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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, Mayor inspect road upgrading tasks



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin view repaving tasks on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Pabedan Township. — MNA

YANGON, 17 Feb — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin oversaw upgrading of Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road at 8th mile junction

in Mayangon Township this morning.

The commander and the mayor inspected progress in construction of No 2 sediment filter tank being undertaken by YCDC on Parami Road in Mayangon Township, repaving tasks on U Chit Maung Road in Bahan Township, Bogyoke Aung

San Street in Pabedan Township, and Anawrahta Street in Lanmadaw Township with the use of heavy machinery.

They gave necessary instructions to officials and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

INSIDE

- * *In accord with the Head of State's guidance, the government has been carrying out the task to provide clean water, transport facilities and job opportunities and increased income.*
- * *Thanks to the State's goodwill, young women in the townships on the west bank of the Ayeyawady are attending the courses and eagerly learning their lessons.*
- * *The year 2006 has witnessed the inauguration of women's domestic science schools, rural and urban water supply projects, and tarred streets, built by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, in one township after another.*

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 18 February, 2006

In the best interest of the State and the people

Water is an essential element for living beings. It is being utilized for development of agricultural and industrial sectors and drinking purpose.

The utilization of water in agricultural sector is from 60 to 80 per cent the amount of water all over the world. It is assessed that the availability of water resources in the respective countries is likely to decline as the population of the world is burgeoning.

At a time when most of the nations in the world are making efforts for systematic utilization of water and saving water resources, there are abundant water resources in Myanmar. Myanmar possesses water resources that can contribute to development of agricultural sectors not only in the nation but also in neighbouring countries.

Under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, efforts are being made for development of the agricultural sector so that the country can enjoy economic development and food security.

Dams and reservoirs, sluice gates and river water pumping stations are being built wherever possible. At present, 182 dams and reservoirs, 771 rural dams and 293 river water pumping stations have been opened across the nation.

The agricultural sector plays a pivotal role in economic development of the nation. This being so, systematic steps are being taken for development of the agricultural sector. Extended cultivation of groundnuts, sesame, sunflower as well as oil palm and Thitseint is being carried out while striving for boosting the per-acre yield of paddy.

Moreover, work is well under way for extended cultivation of industrial crops such as cotton, sugarcane, jute, kenaf and rubber. Likewise, encouragement is being given for extended cultivation of new item crops with a growing market. Nowadays, steps are being taken for boosting the production of coffee, tea and pepper, and extended cultivation of physic nut plants that will contribute to regional development.

At such a time, farmers and local people are to fully engage in agriculture and livestock breeding, making better use of favourable conditions.

The government is at present making efforts to bring about equitable development across the nation. In this regard, it is giving priority to implementing the five rural development tasks.

Therefore, the entire national people are to strive for economic development and development of their own regions, making the most of favourable conditions created by the government in the best interest of the State and the people.



In memory of late U Tint Lwin, son Ko Khin Zaw and daughter Ma Khin Ma Ma, Daw Toe Mya and family of 731, Thumana 4th Street, Thingangyun Township recently presented K 100,000 to Joint Secretary U Thein Aung of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board. — 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.

Aungmye Yadana Monastery in Magway holds silver jubilee celebration

YANGON, 17 Feb — A celebration to mark the silver jubilee anniversary of Aungmye Yadana Monastery was held at the venue in Kantha Ward of Magway on 12 February morning.

First, the stone plaque of the silver jubilee anniversary was unveiled. Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandiççasara together with Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, local LID Commander Brig-Gen Tun Tun Oo and wellwishers formally opened the ceremony.

Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara unveiled the stone plaque.

In the afternoon, the congregation took the Five Precepts from the Chairman Sayadaw.



The celebration of silver jubilee anniversary of Aungmye Yadana Monastery in progress in Magway. — MNA

Members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Later, the wellwishers donated alms to the Sayadaws.

Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandiççasara supplicated on the purpose of holding the silver jubilee ceremony. Next, wellwisher of Silver Jubilee Dhammayanthei Monastery eye specialist Dr Nilar Thein sang the song

composed by composer Bo Cho Myay- Myint Swe.

Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe supplicated on the religious affairs.

Later, the Magway Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

At nights from 8 to

10 February Bhaddanta Tikkha (Wakhingon Sayadaw) of Mandalay, Bhaddanta Suriyabhivamsa (Moetar Sayadaw) and Bhaddanta Yanika (Shwechan Sayadaw) administered Buddha Desana to the congregation.

At the ceremony, the wellwishers offered alms to 815 members of the Sangha. —MNA

Reminder issued for new waterway

YANGON, 17 Feb — Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems issued a reminder that waterways under Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) on Ayeyawady River had to be changed as from 14 February 2006.

A new waterway between piers No 1 and No 2 is for vessels sailing upstream and another waterway between piers No 2 and No 3 for those sailing downstream.

