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Friday, 17 February, 2006

Indonesian President to pay state visit to Myanmar

YANGON, 17 Feb — At the invitation of Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia and Madame Kristiani Herrawati, will pay a state visit to the Union of Myanmar in the near future.

MNA

Tarred road opened in Chanmyathazi Township

YANGON, 16 Feb— The tarred road section of 62nd Street between Theikpan Street and Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Railroad in Chanmyathazi Township in

9,942-foot long and 48-foot wide road cost more than K 283.5 million.

The commander addressed the meeting to clarify the Annual Gen-

Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee.

Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Patron

Than Nyunt recounted the experiences of the annual general meeting.

Members discussed matters on future tasks. The patron assessed the reports. — MNA

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw addresses meeting to clarify the AGM of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation.

MNA

Mandalay was inaugurated on 10 February morning.

Secretary of the Mandalay City Development Committee U Maung Pu presented facts about the facility.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and MCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han formally opened the road and viewed it.

The MCDC undertook the project and the

eral Meeting of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation at the

Daw Khin Pyone Win gave a speech, and Chairperson Daw Than

Commander inspects physic nut plantations in Shan State (North)

YANGON, 16 Feb — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing on 13 February inspected physic nut grafts and saplings to be planted at the research

plantation of the command.

Afterwards, the commander also inspected the 100-acre physic nut plantation of the command in Lashio and the 500-acre physic nut model plantation of Hnin Hnin Khaing Co

Ltd, 100-acre model plantation of the command and 10-acre model plantation of Shan State (North) Police Force near Napha Village in Lashio.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing also attended the coordination meeting on improvement

of education standards in Shan State (North) held at the state hall in Lashio and gave instructions.

According to the reports of the officials of the Shan State (North) Education Department, arrangements have been made in the state with the

aim of increasing the pass rate of the matriculation examination for the 2006 academic year and emergence of the outstanding students in the state.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the commander.

MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 17 February, 2006

Work in concert for perpetual existence of the Union

Now is the time when the State Peace and Development Council, with the active and enthusiastic participation of the entire national people, is working hard for the Union of Myanmar to become as developed as other nations of the world. Therefore, systematic measures are being taken for parallel development of various regions across the Union.

Sector-wise plans are being carried out with a view to improving the socio-economic status of the people, and transport, health, education, social and economic infrastructures are being built for the sake of their long-term interests.

While the government is implementing development projects with added momentum, it is also trying its best for Myanmar people to be able to stand with dignity among the international community. For the Myanmar people to be able to stand with dignity among the international community, it is necessary for the Union of Myanmar to be able to stand as a sovereign nation for ever. This being the case, the government, while shouldering the defence duty, is trying to get rid of all those who are harming the interests of the nation and the people.

While the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are putting their energies into the national development endeavours, some destructive elements, intent on their self-interests, are committing destructive acts to please neo-colonialists. These destructive elements are plotting to destroy peace, prosperity and development of the Union and undermine the national unity by sowing discord among the national people. At such a time like this, it is necessary for the people to use their common sense and not to believe the unfounded rumours invented by destructionists within and without the nation.

It is natural that everyone wants to see their own nation and their own people prosper. Only with the all-round development of the Union of Myanmar will the people be able to fully enjoy peace and prosperity. Therefore, we would like to call on the entire people of the Union to work in concert for perpetual existence of the Union and participate in all the national development endeavours being carried out by the government.



In memory of late U Tang Kyauk Paung, Daw Khin Khin and family of 35, Ma Kyee Kyee Road in Sangyoung Township presented K 100,000 to Joint Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board recently.—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.

Bahan Township MCWA presents prizes to winners

YANGON, 16 Feb — Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Association held a ceremony to present prizes to the winners in poem recitation and body building contests for children in commemoration of the 59th Anniversary Union Day at No 2 Basic Education High School in Bahan Township at noon on 14 February.

First, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai made a speech on the occasion and dealt with the matters related to the functions of the association of the township.

Next, the chairperson and those present cheered the participants who took part in the body building and poem recitation contests and presented prizes to the winners. — MNA

Daw Mar Mar Wai presents prize to a winner.

MNA



Chinese, Myanmar entrepreneurs to enhance bilateral cooperation

YANGON, 16 Feb — Guangxi Investment Promotion Agency of the People's Republic of China and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) today discussed matters on promotion of bilateral cooperation in trade and investment sectors.

Chinese delegation comprises 19 members. Another Chinese delegation of Guangxi Province is expected to arrive here next month to hold talks with Myanmar entrepreneurs on win-win cooperation. — MNA

Teachers training on nursery opens

YANGON, 16 Feb — Teachers training course No 8 on day care nursery conducted by Myanmar Education Research Department under the Ministry of Education was opened this morning here.

A total of 120 trainees are attending the course which will last till 11 March.

The training course No 9 is also scheduled to be launched on 6 March.

The curriculum for the training course is drawn by Social Welfare Department, Education Planning and Training Department and Myanmar Education Research Department. — MNA

Pro-Golfer Soe Kyaw Naing top in third round with a birdie



YANGON, 16 Feb — The Seventh Leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour continued for the third round at Danyingon Golf Club in Insein Township this morning.

Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) succeeded two-round leader Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) as third round leader by firing a birdie in the third round today for a one-under-par 215 total in the professional golfers division. Thailand's Kwanchai Tannin finished with a two-over-par 74 for a total of a two-over-par 218 by holding his position at the second. Aung

Win (YCDC+Srixon) was still holding the third position and scored a bogey in the third round for a four-over-par 220 in total. Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) who had retained his leading position till second round shared the fourth position with young player Zaw Zin Win (Srixon) with a 5-over-par 221 total. Despite shooting a birdie in the third round, Zaw Zaw Latt moved back from the leading position to the fourth position.

In the amateur golfers division, Aung Win (Ministry of Forestry) fired a three-over-par 219 in total, and held a seven-stroke lead over Naing Naing Lin, who shot 81 in the third round for a total of 221. Aung Win who stood second in the second round and Naing Naing Lin who

was the leader of the second round exchanged their positions in the third round today. Yan Naing Phyo put his scores with a seven-over-par 79 for a 220 total, too far from the two leading golfers.

The golf tour, being co-organized by MPGA and MGF, and being 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 fourth and final round of the golf tour continues tomorrow at the same venue.

MNA

Paper on journey to Angkor Wat to be read

YANGON, 16 Feb — The knowledge bank paper reading session conducted by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association will be held at Sarpay Beikman Building on Merchant Street here at noon on 25 February.

U Thet Tun, a retired ambassador, will give a paper on "Journey to Angkor Wat" at the paper reading session.

MNA

Indian PM says peace top priority in foreign policy

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb—Noting that India faced a “turbulent neighbourhood”, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday said it was a foremost challenge for New Delhi to create a “stable and cooperative atmosphere in the region to allow us to concentrate our energies on tackling problems at home and in the region”.

“Peace, prosperity and stability in South Asia are a top priority concern of our external policies. The destiny of all countries is closely interlinked”, he said laying the foundation stone for the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan here that will house the External Affairs

Ministry.

“We face a turbulent neighbourhood. It is our foremost challenge to create a stable and cooperative atmosphere in our region that will allow us to concentrate our energies on tackling the problems at home and in our region”, the Prime Minister said.

Asserting that India had worked hard to create the space needed to have the freedom to make policy choices in an “increasingly inter-dependent world”, Singh said “the means we adopt to pursue our enduring objectives of peace, national security and development will, of course, change from time to time.—MNA/PTI



Indian construction workers build a toll plaza on the national highway at Sankrail village, about 30 km (19 miles) southeast from the eastern Indian city of Kolkata, on 15 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Iraq veterans suffer mental problems

LONDON, 16 Feb—More than 1,300 British servicemen and women who have completed tours of duty in Iraq returned with serious psychiatric problems, a British newspaper reports.

The *Independent* newspaper quoted government figures compiled between January 2003 and September 2005 that showed at least 1,333 had been diagnosed with mental health problems while on duty. Of these, 182 were found to be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder; 601 had adjustment disorder or “combat stress”; 237 were diagnosed with depression; and 167 with other mental illnesses or substance misuse.

The daily claimed many Iraq veterans were not receiving adequate treatment for their conditions and said the issue raised questions about the level of healthcare for regular soldiers, reservists and part-time volunteers.

Group Captain Frank McManus, a senior military psychiatrist, was reported as saying that reservists and part-timers are most commonly affected.

“They are more vulnerable because in their normal working day and life they have no contact with the military, they are surrounded by people who cannot begin to understand what they went through in Iraq,” he said.

It also quoted Charles Plumridge, of the Gulf War Veterans and Families’ Association, as saying: “This situation is appalling. The Ministry of Defence should not be allowed to get away with it.” I would not be at all surprised if the figures increase greatly.”

The ministry was said to have told the newspaper it was aware of the problem “at the highest level” and was attempting to address the issue, particularly for reservists, by making the National Health Service more aware of the issue.

Internet

Australia reviews wheat export monopoly

CANBERRA, 15 Feb— Australia is reviewing the monopoly held by wheat exporter AWB Ltd following an official inquiry into allegations of kickbacks to Saddam Hussein’s regime, the government said on Tuesday. Australian Prime Minister John Howard said the government might act before the end of the Australian inquiry, which is looking at whether the AWB broke any Australian laws in its Iraq oil-for-food deals. The inquiry is due to report by 31 March.

A 2005 UN report accused the AWB, the main exporter of food to Iraq in the 1990s, of paying up to 222 million US dollars to Saddam Hussein’s government under the programme. Prime Minister John Howard has called a meeting for Wednesday with AWB executive chairman Brendan Stewart to discuss the monopoly arrangements and Iraq’s suspension of business with AWB until after the judicial inquiry.—MNA/Reuters

Six die in head-on smash in Lincolnshire

LONDON, 15 Feb— Six people were killed on Tuesday in a head-on smash involving two lorries and a minibus in Lincolnshire, police said. The accident occurred on the A52 between Sedgebrook and Bottesford near Grantham shortly before 5 am.

Police said the victims were five passengers in the minibus and one of the lorry drivers. They were all said to be men.

