

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 306

4th Waning of Tabodwe 1367 ME

Thursday, 16 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 congratulates Emir of the State of Kuwait

YANGON, 15 Feb— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, on his accession as the Emir of the State of Kuwait. — MNA

Indian President to pay an official visit to Myanmar

YANGON, 16 Feb— At the invitation of Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, HE Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of the Republic of India, will pay an official visit to the Union of Myanmar in the near future. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hosts dinner in honour of Union Day delegates

YANGON, 15 Feb — Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 59th Anniversary Union Day for 2006 Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein hosted a dinner in honour of cultural troupe members from States and Taninthayi Division and representatives of the State/Division Union Solidarity and Development Association who attended the 59th Anniversary Union Day Celebrations, at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna, here, this evening.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Management Committee for Organizing the 59th Anniversary Union Day Lt-Gen Myint Swe (See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets cultural troupe members from States and Taninthayi Division and USDA member Union Day delegates from States and Divisions at the dinner held in their honour. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 16 February, 2006

Innovate Myanmar music based on traditional culture

Myanmar has a long history and the cultural standard of its people is high. Myanmar people have preserved their national characteristics since the beginning of the history of their nation. National characteristics and national identity of a people reflect the greatness of their nation and their high cultural standard.

To be able to stand with dignity among the nations of the world, every nation tries, in its own way, to preserve its culture, traditions and customs. Myanmar national peoples will have to preserve their cultures, traditions, customs and social ethics. The object of holding Myanmar traditional performing arts competitions is to preserve Myanmar traditional culture.

The Myanmar Music Asiayon also plays an important part in preserving the Myanmar musical heritage. And at the same time, it should innovate Myanmar music in tune with the changing world. In doing so, we should not copy alien arts, music and dancing in producing genuine Myanmar music.

In this age of globalization and cutting-edge information and communications technology, alien cultures are constantly infiltrating into our nation through cultural and economic doors. At such a time like this, we must make concerted efforts to prevent decadent alien culture from entering the cultural field of our own and preserve Myanmar fine arts.

All those in the Myanmar music world should innovate Myanmar music with their own style and own tune and in accordance with Myanmar culture.

They should also join hands with the government and the people in all the national endeavours according to their motto "Develop the nation with the might of music". And we would like to call on them to produce Myanmar music with a view to preserving national prestige and integrity and traditional culture.



Daw Sein May, Col Ohn Maung Maung and U Maung Pe-Daw Hla May Myint of No 13, Yodaya Road, Mayangon Township, donate K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Prof Dr Daw May Win Aung Khin, member of the Administrative Board of the Home for the Aged, accepted the cash.— 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.

Functions of Yangon Division MCWSC explained



YANGON, 15 Feb — The Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee clarified its functions at Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Office in Thanlyin Township this morning.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC

Daw Mar Mar Wai, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, delivers an address to clarify the tasks of the committee.— MNA

Daw Mar Mar Wai made speech, Secretary Dr Hla Myint clarified the future plans and Joint-Secretary Dr Daw Nweni Ohn reported on the reviews on tasks.

MNA

Zaw Zaw Latt still leads professional golfers division



YANGON, 15 Feb — Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) was in the lead and scored a bogey after the second-round today for a one-under-par 143 in total in the professional golfers division of the Seventh leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour at Danyingon Golf Club in Insein Township.

Kwanchai Tannin (Thailand) and Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) shared the second position by firing 144 each in total. Kwanchai Tannin fired 76 in the first round and a four-under-par 68 in the second round. Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) shot one stroke over par 73 in the first round and a birdie in the second round. In the third position, Aung Win (YCDC+Srixon) shot 74 for a three-over par 147.

In the amateur golfers division, Naing Naing Lin scored a 140 in two-day total today for a three-under-par 69. His runner-up Aung Win (Ministry of Forestry) stood in the second position by shooting 145 in a two-day total. Derek Htet Doe battled to a 75 today that preserved his third position in the second round with 150 in total.

The golf tour, co-organized by MPGA and MGF, and mainly sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd together with co-sponsors KBZ Ltd, 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 is performing functions of the golf tour.

The third round of the golf tour continues tomorrow.

MNA

Inter-State/Division Cycling Contest ends

YANGON, 15 Feb—The final events and the presenting of prizes of the 36th Inter-State/Division Cycling Contest 2006 took place at the Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) here this afternoon.

After the final events, officials, Chairperson of the Central Work Committee of the Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye, Vice-President of the federation U Moe Kyaw Thu presented prizes to the winners, and Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik best cyclist award (woman) to Yu Mar Oo (Ayeyawady Division) and best cyclist award (man) to Yan Naung Oo Shan State (South).

Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Aye Myint gave cash award to Yazar Min Soe (Bago Division) who broke the record, championship shields to Ayeyawady Division women's team and Shan State (South) men's team.

MNA

Radio quiz of school children held

YANGON, 15 Feb — Radio quiz at BEPS level coorganized by MRTV of Ministry of Information and No 3 Basic Education Department took place at Studio C of MRTV this morning, and Maung Yan Myo Aung of Hline No 2 BEPS won first prize, Ma Eindra Nay Myo of Kyaukdata No 6 BEPS, second, Ma Wut Yi Khine Min of Kamayut No 2 BEPS third and Ma Shan Einsı of Dagon No 2 BEMS consolation prize.

Prizes were awarded to winners by officials of MRTV and gifts were presented by parents and school boards of trustees.

MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Imperial exams museum opens in Shanghai

BEIJING, 14 Feb—A museum was opened in Shanghai over the weekend to exhibit everything about China's imperial examinations — from test papers to evidences of fraud seized in the ancient testing system to select officials.

China National Museum of Imperial Examinations is located in Shanghai's Confucius Temple in Jiading District, an 800-year-old building to commemorate Confucius, an ancient Chinese thinker, educator and statesman worshipped as the founding father of the teaching profession, the *Beijing Times* reported on Monday.

It said many private

collectors contributed to the museum, with the original copy of a test paper dating back to the early 20th century, flax waistcoats stuffed with slips of paper and books printed with characters smaller than sesames which examinees stealthily took to the exams. With nearly 1,000 exhibits, the museum also showcases the procedures

of the imperial exam system, its relations with Confucianism and Chinese civilization, its development, abolishment and the role it played in China's history. The imperial examination system was founded in 605 and abolished in 1905. Several million successful candidates stood out in exams to enter officialdom.

MNA/Xinhua

မိတ္ထီလူမျိုးများ၏ လှေခါးပိတ်ပိတ်ပိတ်ပိတ်



Women from the Miao ethnic minority group talk during the Miao's traditional Lusheng (reed-pipe wind instrument) Festival in Kaili in southwest China's Guizhou Province on 14 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Death toll rises to seven in Baghdad suicide blast

BAGHDAD, 14 Feb—At least seven people were killed and more than 40 wounded in a suicide blast in eastern Baghdad on Monday, police said.

"A suicide bomber wearing an explosive-vest blew himself up among a crowd of people queuing in the Istethmar (investment) Bank in Baghdad al-Jadida District," Captain Ahmed Abdullah told *Xinhua*.

Elsewhere, at least eight Iraqis were killed in two separate attacks.

In Baquba, some 60 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, a gunman killed at least four people, including members of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the country's leading Shiite political party, police said.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam permits used car imports from May

HANOI, 14 Feb—Vietnam is to allow the import of second-hand cars from May, which, plus a potential wave of low cost Chinese automobiles, will drive vehicle prices in the country down, the local newspaper *Pioneer* reported on Monday.

Under a recent government decree on management of imports and exports in the 2006-2010 period, foreign cars which have been used for five years downward are

eligible for being imported from 1 May.

According to reliable sources, they will bear import tax of 135 per cent, the paper said, noting that the current tariff on new cars is 90 per cent.

A director of a local trading company said there are four most potential markets from which Vietnamese traders import second-hand cars: the United States, Australia, Laos and Cambodia. The director said prices of cars in

Vietnam, the highest in the world, should decrease by some 20 per cent to be competitive with imported used vehicles.

Future influx of second-hand cars and Chinese new vehicles will force carmakers in Vietnam to lower their products' prices, the newspaper said, noting that many local firms are making preparation for assembling Chinese cars with fine styles and competitive prices.

MNA/Xinhua

Hong Kong to hold next Asian Aerospace

SINGAPORE, 14 Feb—Asian Aerospace, the world's third largest and Asia's biggest airshow, will leave Singapore for Hong Kong next year, according to a brief statement released on Monday by Reed Exhibitions, the organizer.

"The world's leading organizer of trade and

consumer exhibitions will stage the next presentation of Asian Aerospace from September 3-6, 2007 at the brand new, ultra-modern AsiaWorld-Expo complex, which is adjacent to and integrated with the Hong Kong International Airport," the statement said.

It added that further

information will be revealed at a Press conference to be held in Hong Kong on Wednesday.

The renowned international aerospace industry event has been held in Singapore every two years for 12 times so far and the show to be open on February 21 to 26 this year will be the last one held at the city state's Changi Exhibition Centre".

It is reported that the airshow has to change its venue because Reed Exhibitions and the Singapore Government could not reach a consensus on developing a new site for the event.

Late last month, Singapore began to construct near its Changi Airport the venue for the Changi International Airshow, which is scheduled to make its debut in 2008 to replace Asian Aerospace.

