobwebs.

The reigning World Clubs champions play Bragantino on Wednesday and can draw level with Noroeste and Santos.

Palmeiras edged up to 17 points after a draw with Bragantino.

MNA/Reuters

## Liverpool's Benitez calls for clampdown on tackles

LIVERPOOL (England), 14 Feb — Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez has called on referees to come down harder on poor tackles and said lenient officials could lead to top players missing the World Cup.

Benitez is concerned at the disparity in referees' decisions, citing the red card for his goalkeeper Jose Reina for pushing Chelsea's Arjen Robben on February 5 compared with x-rated tackles that went unpunished in Arsenal's 1-1 draw with Bolton on Saturday.

"I want referees to show more yellow cards to save players from missing out on the World Cup through injury. We need to be more strict with these things," he told a news conference on Monday.

"It is no good a referee talking to a player and telling him he is naughty. He must know that the next time he makes a bad tackle he will be sent off.

"If you want to see the best players (at the World Cup) we must protect them."

MNA/Reuters



Nikos Liberopoulos of AEK Athens, left, fights for the ball with Christos Kalantzis of Larissa during a Greek first division soccer league match at the Olympic Stadium of Athens, on 12 Feb, 2006. AEK won 1-0.—INTERNET

## Dynamo Moscow axe Portugal's Costinha for Spain trip

MOSCOW, 14 Feb — Dynamo Moscow left for their pre-season training camp in Spain on Monday without Portugal midfielder Costinha, who has been dropped from the first team for indiscipline.

"The club's management and coaching staff have decided to drop Costinha for an unspecified period of time," the Russian Premier League club said on their website.

"He is not going to our next training camp in Spain." Costinha clashed with Dynamo coach Yuri Syomin at the club's previous training camp in Israel last week for refusing to obey Syomin's orders.

"I will not tolerate someone who is doing disservice to the team," former Russia manager Syomin told Russian media.—MNA/Reuters

## Arsenal's Reyes suffers bruising, not broken leg

LONDON, 14 Feb — Arsenal's Jose Antonio Reyes has escaped with heavy bruising after fears he may have broken his leg following a two-footed tackle by Bolton Wanderers' Abdoulaye Faye in their Premier League match at Highbury on Saturday.

"Luckily, it's only bruised but it could have been worse," Spain forward Reyes was quoted as saying in Monday's edition of the Sun newspaper. "I'm grateful I haven't broken anything.

"My foot is swollen and it really hurts but at least my ankle isn't broken," he added. Reyes now faces a race against time to be fit for Arsenal's Champions League last 16 first leg match against Real Madrid at the Bernabeu Stadium on February 21.

"It's going to be treated as a bad knock and I'll do everything possible to be ready for the game against Real Madrid. I wouldn't miss that game for anything in the world," he said.

Reyes was carried off on a stretcher and replaced by Robert Pires after Faye's challenge during the first half of the game at Highbury that finished in a 1-1 draw.

MNA/Reuters



Australian team captain John Fitzgerald (L) congratulates his tennis player Chris Guccione after defeating Switzerland's Georges Bastl during their match of Davis Cup first round at the Geneva Arena in Geneva on 12 Feb, 2006.

Australia won 5-3.—INTERNET

# 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

## “Jaws” author Peter Benchley dead at 65

NEW YORK, 13 Feb— Peter Benchley, the author of the bestseller *Jaws* which was made into a blockbuster movie that kept beachgoers out of the water for years, died at his home at age 65, his family said on Sunday.

Benchley, well-known

for other water-based suspense fiction including *The Deep* and *The Island*, both of which also spawned films, died of complications from pulmonary fibrosis, his son-in-law Chris Turner told *Reuters*.

Benchley was diagnosed with the condition

in the fall of 2005 and his health had been deteriorating, Turner said.

In addition to the fame he achieved as a novelist, Benchley was a reporter for the *Washington Post* and speechwriter for Lyndon Johnson during his presidency.