Three others injured in the crash have been taken to Grantham Hospital although their injuries are not thought to be life-threatening. “It’s a scene of carnage. We know there are six confirmed dead. At the moment we are trying to establish identity,” Chief Superintendent Dave Wheeler of Lincolnshire Police told reporters.

MNA/Reuters

“Made in China” helps US save billions of dollars

BEIJING, 15 Feb— “Made in China” products enrich American lives and have helped that country save billions of dollars in the past decade, said a Chinese official at the China-US Business Forum held here on Tuesday.

“The American people have enjoyed the cheap prices of made-in-China products, and according to a Morgan Stanley report, in the past ten years, these cheap products have helped save 600 billion US dollars for the country”, said Cheng Siwei, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress.

“Products made in China facilitate American lives since people wake up in the morning and go to bed at night, these products vary from alarm clocks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, to sports shoes for jogging, and blankets”, he said. “These daily necessities may not have Chinese brands, but most of them are produced in China.”

“What I want to say is the trade cooperation between China and the US is actually bringing benefits to both”, Cheng said. “The US market also provides a great deal of job opportunities for China,” he added.

China is currently the world’s largest developing country and the US is the largest developed one, and the smooth bilateral relationship between the two nations is significant to the whole world, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

Athens Mayor named as new Greek Foreign Minister

ATHENS, 15 Feb—Athens Mayor Dora Bakoyanni will replace veteran Petros Molyviatis as Greek Foreign Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle largely aimed at polishing the conservative government’s image after two years in power.

“Our main goal is to improve the services offered to citizens, economic recovery in a tough international environment and to serve the everyday needs of all Greeks,” government spokesman Theodore Rousopoulos told reporters on Tuesday.

Finance Minister George Alogoskoufis and Agriculture Minister Evangelos Bassiakos will keep their posts, he added.

Public Order Minister George Voulgarakis appeared to pay the price for a phone tapping scandal that has rocked Greece for weeks. He will go to the Culture Ministry, with Byron Polydoros taking the helm of Greek police and security.—MNA/Reuters



A man attempts to extinguish a fire on a burning truck in Baghdad, on 15 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

France, Russia must show solidarity in world arena

Moscow, 15 Feb— French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin said on Tuesday that France and Russia must show solidarity in the international arena, the *Iar-Tass* news agency reported.

“Today like never before, France and Russia must speak in the international arena with one voice,” Villepin said at a French Embassy ceremony honouring the Russian 18th regiment for its role in the fight against Nazi Germany in World War II.

“In the face of the challenges that the contemporary world throws our way — terrorism, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, regional crises including, in particular, in the Middle

East — our countries are capable of acting together, uniting their forces and carrying high our common ideals, bravery, tolerance and solidarity,” he was quoted as saying.

Villepin arrived here on Monday for a two-day official visit. He was to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday for talks on international issues of common concern, such as Iran’s nuclear issue and Hamas.

Villepin’s meeting with his Russian counterpart Mikhail

Fradekov would cover trade and economic cooperation and EU-Russia ties.

After his arrival on Monday, Villepin visited Russia’s NPO Lavochkin space design company that has cooperated with the European Space Agency on several projects.

MNA/Xinhua



Two guest divers pose for photos at the recently opened Siam Ocean World aquarium in Bangkok, on 16 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Cambodia to introduce single import, export Customs form

PHNOM PENH, 15 Feb — The Cambodian Government plans to introduce a single Customs form next month with an aim to reduce bureaucracy and opportunities for corruption in importing and exporting goods to and from Cambodia, local media reported on Wednesday.

“Completion of the single administrative document by March 2006 is ambitious but realistic”, Finance Minister Keat Chhon was quoted by The *Cambodia Daily* as saying.

“This is one of the most important parts of the Customs re-engineering process”, the Minister said. The form, which was analyzed by officials at a Tuesday meeting with World Bank consultants in Phnom Penh, will eventually be part of the computerized Single Window Customs system, which the government plans to pilot-test by December, officials said.

That system, which the

consultants said could be outsourced in a joint venture to a private firm, could be structured using the Internet.

MNA/Xinhua

West to be more dependent on M-E oil refineries

LONDON, 15 Feb— Europe and the United States will grow increasingly dependent on the Middle East for their imports of refined petroleum products over the next 10 years, the *Financial Times* said on Tuesday.

According to figures compiled by the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) and oil analysts of Wood

Mackenzie, ambitious refinery building plans in the Middle East are expected to propel the region’s refining capacity above that of Russia and the former Soviet republics, where under-investment has plagued the energy sectors.

Investment in expanding and building new refineries is forecast to boost capacity in the Middle East by 60 per cent, which might make the region, particularly the Gulf, the main exporter of finished petroleum products, such as petrol, diesel, heating oil and jet fuel, said a study published by Wood Mackenzie.

OPEC, the biggest supplier of the crude oil, has detailed plans to increase its refining capacity by almost six million barrels a day — or 50 per cent — in the next seven years.

Middle Eastern OPEC members, particularly Saudi Arabia, plan to build new refineries both

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China says dialogue the way to solve Iran issue

BEIJING, 15 Feb— China again called for compromise in the Iranian nuclear standoff on Tuesday, saying Iran and Russia should hold talks even as Teheran said it was enriching uranium despite international warnings.

“The international community should not give up diplomatic efforts under the IAEA’s framework,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told reporters. “A solution through dialogue serves the interests of China, Iran and all parties

concerned.”

He was referring to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN body that monitors member countries’ nuclear activities.

Teheran said on Tuesday that it has revived uranium enrichment, which it stopped for two years while negotiating with European Union powers.

On Monday, Iran said it had postponed talks with Russia on Thursday about setting up a plant there to process fuel for Iran’s

reactors under international supervision. But on Tuesday, Russia said Iran now wanted the talks on 20 February.

Iran’s enrichment announcement defied a call from the IAEA that it freeze enrichment and cooperate with nuclear inspectors. On 4 February, the members of the IAEA board, including China, voted for its chief Mohamed ElBaradei to report on March 6 whether Teheran has complied with the demands.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam keeps on importing bird flu vaccines this year

HANOI, 15 Feb — Vietnam plans to spend some 100 billion Vietnamese dong (over 6.3 million US dollars) importing 300 million doses of vaccines against bird flu viruses among fowls in 2006, local newspaper *Pioneer*

reported on Wednesday.

The country imported 150 million vaccine doses from China last month, raising the total number of doses it has in stock to 190 million. It plans to vaccinate poultry nationwide in two separate periods this year: from late February to April, and between September and October, said the National Anti-Bird flu Steering Committee.

Earlier, Vietnam 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).

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi policeman inspects the scene following an explosion in Baghdad, on 15 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

China’s foreign trade volume grew 26.8% in January

BEIJING, 15 Feb— In January 2006, China’s foreign trade volume totalled 120.49 billion US dollars, up 26.8 per cent year on year, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) said on Monday.

In January, China’s export volume rose 28.1 per cent year on year to 64.99 billion US dollars, and imports grew 25.4 per cent to 55.5 billion US dollars, according to GAC figures.

The GAC statistics showed that exports of ordinary trade grew 26.1 per cent to 28.88 billion US dollars in the first month, and imports of such trade grew 25.2 per cent to 24.37 billion dollars.

In January, the export volume of processing trade grew 29.4 per cent to 33.6 billion US dollars, and the import volume of processing trade grew 28.7 per cent to 22.63 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

China to promote political trust, economic cooperation with Togo

BEIJING, 15 Feb— China is ready to further enhance political mutual trust and economic cooperation with Togo, said Premier Wen Jiabao here on Tuesday.

Wen said when meeting with Togolese President Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe that China and Togo enjoy traditional friendship for a long time.

President Faure has reiterated Togo's adherence to one-China policy on many occasions, and voiced his hope to promote friendship and cooperation between

Togo and China. Wen expressed appreciation for Faure's attitude.

China values its relations with Togo, Wen said, noting that his country will enhance political mutual trust, increase economic and technological cooperation, and expand trade scale between the two sides in a bid to achieve win-win

results and common development.

Both China and African nations are developing countries. Strengthening Sino-African friendship and economic ties accords with the common demands of both sides, and is also of strategic significance for South-South cooperation and poverty eradication, Wen acknowledged.

China, although not rich, will seriously implement its promise of providing economic assistance within its capacity to Togo and other African nations, the Premier noted. Faure said the fruitful Togo-China cooperation in economy, trade, electricity, culture, education, health and sports serves to spur the economic and social progress of Togo.

Facts have proved that China is a genuine friend of Togo and Togolese people, the President said.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan hopes to help defuse Iran standoff

TOKYO, 15 Feb— Japan can play a key role in resolving the crisis over Iran's nuclear programme since it maintains friendly ties with Teheran, the top government spokesman said on Tuesday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe urged Iran to respond to international concerns about its nuclear ambitions after diplomats said on Monday that Teheran has resumed enriching uranium, which can be used as fuel for nuclear reactors or to make bombs.

Abe announced that Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki will visit Japan from 27 February to 1 March, adding that Japanese officials would bring up the nuclear issue in their talks.

"We have maintained friendly ties with Iran. So in that sense, Japan is the only one that can relay the concerns held by the West," Abe told a news conference.

"We don't want Iran to be isolated from the international community."

While many Western nations have been increasing pressure on Iran in recent years to answer suspicions over its nuclear programme, Japan has kept up good ties with Teheran, mainly because of its reliance on Iranian oil.

Japan currently buys some 550,000 barrels a day from Iran, and despite objections from Washington, Japan's INPEX Corp is planning to develop part of the giant Azadegan oil field in southern Iran.

US officials including President George W Bush have not ruled out military action against Iran's nuclear facilities, and Bush reaffirmed recently that Iran's nuclear ambitions "will not be tolerated".