MNA/Xinhua

Putin wants G-8 aid for CIS countries

Moscow, 14 Feb— Russian President Vladimir Putin asked the government on Monday to urge the other members of the Group of Eight (G-8) leading industrial nations to pour aid to countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"We made the point from the very start that we are experiencing extremely acute problems similar to those confronting African countries, the problem of education and the fight against infectious diseases and poverty. These problems exist in this country, as well, and in neighbouring CIS countries," Putin told the Cabinet, quoted by the *Interfax* news agency.

"We must, from the start, reach an agreement with our partners that a significant share of the funds intended to aid the poorest nations be directed to our neighbors in the former Soviet Union," Putin said, adding some of those countries rank among the world's poorest states when objective parameters are used. G-8 finance ministers met in Moscow over the weekend to discuss global economic growth and energy security as Russia hosted its first major event after it took over the rotating presidency of the group at the start of the new year. This summer, Putin will host a G-8 summit in his hometown of St Petersburg.—MNA/Xinhua

Two more Britons arrested over Iraq abuse tape

LONDON, 14 Feb—British Military Police have arrested two more people over a video tape that appears to show British soldiers beating protesters after a demonstration in southern Iraq in 2004, the Ministry of Defence said on Tuesday. A spokesman said the arrests brought to a total of three the number of people who have now been arrested since the tape surfaced on Sunday.

"Two more people have been arrested in connection with the allegations," the Ministry spokesman told *Reuters*.

"The Royal Military Police have identified several people in the video and investigations are ongoing to identify all those involved in the alleged incident," he added. A Ministry spokesman said on Monday the First Battalion of the army's Light Infantry Regiment was helping military police with their investigation into the incident. He confirmed the man arrested on Sunday night was a serving soldier. The video has been shown widely on British television as well as Arabic news stations and shows a group of soldiers dragging Iraqi protesters behind a wall while a demonstration is under way, beating them with batons and kicking them.—Internet



An Iraqi soldier views the scene following a car bomb explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET



Zhang Min from China performs during the figure skating men's Short Programme at the Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy, on 14 Feb.—INTERNET

တက်ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်အား သေစင်ကျော်လွှား

Gunmen kidnap 11 Iranian pilgrims north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 14 Feb— Unknown gunmen kidnaped 11 Iranian Shiite pilgrims in north of Baghdad, killing one of them and their Iraqi driver, a police source said on Sunday.

“Unknown armed men kidnaped 11 Iranian pilgrims with their Iraqi driver on Friday night near Samarra City, some 120 kilometres north of Baghdad, after visiting the Imam Ali al-Hadi shrine,” a police source from Tikrit told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The gunmen released the three women within the group after the abduction.

The women travelled to Tikrit, where they met the provincial governor of Salahudin, who reached the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad to inform them about the incident. The Miao people make friends by singing and dancing at the festival.—MNA/Xinhua

Annan says UN, US agree to work together on Darfur issue

WASHINGTON, 14 Feb— The United Nations and the United States have agreed to work with the international community to safeguard security in Sudan's Darfur region, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said here on Monday. “I'm very happy that we have agreed to work together on the Darfur issue, working with other governments from Europe and Asia and other regions to ensure that we do have an effective security presence on the ground,” Annan told reporters after meeting with Bush at the White House.

“Once we've defined the requirements, then we approach the governments to see specifically what each of them will do in terms of troops, in terms of equipment,” Annan said. The UN chief said last week that he would ask Bush for the United States to play a major role in a peacekeeping force in Darfur. The UN Security Council authorized in early February a plan for replacing the African Union (AU) peacekeeping forces in Darfur with the UN forces, which was agreed in principle by the AU but strongly opposed by Sudan.—MNA/Xinhua

Bird flu spreads further into Europe

QATAR, 15 Feb—Three more countries say they have detected bird flu in wild swans, with Germany, Iran and Austria the latest to find the virus that has killed 91 people worldwide.

On Tuesday, Austria and Germany became the third and fourth European Union countries to report H5N1 bird flu, just three days after the bloc's first instances were confirmed by Italy and Greece.

Germany said its results came from initial tests. Both countries said samples of the dead birds had been sent to the EU's reference laboratory in Britain for confirmation.

Experts had said it was only a matter of time before the H5N1 strain dangerous to humans broke out in Iran, a wintering place for wildfowl that may be carriers. Neighbouring Iraq, Azerbaijan and Turkey had already reported outbreaks.

The highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of the virus has killed at least 91 people in Asia and the Middle East, according to the World Health Organization.

Experts fear H5N1 may mutate into a form that can spread between people and cause a pandemic that could kill millions.

New cases of H5 bird flu were found in Romania, Europe's largest wetlands and a major migratory route for wild birds.

Tests were under way in Britain to see if the new samples were H5N1, of which Romania and neighbour Bulgaria have already had cases.

Germany said it would bring forward to 17 February a ban on keeping poultry outdoors, and Italy said police had impounded more than 80,000 chickens and 7000 eggs from farms in the south that were not respecting health norms.

Internet

Los Angeles tightens homeland security

LOS ANGELES, 14 Feb— The Los Angeles City Council on Monday passed an initiative to safeguard the city from possible terrorist attack or natural disaster.

The council's Public Safety Committee voted 5-0 to pass the Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness Initiative. The approved plan includes reassigning 73 police officers and hiring 10 firefighters as part of a new public safety unit that would concentrate on homeland security.

The initiative was proposed on 2 February by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

The vote on Monday followed an announcement by US President George W Bush last week that an Al-Qaeda plot against a bank building in the second largest city had been “thwarted”.

The committee called for spending 1.6 million US dollars on the plan this year, using funds in the police and fire department budgets. The total budget of the programme is expected to reach 2.6 million dollars for the new fiscal year that begins 1 July.—MNA/Xinhua

Foreign pilots on horizon for Air China

BEIJING, 14 Feb— Foreign pilots are to be brought in by the nation's flagship carrier to meet the demand of its expanding air fleets.

The *China Daily* newspaper reported on Tuesday that Air China was planning an overseas recruitment drive because it was suffering a severe shortage of pilots.

“Air China has planned to introduce 20 to 30 airplanes within this year, but the exact number will depend on the supply of aircrew members, particularly the pilots,” said Li Huxiao, a senior staff from the Beijing-based airline company.

“Currently, we are short of at least 40 captains, so we will try to recruit foreign pilots,” Li said.

He gave no details about the exact number of foreign pilots his company planned to recruit.

Air China's problems reflect the fact that China's booming commercial aviation industry is taking off faster than the country's speed of pilots training.

MNA/Xinhua

Nine murdered in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 14 Feb—Nine people were killed in two separate cases of murder in Mexico on Monday, local police said. Six people died of gunshot wounds in the northern state of Durango. The bodies were found in a place adjacent to Sinaloa, a state with one of the largest drug-trafficking problems in Mexico, said the Attorney General's Office of Durango.

The Durango authorities said the multiple homicides took place in the early hours of Monday in Tamazula municipality, because of a dispute about a shipment of marijuana. It has been the second multiple homicides in Tamazula this year.

Meanwhile, the state government of Michoacan, a state in central Mexico, said police found the bodies of three men who had been murdered. The bodies were found in a van with no license plates, close to the border with the neighbouring state of Colima.

The three victims, aged between 28 and 41, lived in Colima, and had been killed there and then dumped in Michoacan, said the attorney general of Morelia, the capital of the state. Michoacan has seen around 30 killings of organized crime this year.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers patrol a street in the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 14 Feb, 2006. — INTERNET

EU faces strain of ageing population

BRUSSELS, 13 Feb—The European Commission is warning governments they face lower growth rates and higher spending due to the number of elderly Europeans.

A commission report to the 25 EU governments said: "The retirement of the post-war baby-boom generation as of 2010 and continuous increase in life expectancy means Europe will go from having four to only two people of working age for every elderly citizen by 2050."

The commission said the scale of the challenge

was immense and would trigger deep cuts in potential growth rates and strain public finances due to increased spending and healthcare by 2030.

The report by Joaquin Almunia, the EU monetary affairs commissioner, said that with spending and policy reforms, potential growth rates will be cut almost in

half by 2030 and public finances will come under severe strain due to increased spending on pensions and healthcare.

Almunia said some EU states are meeting the challenge by curtailing access to early retirement and other pension reforms. The EU report said raising the retirement age and restraining future public spending are effective measures. The report suggests that the next few years offer an opportunity to intensify reforms before the full effects take hold.

Almunia said: "Delaying inevitable reforms

will only raise the budgetary costs... Delays will simply increase the cost and pain of adjustment, which is not fair for our children and grandchildren."

The report was to get a review later on Monday at a meeting of the finance ministers of the 12 EU nations that have the euro as a common currency.

It was compiled by the European Commission in collaboration with the Economic Policy Committee, a panel of economic and financial experts from the EU states.—*Internet*



A Nokia 6131. Struggling Japanese electronics maker Sanyo and Finnish mobile telecommunications giant Nokia are in talks to set up a global joint venture in third-generation (3G) mobile phones.—*INTERNET*

Roof collapse kills one, injures 18 in Brazilian University

BRASILIA, 13 Feb — One person was killed and 18 others were injured when a roof at the Londrina State University auditorium in Brazil collapsed on Sunday, authorities said.

The tragedy occurred as hundreds of students were registering for a national zoology congress at the auditorium in the city of Londrina, which is in the state of Parana.