The clearance of the waterway is 110 metres in width and 17 metres in height. A triangle sign in green colour illuminated with green at night is fixed at the entrance to the waterway. The no-entry sign is a red-coloured cross and will be lighted with red bulb at night. The parallel running of two vessels is to be avoided while passing the clearance of the bridge. — MNA

Rural people in Lashio, Muse enjoy free medical treatment

YANGON, 17 Feb — Organized by Myanmar Border Areas Development Association, a medical team comprising over 20 doctors and nurses gave medical treatment of dental, gynaecological and obstetric, paediatric and eye diseases to over 3,500 local national races from 30 villages in Lashio and Muse Townships from 15 to 22 January.

The medical team provided pairs of glasses to over 350 needy persons. Furthermore, they performed

New roads opened honouring 59th Anniversary Union Day

YANGON, 17 Feb — Honouring the 59th Anniversary Union Day, a ceremony to open Cherry tarred road constructed by Namtu Township Development Affairs Committee was held in Panhaik Ward in Namtu Township, Shan State (North), on 9 February.

Cherry Road is 730 feet long and 12 feet wide.

Likewise, the repaved road was put into service in Hona Ward of Muse on 9 February. Chairman of Muse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Soe Win, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council Major Ye Lin Oo and Executive of Muse Township DAC Deputy Director U Soe Yan Naing formally opened the repaved road. The first section of the newly-opened road linking Shwepyitha Myothit Bridge and the Circular Road of Hona Ward is 2,600 feet long and 12 feet wide. The second section of the road measuring 1,000 feet by 10 feet links Shwepyitha Bridge and the old circular road. On 11 February, the Zalun-Kawkat rural gravel road constructed by Zalun Township Development Affairs Committee was inaugurated in Kawkat Village of Zalun Township, Ayeyawady Division. The gravel road is 300 feet long and 10 feet wide. —MNA

light eye surgical operations on 28 patients and major operations on 45 patients who need contact lens.

The team donated books to libraries, school stationery and snacks to students, and clothes and dry noodles to the needy persons in Meihan, Namphetka and Namtaung Villages. Local authorities, social organizations, doctors and nurses of hospitals in Lashio and Muse provided assistance for the medical team. —MNA

Kyrgyzstan wants US to pay more for military base

ALMATY, 16 Feb—Kyrgyzstan wants the United States to pay 100 times more for the use of a military base in the Central Asian country, President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

US forces moved into Central Asia, traditionally a Russian sphere of influence, when they started the hunt for Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan in 2001, establishing bases in Kyrgyzstan and neighbouring Uzbekistan.

But Washington has faced suspicions from leaders across the region that it is out to unseat some governments. Uzbekistan evicted US troops last year after Washington criticized Tashkent over the suppression of a rebellion in the eastern town of Andizhan. Now Kyrgyzstan wants more money.

“Until today, the rent

has been just over 2 million US dollars. According to our new calculations they will be paying 207 million US dollars”, Bakiyev told Russia’s *Kommersant* newspaper. “We are not such a rich country as to offer facilities for free. The

American side has shown understanding in this regard. But to be honest, I don’t know what their response will be.” Bakiyev said the new figure was in line with international practice and said the Americans could stay until neighbouring

Afghanistan was entirely stable. Russia, keen to boost its presence in Central Asia, also set up an airbase in Kyrgyzstan after US troops arrived, a move seen by some Western diplomats as a symbolic gesture.

MNA/Reuters

Chirac orders ‘toxic’ ship home

PARIS, 15 Feb—The Clemenceau left the French port of Toulon on 31 December. French President Jacques Chirac has ordered the asbestos-

lined warship Clemenceau to return to France after a ruling by the country’s highest court. The State Council demanded an end to the transfer of the

decommissioned ship to a breaking yard in India after complaints from environmentalists.

Greenpeace and three anti-asbestos groups said the ship was an environmental and health hazard.

The ship is in the Arabian Sea after India refused entry to its waters.

India said it wanted more information before allowing the 27,000-ton decommissioned aircraft carrier to enter its waters.

A statement from Mr Chirac’s office said: “The president has decided to put this ship in French waters on a position of standby which offers all security guarantees until a definitive solution for its dismantling is found.”

Internet



The decommissioned warship Clemenceau (R) leaves Toulon, in December 2005. The French government reeled from the fiasco over the warship Clemenceau, seen as a blow to President Jacques Chirac, as uncertainty hung over the asbestos-lined battleship’s future.—INTERNET



Chinese youths work at their computer stations in an Internet cafe in Beijing, China, on 16 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Microsoft warns of critical security flaws

SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Feb—Microsoft Corp on Tuesday warned of two “critical” security flaws that could allow attackers to use its media player or Internet Explorer Web browser to possibly take control of a computer.