On Monday, diplomats in missions dealing with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna told *Reuters* Iran would resume some uranium purification activity on Sunday.— *MNA/Reuters*



An Iraqi worker steers a car damaged in an explosion and towed away in Baghdad, on 16 Feb, 2006. Two car bombs exploded in Baghdad on Thursday, killing seven Iraqis and wounding at least 14, police said.— INTERNET



Vietnam's Prime Minister Phan Van Khai (R) and his Russian counterpart Mikhail Fradkov (2nd L) leave the meeting room at the Government Office in Hanoi, on 16 Feb, 2006.
INTERNET

Britain to ban smoking in pubs, clubs

LONDON, 15 Feb — Smoking ban in pubs and private clubs in England was passed on Tuesday in the House of Commons by a massive margin of 284 votes.

Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt said the change, expected to take effect in the summer of 2007, would "save thousands of people's lives", *Skynews* reported.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair was also reported to have voted

to overturn his own government's policy of exempting private clubs and those pubs that do not serve food, despite the ruling Labour's promise of a partial ban in its manifesto. Smoking is already to be banned in pubs and clubs in Scotland

and Northern Ireland.

The Health Bill gives the Welsh Assembly the right to decide whether to implement a ban it has approved twice in principle.

The Health Secretary called the passage of the bill "a historic day for public health", which is going to "save thousands of people's lives".

It is reported that every day around 30 people die in Britain as a result of second-hand smoking. The government predicts that some 600,000 people will give up smoking because of the change in the Health Bill.

MNA/Xinhua

Last Australians jailed for life in Bali drug trial

DENPASAR, 16 Feb — Three Australians were jailed for life on Wednesday for their roles in a heroin smuggling ring on Indonesia's Bali Island, wrapping up a series of tough verdicts against a group of nine young Australians.

The so-called "Bali Nine" were arrested on the famous resort island last April for attempting to smuggle more than 8.2 kilos (18 lbs) of heroin from Indonesia to their home country.

The Denpasar District Court sentenced Tach Duc Thanh Nguyen, Si Yi Chen and Matthew

Norman, who sat together as the verdicts were read out. They were arrested at a Bali hotel, where quantities of heroin, scales and other equipment were found.

On Tuesday the court sentenced two organizers of the smuggling ring to die by firing squad. Australian Prime Minister John Howard said those punishments should serve as a warning to other young Australians not to take "stupid" risks.

"These defendants have been proven legally and convincingly guilty of a narcotics crime in the illegal export of class one drugs," chief judge Istiningih Rahayu told the court.

Nguyen, in his mid-30s, is from Brisbane. Chen, 20, and Norman, 19, are from Sydney. The sentences matched what prosecutors had demanded. Norman, the youngest of the nine Australians, looked tense

and his face reddened when the verdict was read. His two co-defendants appeared more relaxed.

MNA/Reuters

Former Kazakh Minister shot dead

ALMA ATA, 15 Feb— Kazakhstan's former Cabinet Minister Altynbek Sarsenbayev was found shot dead on Monday, together with his driver and bodyguard, police said.

Altynbek Sarsenbayev's body was found with two other corpses in a car by the side of a road in the southeastern part of Alma Ata, the country's biggest city, a spokesman for the provincial interior bureau said in a statement. President Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed condolences to Sarsenbayev's families and instructed the Interior Ministry and the General Procuratorate to fully investigate the incident.

Before joining the opposition Nagyz Ak Zhol Party in 2003, the 43-year-old Sarsenbayev had been information minister and secretary of the security council as well as ambassador to Russia.

He briefly held a ministerial post in 2004, but resigned three months later to protest against a parliamentary election that he said was rigged by the President's supporters.

Sarsenbayev was the second former senior Cabinet official of Kazakhstan to have been killed in recent months.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Asian countries called for universal access to AIDS prevention

BANGKOK, 16 Feb— More than 200 delegates from over 20 countries in the Asia Pacific Region are meeting this week in Thailand's resort city of Pattaya to discuss how to ensure universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

The conference runs between February 14-16.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has set a goal of achieving universal access to treatment and care by 2010, following a pledge from the G-8 to give 50 billion US dollars to developing countries to deal with the pandemic.

The target was set after the World Health Organization failed in its effort to have expanded treatment to cover 3 million people living with HIV by last year.

The major concern facing the region is the high infection rate in specific groups, such as

intravenous drug users, men who have sex with men, sex workers and migrant workers, said UNAIDS Asia Pacific regional director Prasada Rao.

To make sure the universal-access programme succeeds, every nation in the region needs to expand prevention and treatment programmes, Rao said. It is essential to end discrimination

against people with HIV/AIDS, he added.

To get political leaders in Asia to make HIV/AIDS a priority is a challenge because the epidemic is not as prevalent here as on other continents, he said.

However, data from last year showed an alarming rise in infection rates among intravenous drug users and men who have sex with men, Rao

added. It is alarming enough that more than 8 million people live with HIV/AIDS in the region and there are more than 1 million new infections a year, said Michel Sidibe of UNAIDS.

"We're talking about extending the efforts to those people who we have not reached previously," Sidibe said.

MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb hits Iraqi police patrol

BAGHDAD, 16 Feb— A car bomb went off near a police patrol in eastern Baghdad on Wednesday, causing casualties and setting five civilian cars ablaze, an Interior Ministry source said. "A booby trapped car parking on the side of a road near the Technology University detonated while a police patrol was passing by," the source, who spoke anonymously, told *Xinhua*. The police patrol apparently escaped the powerful blast but five civilian cars were badly charred, the source said.

MNA/Xinhua

Media watchdog asks US to free two journalists

PARIS, 16 Feb— An international media watchdog urged the United States on Tuesday to free two journalists held separately at a US prison in Iraq and at a military base in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, saying they had been detained unfairly.

"These journalists have been denied justice and not allowed to see family or lawyers," Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said in a statement accompanying a new report into the arrests of journalists in Iraq and Afghanistan.

RSF also said it was investigating the detention by US authorities of three journalists working for *Reuters* in Iraq although they were recently released. The US Government made no immediate comment on the report. Abdel Amir Yunes Hussein, 26, who

works for US network CBS News, has been held at the Camp Bucca Prison in Iraq since last April, the media watchdog said. It said US authorities suspected him of having ties with guerillas.

Sami al-Hajj, a 36-

year-old cameraman for satellite television station Al Jazeera, has been held at Guantanamo Bay since 2002 after being arrested in Afghanistan in 2001, it said.

He has been accused of making videos of

Osama bin Laden.

RSF said he had told a human rights lawyer who visited him in Guantanamo that he had been interrogated more than 130 times and tortured, including sexually.—MNA/Reuters

Shopping centre in Bucharest briefly evacuated by police

BUCHAREST, 16 Feb— Romanian police briefly evacuated a busy shopping centre in downtown Bucharest on Tuesday after a bomb threat which officials later said was a false alarm.

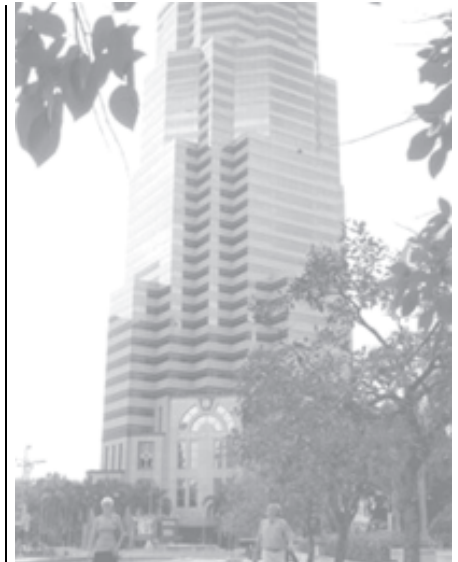
Private television station Antena 3 said a TV station had received a letter warning that a bomb had been put in the Unirea shopping centre and demanding Romania pulls its troops out of Iraq and

Afghanistan.

"The store was reopened around 4.30 pm (1430 GMT) because our staff didn't find any device in the building, which means it was a false alarm," Bucharest police spokesman Christian Ciocan told *Reuters*.

The Black Sea state, which joined NATO in 2004 with six other ex-Communist European states, has about 860 soldiers in Iraq and 780 in Afghanistan. It also has forces in Bosnia and the Serbian province of Kosovo.

The government has said Romanian troops will remain in Iraq until the Iraqi Government asks for their withdrawal, a position reaffirmed last month by President Traian Basescu.—MNA/Reuters



Tourists walk in front of the Public Bank headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 16 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

At least 44 killed in two traffic accidents in Peru

LIMA, 16 Feb— Two traffic accidents in Peru have killed 44 people and injured 68 others, police said on Tuesday. The first accident occurred in Matucana, 80 kilometres from capital Lima, when a public bus fell into the Rimac River, which had burst its banks due to heavy rains in the Andean Region.

A total of 16 people died as a result of the accident, six more than figures published earlier on Tuesday. Another 24 people were injured. The bus was travelling from Chosica to San Mateo in the central highway of the country.

In the second accident, a cross-country bus heading for Lima turned over and killed 28 of its passengers instantly, and injured 44 passengers.

The bus was travelling in the "seven

turns" area in Aymaraes Province, in the southern Andean department of Abancay.

Peru's national police are investigating both accidents. It said that primary indications suggest speeding, overcrowding and slippery roads were responsible.

Torrential rains have hit much of the Andes in the last two weeks, causing most of their damage in Bolivia, a state that neighbours Peru.

MNA/Xinhua

Bomb explodes near Spanish night club, no injuries

MADRID, 16 Feb — A car bomb exploded near a night club in Spain's northern Navarre region on Tuesday, after a warning call in the name of Basque separatist guerilla group ETA, a government official said.

The bomb caused no injuries but substantial damage.

The explosion in the town of Urdax came after a warning call to Basque motorway emergency services, giving police time to cordon off the area.

ETA, seeking Basque independence from Madrid, has carried out regular bomb attacks, but has not killed anyone

since May 2003.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has been hinting that a breakthrough in the near 40-year conflict could be on the horizon.

On Friday he said that Spain could soon see the "beginning of the end" of ETA violence, although any peace process would be long and difficult.