Authorities were investigating the cause of the collapse, said Gisele Lima, spokeswoman for Parana State's public safety secretariat.

Authorities said 20-year-old Joao Cesar Eugenio de Boscoli Rios died in the incident and 15 students remained

hospitalized.

The collapsed roof had been added to the auditorium in a renovation about eight years ago, school officials said.

The university has installed a commission to fully investigate the incident, according to university president Lygia Pupatto. About 4,000 students had registered to participate in the conference, which was expected to run from Sunday night to Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

India's fastest train to start Wednesday

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb — India's fastest train, Shatabdi Express, that will connect New Delhi and Central Indian city Bhopal, will start its journey Wednesday, New Delhi Television (NDTV) reported here Tuesday.

The train will run at 160 kilometres per hour. It is based on a German model. The facilities include comfort, fancy toilets, reclining chairs and special food on board.

"You don't have a train like this in the whole subcontinent," NDTV quoted Public Relations Officer Rajiv Saxena of Northern Railways as saying. It is reported that the train has a special engine and powerful brakes, which will ensure that safety is guaranteed even at high speeds.

It is the first train in India to have an interlocking anti-climbing device, which means that, in case of collision with another train, carriages will not

climb on each other. This will drastically reduce casualty figure.

The train will run six days a week except Fridays. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China's largest exporter of medicinal materials gains \$100mln

GUANGZHOU, 14 Feb — South China's Guangdong Province, the country's largest exporter of traditional Chinese medicine posted a 8.5-per-cent increase year-on-year in 2005 exports, but is still upset for being unable to make a major bid in the western market.

Figures released by the Guangzhou Customs in this capital of Guangdong suggested that the export broke 100 million US dollars for the first time, representing a 8.5-per-cent yearly increase or 24.4 per cent of the country's total.

Among the exports, that made by private firms increased by 58 per cent from the previous year, and made up of 58.6 per cent of the province's exports.

Exports of medicinal materials made by state-owned and foreign-invested firms, which used to be the backbone exporters, however,

witnessed a dramatic downturn of 29.4 and 18.2 per cent year-on-year, respectively.

Industry insiders here said that most of small exporters could hardly form a collective strength in the exploration of the overseas market, which is mainly concentrated in Hong Kong and Taiwan regions, as well as Japan and ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries for now.

Only 5.4 per cent of the exported herbs went to the European and American market, according to the Customs statistics.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq war hits trust in MI5 and intelligence

LONDON, 15 Feb—Public trust in the security services and their ability to combat terrorism has been damaged by the war in Iraq, Lord Carlile said yesterday.

The government's use of intelligence reports to make the case for the war in Iraq has left many people sceptical about the entire work of Britain's intelligence agency, the QC said.

MI5, the security service, has been particularly badly affected, he said. "The trust issue has been very damaged by the intelligence information connected with the Iraq war which is perceived, rightly or wrongly, to be inaccurate," he said. "That has had a devastating effect on the level of trust given to MI5."

Referring to himself

and others with access to intelligence documents, he said: "We would like to be trusted; we would like the public to believe what we say. The effect of past events means we're not trusted as we would like to be."

Despite the fiasco over Iraq's weapons, ministers continue to invoke the name of the intelligence agencies to make political points.

Last year, Downing Street suggested inaccurately that MI5 had explicitly endorsed plans to detain suspects without charge for up to 90 days. And on Monday, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, suggested that MI5 had backed government plans for a national identity card.

Internet



An Afghan policeman diverts a motorcyclist from the site of a blast in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 13 Feb, 2006. — *INTERNET*

Health Minister says Albania under threat from bird flu

TIRANA, 14 Feb — Although by far no bird flu has been reported in Albania, the emergence of the virus H5N1 in Albania in company with the spring is almost inevitable, Albanian Health Minister Cikuli Maksim told a press conference on Monday.

"It would be naive to think that Albania would be saved from the bird flu virus, since the virus has been found in our neighbouring countries," he said.

Greece to the south, Bulgaria to the east, Italy to the west and Slovenia to the north of Albania all reported cases of the infection of the bird flu virus among wild swans in their countries. Albania is on the migratory path of birds. In spring, many migratory birds make their stops on the lakes and lagoons in Albania, increasing the risk of infection.

"The birds don't need visas to travel," the minister said.— *MNA/Xinhua*



A honeybee hovers to collect nectar from blossoms of a Japanese plum tree at Yushima Tenjin shrine in Tokyo, on 14 Feb, 2006. The blossoms signify the approach of Spring. —INTERNET

Venezuela, Iran bolster ties as US presses Teheran

CARACAS (Venezuela), 15 Feb — Venezuela and Iran strengthened their alliance on Tuesday with lawmakers from both countries blasting US and international efforts to pressure Teheran to halt its nuclear energy programme.

Ties between fellow OPEC oil producers Iran and Venezuela have grown under President Hugo Chavez, a self-proclaimed socialist revolutionary who is increasingly at odds with Washington over US foreign policy.

Tuesday's meeting between Iranian and Venezuelan lawmakers came as Iran resisted international pressure to halt uranium enrichment which the West fears could be used to develop nuclear weapons. Teheran says it wants a peaceful nuclear programme.

"The United States is not worried about us managing to get nuclear

energy. They are worried about us becoming independent," Iranian Parliament Speaker Gholamali Haddadadel told reporters during his visit to Caracas.

Iran, branded as part of an "axis of evil" by Washington, confirmed on Tuesday it had begun enrichment work after the International Atomic Energy Agency ruled it would report Teheran to the UN Security Council for possible action over its atomic energy programme. Venezuela, the world's fifth-largest oil exporter, has strongly backed Iran in its dispute over nuclear development and the two countries have

signed more than 20 trade, energy and industry agreements in the last two years. Venezuela was the only country to vote against a resolution in the IAEA last year that moved toward reporting Iran to the UN Security Council, and Caracas joined Cuba and Syria in voting against sending Teheran to the world body this month.

"Venezuela has never yielded and will never yield to the lies of the

world powers," said Nicolas Maduro, president of Venezuela's legislature. "The people of Venezuela and the people of Iran are brothers."

After seven years in government, Chavez has riled Washington by seeking out stronger ties with Cuba and Iran and presenting his socialist revolution as an alternative to US-backed free market policies in Latin America. *MNA/Reuters*

Australian PM says Bali heroin case a warning

CANBERRA, 15 Feb—An emotional Australian Prime Minister John Howard said the sentencing of two Australian men to death in neighbouring Indonesia on Tuesday for attempting to smuggle heroin should serve as a warning to other Australians.

"Can I just say to every young Australian, please take notice of this. I even beg them not to take the terrible risks that these young people have done — their lives destroyed in the case of two people," Howard told reporters. Howard said Australia would make representations — a plea for clemency — to Indonesia on behalf of Andrew Chan, 22, and Myuran Sukumaran, 24, after any appeals were completed.

Chan and Sukumaran are the accused masterminds of a group of nine Australians arrested on Bali last April for trying to smuggle more than 8.2 kilos of heroin to Australia.

Another four members of the group, dubbed the "Bali Nine" by Australian media, have been sentenced to life in jail. All nine faced charges with the maximum penalty of death by firing squad.

I feel desperately sorry for the parents of these people, I do... But the warnings have been there for decades and how on earth any young Australian can be so stupid as to take the risk is completely beyond me," Howard said. —*MNA/Reuters*

Singapore, Brunei sign MoU on education cooperation

SINGAPORE, 15 Feb—Singapore and Brunei Darussalam signed their first government-to-government Memo-

randum of Understanding (MoU) on education cooperation Tuesday, according to a statement by Singapore's Ministry of Education.

Under the MoU, five schools from each of the two countries will form one-to-one partners to conduct joint activities like camps, projects and exchange of visits for their students.

Students from both countries will also take part in joint cultural, sports, adventure and leadership activities.

Singapore's universities and Universiti Brunei Darussalam will "explore greater exchanges and collaborations in areas of mutual interests", the statement said. *MNA/Xinhua*

19 killed in floods in Bolivia

LIMA, 15 Feb—Nineteen people were killed, 30 injured in floods caused by heavy rain in Bolivia, Bolivian state news agency *ABI* said on Tuesday. Gustavo Gandarillas, head of Bolivia's National Civil Defence Agency (Indeci) said that the bad weather will continue for a while, the report said.

Bolivia has received one million US dollars in direct aid from international bodies and governments and received pledges worth a further nearly 400 million dollars.

Venezuela, Chile, Argentina, Cuba, Japan and the United States have sent humanitarian aid, including food, medicines, drinking water, temporary shelters, blankets and working tools. Cuba also sent 140 doctors to the most affected areas in Bolivia. —*MNA/Xinhua*

E-Banking to upgrade Chinese military finance management

BEIJING, 15 Feb—The Chinese People's Liberation Army Beijing Military Area Command has upgraded its finance management by Electronic Banking (E-Banking) after three years' construction.

With the help of E-Banking, the finance management of the military area is much more

efficient and transparent, the officer responsible for finance of the Beijing Military Area Command said here on Tuesday.

It took at least two days for a common account to be transferred before the E-Banking system was adopted, the officer said, stressing it now takes only five minutes through the

E-Banking system.