Microsoft, the world’s top software company whose Windows operating system runs on 90 per cent of the world’s computers,

issued patches to fix the problems as part of its monthly security bulletin. It listed both as critical vulnerabilities.

One flaw is a vulnerability in some versions of the Windows Media Player for playing music or video files. The flaw makes it possible for an attacker to use a malicious file that controls the appearance of the player to launch other programmes on a computer.

“Application vulnerabilities, such as the issue in Windows Media Player, are a growing cause of concern,” Oliver Friedrichs, a senior manager at Symantec Corp, a leading maker of security software, said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Israeli dogs donate blood to toxic pet food victims

JERUSALEM, 16 Feb—A rare public appeal went out on Wednesday to Israeli pet owners to bring their dogs to donate blood to help save more than a dozen canines poisoned by toxic American pet food. Approximately 23 dogs have died in Israel in recent weeks from liver failure after eating Nutra Nuggets, manufactured by the US-based Diamond Pet Food company. Veterinarians say at least

another 17 pets have been poisoned and that only a handful was expected to survive.

At the Beit Dagan Animal Science Institute, where 14 dogs are being treated for poisoning, veterinarians said dozens of people had brought in their pets to give blood after they made their appeal on Israeli television, radio and newspapers.—MNA/Reuters

Germany finds first suspected case of bird flu

BERLIN, 16 Feb—Germany found the first suspected case of the bird-flu virus, a spokeswoman for the Agriculture Ministry said on Tuesday. Four dead swans were discovered on the Baltic island of Ruegen in the north of Germany, the spokeswoman told German news agency DPA, saying that preliminary tests have shown they might be the victims of the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus.—MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb kills four Iraqi policemen in northern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 16 Feb—A car bomb blew up in northern Baghdad on Wednesday, killing four policemen, a police source told Xinhua.

“A car bomb parking in the Maghrib Street in Baghdad’s Adhamiyah District detonated at about 11:35 am (0835 GMT), while a police patrol was passing by,” said Captain Ahmed Abdullah with Baghdad police.

The blast killed four policemen and wounded another, Abdullah said.

Three civilians were also wounded in the attack which damaged several police and civilian cars.

Earlier, another car bomb detonated in eastern Baghdad near a police patrol, killing a civilian and wounding five others, according to an Interior Ministry source. — MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi resident looks at the wreckage of a car as it is towed after a suicide car bomb attack in Baghdad, on 16 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

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Iran says open to helping Venezuela nuclear programme

CARACAS (Venezuela), 16 Feb— Iran would be open to helping Venezuela develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, but the countries have not yet held any talks about such cooperation, a top Iranian lawmaker said on Wednesday.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, an ardent critic of the US Government, is backing Iran's right to develop

nuclear fuel despite international community opposition to Teheran pursuing its atomic programme.

"Although we have not had any conversations until now with Venezuelan authorities, we would be willing to study the possibility", Iran's Parliament Speaker, Gholamali Haddadadel, said when asked by reporters in Caracas

whether Teheran could offer cooperation to Venezuela.

Venezuela, the world's No 5 oil exporter, last year said it was interested in developing nuclear technology for civilian energy and medical purposes.

But experts said any such development could take Venezuela as long as 10 years.

MNA/Reuters

US envoy says Washington hopes to improve ties with Venezuela

CARACAS, 16 Feb — The United States has indicated it is willing to improve ties with Venezuela after the two countries expelled diplomats this month in a dispute over charges that a US naval attache was spying, a US diplomat said on Wednesday.

Though US-Venezuela relations were not at their best as the two countries were divided on some issues, Venezuela and the US have cooperated in fields such as energy, trade, as well as anti-drug

and anti-terrorism efforts, US Ambassador to Venezuela William Brownfield told a local television channel.

The envoy hoped that through negotiation, the two countries could establish mature relations.

US Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Tom Shannon, and Venezuela's ambassador in Washington, Bernardo Alvarez, met earlier for the possibility of establishing dialogue over the disputes

between the two countries, said Brownfield.

The US and Venezuela have already shown that they can cooperate in effective ways, said Brownfield. He hoped the two countries could meet again to make new progress in bilateral efforts.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who took office in 1999, has clashed frequently with the Bush Administration, which he accuses of trying to topple his government.

MNA/Xinhua

Guangdong to build another nuclear power plant

GUANGZHOU, 16 Feb— South China's Guangdong Province has planned to build another nuclear power plant in its Shaoguan City in response to the province's power shortage.

China Guangdong Nuclear Power Holding Co, LTD signed a cooperation agreement on the power plant project on Wednesday afternoon with the municipal government of Shaoguan, which is located in north Guangdong.

The project, which power generating capacity is unknown so far, will cost 100 billion yuan (12.5 billion US dollars) with an estimated production value of 10 billion yuan (1.25 billion US dollars), said Xu Jianhua, mayor of Shaoguan.