MNA/Reuters



A Chinese girl looks at a computer screen while having her lunch at an Internet cafe in Shanghai, on 15 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Sixtieth Anniversary of Myanma Radio

Article by Win Shwe &
photos by Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)



The cover of the Myanma Radio Magazine to mark its 60th founding anniversary.

might and main. Now the entire nation including border areas can receive the broadcasts of the Myanma Radio. Catching up with the changes, the Myanma Radio has spread its wings such as Myanma TV, MRTV-3 and MRTV-4 which have covered 156 nations. The Myanma Radio has been able to air sound broadcasts through AM and FM.

In 60 years, there have been many changes in the nation and in the world along with the improvement of broadcasting technology. However, the MRTV has been able to carry out its functions without interruption.

Apart from its original duties, the MRTV has been undertaking extra tasks such as sending news

efforts despite the constraints in human resources and funds.

As a gesture of honouring the accomplishment of the functions of the MRTV in 60 years and all-round performance of

The magazine represents the history of the Myanma Radio. Some works featured in the magazine to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Myanma Radio are reproduced in the magazine to enhance

photo of the Head of State and the list of successive directors and directors-general of the MRTV with their photos.

The magazine features many sectors such as facts about the



The Radio Station on Windermere Road was shifted to the new one on Pyay Road on 4 November 1960.

the staff, it has published Myanma Radio Magazine in commemoration of its 60th founding anniversary.

A temporary editorial group had thus to be formed and it shared its valuable time to publish such a magnificent magazine.

the knowledge of the readers. The front cover of the magazine states the world map, photos of Myanmar TV Station, and magnificent roads, bridges, irrigation facilities, educational institution, and urban development.

In the first pages of the magazine comprise the

Myanma Radio and Television, amusement, creative and informative articles, short stories, short novels, poems, and a long poem by Dr Htilar Sithu. So, the magazine is a good one.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin:
16-2-2006



The first-ever Myanma Radio station in Inyamyang Road (previously Louis Street). At that time, it was under the name of Burma Broadcasting Service (BBS).

The Myanma Radio established under the name of the Burma Broadcasting Service (BBS) with three objectives — to inform, to educate and to entertain — turned its 60th anniversary on 15 February

2006.

Initiated by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, the plan for ensuring media cover throughout the nation and penetrating the international media sphere is being put into action with

data to the sub-printing houses in different parts of the nation, and school lessons to 622 learning centres of the Ministry of Education. It is encouraging that the MRTV is capable of achieving successes with self-reliant



A commemorative postcard.

US health agencies seek biomarkers for better cancer therapies

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb — US federal health agencies on Tuesday announced a project to seek biological markers that will show the effect of therapies on cancer patients in order to predict tailored treatments.

Scientists have discovered many potentially useful biomarkers, and some are being used in treating many diseases to determine the use or experiment of certain therapy for a patient, and to speed drug development.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sometimes based its approval of new cancer drugs on some

biomarkers. However, some of the biomarkers in use today need yet to be further understood and do not work well.

The three US federal agencies, the FDA, National Cancer Institute and Medicare, will collaborate to find better biomarkers for cancer, or better ways to measure and use them.

MNA/Xinhua

Colombia police destroy 75 cocaine labs

BOGOTA, 16 Feb — Colombian police have destroyed 75 cocaine laboratories in the northern departments of Antioquia and Cordoba in an operation codenamed "Genesis", the country's police officials said in a statement on Tuesday.

A total of 72 laboratories were discovered in the city of Taraza in Antioquia, while another three were found in Tierralta, Cordoba, close to where right-wing rebels were demobilized, the statement said.

In the same operation, police seized 4.2 tons of coca base ready for the last phase of processing, 102 tons of chemi-

cals, 17.6 tons of mashed coca leaf and 5.4 tons of chopped leaf.

General Jorge Baron, head of the National Anti-Narcotics Police, said that no one had been captured in the operation because they would gain nothing by arresting those peasants who run the cocaine factories.

MNA/Xinhua

Myanmar delegation arrives back

YANGON, 16 Feb — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending Drugs Elimination Conference held in Vientiane of Lao People's Democratic Republic on 14 February.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by the Director-General of Myanmar Police Force and directors-general of the departments under the ministry.

Police Col Kham Aung, Head of Department of Central Commit-



tee for Drug Abuse Control and Drugs Elimination Department also arrived back on the same flight.—MNA

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport on his return from Lao PDR.

MNA

Appointment of Norwegian Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 17 Feb — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mrs Merete Fjeld Brattested as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Norway to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok in succession to Mrs Ragne Birte Lund.

Mrs Merete Fjeld Brattested was born in Bergen in 1963. She earned her Masters Degree from the Glasgow University in 1989. Mrs Merete Fjeld Brattested joined the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1990. She served in various capacities in the Norwegian Embassies in Bangkok and Paris from 1992 to 1998 and also in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1998 to September 2002. From September 2002 to August 2005, she served as Deputy Director General in the Global Affairs Department in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mrs Merete Fjeld Brattested is currently serving as Norwegian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand. She will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok, Thailand. She is married and has two children.—MNA

Ceremonies to lay Gyobyu water pipeline, donate blood held in North Okkalapa

YANGON, 11 Feb — In honour of National Convention, with the leadership of Union Solidarity and Development Association, ceremonies to lay Gyobyu water pipeline in order to get more

cermed.

First, the mayor, the vice-mayor, officials concerned and dwellers collectively lay water pipeline to link Waibargi Myothit Block and sprinkled it with scented water

U Aye Myint presented K 28.1 million. After that, chairman of Ward PDC U Win Nge accepted the donations and expressed thanks.

After member of YCDC U Kyaw Soe had



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials laying water pipeline to supply water to Waibargi Myothit, North Okkalapa Township. — YCDC

drinking water in Waibargi Block of North Okkalapa Township and collectively donate blood at North Okkalapa Township General Hospital were held at the venues this morning.

Present on the occasion were CEC Members of USDA Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee, Yangon Division In-Charge Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, member of YCDC U Kyaw Soe and heads of departments, secretary of Yangon Division USDA U Aye Myint and executives and officials con-

at the junction of Waibargi ring road and Waihin road in North Okkalapa Township.

Next, a cash donation presentation ceremony followed and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin delivered an address on the occasion.

Afterwards, secretary of North Okkalapa Township USDA U Kyaw Kyaw Soe presented reports on measures taken for drinking water sufficiency, better transportation and communication services, enhancement of education and health and future tasks while secretary of Yangon Division USDA

given supplementary reports on rules and regulations for using water from Gyobyu water pipeline, the ceremony came to close.

On arrival at North Okkalapa Township General Hospital, the mayor, the vice-mayor and officials cheered those who donating blood and conversed with the donors. Next, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin funded K 200,000 for the hospital.

The drinking water programme cost K 93.1 million — K 65 million contributed by residents and K 28.1 million by USDA. — MNA

Educative talk on health given

YANGON, 16 Feb — An educative talk on health, organized by Rakhine State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, took place at Thiri Mingala hall in Maungtaw in Rakhine State on 3 February.

Patron Daw Win Win Nu of Rakhine State Women's Affairs Organi-

zation made a speech and chairperson of state WAO Daw Kyi Kyi Wai explained facts on MWAF.

The health professionals of Maungtaw District Hospital and an official of state WAO gave talks ranging from health to endeavours of the state WAO.

Later, chairperson

of Maungtaw District WAO Daw Pyone presented a total of 1445 membership applications to Patron of state WAO Daw Win Win Nu.

Rakhine State WAO also made an offering of books and ball-point pens to a night-school in Maungtaw Township.

MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back from Thailand

YANGON, 16 Feb — Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun arrived back here this evening after attending the 2nd Meeting of the Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter held in Bangkok, Thai-

land from 13 to 15 February.

They were welcomed back at the airport by Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, members of CSSTB U Aung Myint and U Hla Myint Oo, directors-general and offi-

cial of departments under the CSSTB.

Member of Myanmar delegation Director of ASEAN Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Win Thein and Head of Section (1) U Aung Kyaw Moe also arrived back.

MNA



Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun arrives back here from Bangkok, Thailand after attending 2nd Meeting of the Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter.

MNA

16th 47-member Plenary Meeting of Fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee on 6-7 March

YANGON, 16 Feb — The 16th 47-member Plenary Meeting of the Fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee will be held on 6 and 7 March, and the Sixth meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of

the Sangha from 9 to 11 March.

The Religious Affairs Department invited members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee to arrive at Maha Nayaka Hall on Kaba Aye Hill on 2 March, members of the State Central Working

Committee of the Sangha to arrive at Kaba Aye Hill on 8 March, religious title recipient Sayadaws and nuns on 11 March. The religious title and rice offering ceremonies will be held on 13 March.

MNA

Wellwishers invited for Sangha meeting

YANGON, 16 Feb — The Sixth meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, and the religious title presentation and rice offering ceremony will take place at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill, here, from 9 to 13

March 2006.

State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, religious title recipient Sayadaws, invited Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws and members of the Sangha, totalling 980 will attend the

ceremonies.

Those wishing to donate 'soon', alms and soft drinks to the Sayadaws may donate K 1,500 a member of the Sangha to the reception group, Tel: 660766, 660998, and 660149, at Uttarakuru Hall on Kaba Aye Hill.— MNA

Progress of artesian wells, physic nut nurseries inspected in Ayadaw

YANGON, 16 Feb — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, accompanied by departmental officials, attended the opening ceremony of No 7 artesian well in Ainglya Village of Ayadaw Township on 8 February.

The commander inspected flow of water from the well and the water tank. He gave instructions on efficient use of underground water in the rural regions in line with the five rural development tasks, the increase of sown acreage, and growing of double and mix-croppings for uplift of living standard of the rural people.

Next, they attended



Flowing of water from artesian well No 7 in Ainglya Village of Ayadaw Township. — MNA

the ceremony to sow physic nut seeds near the artesian well.

The commander sowed the physic nut seeds. Local people participated in the physic nut seeds sowing ceremony. The commander viewed the demonstration to nurture summer

paddy, and broadcast the paddy seeds.

Afterwards, the commander inspected water tanks of No 8 artesian well in Htantawgon Village and No 6 artesian well in Okshityi Village in Ayadaw Township.

In Hteinhla Village,

the commander attended the ceremony to launch hydel power station at No 5 artesian well.