In the past, the high authorities were unable to supervise the flow of money under the traditional ways of funds allocation and E-Banking enables higher authorities to control the flow of capital of the whole Beijing Military Area Command. *MNA/Xinhua*

Malaysia to have bigger airport in Malacca

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Feb—Malaysia will start works on the new airport terminal and extended runways in the historical state of Malacca next month, local media reported on Tuesday.

Once the project worth 120 million ringgit (31.91 million US dollars) is completed by early 2008, the airport can accommodate *Airbus 320* and *Boeing 737*. At present, only Fokker planes can land at the airport.

With the new project, the Batu Berendam Airport will help boost medical tourism in the Malacca, said Transport Minister Chan Kong Choy.

The airport will enable foreign patients, especially those from Indonesia, to fly straight to Malacca, Chan told reporters here on Monday.

"Indonesians no longer

need to fly to... Singapore or Australia. They can fly direct to Malacca where the medical fees are cheaper," Chan was quoted as saying by *The Star*.

According to local media reports, last year, 54,000 tourists, 96 per cent of them Indonesians, sought medical treatment at three private hospitals in Malacca. *MNA/Xinhua*

China's energy sector imported technology worth \$9.34b in five years

BEIJING, 15 Feb—China's energy industry, including power production and supply, coal mining, petroleum and natural gas supply, imported 1,700 items of technology with a combined contract value of 9.34 billion US dollars in the 2001-2005 period.

The technology import value of the energy sector accounted for 12.9 per cent of the country's total technology import during the period, according to a release of the Ministry of Commerce on Tuesday.

The imported technology has mainly been used in major Chinese energy projects such as the Three Gorges power project, key nuclear power plants and electricity and natural gas transmission projects from the resources-rich western China to the country's power-thirsty eastern part, the ministry said. —*MNA/Xinhua*



A basketball net is full of snow in Silver Spring, Maryland after the first major winter storm passed through Washington area on 12 Feb, 2006. Airports from Washington to Boston are closed because of high, gusting winds and large accumulations of snow. *INTERNET*

The 197-mile railroad cements friendship among national races

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Hsaik-khaung-Namhsan-Mongnai railroad linking Taunggyi, Loilem and Langkho districts in Shan State (South) was inaugurated on 1 January 2006, and the occasion was graced by the presence of Prime Minister General Soe Win.

In adherence to the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on better transport links, and implementation of projects on transport facilities in border areas that lagged behind in development for bridging the development gap between rural and urban regions, the Ministry of Rail Transportation under the supervision of the Eastern Command Headquarters constructed the railroad reaching the villages in southern Taunggyi District and southern Loilem District.

The 197.18-mile facility comprises 561 large and small bridges and 45 stations along the route which was characterized by many ravines. Among the railroad sections, seven were very difficult to be built for they are very uneven at altitudes of 3000, 6000 and 4000 feet. Tatmadaw members contributed their services to the construction of those seven railroad sections.

Regarding that, Prime Minister General Soe Win in his address at the opening of the newly-built railroad

said that in building with great difficulties the over-197-mile railroad through a great number of forests, mountains, ravines and gorges in Shan Plateau, services of Tatmadaw members were mainly employed in combination with the efforts of engineers, experts and employees of the Ministry of Rail Transportation and contribution of local people. The project called for unremitting endeavours and great perseverance, he added.

The facility benefits some 700,000 local people of Shan, Bamar, Pa-O, Palaung, Inntha, Danu, Lahu, Lesu, Yinky and Yinnet in more than 1,360 villages in Shwenyaung, Taunggyi, Hopang, Hsihseng, Loilem, Namhsan and Mongnai Townships, through which the railroad passes.

At the opening ceremony, the Prime Minister delivered a speech, saying, "Measures for development of Shan State and improvement of education, health and social standards of local people residing in Shan State were ignored in the colonial period and sufficient attention was not given in the time of parliamentary democracy system.

Shan State lagged behind in development for many years due to insurgency and incompetence leadership of the government.

The condition of the nation deteriorated in various sectors owing to armed conflicts and insurgencies following regaining of independence, incapability of the then

government and splits within the leadership, acts of the opposition party giving priority to seizing power rather than serving the national interests and speaking ill of whatever the government did with the intention of weakening it, and instigation of neo-colonialists.

However, the present Tatmadaw Government has achieved in persuading the national race armed groups to return to the legal fold. And

mentation of the education, health, transport and development projects. It also designated Panglong in Loilem District, and Langkho District as special development regions as a gesture of hailing the flourishing of Union Spirit. Now, Shan State, the largest in area in Myanmar, has enjoyed development with peace and stability.

So far, the government has built more than 57,100 miles of roads,

strong economic, social and defence conditions."

To build a district-to-district railroad was not very difficult. It just needed to choose a Taunggyi-Loilem-Namhsan axis and construct a switchback railroad, and that would not cost very much.

However, it was the Tatmadaw Government that, in compliance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe for

Eastern Command made inspection tours of the project which reflected the goodwill of the Tatmadaw Government.

Tatmadaw members of regiments and units of Loilem Station, Light Infantry Division under the Eastern Command contributed with heart and soul their services to the project.

The Ministry of Rail Transportation also provided all necessary construction materials

*** So far, the government has built more than 57,100 miles of roads, 1,100 miles of railroads and 212 bridges inclusive of seven bridges across the Ayeyawady River, two bridges across the Chindwin River, five bridges across the Thanlwin River and one bridge across the Sittoung River throughout the Union.**

*** At the inauguration of the railroad, the Prime Minister also said, "In order not to become a minion of other countries, the country requires to build up and safeguard strong economic, social and defence conditions."**

it has been effectively implementing the 24-special development regions project, the border areas development project and the rural development project. As a result of the prudent projects, the entire Union has enjoyed fruitful results of development.

The Tatmadaw Government has designated Taunggyi, Lashio and Kengtung in Shan State as special development regions and is speeding up the imple-

1,100 miles of railroads and 212 bridges inclusive of seven bridges across the Ayeyawady River, two bridges across the Chindwin River, five bridges across the Thanlwin River and one bridge across the Sittoung River throughout the Union.

At the inauguration of the railroad, the Prime Minister also said, "In order not to become a minion of other countries, the country requires to build up and safeguard

the development of rural folks, showed its goodwill in constructing with tenacity the railroad reaching the villages in southern Taunggyi District and southern Loilem District that lagged behind in development, by spending a great deal of time, investment and labour.

During the period when the project was in progress, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and the Commander of

plus small and heavy machinery and the Minister for Rail Transportation time and again inspected the construction tasks and fulfilled the requirements.

The railroad with the length of over 197 miles has raised the standard of living and economy of about 700,000 local national people and strengthened friendship and closer relations among the national races.

Translation: MS

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hosts dinner...

(from page 1)

of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, members of the Central Committee and the Management Committee, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, Union Day delegates from States and Divisions, representatives of national race groups, chairmen and officials of Myanmar Thabin Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon and Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, artists and guests.

At the dinner, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party had the dinner together with the Union Day delegates.

After the dinner, the Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted the Union Day delegates.

Afterwards, artists of Fine Arts Department, University of Culture (Yangon), Myanmar Music Asiayon and Myanmar Motion Picture Organization entertained the Union Day delegates with songs and dances.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends a dinner in honour of cultural troupes and USDA member Union Day delegates. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets Union Day delegates at the dinner. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets Union Day delegates at the dinner. — MNA

Union Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 15 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road was crowded with people

today. At the exhibition, students took part in the computer quiz and English language test. Ministry of Energy staged its booths, and

booths on traditions and customs of the national races are also shown at the exhibition. The exhibition will last till 16 February. MNA



Students visit 59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition. — MNA

Minister for Industry-2 inspects Thagara Industrial Region in Yedashe

YANGON, 15 Feb — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspected Thagara Industrial Region in Yedashe Township yesterday.

Managing Director of Myanma Industrial Construction Services U Aung Kyi reported on construc-

tion of factories and Managing Director of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries U Soe Thein on coordination with Chinese experts for factory projects.

Director-General of the Directorate of Myanma Industrial Planning

U Khin Maung gave a supplementary report.

The minister told officials to meet the targets as scheduled. He inspected the sites chosen for construction of electric turbines and generator factory in the region and physicanut plantation. — MNA

First Htamane-making contest of MCDC held

YANGON, 15 Feb — The first Htamane-making contest of Mandalay City Development Committee was held in the front of the facade of the Mandalay city hall on 12 February. Fourteen teams

took part in the contest. Chairman MCDC Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han presented prizes to the winners. Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and officials inspected

construction of eastern archway to Candamuni Pagoda and construction of flower garden and stone inscription posts in Aungmyethazan Township on 12 February.

MNA

Wellwisher donates ambulance to Transport Ministry



Transport Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe views the ambulance donated by Shwe Thanlwin Co Ltd. — TRANSPORT

YANGON, 15 Feb — Shwe Thanlwin Co Ltd donated an ambulance to the Ministry of Transport yesterday. Managing Director

of Shwe Thanlwin Co Ltd U Kyaw Win presented documents related to the ambulance to Transport Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe at the donation ceremony held at the ministry here.

MNA

Officials leave for Thailand



The UMFCCI Vice-President and officials at the airport on their departure for Thailand. — UMFCCI

YANGON, 15 Feb — To attend the GMS-BF Board of Directors Meeting and SME Financing Workshop to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 16 and 17 February, a Myanmar delegation led by Vice-Presidents of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung and U Zaw Min Win left here for Thailand this morning. They were seen off at the airport by President U Win Myint, Vice-President U Aung Lwin and officials.