MNA/Xinhua



South Koreans work at a construction site in Seoul, on 16 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Blast kills Afghan policeman

KABUL, 16 Feb— A blast killed an Afghan policeman and wounded two colleagues on Wednesday and two intelligence officers kidnapped this week have been found dead, officials said.

The violence came as the first 150 British combat troops of a deployment of about 3,300 British troops to the Afghan south arrived in the country.

Taliban or members of an allied faction were

responsible for the blast that hit the second of two police vehicles travelling on a road in Ghazni Province, south of the Kabul, said district government official Habibullah Jan.

"Militants who don't want peace and stability were behind this," he said. One of the wounded policemen was in serious condition, he said.

mission in Farah Province in the west were found in a desert on Tuesday, said provincial governor Izatullah Wasifi.

He declined to speculate on who might have been responsible but Taliban have been known to operate in the province.

MNA/Reuters

Italian loses job over bird flu fear, kills family

ROME, 16 Feb— An Italian trucker killed his wife and child with a hammer and slit his own throat after losing his job delivering chickens because poultry sales fell on consumers' fear of bird flu, local newspapers said on Tuesday.

Claudio Rubello, 49, pummelled his wife and 10-year-old daughter to death in their sleep and severely beat his two teenage sons, who survived the attack, before slitting his own throat with a kitchen knife, newspapers reported. The incident happened on Sunday in Grezzano, near Verona in northern Italy, a month after Rubello lost his job because of the crash in poultry sales. Newspapers said he left a note that read: "By my stupid neglect I have ruined my family." "He was very worried because we told him there'd be less work because of the crisis in the (poultry) sector and the fall in chicken consumption," *Repubblica* newspaper quoted an official at the truck company, identified only as Massimo, as saying. — MNA/Reuters

Green cars to race around the world in 80 days

LONDON, 16 Feb— Alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles are to take part in a round the world rally race in 2008.

20 teams driving the latest in alternative fuel technology will drive more than 22,000 miles over 80 days, together with 20 teams driving classic cars.

The "Great Race 2008" is to begin in New York City exactly 100 years after the "Greatest Auto Race" did the same, and will end in Paris.

The 1908 race was designed to demonstrate the capabilities of the latest technology which in that case was the combustion engine propelled vehicle.

"Great Race 2008" aims to do the same by showcasing the latest automotive technologies, including green propulsion systems.

The race organizers are challenging entrepreneurs and manufacturers to create vehicles to take part in the race, but note that choosing the appropriate fuel type and technology will be crucial if teams are to complete the gruelling course.

Internet



Iraqi villagers walk near an allied forces' armoured vehicle securing the construction of their bridge project in Samawa, 270 km (160 miles) south of Baghdad on 16 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Kimchi-spiced air conditioners to fight bird flu

SEOUL, 16 Feb— South Korean firm LG Electronics is poised to start marketing an air conditioner with a filter made using an enzyme from the pungent national dish kimchi that is aimed at protecting against the bird flu virus.

Kimchi, typically made from pickled radish or cabbage packed with garlic, ginger and hot peppers, is renowned for its supposed health benefits — as well as its powerful odour.

"We developed the filter with the aim of protecting people against bird flu," LG spokeswoman Park Se-won said by telephone, citing four studies from domestic and overseas institutions that she said showed the filter eliminated the deadly H5N1 virus.

Over the years, kimchi has frequently been billed, particularly in Korean culture, as a miracle food with an amazing array of health benefits. During the SARS crisis in 2003, many

Koreans believed eating kimchi helped ward off the disease.

Researchers in South Korea have been testing whether an extract from kimchi can be used as an additive to chicken feed to prevent bird flu, although there has been little scientific evidence to support the claim.

LG, which is the world's largest manufacturer of air conditioners, intends to start marketing the air conditioners in China and Southeast Asia soon.

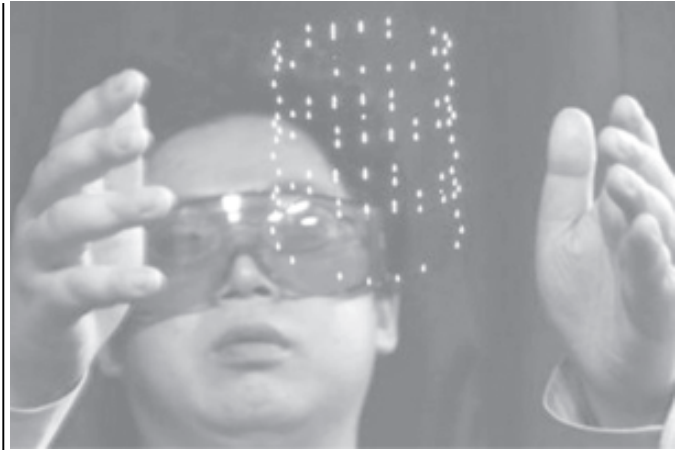
She said appliances would not transmit the unmistakable kimchi smell through rooms.