Next, the commander and party oversaw thriving physic nut plants in the nursery in Hteinhla Village and Magyigan Village.

MNA

59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition concludes

YANGON, 16 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition at Tatmadaw Hall on U Wisara Road continued today as the final day and it was packed with monks, teachers and students.

In the booth of the Ministry of Mines, the pictures, photos and maps on the tasks of the enterprises under the ministry were put on display together with the booths on traditions and customs of the national races.

At the exhibition, students took part in the computer quiz and English Language Test. — MNA



Dr U Lay Maung-Daw Than Than Aye and family recently presented a cardiac catheterization machine worth US\$ 4,000 to Vice-Chairman-2 U Nyunt of Jivitadana Sangha Hospital of Bahan Township. —H

Minister inspects dredging of Yangon River

YANGON, 16 Feb — Myamma Port Authority and the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems are dredging the Yangon River so that Liners and cargo ships can go smoothly along the river in the open season.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe on 10 February went to the worksites in Yangon River to assist the dredging tasks, and officials concerned reported to the minister on progress of work and future tasks. — MNA



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects dredging in Yangon River. — TRANSPORT

Fire preventive measures explained

YANGON, 16 Feb — News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information organized the ceremony to explain fire preventive measures in conjunction with demonstration to put out the fire at Myamma Alin Daily at 53, 1st Natmauk Lane in Bahan Township today.

It was attended by officials of the head office of News and Periodicals Enterprise and dailies, totalling 120.

Head of Tamway Township Fire Services Department Ye Thurein Thein Myint explained the salient points on the outbreak of fire, fire preventive measures, and matters related to fire extinguishers.

Next, the demonstration of putting out the fire followed, and service personnel participated in the demonstration. — MNA

The Commerce Journal Vol 6 No 4 comes out

YANGON, 16 Feb — The Commerce Journal Vol 6 No 4 has been in circulation from No 38, 30th Street, Pabetan Township today. The journal features the articles written by Maung Sue San, Kyuntha Ngaman, Maung Pa Soe Gyan, Han Min Hset, Kyi Shwan and Thein Mya Thein, as well as other interesting news and trade news and humors. — MNA

Functions of factories, mills supervised in Mon State

YANGON, 16 Feb — Accompanied by Managing Director U Soe Hlaing of Myanma Foodstuff Industries and officials, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung viewed production process of sugar at Bilin Sugar Mill in Bilin on 10 February.

The minister inspected sample sugar and gave instructions on production of quality sugar by doing systematic research.

At the briefing hall, the minister explained weak and strong points of the mill and future tasks to the officials.

Mill Manager U Kyaw Zeya and General Manager Dr Cho Win Maw reported on purchase of sugarcane from local growers and running the mill. Managing Director U Soe Hlaing gave a supplementary report.

The minister instructed officials to organize local growers to be able to purchase sugarcane in Thaton, Kyaikto, Bilin and Hpa-an regions, to make efforts for exceeding the target production, and to grow physic nut plants on vacant and virgin lands.

While in Bilin, the minister gave instructions to officials of Spirit Factory.

On arrival at Tanaw Dam Project site near No 1 Paper Mill (Sittoung), Director U Myint Than of Irrigation Department and Managing Director U Nyunt Aung of Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries reported on progress of building the dam and its facts.

At No 1 Paper Mill (Sittoung), the minister



Minister U Aung Thaung inspects Bilin Sugar Mill in Bilin, Mon State. — MNA

oversaw arrival of bamboo rafts, and production of chopsticks. He also inspected functions of Pulp Factory and production of exercise books.

In Bago, the minister looked into sales of products from the Ministry of Industry-1 at Win Thuza Shop. — MNA

River water pumping project...

(from page 16)

of rice and cotton in the area of water pumping project.

On arrival at Kyaukku River Water Pumping Project situated near Kyaukku Pagoda in NyaungU of Mandalay Division which was under construction, project in-charge U Maung Maung Lwin of Water Resources Utilization Department reported on data on water pumping projects namely Letpan Chepaw, Ngathayauk, Thuyekaungte, Kyaukku and Lawkananda, progress of work in Kyaukku water pumping project and water supply to 3000 acres for greening of Bagan-NyaungU Airport and its environs. After hearing reports, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of the project tasks and on cultivation of physic nut plants to produce bio-diesel.

After that, the minister looked into measures for water pumping and saplings in the model nursery in the area of water pumping project. Next, the minister gave necessary instructions.

During the arrival at arid zone crop central research farm in NyaungU, the minister and party oversaw 120,000 saplings in physic nut plant model farm and instructed farm workers and officials concerned to take measures for dissemination of agricultural techniques for production of bio-diesel and to render assistance for cultivation of physic nut plants.

Managing Director of Myanma Agriculture Service U Ohn Than and Deputy General Manager U Kyaw Win reported on cultivation of physic nut plants with the use of charts.

After that, the minister and departmental heads made arrangements for next plantations.

MNA

Myanmar produces bio-diesel from physic nut

Increased yield of physic nut fruits fulfils bio-diesel requirement

The seeds of 50 physic nut plants in a year can be milled into about four gallons of

bio-diesel. If so, a farmer no longer needs to buy fuel to operate agricultural

machinery for cultivation of crops.

It saves the expense on fuel and the

farmer can earn more income from his agricultural business. In a year, more than 70 gallons of bio-diesel can be obtained from an acre of physic nut plants at the age of three years. Then, the farmer can earn extra-income from surplus physic nut oil.

If respective divisions, districts and townships grow the crop, millions of gallons of bio-diesel can be produced. That will save the expense on fuel needed for cultivation of crops and the surplus physic nut oil will increase the income.

Moreover, that will contribute towards raising of the standard of living of local people and national economic development.

The following table represents bio-diesel production rate acre-wise or age-wise.



Physic nut plants are being grown by social organizations in

Hlegu Township. — MNA

Bio-diesel rate of physic nut

Sr.	Subject	Rate
1.	At 2 to 5 years	
	- an acre	74 gallons
2.	At 6 years and above	
	- an acre	100 gallons
	- 500,000 acres	37 million gallons
	- 500,000 acres	50 million gallons

NASA's "Cassini" hears largest thunderstorm on Saturn

LOS ANGELES, 16 Feb — Scientists working with NASA's *Cassini* spacecraft said on Tuesday that the odd sounds received by *Cassini* indicate a largest ever thunderstorm on planet Saturn.

Those strange sounds were captured by the *Cassini* spacecraft when it witnessed a lightning storm on Saturn on 23 and 24 January. The spacecraft has been orbiting Saturn and its moons since 1 July, 2004.

The *Cassini* mission was managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory based in Pasadena, California.

According to Bill Kurth of the University of Iowa, the deputy principal investigator for the

radio and plasma wave science instrument, cracks and pops "heard" by a receiver on board *Cassini* were radio emissions generated by the lightning flashes.

"We're going to find out more about those sounds and what they mean... It's definitely a discharge process, a big spark that releases a lot of energy in a very short period of time," Kurth said.

"And a lot of work that was done on a similar phenomenon observed by

Voyager 1 has led to the conclusion it must be lightning in the atmosphere," he said.

This was not the first time *Cassini* has witnessed lightning, but this was the biggest lightning storm, Kurth noted.

"Since we've been in orbit, we've detected maybe four or five such storms. This is by far the strongest that we've detected with *Cassini*," he said. —MNA/Xinhua



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (right) gestures as he speaks with Commonwealth Secretary-General, Don McKinnon, during a meeting in New Delhi this week. —INTERNET

El Al planes get anti-missile systems

JERUSALEM, 16 Feb — El Al Israel Airlines has installed anti-missile systems on its passenger aircraft, completing an overhaul launched after a 2002 attempt to shoot down a plane, security sources said on Wednesday.

They said the "Flight Guard", an Israeli-made system costing around one million US dollars per unit, was operational on the entire El Al fleet. It was not immediately clear if this applied to five planes leased by El Al as well as its own 29 aircraft.

El Al, Israel's national carrier and largest airline,

declined to comment, saying it did not discuss security issues.

Israel stepped up efforts to adapt military anti-missile systems for its civilian aircraft after an Israeli charter jet came under attack from shoulder-held missiles in Kenya in 2002.

The missiles, fired by attackers linked to al-Qaeda, missed. Flight Guard was developed by state-owned Israel Military Industries and the Elta defence firm — a unit of state-owned Israel Aircraft Industries. El Al began installing the system in its planes in 2004.

MNA/Reuters

Three Chinese engineers killed in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 16 Feb — Three Chinese engineers and a Pakistani driver were killed in the southwestern Pakistani province of Baluchistan on Wednesday, according to Chinese consulate officials.

The Chinese consulate in Karachi confirmed that the three Chinese killed were from a cement making company in Hefei of east China's Anhui Province.

There were six Chinese and one Pakistani driver in the car when the incident occurred in the town of Hub, some 700 kilometres southeast of Quetta, the Baluchistan provincial capital, according to the consulate.

A gunman with a rifle stopped their car and opened fire. The other three Chinese survived with no injury, the consulate said. —MNA/Xinhua

Philippines to investigate US soldier shooting stray animals

MANILA, 16 Feb — The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) will investigate an American Navy officer accused of shooting stray animals in Sulu, southern Philippines, said an official on Wednesday.

DFA spokesman Gilbert Asuque told reporters that as co-chairman of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), DFA would get details of the incident involving US Navy Lieutenant Mike Rice. The US Embassy in Manila said it would make a separate investigation into the matter.

This is the second incident involving visiting US troops in the Philippines after four US Marines were accused of raping a Filipino woman in early November last year in Subic Bay former US Navy base.

Both incidents have triggered protests of student and some other groups who call for the abolition of the VFA, that was signed in 1998 between Manila and Washington and allows US troops to come to the Philippines on a regular basis.

"The DFA notes the earlier statement of the US Embassy reminding its soldiers participating in the Balikatan (shoulder-to-shoulder) exercises that they are the 'informal ambassadors' of the US Government, and calling them to be mindful of the sensitivities and cultural practices of the area," Asuque said.