MNA

Stolen jewellery returned to owners

YANGON, 15 Feb — Police returned gold and jewellery worth about K 4 million to the owners after they had exposed and arrested the burglars and recovered the stolen property as evidence in Patheingyi on 30 January.

A police officer returned the jewellery to the owners, U Myint Zaw and Daw Nwe Nwe Kyi, at the Shipyard police station in ward 9, in the presence of local authorities and social organization members.

The officer also explained work to reduce crime rate region-wise.

MNA

Hteindaw Model Village ...

(from page 16)

In giving instructions, the commander stressed the need to grow physic nut plants, and he explained use of physic nut plant. The CEC member discussed progress of the State.

Next, the commander donated K 300,000 and textbooks to the BEMS (Branch) of Hteintaw Model Village.

The CEC member donated one set of 21" colour TV, sports equipment and books to the library. After that, the headmistress accepted one DVD player for the youth centre donated by the Township PDC Chairman; one set of 21" colour TV for the school by MFF Co Managing Director U Soe Myint; and one DVD player by Township Women's Affairs Organization Chairperson Daw Khin Aye Swe. Likewise, Managing Director of Hunda-Myanmar Co Ltd U Tin Maung presented K 6 million to the village power supply committee. —MNA

Myanmar open tennis c'ship 18 Feb

YANGON, 15 Feb — The 2006 Myanmar open tennis championship for men's and women's singles and doubles will begin on 18 February at Theinbyu Tennis Plaza in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here. The championship that will continue till 24 February also include 35 and above men's singles and doubles, 45 and above men's singles and doubles, 55 and above men's singles and doubles, and 60 and above men's singles and doubles.

Please contact Myanmar Tennis Federation at Theinbyu Tennis Plaza or dial 372360, 381991, or fax 95-1-372360 or email myatenfed@mptmail.net.mm for details. — MNA

Union Day delegates and cultural troupes visit downtown Yangon

YANGON, 15 Feb — The delegates to the 59th Anniversary Union Day Celebrations and cultural troupes accompanied by officials of Subcommittee for Union Day

Reception and Accommodation of 59th Anniversary Union Day, visited Kandawgyi Natural Gardens this morning. Afterwards, they proceeded to National

Races Village in Thakayta Township and viewed round the village. Next, they visited Shukhintha Amusement Park in the township.

MNA



Union Day delegates and cultural troupes visit National Races Village. — MNA

Asia Pacific discusses potential natural disaster management system

HANOI, 15 Feb — Scientists from the Asia-Pacific Region are discussing at a conference here ways of preventing natural disasters, and eventually establishing a regional management system by 2010, the Vietnam

News Agency reported Tuesday. Some 70 delegates from 19 countries, regions and international organizations to the two-day conference, which opened on Tuesday, touched upon issues re-

garding coordination and cooperation among Asia-Pacific nations on preventing and combating natural disasters, including forest fires and floods, in the 2006-2010 period.

MNA/Xinhua

၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ (၅၉) နှစ်မြောက်
ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ပြည့်

နေ့ရက် - ၈-၂-၂၀၀၆ မှ ၁၆-၂-၂၀၀၆

အချိန် - နံနက် ၈ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၁၃ နာရီ

နေရာ - တပ်မတော်ခန်းမ၊ ဦးစိစာရလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။

(ပြည်သူ့မဆို အခမဲ့လာရောက်ကြည့်ရှုနိုင်ပါသည်။)

Chinese State Councillor urges more higher education exchanges

HAVANA, 15 Feb — Chinese State Councillor Chen Zhili on Monday outlined the growing need to promote international cooperation and exchanges in higher education.

The promotion of higher education exchanges is of vital importance in enhancing understanding among nations of the world and is conducive to world peace and common prosperity, Chen said at an international conference on higher education in Havana.

Colleges and universities are of strategic significance for a nation's

development, she said, adding that China speeded up its higher education reforms at the end of last century to accommodate its rapid social and economic development.

The number of students in China's colleges and universities currently stands at 21 million, topping the world record, Chen said.

Gross enrollment in

Chinese colleges and universities has also reached 21 per cent, which has passed the commonly-accepted standard for a popularization of higher education, she added.

Education ministers of 22 countries, including Chinese Education Minister Zhou Ji, took part in the opening ceremony for the conference.

MNA/Xinhua



Patron of Mandalay Division WAO Daw Khin Pyone Win presents a prize to a winner team of Htamane making contest organized by Mandalay Division WAO. (News on page 16)—MNA

US study says babies may have abstract numerical sense

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb — Even before babies learn to talk they have a bit of a grasp of math, according to new research concluding that infants may have an abstract sense of numerical concepts.

The research, published in this week's edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, said seven-month-old babies demonstrated an ability to match the number of voices they heard to the number of faces they expected to see.

The study of 20 infants by researchers at Duke University was similar to a previous experiment done to demonstrate

that monkeys show numerical perception across senses.

In the new study, babies listened either to two women simultaneously saying the word "look" or three women saying the same word.

At the same time, the infants could choose between video images of two or three women saying the word. As they had found with the monkeys, the researchers said the babies spent significantly more time looking at the video image that matched the number of women talking. "As a result of our experiments, we conclude that the babies are show-

ing an internal representation of 'two-ness' or 'three-ness' that is separate from sensory modalities and thus reflects an abstract internal process," researcher Elizabeth Brannon wrote.

"These results support the idea that there is a shared system between preverbal infants and non-verbal animals for representing numbers," she said. "What we do know is that somehow, very quickly, they've (the babies) acquired this ability to perceive number and divorce it from the sensory information," Brannon said.

MNA/Reuters



A wellwisher donates stationery to families of members of Myanmar Police Force through Yangon Division Police Commander Police Col Aung Daing on 15-2-2006. —YCDC

Myanmar produces bio-diesel from physic nut

Boost physic nut oil production

Myanmar is speeding up the growing of physic nut to use bio-diesel in place of diesel. Now, the

physic nut plants are under intensive cultivation in the nation. Oil content rate of physic nut seeds is also

high. The following table indicates the oil content rate of physic nut fruits acre-wise or age-wise.



Physic nut saplings exhibited at the ceremony to demonstrate bio-diesel production.

Oil content rate of physic nut fruit

Sr.	Subject	Rate
1.	At 2 to 5 years	
	- an acre	178 viss
	- 500,000 acres	89 million viss
2.	At 6 years and above	
	- an acre	248 viss
	- 500,000 acres	124 million viss

No environmental pollution

An acre of physic nut plants bear two to three tons of seeds, from which 60 to 100 gallons of bio-diesel

can be obtained. There is no need to refine physic nut oil and it can be directly used for diesel engines. Physic nut oil does not produce carbon dioxide,

nor does it cause environmental pollution much if used in engines. Therefore, physic nut oil is to be produced extensively as alternative fuel.

Antioxidants do not prevent prostate cancer

NEW YORK, 15 Feb—A high intake of vitamin E, beta-carotene, and vitamin C does not prevent prostate cancer, results of a large study suggest. However, smokers may have a lower risk of advanced prostate cancer if their intake of vitamin E is high, and men with low dietary beta-carotene intake seem to benefit from supplemental beta-carotene.

Previous studies evaluating the associations between antioxidants and prostate cancer risk have yielded contradictory results.

So Dr Richard B Hayes, from the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, and colleagues looked at the effects of antioxidant intake on prostate cancer among 29,361 men enrolled in a large prostate cancer screening trial.

They report their findings in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* this week.

During average follow-up of 4.2 years, there were 1338 incident cases of prostate cancer, including 520 men diagnosed with advanced disease.

In the whole cohort, there was no association between vitamin E, vitamin C and beta-carotene consumption and prostate cancer incidence.

Overall, "our cohort findings, although based on relatively short follow-up, do not provide strong support for population-wide implementation of high-dose antioxidant supplementation for the prevention of prostate cancer," the study team concludes.

However, they report, among men with dietary beta-carotene below the median, supplemental beta-carotene intake of at least 2000 micrograms was associated with a reduced risk of prostate cancer.

MNA/Reuters

At least 16 dead as van falls into flooding river in Peru

LIMA, 15 Feb — At least 16 people died and 25 others were injured on Tuesday when a van fell into a river near the Peruvian town of Matucana, Peru's National Police told local media.

The accident occurred early Tuesday as the van suddenly lost control and plunged from the San Mateo-Chosica Road into the Rimac River, 81 kilometres east of Peru's capital Lima. Most of those killed were local farmers.

Preliminary investigation results showed that

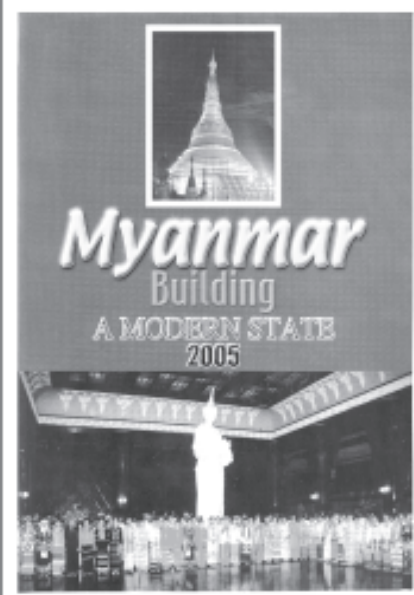
overloading, speeding and slippery road might be the main causes of the accident. The country was hit by unusually strong rainstorms days ago.