"Since the filters are made with only the enzyme extracted from kimchi, the smell doesn't

follow."

The H5N1 avian flu virus has killed 91 people since late 2003, the majority of them in Asia. Though the virus remains hard for people to catch, scientists say it is steadily mutating and could acquire the ability to pass easily between people, triggering a pandemic.

MNA/Reuters



Tatsumi Kimura, researcher at Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), shows laser plasma technology making a flashpoint in the air in this long exposure image at a research institute in Tsukuba, north of Tokyo on 16 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Croatian website opens shutters on forgotten past

ZAGREB, 16 Feb— In a world obsessed by celebrity, a new Croatian website celebrates the nobility of the anonymous.

Created by two unemployed Croatians, the "museum of old family photos" at www.skarabej.com shows everyday people strolling down a beach, rollicking, drinking, playing games, embracing or just posing

for the camera.

"Our world is filled with news about celebrities. We wanted something different, photographs that are not perfect, taken by amateurs, showing unknown people in

normal situations," said Anton Petrovic, one of the site's creators.

The unsung heroes of Skarabej's black-and-white photos are men, women and children in old-fashioned clothes, at weddings, funerals, work or dinner.

Skarabej was a labour of love for Petrovic, a 31-year old psychiatrist by training, and his girlfriend Tamara Razov, who set out to build "an online museum dedicated to the unknown people who actually carry the world on their shoulders".

Petrovic and Razov started last September by

finding discarded old photographs at flea markets and in attics, and posting them on the Internet.

Four months later, their English-Croatian website has some 2,000 photos and another thousand ready to be posted.

Media reports late last year made the site unexpectedly popular in Latin America, particularly Mexico. Petrovic and Razov, working from their apartment, now receive dozens of emailed photos every day from around the world.

MNA/Reuters

Dhaka bans 'toxic' French liner

DHAKA, 16 Feb— Bangladesh says it has imposed a ban on SS Norway, an asbestos-lined French ocean-liner, from being broken in its ship-breaking yards.

Environment Minister Tariqul Islam made the decision after a meeting with officials and environment groups.

The ban comes a day after France ordered another asbestos-lined carrier, Clemenceau, to return from its journey to a ship-breaking yard in India.

Environmental group Greenpeace says the SS Norway was on its toxic ships list.

SS Norway, which was

launched in 1960 as SS France, has been anchored for months off the Malaysian coast waiting for a buyer.

Mr Islam said that the central bank and the customs department have been ordered not to issue an import order for the ship. The navy and coastguard have also been ordered to keep the ship out of Bangladeshi waters.

"We have decided to ban the ship from entering our waters as we have information that it could trigger environmental and health disaster if it is dismantled here," Mr Islam said.

A Bangladeshi scrap

merchant, Haji Lokman Hossain, said he had bought the 11-storey ocean-liner for \$12m from an Indian buyer and that he was waiting for payment.

Environmentalists have welcomed the ban. Earlier they had given a legal

notice to the government to stop the asbestos-lined ship from being imported.

Greenpeace has included SS Norway on a watch-list of 50 ships, which it fears will not be decontaminated before being dismantled.

Internet

East Asia needs big rice reserve

HANOI, 16 Feb— The East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) said East Asia needs to have annual rice reserve of at least 1.5 million tons to ensure food security in the region, the newspaper Vietnam Agriculture reported on Wednesday.

At the one-day meeting

of EAERR's Project Steering Committee held here on Tuesday, representatives of the entity said the 10 members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), China, South Korea and Japan need to pledge more rice reserve, noting that the EAERR has so far mobilized 337,000 tons of the commodity.

EAERR is a mutual assistance system to flexibly provide food aid in disaster-hit areas and for poverty reduction purposes in East Asia.

EAERR members are responsible for managing the rice amount they pledge for reserve, which will be transported to a natural disaster-hit member after its reserve is used up. Besides, they can build bilateral rice reserve deals to serve urgent relief needs, the EAERR representatives said. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to face challenge of aging

SINGAPORE, 16 Feb— Singapore has avoided some difficult problems brought about by an aging population and is taking measures to meet the challenges of aging, said Manpower Minister Ng Eng Hen on Wednesday at a seminar on employability of older workers.

Ng attributed the city state's achievements to four reasons including a fully funded and fundamentally sound Central Provident Fund system, well-managed healthcare costs, the emphasis on families' responsibility as social support systems, as well as a strong tripartite partnership.

Noting that Singapore is "in a better position than most countries to implement workable solutions", Ng encouraged both employers and employees to change their mindset toward raising the productivity and competitiveness of older workers.