MNA/Reuters

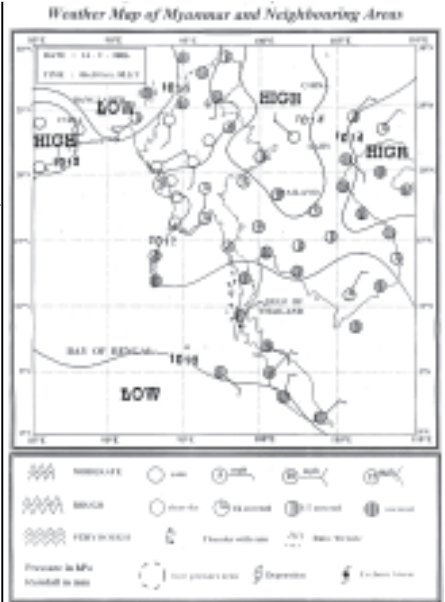


Author Peter Benchley, seen here in 2000, whose famous shark novel “Jaws” was adapted for a hit Hollywood film, died on early Sunday, 12 Feb. 2006 at his home in Princeton, New Jersey, at age 65.—INTERNET

### Asleep in Jesus Daw Hta Hta (Mrs. Thin)

Age (93)

Daw Hta Hta (Mrs Thin), beloved daughter of the late U Chit Htwe & Daw Ma Ma, wife of the late Major Hla Thin, passed away peacefully on 14th February 2006 at 11:20 am at Asia Royal Hospital, Yangon. She was the sister of (Moses Aung Thwin-Daw Shwe May), (Daw Mya Kywe), (Captain Saw Lwin)-Daw Yi Yi Lwin, Daw Kyi Kyi Htwe-Mr. Joe Peremans, (U Ohn Tin-Daw Mya Wai), (U Nyunt Maung)-Daw Yi Yi Myint, U Tha Tun-(Daw Kyu Yin), and (U Saw Mya Zin)-Daw Kyi Kyi Wai. Funeral Service will be held on 17th February 2006 at 10:00 am at Htainbin hall, Htainbin cemetery.



### WEATHER

Tuesday, 14 February, 2006

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Chin State, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Mon States, upper Sagaing Division, (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Pinlaung and Haka (3°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myitkyina and Kawthoung (0.24) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 13-2-2006 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 14-2-2006 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 14-2-2006 was (70%). Total sunshine hours on 13-2-2006 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 14-2-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from East at (15:15) hours MST on 13-2-2006.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 15-2-2006:** Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-2-2006:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-2-2006:** Fair weather.

### EARTHQUAKE REPORT

(Issued at 11:30 hours M.S.T, today)

An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.7) Richter Scale with its epicentre outside Myanmar SIKKIM (India Region) about (860) miles Northwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (07) hrs (28) min (14) sec M.S.T on 14th February 2006.



Wednesday, 15  
February  
View on today

- 7:00 am  
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayar-daw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am  
2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဒ္ဒါဂါရီတ၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တ သိရိန္ဒာဝံသ(ဇောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါယ်သန္တုပိဋိတော်
- 7:25 am  
3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am  
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am  
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am  
6. အတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am  
7. မြို့မြို့ကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 8:15 am  
8. အဆိုဖြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:20 am  
9. ကျေးပင်အကိုရေလှောင်တံခံ
- 8:30 am  
10. International news
- 8:45 am  
11. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm  
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm  
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm  
3. Practice in Reading
- 4:40 pm  
4. Musical programme
- 4:55 pm  
5. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားလုံး) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 5:00 pm  
6. Song of National races
- 5:15 pm  
7. အတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:20 pm  
8. Classical song
- 5:30 pm  
9. ရွှေယံရုလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
- 5:40 pm  
10. Strong and healthy Myanmar

- 5:45 pm  
11. Musical programme
- 6:00 pm  
12. Evening news
- 6:30 pm  
13. Weather report
- 6:35 pm  
14. သုတစုံလင်စန္ဒာဇာတ်ရှင်
- 7:05 pm  
15. Musical programme
- 7:20 pm  
16. ရုနိုင်းချောင်းတံတား
- 7:25 pm  
17. Musical programme
- 7:35 pm  
18. အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်၏ ဥပဒေ ပြုမှုအသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ (အပိုင်း-၁၇)
- 7:45 pm  
19. ကြတ်ချရိုင်းမှ တိုင်ဆိုဒီဇယ်
- 8:00 pm  
20. News
21. International news
22. Weather report
23. ၂၀၀၇ ခုနှစ် ဓာနဓာတ်အကြိမ် (သဘာဝ) ပြန်စာရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆိုအက၊ အရေးအတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ “ဝိပုဇ္ဈာတိတော်ကြီး” (ပထမဆူ) (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း) (ဒုတိယတိုင်း)
24. The next day's programme