MNA/Xinhua

Paraguay finds oil, natural gas

BUENOS AIRES, 15 Feb— The Paraguayan Government confirmed on Tuesday that a British prospecting company has found oil and natural gas in the north of Paraguay, whose energy has depended on import.

The company, CDS Energy, has spotted oil



MYANMAR
Building A Modern State
2005

- This facts stuffed book provides a reliable and valuable reference for scholars, researchers and the public for general reading.
- Illustrated with colourful photographs.
- Published by the Ministry of Information presenting five chapters: The Beautiful Land, Economy, Infrastructure, Social Setting, International Cooperation.

On sale US\$ 5.00 per copy

Available at

- Sarpyo Bookman Book Shop, No. 529-531, Merchant Street, Yangon ☎: 381448, 349031
- News and Periodicals Enterprise Book Shop, No. 212, Theigygy Street, Yangon ☎: 294386
- Hotels, Shopping Malls and other Book Shops in Yangon

South Asia must overcome political conflicts

ISLAMABAD, 15 Feb — Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf said here on Tuesday that South Asian countries must overcome political conflicts in a bid to pave the way for long-cherished progress in the region.

"The only reason that our region, which is blessed with hardworking people and natural resources, lags behind is that we have not been able to resolve our bilateral disputes," Musharraf said during his talks with visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Islamabad.

In this context, Radio Pakistan said, Musharraf particularly referred to the relations between Pakistan and India.

The state-run radio

quoted Musharraf as saying that the two countries should not miss the fleeting moments in the wake of understanding between the leadership of the two countries and adopt a bold and sincere approach to resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister said that Dhaka would continue the efforts to promote regional cooperation in the capacity as chairperson of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

She agreed with the Pakistani President that

peace and development

were inter-linked and all members should fulfill their duty towards the objective of collective well being.—MNA/Xinhua



A woman reads the front page of Britain's 'News of the World' newspaper in London, on 12 Feb, 2006, which features video footage apparently showing British troops abusing Iraqi civilians. British military police have made an arrest in connection with a probe into the video footage, the defence ministry said.—INTERNET



A woman looks at a new generation mobile phone on the first day of the 3GSM World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, on 13 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Moderate quake jolts east India, kills 2

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb—Two Indian were killed on Tuesday when their vehicle was crushed by falling boulders after a moderate earthquake struck an eastern mountain state and triggered landslides, authorities said.

The tremors, which were also felt across the border in northern Bangladesh, sent people running from their homes in the region, witnesses said, and cracks were reported in some buildings.

"The two passengers were killed when big boulders rolled down a hill top onto the vehicle in which they were travelling," Ravindra Telang, administrator of East Sikkim

District, told Reuters by phone.

The incident took place at Cheratahang, 25 miles northeast of Gangtok, capital of Sikkim state where the 5.7-magnitude earthquake was centred.

"Many buildings have been damaged and we have evacuated five families from some vulnerable buildings," Telang said. "We are now counting the

other damaged buildings across the capital."

An India Meteorological Department official said the epicentre was 700 miles north of the eastern city of Kolkata and the earth-quake occurred at 6:25 am (0055 GMT). Sikkim legislator Norzang Lepcha told Reuters from Gangtok that boulders that rolled down the hills had blocked roads.

MNA/Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTION
BLISSFUL CENTANY INTERNA-
TIONAL LIMITED, a company
incorporated in the Republic
of Mauritius, and having its
office at 210 St. James Court,
Rue St. Denis, Port Louis,
Republic of Mauritius, is the
owner and proprietor of the
following Trademark:

WELLMAX
Reg. No. 43837/2005
(30.9.2005)

In respect of "energy drinks,
food supplements and drink
supplements" in Class 5.
Fraudulent or unauthorised
use, or actual or colourable
imitation of the said mark
shall be dealt with according
to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Yangon, Union of Myanmar.
kelvin.chia.yg@gmail.com
Dated 16 February 2006

Tanzanian coffee output to drop due to drought

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 14 Feb— Persistent drought in Tanzania is to cause the production of coffee, one of the country's leading export crops, to drop by as much as a third, local media reported on Sunday.

Leslie Omari, director of the Tanzania Coffee Board, told local media that until the end of January this year, coffee yields from all 11 coffee-producing regions of the country were 30,141 tons only.

The coffee board originally projected a production of 45,000 tons during the 2005/2006 season that

concludes in April.

Tanzania produced 56,000 tons of coffee during the 2004/2005 season.

The drop in production was mainly caused by drought in the Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions in northern Tanzania, where coffee is a major cash crop.

The Kilimanjaro region alone accounts for one fifth of the annual national coffee production.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia considers disciplining civil servants failing to declare assets

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 Feb— About 10 per cent of the 1.04 million civil servants in Malaysia have not declared their assets yet and the government may consider taking disciplinary actions, local media reported on Monday.

If those civil servants refuse to declare their assets, they might lose chance of promotion apart from other disciplinary actions including warning and termination of services, Chief Secretary to the Federal Government Samsudin Osman said.

Samsudin said he could not see any reason why civil servants should fail to make the declarations.

"The form is so easy

to fill. We have made it very easy for them to do it. If they still defy the order, then they are not entitled to hold any posts in the government, whether in the supporting or management grades," Samsudin was quoted as saying by *New Straits Times*.

However, Samsudin said most of those who had yet to declare their assets were overseas pursuing their studies or

on job attachments.

Only a handful have refused outright, and heads of their departments and agencies are now taking disciplinary actions against them, Samsudin added.

On Thursday, the director of a local government authority in the Pahang State has become the first Malaysian civil servant to be charged with failure to make a sworn declaration of assets. Abdul Wahab Abdullah, 51, who headed the Valuation and Assets Disposal Department of the Kuantan Municipal Council, was asked by the Anticorruption Agency (ACA) to declare his assets under oath within a stipulated time, but he failed to do so.

The ACA has the right to direct any civil servant, regardless of position, to declare his or her assets.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to promote prawn export

HANOI, 14 Feb— Vietnam is building up national trade names for prawns, one of its key seafood for export, and strengthen trade promotion in such traditional prawn markets as the United States and Japan.

From now to next November, Vietnam is spending over 7 billion Vietnamese dong (443,000 US dollars) on constructing the names, and hiring foreign consultants to map out prawn promotion strategies to be conducted in the United States and Japan, the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) said on Monday.

Traders from the two nations as well as many European countries said consumers there like Vietnamese prawns, which are large (30 prawns weighing 1 kilogramme) and raised in natural habitats, mainly in the southern Mekong Delta, but they find no well-known trademarks for the product, the association noted.

Besides the United States and Japan, Vietnam

is promoting prawn export to the European Union, especially England, Germany, France, Belgium and Italy. Exports to England and Belgium currently represent some 30 per cent of Vietnam's prawn export revenue, VASEP said.

Southern Ca Mau Province, Vietnam's biggest prawn hub, made export prawn turnover of 510 million dollars in 2005. The turnover is expected to increase nearly 10 per cent in 2006.

This year, Vietnam is boosting export of different seafood items to traditional markets such as China, the United States, the European Union and Japan, and some new ones, including the Middle East, East Europe, Africa and South America.

MNA/Xinhua

Nile riparian countries mull to develop regional power trade

ADDIS ABABA, 14 Feb— The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) said on Sunday it is working to develop regional power markets among the 10 riparian countries.

NBI, launched in February 1999, is a regional partnership within which countries of the Nile basin have united in common pursuit of the long-term development and management of Nile waters.

In a statement, NBI said that developing regional power trade could help improve access to reliable and low cost power in the Nile basin in a manner that is environmentally and socially sustainable.

The NBI countries need a sufficient and reliable power supply to meet their social and economic development objectives, said the statement.

Yet, it said, in most of these countries, only about 10 per cent of the population has access to electricity.

The project is the first

basin-wide effort to develop a regional power trading architecture for the Nile through the active participation of all basin countries, the bloc said.

The four-year project is expected to cost 13 million US dollars and is supported by the

governments of Norway and Sweden, and the African Development Bank, according to the Entebbe-based grouping.

There are vast and as yet untapped hydroelectric and other energy resources in the basin, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

China's export, import of machinery, electronic products soar

BEIJING, 14 Feb— China's export of machinery and electronic products grew 36.1 per cent to reach 36.07 billion US dollars in the first month of this year, making up 55.5 per cent of the country's total exports.

Meanwhile China's import of machinery and electronic products jumped 29.3 per cent to 29.67 billion US dollars, according to a release made by the General Administration of Customs on Monday.

The export of electric and electronic products came to 14.48 billion US dollar during the period, up 42.6 per cent year on year; machine tools to 12.12 billion US dollars,

up 24.1 per cent; and high-tech products to 17.61 billion US dollars, up 33.4 per cent.

Among major items for export, apparel products went up by 24.8 per cent to 6.62 billion dollars, yarn and other textile products rose by 21.8 per cent to 3.56 billion dollars, shoes rose by 27.3 per cent to 1.93 billion dollars, and rolled steel went up 21.1 per cent

to 1.81 million tons.