"The Tripartite Committee has sharpened our national focus with some key recommendations to start off with, which the government fully supports," Ng said, referring to the ADVANTAGE! Scheme proposed by the Tripartite Committee on Employability of Older Workers last month.

The scheme emphasizes the value of older workers and supports various initiatives such as financial incentives for the recruitment of older workers, job redesign, wage restructuring, as well as training and retention of older workers. — MNA/Xinhua



Chinese workers prepare plastic waste before it is processed at a recycling factory in Foshan, in Southern China's Guangdong Province on 16 Feb, 2006. The factory imports plastic waste and recycles it in a very manpower intensive process into a new valuable raw material. —INTERNET

Scientists find trace of white wine in ancient Egypt

LONDON, 17 Feb— It seems that Tutankhamen, the teenage king of ancient Egypt, headed into the afterlife with a good supply of fine white wine, the weekly *New Scientist* reports said in its issue to be published Saturday.

Researchers from the University of Barcelona in Spain used liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry to analyse the residue of six wine jars found in Tut's tomb.

All six contained tartaric acid, which is characteristic of grapes, but only one contained syringic acid, which is only found in the skin of

red grapes and gives red wine its colour.

They concluded that the other five jars must have contained white wine. It is a surprising discovery, because there is no record of the existence of white wine in Egypt until the third century AD, about

1,600 years after the young pharaoh died.

Red wine was often placed in tombs in ancient Egypt to give the dead a jolly sendoff into the afterlife, but it now seems that white wine was on the menu as well.

Wine makers today

can remove red grape skins to create white wine, but it is most unlikely that their counterparts in ancient Egypt knew how to do this, which suggests that white grapes were probably grown in Tutankhamen's time.

MNA/Xinhua



Leopard cubs rest on a tree branch inside a wildlife sanctuary on the outskirts of the northern Indian city of Jammu on 16 Feb, 2006. The cubs were found by locals, a wildlife sanctuary official said.—INTERNET

China says its trade benefits US

BEIJING, 17 Feb—The United States would risk a dearth of Christmas gifts and trees if it threatened China's cheap, abundant exports, a Chinese spokesman said, rejecting a Washington report critical of Beijing's trade surplus.

The United States benefits as much as China from their rising two-way trade, the spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, Qin Gang, told a regular Press conference on Thursday.

"The constantly expanding economic and trade cooperation between China and the United States suits the fundamental interests of the two countries and benefits both their people," he said.

Qin was responding to a report from the United States Trade Representative, Rob Portman, that vowed more pressure on Beijing over long-standing US trade complaints.

MNA/Reuters

Study shows benefit from calcium, Vitamin D limited

WASHINGTON, 17 Feb — Taking calcium and vitamin D pills can only provide limited protection against fractures for older women, according to a long-term US study to be published in Thursday's *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The seven-year national study involving 36,282 postmenopausal women gave each participant 1,000 milligrams of calcium and 400 units of Vitamin D or matching placebos each day. It found better hip bone density in the half given supplements, but no reductions of statistical significance in fractures of all kinds.

Benefit of the supplements was only seen in women above 60 whose chances of hip fracture dropped 21 per cent after taking the pills.

Researchers said the study would help correct the important miscon-

ception of many women that taking calcium and Vitamin D pills can provide full protection against the development of osteoporosis.

Researchers still think sticking with an adequate calcium intake will lay the foundation for bone health.

Some also believe higher doses of the supplements are needed to achieve the desired effect.

The study also examined the value of the supplements in preventing colorectal cancer, but no benefit was found. The incidence of colorectal cancer turned out to be nearly the same in each

group.

However, as colorectal cancer can take 10 to 20 years to develop, researchers said it may need longer follow-up for the supplements to show a beneficial effect.

Meanwhile, the US study showed a significant side effect with the diet supplements, which increased the risk of kidney stones by 17 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

Gas blast kills one, injures 22 in Bosnia coal mine

SARAJEVO, 17 Feb— One miner was killed and 22 injured in a gas explosion at a coal mine near the central Bosnian town of Travnik, police said on Thursday. Rescuers evacuated all 25 miners from the coal mine Abid Lolic after the explosion late on Wednesday, a spokesman for the central Bosnian cantonal police told *Reuters*. Fourteen miners were kept in nearby hospitals but their lives were not in danger, media reported. Police spokesman Muraif Husic said the investigation into the cause of the explosion was under way. He did not elaborate but local media reported that the methane gas exploded at the mine.— MNA/Reuters

Vietnam to upgrade central airport

HANOI, 17 Feb— Vietnam will spend nearly 188 million US dollars to upgrade the Cam Ranh Airport in central Khanh Hoa Province by 2025, local newspaper *Youth* reported Thursday.