Rice, a member of the advance party for the Balikatan military exercises to start on 20 February, was caught shooting stray animals on 10 February by Filipino military officers, who asked him to stop shooting in vain. —MNA/Xinhua



Syrians playing on 16 Feb, 2006 with snow in the mountainous city of Bloudan, Syria. Syria has been gripped by a cold wave accompanied by strong winds and snow. —INTERNET

Strong earthquake jolts New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 16 Feb — A strong earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter Scale hit central New Zealand early Thursday, but there were no immediate reports of injury or damage.

The quake was recorded at 1:15 am (1315 GMT Wednesday). It was centred 180 kilometres north-east of Collingwood on South Island and 180 kilometres below the Earth's surface.

The Geological and Nuclear Sciences department received more than 120 reports from people across central New Zealand. —MNA/Xinhua

Floods leave tens of thousands homeless in Algeria

ALGIERS., 16 Feb — Tens of thousands of people need urgent help after torrential rains flooded their refugee camps in southwest Algeria, leaving them without shelter and short of food, officials said on Tuesday.

The United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) and officials at the Sahrawi refugee camps said the rains had washed away many of the mud-brick houses where some 158,000 refugees have been living since fleeing the disputed Western Sahara territory. "Heavy rains over the past few days destroyed 50 per cent of shelters," a spokesman for the Western Sahara's independence movement, the Polisario Front, told *Reuters* in Algiers.

MNA/Reuters

One-third of Africans lack drinking water

ALGIERS, 16 Feb — One-third of the African population have no drinking water and almost half of the African people have health problems due to the lack of clean drinking water, a report said on Tuesday.

If the current situation cannot be improved, at least 17 African countries will suffer from a severe water shortage by 2010, said a report released at the 13th Congress of the African Water Association (AFWA) in the Algeria capital of Algiers. The water shortage will also lead to clashes between some countries in the region, the report warned.

Africa has abundant water resources amounting to 5.4 trillion cubic metres, but only 4 per cent of them have been developed and utilized because of the lack of funds and facilities. According to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the world population suffering from water shortage should be reduced by half. On the African continent alone, at least 12 billion US dollars are needed each year to realize the goal. —MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV J. SPRING VOYNO (008S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV J. SPRING VOYNO (008S) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 16.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NORTRANS SHIPPING
PTE LTD, SINGAPORE**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOYNO (398)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOYNO (398) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING
CO, LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG FENG VOYNO (6007)W/E

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOYNO (6007)W/E are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTAINER SERVICES
AND SHIPPING AGENCY CO, LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV J. TONG VOYNO (0602)

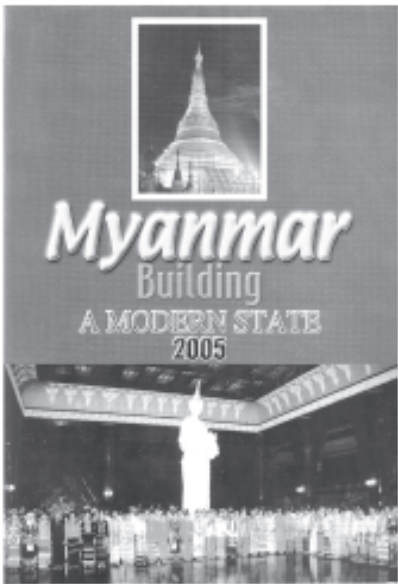
Consignees of cargo carried on MV J. TONG VOYNO (0602) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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ENGAGEMENT
Maung Kyaw Zaw Nyunt & Dr. Judy Tin Lay
The engagement is announced between
Dr. Judy Tin Lay
M.B.B.S (YGN)
Youngest daughter of U Michael Tin Lay,
Radio Officer (Retd)
Mariner Shipping - Daw San San Nyunt @ Daw Rita
of Bahan Township, Yangon,
and
Maung Kyaw Zaw Nyunt
B.Sc (Physics) MBA,
eldest son of
Professor Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, Director General (Retd)
Archaeology Dept, Member of Myanmar Historical
Commission -Daw Hla Hla Khin, of Bahan Township,
Yangon on 11th Feb 2006 at 11 a.m at the Mingalar
Residence in the presence of Chief Justice U Aung Toe,
both parents, relatives & friends.

ပြည်ထောင်စုပြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ ၁၆ ရက်

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီကြီးတော်ဝင်ကွင်းတွင် အသုံးပြုသည့်ဘက်ီယာဥ်များအတွက် လိုအပ်သော 8 Volt Battery (၂၂၈)လုံးအား ဌာနအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ ဖိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်။

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ (၃-၃-၂၀၀၆)နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီ ဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံတစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ)နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့် ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနစုတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၃၈၈၃၂၂ သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

Woman police officer shot in Nottingham

LONDON, 15 Feb—A female trainee British police officer is seriously ill in hospital on Tuesday after being shot as she and a colleague tried to apprehend a suspected burglar.

Police said the incident occurred shortly before midnight when two officers, an experienced male officer and the 25-year-old female probation officer, were called to a burglary in the Lenton area of Nottingham and tried to stop a man nearby.

"The suspect produced a firearm and shot one of the officers," a Nottinghamshire police spokeswoman said, adding the victim had not yet been named.

The wounded officer, who was wearing body armour, has undergone emergency surgery for a gunshot injury and is in intensive care in a serious condition. No one has been arrested.

"This is an extremely serious incident and has been a terrible shock to this officer's family," said Chief Superintendent Marcus Beale.

"Officers are clearly very concerned about their colleague and we are 100 per cent committed to finding and apprehending this offender as soon as possible."

Much of the Lenton area is now closed off to the public while forensic investigations are carried out.

The shooting comes just over two months after a female police officer, Sharon Beshenivsky, was shot dead after she was called to an armed robbery at a travel agency in Bradford.

Nottingham has seen a spate of gun crime in recent years blamed mainly on drugs and police have said they were aware there was a climate of fear in some parts of the city.

MNA/Reuters

Blair faces big test over terrorism bill

LONDON, 15 Feb—British Prime Minister Tony Blair faces a tough test of his authority on Wednesday when Parliament votes on a bill to toughen laws to fight terrorism.

Analysts say if rebel lawmakers help block the bill it would undermine Blair's authority within in his Labour Party and could hasten calls for him to step aside and let would-be successor Finance Minister Gordon Brown take over.

The Terrorism Bill was drafted after four militant Islamist suicide bombers killed 52 commuters on the London transport system last July and aims to make it easier to prosecute groups or individuals encouraging terrorism.

However, it has suffered setbacks already.

In November, Blair endured his first defeat in Parliament since coming to power in 1997 when lawmakers threw out plans to detain suspects for up to 90 days without charge. A compromise of 28 days was agreed. The main bone of contention this time round is a clause to make the glorification of terrorism a criminal offence.

It scrapped through the Lower House by 305 votes to 289 last year but all references to glorification were struck from the bill by the Upper House, or House of Lords. Critics say the measures are too loosely worded. Rebel Labour lawmakers fear T-shirts with inflammatory slogans could become illegal and academics are concerned they could be prosecuted for talking about terrorist groups with students.

MNA/Reuters

စည်သူရေးမြင့် ခေတ်စိမ်းပျိုစိုးစိမ်းတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး စည်သူတော်အံ့

WHO says chronic disease main threat of human health

BANGKOK, 15 Feb — Chronic illnesses such as heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes are the leading causes of human death and may kill 388 million people globally in the following years if let it going unchecked, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned.

In its global report "Preventing chronic diseases: a vital investment" launched on Tuesday, the WHO set a goal to reduce the chronic disease death rates by 2 per cent annually till 2015.

If the goal was achieved, the lives of 36 million people would be saved from chronic diseases in the next 10 years, including 25 million in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (Unescap) region. With the development of urbanization and globalization, the major causes of death and disability have shifted from infectious and parasitic diseases to injuries and chronic diseases, which account for 67 per cent of all deaths in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (Unescap) region, Kim Hak-Su,

Unescap executive secretary was quoted by *Bangkok Post* as saying on Wednesday.

Robert Beaglehole, WHO director on health promotion, surveillance, prevention and management of non-communicable diseases, said chronic diseases are no longer the problems of rich countries, but less developed countries as well. Having a substantial macro-economic impact on the region, chronic diseases could force big countries forego billions of dollars in national income over the following decade. Beaglehole said three main strategies, including healthy diet, regular physical activity and avoidance of tobacco use, could prevent up to 80 per cent of premature heart disease, stroke and diabetes and 40 per cent of cancer.

MNA/Xinhua



Schalke's Marcelo Bordon, left, heads the ball against Barcelona's Walter Pandiani to score during the UEFA Cup third round first leg match between FC Schalke 04 from Germany and Spanish club Espanyol Barcelona at the Veltins-Arena stadium in Gelsenkirchen, western Germany, on 15 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

China increases hepatitis B prevention, control efforts

BEIJING, 15 Feb — China's Ministry of Health (MoH) has issued a plan to ensure that newborns and other vulnerable groups stay away from hepatitis B in the next five years.

According to the 2006-2010 national hepatitis B prevention and control plan, the positive rate of all Chinese will be reduced to less than 7 per cent and that of children under five years old one per cent by 2010.

Vaccinating children is highlighted by the plan as a major strategy to fight hepatitis B. It is expected that the vaccination rate of newborns will reach beyond 90 per cent by 2010. About 95 per cent

of children born after 2002 who have not been injected will be immunized.

China has not officially released statistics on the numbers of hepatitis B patients and virus carriers, but according to estimates by experts cited by the MoH, there are 20 million chronic hepatitis B patients.

Liu Shijin, member of the China Association of Integrative Medicine, reckoned that China has 130 million hepatitis B virus carriers, meaning one out of ten people is infected.

The plan promises to set up sound systems to monitor hepatitis B prevalence, the vaccination rate of newborns

and infections in high-risk groups.

It also requires all medical institutions to eliminate spread of the virus by blood transmission, which together with sexual intercourse and mother-to-child transmission are the three major channels to diffuse the virus.