In January, China imported iron ore of 26.58 million tons, up 27.4 per cent, and refined oil of 2.62 million tons, down 21.8 per cent.

Meanwhile, China imported chemical products worth 6.22 billion dollars, up 9.7 per cent, 18,000 cars, up 120 per cent and rolled steel of 1.57 million tons, down 18.3 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam produces human-use H5N1 vaccines on lab scale

HANOI, 14 Feb— A Vietnamese institute has just succeeded in making 200 doses of human-use vaccines against bird flu virus strain H5N1 in its laboratory, according to local newspaper *Youth* on Monday.

The Nha Trang Institute of Vaccine in the central province of Khanh Hoa will produce additional 2,000 doses of H5N1 vaccines for testing, assessing and clinical trials on humans within 18 months.

The vaccines are being made from embryos in chicken eggs, the report said.

Vietnam has detected 93 bird flu patients,

including 42 fatalities, in 32 localities since the disease started to hit the country in December 2003, the Health Ministry said on 10 February, noting that it has seen no new human cases of infections since mid-November 2005.

Vietnam plans to vaccinate poultry nationwide against bird flu viruses in two separate periods this year: from late

February to April, and between September and October. Earlier, it vaccinated 246 million poultry turns. Each dose for a fowl is considered one turn while two doses for the same fowl are regarded as two turns.

Vietnam now has 190 million of bird flu vaccines in stock, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese walk through the central shopping district of downtown Beijing on 14 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

မိသားစုများနှင့် သေတိရစ္ဆာန်များကိုထောက်ပံ့သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး စည်ပင်သာယာမှု

Miss Universe China candidates love animals, children

HARBIN, 14 Feb — About 50 candidates for the 2006 Miss Universe China final expressed love for animals and children on Sunday by adopting tiger cubs and visiting orphans in Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

Luo Ying, a 23-year-old top seed from Beijing, adopted a one-year-old Siberian tiger cub for 2,000 yuan (250 U.S. dollars) a year at the world's largest forest-based tiger park in the provincial capital Harbin, and named him Yuanyuan.

"Siberian tigers are critically endangered and I'm very happy to adopt one of them," said Luo, an avid animal lover. "I hope more people will take part in environment and wildlife conservation." Ten other tigers have been adopted by Miss Universe candidates at the tiger park, which has bred more than 520 Siberian tigers since its establishment in 1986, said Jiang Hua, an official with the organizing committee of the Miss Universe China event.

The committee also sponsored a trip for some candidates to visit an SOS village

in Qiqihar, where they became foster mothers for the orphans, Jiang said.

The candidates have stood out from thousands of contestants from Beijing, Shanghai, Sichuan, Heilongjiang, Jiangxi and Zhejiang and are attending the final contest in Harbin from 6 February to 1 March. They will also move on to the southernmost island province of Hainan to continue the contest. Miss Universe is one of the world's three most important beauty pageants. The annual Miss Universe final has attracted over 100 million TV viewers of 150 countries and regions since the event was initiated in 1952.

Miss Universe entered China in 2003, but no Chinese contestant entered the world's top 15 in the past three years. -

MNA/Xinhua



Japanese model Rika Ando demonstrates Panasonic's new 'LUMIX' digital still camera DMC-FX01 at an unveiling in Tokyo 14 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Singapore to hold large-scale emergency exercise

SINGAPORE, 14 Feb— Singapore Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs Ho Peng

Kee said Monday in Parliament that another large-scale emergency exercise is expected to be held in the city state in the near future, according to Channel News Asia report.

"Singaporeans can only become better prepared for any emergency if they treat emergency preparedness as a way of life so that they are mentally prepared for any crisis situation," the report quoted Ho as saying.

He added that agencies like hospitals and public

transport operators will initially conduct smaller-scale exercises to test and improve their responses to emergencies before the large-scale one is held.

Singapore held its largest-ever surprise civil emergency exercise against bomb attacks on public transport network on 8 January this year, which involved 22 government agencies such as the Singapore Police Force, the Singapore Civil Defence Force and the Ministry of Health. —MNA/Xinhua

UN to continue relief efforts in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 14 Feb— The United Nations said on Sunday that it would continue to provide assistance to the thousands of earthquake survivors in Pakistan.

"The decision to temporarily restrict the movement of cargo and people did affect some minor aspects of the operation, but there has been no decision to remove UN personnel of any particular nationality in response to these security concerns," the UN information centre said in a Press release here on Sunday.

UN Humanitarian Coordinator Jan Vandemoortele emphasized that providing food and safe drinking water, improving sanitation,

health surveillance, and keeping families warm and dry remained the key priorities until the end of the winter.

The UN continues to work closely together with the government and non-governmental partners in support of the people affected by the 8 October devastating earthquake.

He added that the principle of freedom of expression was only valid when it respected the fundamental beliefs and values of others.

MNA/Xinhua

China takes anti-dumping measures on imported Furan phenol

BEIJING, 14 Feb— China has started to impose an anti-dumping tax on imported Furan phenol from Japan, the United States, and the European Union (EU), according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Ministry said in a recent statement that the anti-dumping tax rate stood at 113.2 per cent and the measures would last five years.

The Ministry launched the anti-dumping investigation on 12 August, 2004. After the investigation, the Ministry decided that the import of the chemical constituted dumping and caused substantial damage to domestic industry. One US and one Japanese chemical company have signed contracts with the Ministry of Commerce,

agreeing to export their Furan phenol products at a price higher than the promised price, so China will not levy the tax upon these two companies.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria tests children for H5N1 bird flu

KADUNA (Nigeria), 14 Feb — Nigerian health officials waited anxiously on Sunday for test results on two children feared to be the first Africans infected with the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus.

The virus broke out in early January among poultry in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, but the H5N1 diagnosis was confirmed only last week and authorities are struggling to contain it as it spreads rapidly to farms across the north.

The father of the two children — a four-year-old boy and a baby boy of

four months — said they got a very high temperature and coughed up blood two weeks ago when all 250 of his geese, turkey and chickens died suddenly.

"The two of them were coughing and if they sneezed, blood came from their nose and throat," Isaac Achi told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

Indonesia's new Military Chief sworn in

JAKARTA, 14 Feb — Indonesia's Air Force Chief of Staff Air Marshall Djoko Soeyanto was sworn in on Monday as the country's new Armed Forces (TNI) commander in a ceremony at the state palace here.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono asked the new commander to continue with the initial reform of Soeyanto's predecessor General Endriartono Sutarto who has reached retirement age.

"General Sutarto has carried out reform and brought respect to democracy, judiciary system and human rights in the military," said Susilo. Soeyanto, 55, is the first

Air Force chief to lead the TNI. Susilo also has issued a presidential decree on the appointment of Air Marshall Herman Prayitno as the new Air Force Chief of Staff.

MNA/Xinhua

Peruvian Navy vessel visits Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 14 Feb— The Peruvian Navy training vessel *Mollendo* arrived in east China's Shanghai on Monday for a four-day goodwill visit.

The vessel, with 397 officers and soldiers aboard, is captained by Zuazo Del Asuila Percy Dany.

After their arrival, the captain and

other Peruvian officers met with Wang Deding, commander of the Shanghai naval base. They will also meet with civil officials in Shanghai during their ship's stay here. Peruvian officers and men are scheduled to visit Chinese frigate and a number of local scenic spots in the coming days. — MNA/Xinhua



Portuguese soccer players goalkeeper Ricardo Pereira (from L-R), Cristiano Ronaldo and Marco Caneira show the new national soccer team jersey during a media presentation of the new designer team jersey in Lisbon, on 13 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

SPORTS



Wilson of Paulista of Brazil, centre, fights for the ball against Erick de Jesus, left and Segundo Castillo, right of Ecuador's El Nacional during a Copa Libertadores game at the Atahualpa Stadium, in Quito, Ecuador, on Tuesday, 14 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Brazil's Cafu, Roque Jr to miss March World Cup friendly

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Feb—Brazil's national soccer team will field its normal squad of 22 players on 1 March, the team's warm-up for the 2006 Germany World Cup, but veteran captain Cafu and Roque Jr, who are both injured, will not play the friendly with Russia, local media reported on Tuesday.

"We will field the team we are using: it's no time to experiment," said Brazilian national team manager Carlos Albert Pereira, who said he wished he had more friendly games, after the Moscow-based friendly, to practise with before the main event in April.

Brazil has a surfeit of good players, including the best player from Spanish league team Barcelona -- Ronaldo de

Assis known as Ronaldinho, named by the International Football Federations as the world's best player two years in a row. Inter Milan's Adriano and Real Madrid's Ronaldo Nazario and Robson de Souza are also available. Parreira said he would be sad to replace Cafu, 35, who has captained three World Cups, but is now suffering a knee injury. He will probably have to rely on Cicinho.—MNA/Xinhua

Cuper throws in the towel at Mallorca

MADRID, 15 Feb—Hector Cuper has resigned as coach of Real Mallorca after a poor run of results left the club at the bottom of the Primera Liga.

Mallorca said that the 50-year-old Argentine handed in his resignation to club president Vicente Grande on Tuesday and that his decision had been accepted.

Spanish media reported that Tomeu Llopart, who has had several spells in charge of the team on a caretaker basis, would take over as first team coach.

The islanders slipped to the foot of the table on Sunday after a 1-1 draw at home to Getafe extended their winless streak to nine matches.