Under a scheme on zoning the airport by 2015 with orientations by 2025 recently approved by the Transport Ministry, after being upgraded with total investment of 2,988 billion Vietnamese dong (187.9 million dollars), the domestic airport can simultaneously receive 16 planes in rush hour by 2015, and 21 large aircraft by 2025.— MNA/Xinhua

Two suspected bird flu patients die in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 17 Feb— Two people hospitalized for developing bird flu symptoms died Thursday at the specialist hospital Sulianti Saroso in Jakarta.

A 15-year-old girl and a 27-year-old man died after being treated for just one day at the hospital, reported the Detikcom news website.

The hospital is currently conducting laboratory tests to find if they had bird flu. At least 26 have been tested positive for the H5N1 virus in Indonesia since last year at a World Health Organization-accredited laboratory in Hong Kong. Of the 26 cases, 18 have died.— MNA/Xinhua

Some 400 kilos of cocaine seized in Peru

LIMA, 17 Feb— Peru's National Anti-Drug Directorate (Dinandro) seized 396 kilos of cocaine in the capital, Lima, Peruvian National Police told local media on Wednesday. Thanks to the information provided by the US Drug Enforcement Agency, Dinandro officers discovered the narcotics on Tuesday night in a private house in the area of Los Olivios and arrested three suspected drug dealers, who are members of a Peruvian-Colombian gang. The officers suspected that the drugs were intended to be exported to the United States since they were wrapped in round packages instead of the traditional rectangular ones.— MNA/Xinhua

Mexico warns of long drug fight, more deaths ahead

MEXICO CITY, 16 Feb— Mexico warned on Tuesday of a long fight against drug traffickers and more deaths among security forces after two police chiefs were shot dead near Texas.

A spokesman for President Vicente Fox said the fatal shootings on Monday would not deter the government in its "frontal attack against organized crime". More than 1,000 people died last year as gangs

battled for control of lucrative smuggling routes to Texas from northeast Mexico, many in Nuevo Laredo across from Laredo, Texas. "The Mexican state will emerge victorious, but there will still be a long

period of conflict that no doubt means the loss of lives of officials involved in the fight," spokesman Ruben Aguilar told a news conference. The head and his body dumped outside town.—MNA/Reuters



An Italian alpine soldier watches as a snowcat rumbles past in heavy snow, as Olympic volunteers, workers and officials attempt to prepare the piste for Women's Combined Downhill training at the Turin 2006 Winter Olympic Games in San Sicario Fraiteve, Italy, on 16 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Developments on west bank of Ayeyawady River bear witness to government's goodwill

Maung Ba Pe (Oaktha)

We can say that the year 2006 is an auspicious year for the west bank of Ayeyawady River. Beginning the new year, the region has

the border areas and national races development project, the 24 special development regions project, and the rural development project in har-

The main reason behind a lack of progress in regions on the west bank is their climatic and geographical conditions. The dry weather coupled with

streets, built by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, in one township after another.

The Head of State has given guidance to give young women in eight townships on the west bank — Pale, Yinmabin and Salingyi townships in Sagaing Division, and Pakokku, Yesagyo, Myaing, Pauk and Seikphyu townships in Magway Division — vocational training and to help them set up their own businesses after attending various courses. With the aim of increasing income and easing the social burden, the government has opened one such

school each in the townships. At the schools, experienced teachers are giving lessons on tailoring, knitting, weaving, mosaic painting, and cooking free of charge.

And the government is selling necessary sewing-machines and equipment in instalments to the women who have completed their respective courses. It is also providing stipends for the trainees.

Thanks to the State's goodwill, young women in the townships are attending the courses and eagerly learning their lessons.

As the said eight townships now have town water supply systems, the

upgraded the streets of those towns.

The government has already implemented the entire Pakokku District Water Supply Project. It provided water supply facilities to 216 villages out of 335 villages covered by the project during the period from fiscal 2000-2001 to fiscal 2004-2005. Water supply facilities were installed at the remaining 119 villages from 4 February 2005 to 30 November 2005 at a cost of K 228.6 million.

Thanks to the clean water supply project, the health sector can eliminate water-borne diseases as well as



Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt opens Women's Vocational Training School in Pakokku.

seen a great number of changes for the better as one township after another are enjoying the fruits of the government's urban and rural development projects for the region. The projects cover places from Pakokku, Yesagyo, Myaing, Pauk and Seikphyu townships in Magway Division to Pale, Yinmabin and Salingyi townships in Sagaing Division on the west bank.

The government has been implementing

mony, and thanks to the projects all parts of the nation have been achieving equitable progress. Even the small towns in border areas that lacked peace in the past have become major towns bustling with business.