In January alone, 493 people died of 27 infectious diseases in the Mainland, with tuber-culosis, rabies and hepatitis B as the top killers.

Despite the optimistic tone of the new plan, the MoH admitted that China's hepatitis B prevention and control efforts "fall far short" of increasing public health demands.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese film director Zhang Yimou to direct opera in New York

BEIJING, 15 Feb — China's internationally acclaimed film director Zhang Yimou announced here on Tuesday that he will debut a historical opera of ancient China "The First Emperor" at the New York Metropolitan Opera House on 21 December, this year.

The opera, a historical pageant, will depict the life of Emperor Qin Shi Huang.

It marks the first time that the 150-year-old opera house will work with a Chinese director and the third cooperation between the directing talent and Oscar-winning composer Tan Dun, also conductor of the musical. Zhang, known for his movies like "Hero" and "House of Flying Daggers," made his

operatic debut directing Puccini's Turandot at the Forbidden City in Beijing in 1998.

"My directing principle is to tone in with Tan Dun's music. I'll adopt a dichotomy to demonstrate his (the emperor's) historic achievements and faults while probing into the loneliness as a king deep in his mind", said Zhang.

One of the world's biggest singing voices, Placido Domingo, will

sing the title role of China's great leader who unifies the country in 221 B.C., but sacrifices the happiness of his daughter, Princess Yue-yang, to be portrayed by Elizabeth Futral and Sarah Coburn.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam fosters vocational training

HANOI, 15 Feb — Vietnam is upgrading its vocational training facilities to increase the

percentage of skilled workers to 26 per cent by 2010, the General Directorate of Vocational Training said on Tuesday.

Vietnam has set aside 500 billion Vietnamese dong (over 31.4 million US dollars) to upgrade 36 major vocational facilities, assist 30 others in financial difficulties, and build 111 small vocational centres in districts nationwide from now to 2010, the directorate under the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs said.

It added that all vocational establishments will annually recruit, on average, 1.5 million learners in the five-year period.

MNA/Xinhua



Ringgo, a 2-year-old male Sumatran tiger, lies inside his cage at Ragunan Zoo in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 15 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

More foreign tourists visit Ethiopia's cave churches

ADDIS ABABA, 15 Feb — The number of tourists visiting the Lalibela rock hewn churches, 700 kilometres north of Addis Ababa, has been increasing, local tourist officials said on Monday.

Ababe Mengistu, head of Lalibela Tourist Information Centre, told reporters that 9,700 foreign tourists visited the churches over the last six months, showing a significant increase compared to that of last

year's same period.

He attributed the increase in the number of tourists to the prevalence of dependable peace and stability.

The amount of revenue secured during the reported period amounted to nearly one million birr (115,207 US dollars), Ababe said.

He also said more than 60,000 Ethiopians visit the Lalibela rock hewn churches annually.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS



Mexican forward Omar Bravo (L) fights for the ball with South Korea's Cho Won-Hee during their international friendly soccer match in Los Angeles, California, on 15 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Brazilians deliver 2-0 win for Betis over AZ Alkmaar

SEVILLE, 16 Feb—Brazilian strikers Diego Tardelli and Robert struck in the second half to give Real Betis a 2-0 win over AZ Alkmaar in the opening leg of their UEFA Cup first knockout round tie on Wednesday.

Betis, who finished third in their Champions League group, dominated the first half but lacked a cutting edge until Tardelli was brought on as a substitute in the 63rd minute.

Joaquin's pass seven minutes later picked out Tardelli in the area, who flicked the ball up and volleyed past motionless keeper Henk Timmer.

A weak pass from Timmer to his defender Joris Mathysen in the area allowed Robert to steal the ball and score a simple second, 11 minutes from time.

MNA/Reuters

Partick beat Inverness in Scottish Cup shootout

GLASGOW, 16 Feb—Third Division Partick Thistle caused another Scottish Cup shock by beating SPL side Inverness Caledonian Thistle 4-2 on penalties in their fourth round replay on Wednesday to guarantee their full-time status next season.

Inverness pair Dennis Wyness and Ross Tokely had penalties saved by Partick keeper Kenny Arthur before Will Snowdon scored with a low spot-kick under Mark Brown to clinch the home victory after the match had ended at 1-1 following extra time.

Partick chairman Brown McMaster told the BBC the dramatic win ensured Partick, who have suffered successive relegations, would not have to go part-time next term thanks to the television revenue generated by their Cup run.

They will reap the financial rewards from the

replay and now a quarter-final tie away to SPL side Hearts on February 25.

Manager Dick Campbell added: "We knew the full implications and... maybe he (McMaster) will give me more money to get more quality in! I will certainly make it difficult for Hearts."

Mark Roberts had put the underdogs ahead after 15 minutes in a dour battle at Glasgow's Firhill Stadium with a flicked shot into the roof of the net from just a few metres after Adam Strachan glanced on a corner.

But 10 minutes later Inverness levelled as Ian Black pounded to the byline and cut a brilliant low ball across the face of goal for Wyness to tap into the net from four metres.

The teams slugged out a goalless period of extra time before the tie turned to the nerve-shredding penalty shootout.

MNA/Reuters

Blackburn up to 7th with victory over Sunderland

LONDON, 16 Feb—Blackburn Rovers climbed three places to seventh in the Premier League with a 2-0 home win over bottom club Sunderland on Wednesday, lifting their hopes of a place in Europe next season.

Striker Craig Bellamy struck either side of halftime to move Blackburn on to 40 points from 26 games, one behind West Ham United and Arsenal, who occupy the UEFA Cup qualifying place. He grabbed the opener after 38 minutes when a shot by Morten Gamst Pedersen, who had already clipped the bar from a corner, hit Nyron Nosworthy and fell for the Wales striker to fire home.

MNA/Reuters



Valencia's goalkeeper Santiago Canizares (L) encourages Barcelona's Henrik Larsson (C) of Sweden during their Spanish first division soccer match at Mestalla Stadium in Valencia, Spain, on 12 Feb, 2006.

Valencia won the match 1-0.—INTERNET

Ashdod SC upset Maccabi Tel Aviv to reach Toto Cup final

TEL AVIV, 16 Feb—Ashdod SC upset Maccabi Tel Aviv 4-2 to advance to the final of Israel's Toto Cup on Wednesday after Maccabi's goalkeeper was sent off in the second half.

Ashdod will play either Maccabi Haifa or Hapoel Tel Aviv in 7 March final. The two top clubs in the Israeli Premier League meet in the second semi-final later on Wednesday. Maccabi Tel Aviv took an early lead in an entertaining match through Jose Duarte in the second minute before Ashdod came back through goals by Moshe Ohayon (10) and a Shai Holtzman penalty in the 27th minute.

MNA/Reuters

Ten-man Roma win again, Udinese thump Lens

LONDON, 16 Feb—AS Roma, the team of the moment in Italy, demonstrated their European pedigree with a battling 2-1 win at Club Bruges in their UEFA Cup first knockout round first-leg tie on Wednesday.

Roma, one win away from equalling the Serie A record of 10 successive victories, had midfielder Daniele De Rossi dismissed for elbowing after 27 minutes but went ahead right on halftime when defender Gunther Vanaudenaerde headed Christian Panucci's cross into his own net.

However, Spanish striker Javier Portillo, on a season-long loan from Real Madrid, drilled in the equalizer on the hour.

Roma took the control of the tie, though, when Simone Perrotta struck from close range and held on for victory despite Portillo heading against a post in the final seconds.

Roma's Serie A rivals Udinese also carved out a fine victory, handing new coach Loris Dominissini a winning start in Europe as his side brushed aside Racing Lens 3-0.

Brazilian striker Paulo Barreto scored twice after Antonio Di Natale had swept Udinese, who sacked Serse Cosmi on Friday, in front late in the first half.

Lille, who managed just one goal in six Champions League games before dropping into the UEFA Cup, put three past Shakhtar Donetsk but after apparently cruising at they conceded two goals in the last two minutes to turn the complexion of the tie.

First-half goals from Nicolas Fauvergue and Geoffrey Demis and a third from Nigerian Peter Odemwingie put Lille in control but late strikes from Brazilian Brandao and substitute Ciprian Marica made the score 3-2 and stunned the home side.

Schalke 04 came from behind to edge Espanyol 2-1, Germany midfielder Fabian Ernst netting the winner with a crisp strike from 25 metres two minutes from time.

Luis Garcia had fired the Spaniards ahead from a tight angle in the first half but Brazilian Marcelo Bordon headed in a Lincoln cross for the equalizer in the 67th minute.

Hertha Berlin had two players sent off as they went down 1-0 to Rapid Bucharest at the Olympic Stadium.

Valentin Negru put the visitors ahead with a penalty in the 68th minute after Alexander Madlung had tripped Daniel Niculae.

Hertha's Kevin Boateng was sent off seven minutes later and the Bundesliga side's night went from bad to worse when Madlung picked up a second booking for handball five minutes from time.

MNA/Reuters

Late Ernst strike gives Schalke victory over Espanyol

FRANKFURT, 16 Feb—Fabian Ernst struck with two minutes to go to earn Schalke 04 a 2-1 win over Espanyol in the opening leg of their UEFA Cup first knockout round tie in Gelsenkirchen on Wednesday.

Espanyol took the lead in the 34th minute when Luis Garcia ran on to a long pass from Eduardo Costa, rounded keeper Frank Rost and scored from a tight angle. Schalke, playing in the UEFA Cup after finishing third in their Champions League group, had most of the possession but were struggling to make chances until Marcelo Bordon headed in a Lincoln cross for the equalizer in the 67th minute.

The Bundesliga side pressed on and were rewarded when Germany midfielder Ernst tried his luck from 25 metres and keeper Gorka Iraizoz failed to get down in time. —MNA/Reuters

Shearer testimonial may raise 1 m pounds for charity

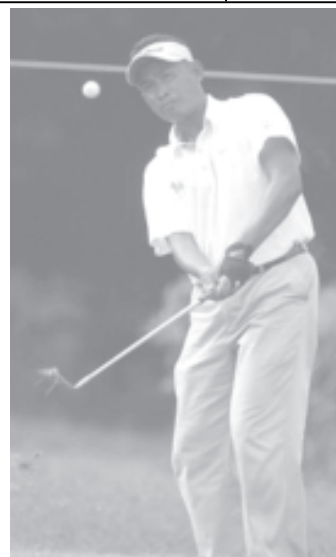
LONDON, 16 Feb—Newcastle United captain Alan Shearer will donate all the proceeds to charity when he brings down the curtain on his career in a testimonial match against Celtic on 11 May.