Cuper took charge of Mallorca for the second time in his career in November 2004 following the sacking of Benito Floro, who was dismissed after the team had taken five points from their first

nine games.

The club spent much of the campaign in the relegation zone but eventually preserved their top flight status on the final day.

They made a similarly poor start this season and despite making several signings in the January transfer market, results have failed to improve.

Cuper was first in charge of Mallorca between 1997 and 1999, taking them to the final of the King's Cup, the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup and to a best-ever third-place finish in the league.

He moved to Valencia in 1999 following the departure of Claudio Ranieri and took a side with little pedigree in Europe to two successive Champions League finals, losing to Real Madrid in 2000 and Bayern Munich, on penalties, in 2001.

He then replaced Marco

Tardelli at Inter Milan in 2001 and almost won the Serie A title the following season, falling at the final hurdle by losing the last match to Lazio.

MNA/Reuters

Milan captain doubtful for Bayern clash

ROME, 15 Feb—AC Milan captain Paolo Maldini is doubtful for next week's Champions League match against Bayern Munich after failing to recover from tendonitis in his lower leg.

The 37-year-old defender, who missed the early part of the season with a muscle strain and has not played since Milan's last Champions League fixture against Schalke 04 at the beginning of December, was expected to return to the team against Reggina on Sunday.

Instead, he failed to make the bench and the club is now refusing to give any idea when he will come back.

"I'll have to check the situation morning by morning but right now it's not

good," the former Italy international was quoted as saying in La Gazzetta dello Sport on Tuesday.

"It's still giving me pain and I'm only able to do things at 80 per cent. To play against Bayern I would need to be at 100 per cent."

Maldini's injury problems are a headache for coach Carlo Ancelotti, who has also lost right-back Cafu for four weeks after the Brazilian decided to have surgery on a knee injury.—MNA/Reuters

World No 1 Clijsters says ready to play at Antwerp

BRUSSELS, 15 Feb—World No. 1 Kim Clijsters of Belgium said on Tuesday that she was keen to play again and was looking forward to her first match on Wednesday, reported Flemish broadcaster VRT.

"Playing here in Antwerp is the best feeling I have ever had on a tennis court." Clijsters was quoted as saying at a Press conference.

"My preparations haven't been great

but I am here and ready to play."

She cautioned that she was not thinking of winning the tournament for the moment. Clijsters will play Tatiana Golovin on Wednesday night, which is her first match after twisting her ankle in the Australian Open last month.

Golovin, the 18-year-old rising star from France, dispatched Belgium's Kirsten Flipkens 6-1, 7-6 on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua



Milwaukee Bucks guard Jiri Welsch (L) of the Czech Republic is fouled by Seattle Sonics guard Ronald Murray (R) as he drives the paint in the third quarter of their NBA game in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on 14 February, 2006.—INTERNET

Garcia gives Liverpool vital victory over Arsenal

LONDON, 15 Feb—Substitute Luis Garcia scored three minutes from time to give Liverpool a vital 1-0 victory over Arsenal on Tuesday, boosting their chances of finishing second in the English Premiership.

The Spaniard fired in the rebound after Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann could only parry a 25-yard shot from another substitute Dietmar Hamann.

The win lifts Liverpool to just three points behind second-placed Manchester United while Arsenal are now 10 points behind Liverpool in fifth.

Liverpool were full value for their victory and should have gone ahead on the half-hour mark when Fernando Morientes was fouled in the area by Emmanuel Eboué.

MNA/Xinhua

Butt to face Bruce ire after Birmingham walkout

LONDON, 15 Feb—Former England midfielder Nicky Butt faces the wrath of Birmingham City manager Steve Bruce after walking out of the squad before Monday's 3-0 defeat at West Ham United.

Butt, on loan from Newcastle United for the season, stormed out of the team's hotel after discovering he had not been picked while the manager's son Alex Bruce, usually a defender, was included in midfield.

"He (Butt) was injured against Reading in midweek and we decided the lads who played, especially one of them, deserved to stay in the team," manager Bruce told reporters.

"No player is happy about being left out. He didn't ask for permission, he decided on his own bat to leave and go home.

"We will deal with it internally over the next 24 to 48 hours. We will have a conversation I'm sure and I'll deal with it," added Bruce, a former team mate of Butt at Manchester United.

Birmingham, third from bottom in the Premier League, face fellow strugglers Sunderland, Middlesbrough and West Bromwich Albion in their next three league games after they take on second division Stoke City in the FA Cup fifth round this Sunday.

Bruce's team have had an erratic series of results in recent weeks. A 2-0 win over Wigan Athletic, a 5-0 thrashing of Portsmouth and a 1-1 draw at Liverpool

were followed by a 2-0 home defeat by Arsenal and Monday's meek effort at West Ham.

"I want to have a team which is totally committed to the cause," said Bruce, whose side are six points adrift of the safety zone.

MNA/Reuters



Andy Roddick hits a backhand shot during his first round match against Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez in the SAP Open in San Jose, Calif, on Tuesday, 14 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Commander attends Htamane (traditional snack) offering ceremony

YANGON, 15 Feb— The Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association offered Htamane (traditional snack) to members of the Sangha at a ceremony held at its office on 12 February morning. Patron of Mandalay Division USDA Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife, Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and officials offered Htamane and fruits to more than 700 members of the Sangha.

Later that morning, the commander attended the opening of the fourth Mayor's Cup Horticultural Show at the Kandawgyi Amusement Park in Mandalay. The commander and the major formally opened the show and viewed the pavilions around the show.

The prize presentation ceremony followed in the

park in the afternoon. Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen

attended the ceremony to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Sasana Pala



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw unveils the stone plaque at the golden jubilee anniversary of Shwewahwin Monastery of Mani Yadanayama Mya Taung Monastery in Mandalay. — MNA

Phone Zaw Han delivered a speech.

The first prize went to U Kyaw Naing Win of 8th Mile Agricultural Farm. The show continues till 18 February.

The commander also

Shwewahwin Monastery of Mani Yadanayama Mya Taung Kyaungtaik in Maha Aungmye Township. The occasion was graced by the presence of Member of the State Central Working Committee

of the Sangha Sagaing Hill Maha Yadana Bomsan Mya Taung Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhamma Loka and members of the Sangha.

The commander unveiled the stone plaque of

the monastery. The commander and wife offered alms to Chairman of Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Shwewahwin Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru

Bhaddanta Sasana Bhivamsa. The commander and wife and congregation offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sasana Bhivamsa delivered a sermon. — MNA

Hteindaw Model Village in Kanbalu Township equipped with development facilities

YANGON, 15 Feb — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the ceremonies to equip development facilities at Hteindaw Model Village in Kanbalu Township on 11 February.

First, Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Sein Maung Win, Organizer of Township USDA U Kyaw Min Tun and Chairman of Village PDC U Win Maung formally opened the village library, the youth centre and the auto-telephone exchange. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, townselder U Kyaw

Nyunt, and U Kyaw Tint of Shwebo District Information and Public Relations Department presented books and magazines to librarian U Zaw Moe. The commander, the minister and party visited the library, the youth centre and the auto-telephone exchange.

Next, the ceremony to launch the bio-gas power station of the village followed. In-charge of the construction of the power station Lecturer Daw Soe Soe Ohn reported on building of the station. Wellwisher Managing Director U Tin Maung of Hunda-Myanmar Co Ltd explained the purpose of the donation. Villageelder U Nyan spoke words of thanks.

Shwebo District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Than Tun, Village PDC Chairman U Win Maung

and wellwisher U Tin Maung formally opened the power station. The commander unveiled the signboard of the station. They viewed round the power station. It is 15 KVA power station built at a cost of K 6 million.

Afterwards, the rural health care centre was put into service. Dr Kyaw Shein of Sagaing Division Health Department, Chairman of District PDC Lt-Col Than Tun and Construction Committee Chairman U Myint Thein cut the ribbon to open the health care branch. Patron of the construction committee U Ba Thein handed over documents related to the health care branch to Head of District Health Department Dr Mya Thein. The health care centre was built at a cost of K 3 million.

A ceremony to

open Hteindaw BEMS (Branch) was held. Chairman of District PDC Lt-Col Than Tun, Sagaing Division Education Officer U Toe Aung and member of the School Board of Trustees U Thet opened the school branch. The commander unveiled the stone plaque of the school.

They viewed use of teaching aids at the classrooms.

Next, the commander and the minister paid homage and donated alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pañnasami of West Hteindaw Monastery. At Dhammathukha Theinthan Yadana Dhammayon of the monastery, the chairman of the Township PDC reported on construction of the model village. Two local people expressed gratitude.

(See page 9)

INSIDE

- * During the period when the project was in progress, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint made inspection tours of the project which reflected the goodwill of the Tatmadaw Government.
- * Tatmadaw members of regiments and units of Loilem Station, Light Infantry Division under the Eastern Command contributed with heart and soul their services to the project.
- * The Ministry of Rail Transportation also provided all necessary construction materials plus small and heavy machinery and the Minister for Rail Transportation time and again inspected the construction tasks and fulfilled the requirements.
- * The railroad with the length of over 197 miles has raised the standard of living and economy of about 700,000 local national people and strengthened friendship and closer relations among the national races.

PAGE 7

YADANASI SAYADAW (LOILEM)

Significant night temperatures

Namhsan	(4°C)
Pinlaung	(4°C)