- Wednesday, 15  
February  
Tune in today
- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Save your love
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Looking for love
- 8:50 am National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -I don't want to go on without you
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Rainbow
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music  
-A place called home  
-Forever & a day  
-To be with you
- 9:00 pm Interview with Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- 9:15 pm Article/Music
- 9:20 pm Radio on the Internet
- 9:45 pm News & Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

# Bago Division to put nearly 600,000 acres of land under physic nut in 3 years

YANGON, 14 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended a ceremony to grow physic nut in Bago Division, which has planned to put up to nearly 600,000 acres of land under the crop in three years.

The division will plant physic nut on 97,500 acres of land this year, 195,000 acres in 2007, and 292,500 acres in 2008.

Together with Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than observed Tatmadawmen and families, departmental personnel, social organization members and local people sowing 160,000 physic nut seeds at the 100-acre stretch of land of the command in Toungoo on 12 February.

The two senior military officers also planted physic nut seeds and cuttings. They also viewed saplings, grafts, seeds, the method of growing physic nut and biodiesel obtained from physic nut oil. Staff of Myanmar Agriculture Service conducted them around the demonstration.

Success is required in cultivating physic nut, that produces biodiesel, said Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than at the ceremony. He also stressed the need to use correct cultivation methods and to extend physic nut farms.

At the integrated farm of Southern Command, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and officials heard a report on crop cultivation, irrigation and other arrangements presented by the officials. Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko also gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than pointed out the need to grow more



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than sows physic nut seeds at 100-acre plantation of Southern Command in Toungoo Station. — MNA

seasonal crops, to extend summer rice cultivation and to find new means to irrigate crops. He then observed farm machinery at work.

The farm grew 183 acres of monsoon paddy, 290 acres of sugarcane against the target of 352 acres, 40 acres of thitseint, 40 acres of toddy palm, and five acres of cashew. It will also cultivate up to 1,147 acres of physic nut.

MNA

## Sixth Buddha Pujaniya of Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda in Kanbalu held

YANGON, 14 Feb—The Sixth Buddha Pujaniya of Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda in Kanbalu, Sagaing Division was held at the pagoda on 12 February.

It was attended by members of the Sangha led by member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Pakhan Kyaungtaik in Shwebo Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Javana, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association (Sagaing Division in-charge) Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, social organizations, well-wishers and local people.

First, the commander, the minister and party offered 'soon', fruits, flowers, lights and incense at the pagoda and members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda.

Next, the commander and the minister proceeded to Maha Shwesigyi Monastery where they offered robes and requisites to the Sayadaw.

After that, the commander and party and well-wishers offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, the commander and guests received the Nine Precepts from Bhaddanta Javana,

followed by sharing of merits gained.

Later, the commander and the minister and party inspected patients with eye complaints undergoing treatment with the sponsorship of Kanbalu Township and MFF Co at the Township Hospital, and presented K 100,000 for specialists who provided medical treatment.

A total of 69 patients underwent major surgical operation and 131 underwent minor surgical operation free of charge from 9 to 12 February at the hospital.

Next, the commander and the minister attended the ceremony to grow physic nut plants held at the local battalion and in the sports ground and inspected planting of physic nut plants.

After that, they attended the opening of diamond jubilee hall of Kanbalu Basic Education High School and formally opened the building.

The commander presented exercise books and school uniforms to teachers.

Next, they attended the ceremony to pay respects to elders and to present TV set for the library held at Seikphumyaung Village and the commander presented a colour TV set for the library.

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*National races should be united all the more and grapple with wedges driven among national brethren and instigation and hindrance by certain nations. And they should study one another's traditions, customs, culture and languages showing generosity, magnanimity and forgiveness.*

### Significant night temperatures

<b>Haka</b>	(3°C)
<b>Pinlaung</b>	(3°C)