It is hoped the St. James' Park game will raise more than one million pounds (1.74 million US dollars), the Premier League club said on their website on Wednesday.

"It is a great honour and privilege to have a testimonial game at this wonderful club," said the 35-year-old former England captain.

"I hope that by pledging the money from the testimonial to charity and worthy causes that people less fortunate than myself will also benefit in some way from my football career.

"I have lived my boyhood dream, I have played in front of the most loyal fans in the world, captained my country, played for the home team I supported as a boy.—MNA/Reuters



Thailand's Thaworn Wirachant plays a chip during the Malaysian Open golf tournament in Kuala Lumpur, on 16 Feb, 2006. Wirachant carded seven-under-par-65 on the first day of the tournament.—INTERNET

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

New Abu Ghraib abuse photos broadcast in Australia

SYDNEY, 16 Feb — An Australian television station on Wednesday broadcast what it said were previously unpublished images of physical abuse of Iraqi prisoners inside the US-run Abu Ghraib Prison near Baghdad.

The Special Broadcasting Service's "Dateline" current affairs programme said the images had been taken at the same time as the now-infamous photographs of US soldiers abusing Ira-

qis in Abu Ghraib, which sparked international outrage in 2004.

While some of the latest pictures are similar to those images, others suggest further abuse in the form of incidents of

killing, torture and sexual humiliation, Dateline said.

The grainy still photographs and video images show prisoners, some blood-soaked or hooded, bound to various

kinds of apparatus, sometimes pictured with a smiling guard beside them.

The pictures were swiftly broadcast by Arabic television stations and may further inflame Arab anger, already stirred up by the publication on Sunday of images of British soldiers apparently beating Iraqi youths.

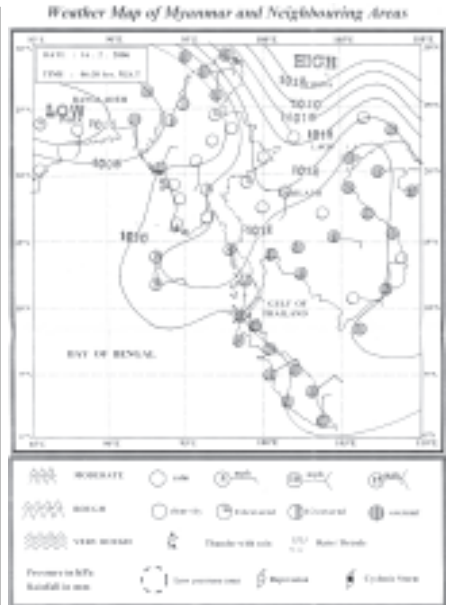
Executive producer Mike Carey said Dateline had obtained a file of hundreds of pictures — some that have been seen before and others that show new abuses.

Some of the video footage apparently shows one prisoner abusing himself by bashing his own head against a wall, while other photographs appear to show corpses, said Carey.

MNA/Reuters



A TV frame grab shows an image made available by Australia's Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) on 15 Feb, 2006, of what the broadcaster says is a detainee (L) in Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison taken in 2003.— INTERNET



WEATHER

Thursday, 16 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30

hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Mon and Kayin States, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Bago and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) above normal in Kachin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Eastern Shan and Chin States, Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Pinlaung (3°C), Namhsan (4°C) and Heho (5°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.67) inch.

Maximum temperature on 15-2-2006 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 16-2-2006 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 16-2-2006 was (87%). Total sunshine hours on 15-2-2006 was (9.1) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 16-2-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (10:30) hours MST on 15-2-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17-2-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon State and Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain in the extreme northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-2-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-2-2006: Fair weather.



Friday, 17 February
View on today

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:15 am

2. တိပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မဘဒ္ဒါဂါရိတ၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တ သိရိန္ဒြေထိန်းသ(ဓမ္မာနာရဇာတိ) ဓမ္မာကြားဓတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိဂါရိဇာတိ

7:25 am

3. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

4. Morning news

7:40 am

5. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

6. လွင်ရှားပုံပြင် စိတ်ချော်ရွှင်

8:00 am

7. အတီးဖြင့်ပွဲ

8:05 am

8. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:15 am

9. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:25 am

10. ရန်ချောင်းရေလှောင်တံခံ

8:30 am

11. International news

8:45 am

12. English for Everyday Use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Musical programme

4:40 pm

4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ်(ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးဖြူ) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)

4:55 pm

5. Song of national races

5:00 pm

6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:15 pm

7. Musical programme

5:25 pm

8. အတီးဖြင့်ပွဲ

5:30 pm

9. Song of yesteryears

5:40 pm

10. အမှတ်တံဆိပ် နိုင်ငံတော်၏ ဥပဒေပြုမှုအသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ (အပိုင်း-၁၈)

6:00 pm

11. Evening news

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညာတံရုင်

7:05 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရောင်စဉ်အမွှာ"

(အပိုင်း-၆)

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"နှင်းဆီ အိမ်ဂေ" (အပိုင်း-၈)

19. The next day's

programme



Friday, 17 February
Tune in today

8.30 am Brief news

8.35 am Music:

-Butterfly

8.40 am Perspectives

8.45 am Music:

-Wake me up

before you go

8.50 am National news / Slogan

9:00 am Music:

-Up

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music:

-Feel for your love

1:30 pm News / Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music

-Because of you

-Stoney

-At seventeen

9:00 pm WOM

9:15 pm Article

9:25 pm Music at your request

9:45 pm News & Slogan

10.00 pm PEL

Development market, roads put into service in Kanbalu

YANGON, 16 Feb — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the ceremony to inaugurate the section-1 of Myoma Market in Kanbalu on 13 February morning.

Shwebo District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Than Tun, Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee Director U Khin Maung Swe and Chairman of the Market Construction Committee U Tin Kyu formally opened the market building.

Next, the commander unveiled the signboard of the market.

At the briefing hall, the commander and the minister heard reports on construction of the market by officials.

The whole market will have 764 apartment shops at 14 buildings including the car park. The newly-opened section-1 of the market has 84 shops at eight buildings.

Development market will have 764 apartment shops at 14 buildings including the car park. The newly-opened section-1 of the market has 84 shops at eight buildings.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister attended the ceremony to put the repaved road into service in Ward 2 of Kanbalu. The Assistant Director of Kanbalu Township Development Affairs Committee

briefed them on construction of the road, and presented commemorative pennants to the commander and the minister.

The Executive Officer of Township DAC and the Secretary of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association cut the ribbon to open the road.

The repaved road measuring 1,455 feet by 12 feet was upgraded from the gravel road. It was built at a cost of K 3.714 million.

MNA

Commander oversees thriving physic nut plantations, irrigation facilities

YANGON, 16 Feb — Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected thriving 300,000 quality rubber saplings and 90,000 physic nut saplings at the farm of the local station in Thanbyuzayat Township on 13 February.

Mon State Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Sein Win reported on nurturing methods of physic nut saplings. Col Tin Tun Aung of the local station conducted the commander and party round the farm.

The commander also oversaw thriving 40,000 physic nut saplings at the nursery of Thanbyuzayat Township Forest Department. Simi-

larly, the commander inspected 50,000 physic nut saplings of Thanbyuzayat Township General Administration Department, 20,000 physic nut saplings and 20,000 rubber saplings of Township Police Force, and attended to the needs. On arrival at Winphanon Dam in Mudon Township, the commander heard reports on facts about the dam and supply of water to summer paddy fields presented by officials.

After fulfilling the requirements, the commander oversaw maintenance works for the dam, supply of water to the farm-

land through the main canal, and dredging of canals with the use of heavy machinery. At Kamawat Sluice Gate being built by Irrigation Department, Assistant Director U Sein Win reported on progress of construction tasks.

The sluice gate measuring 90 feet by 15 feet is located in Mudon Township.

The sluice gate can store 465 acre-feet of water, and it will have eight valves. While in Mudon, the commander inspected 15 acres of Hsinshweli and Hsinthwelat strain paddy at the central agricultural farm of Mudon.

MNA

Kamawat Sluice Gate measuring 90 feet by 15 feet is located in Mudon Township.

INSIDE

In 60 years, there have been many changes in the nation and in the world along with the improvement of broadcasting technology. However, the MRTV has been able to carry out its functions without interruption.

Apart from its original duties, the MRTV has been undertaking extra tasks such as sending news data to the sub-printing houses in different parts of the nation, and school lessons to 622 learning centres of the Ministry of Education.

PAGE 7 ARTICLE BY WIN SHWE & PHOTOS BY TIN SOE (MYANMA ALIN)

In a year, more than 70 gallons of biodiesel can be obtained from an acre of physic nut plants at the age of three years. Then, the farmer can earn extra-income from surplus physic nut oil.

PAGE 10

River water pumping project, cultivation of physic nut plant inspected in Magway, Mandalay Divisions

YANGON, 16 Feb — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected water supply tasks of Mezali Diversion Dam located in Pwinbyu Township of Magway Division and water supply to summer crops through 123,000-foot-long North Mone canal, maintenance of the canal and cultivation of summer paddy on 5 February.

Next, the minister arrived at Tanyaung River Water Pumping Project site in Salin Township. At the briefing hall, the Head of Division of Water Re-

sources Utilization Department reported to the minister on tasks of the water pumping project and water supply for agriculture purpose.

In connection with the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions to officials and committee members of the division, district and townships Agricultural Coordination Committees.

After inspecting the canal and the water pumping station, the minister gave instructions on cultivation

(See page 10)



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo views physic nut saplings and grafts at the research farm in Nyaung U. — A&I

Significant night temperatures

Pinlaung	(3°C)
Namhsan	(4°C)
Heho	(5°C)