At the same time the 24 special development regions have witnessed rapid development in all sectors, and the five rural development tasks are benefiting the villages where over 70 per cent of the nation's population live.

scarcity of water and infertile soil made the regions void of a reliable product that could help generate jobs and increase income. In accord with the Head of State's guidance, the government has been carrying out the task to provide clean water, transport facilities and job opportunities and increased income.

The year 2006 has witnessed the inauguration of women's vocational training schools, rural and urban water supply projects, and tarred



The signboard opening ceremony of potable water supply for Myaing Township in progress.

The government has already implemented the entire Pakokku District Water Supply Project. It provided water supply facilities to 216 villages out of 335 villages covered by the project during the period from fiscal 2000-2001 to fiscal 2004-2005. Water supply facilities were installed at the remaining 119 villages from 4 February 2005 to 30 November 2005 at a cost of K 228.6 million.

respective township development committees are installing water meters for households that can afford to buy meters and building communal water tanks and taps for families who cannot buy meters.

The government spent K 10. 8 million in Yinmabin, K 13. 6 million in Pale, K 20. 5 million in Salingyi, K 75.9 million in Pakokku, K 58.1 million in Yesagyo, K 51.58 million in Myaing, K 32.3 million in Pauk and K 20.8 million in Seikphyu, totalling K 283.61 million to install water supply facilities. In addition, it has tarred and

diseases that occur or spread due to water shortages in the regions. The project has helped develop health, education and economic sectors.

All in all, the women's domestic science schools, urban and rural water supply programmes, and town road development undertakings in the regions of Magway and Sagaing divisions on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River bear witness to the government's goodwill to the locals.

(Translation: TMT)

Functions for ensuring smooth and secure transport discussed



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win addresses the meeting of the Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport. — MNA

YANGON, 17 Feb — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held its coordination meeting at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters this evening, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win.

Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin re-

ported on traffic supervisory functions.

Heads of department, registrars and officials of universities and colleges, members of the Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport, departmental officials and chairmen of bus lines presented reports on matters related to the ferries, declining traffic accidents, and conversion of vehicles into natural gas vehicles.

The meeting ended with the remarks by the commander.

It was also attended by military region commanders, station commanders, the secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and members, and chairmen of District Peace and Development Councils.

MNA

Workshop on research and reporting commences



Dr Than Nyun delivers an address at the workshop on research and reporting. — MNA

YANGON, 17 Feb — The opening of the workshop on research and reporting took place at the Traders Hotel here this morning.

It is being held with the sponsorship of the Sasakawa Peace Founda-

tion under the arrangements of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board and the Information and Research Centre in Singapore.

Chairman of the CSSTB Dr Than Nyun and General Manager of the

Centre Mr Chong Yeon Chin delivered speeches.

The discussions were held in the afternoon. The workshop continues till 24 February. Also present were CSSTB members, officials of the foundation, experts of the Cen-

tre, representatives from the CSSTB, the relevant ministries, observers and guests. — MNA

Lecture and Seminar on Oil Spill Response commences

YANGON, 17 Feb — Minister for Transport U Pe Than delivered an address at the opening ceremony of Lecture and Seminar on Oil Spill Response held under the CMV Project of Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam, at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel, here, this afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Transport, Japanese experts from CMV Project and scholars from the ministries concerned.

A table top exercise will include in the agenda of the lecture and seminar. — MNA

Hole-in-One

YANGON, 17 Feb — Mr Park Tae Hwan scored an ace from 130 yards at the 11th hole pondy at City Golf Resort on 9 February evening while playing with golf ball Phantom No 3 and Iron No 8.

The partners at the time were Mr Kim Won Woo, Mr Lee Je Jung and Mr Ko Hyong Mo, it was learnt.

MNA

Tun Foundation Bank to present literary awards

YANGON, 17 Feb — In an effort to improve the standard of Myanmar literature, Tun Foundation Bank will present literary awards to outstanding writers every year.

Literary award is divided into two categories — book and manuscript awards — for excellent work in economic,

history, health, children and youth literature and the English version book written by Myanmar national. Books published in the previous years and manuscripts sent this year to the scrutinizing board of the foundation will be chosen for the awards for 2006.

Literary award win-

ners will be announced at the end of every year, and award-winning manuscripts will be published in accordance with legal requirements. Any one may send manuscripts to Tun Foundation Bank (Ph 291881), No 53/61, at the corner of Theinbyu Street and Strand Road, Yangon.

MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့

၂၀၀၆-ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ (၁၇)ရက်နေ့အထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၅၀,၃၆၂)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးလက်နေပြည်သူအများ ပညာဗဟုသုတတိုးပွားစေရန် ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန၊ ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

Union National Races Village...

(from page 16)

bronze drum and Nagarphar Pagoda in Kayin Village, Reed Lake and Chin national statue in Chin Village, a public rest house in Bamar Village, Kyaikhtyo Pagoda in Mon Village, Htokkathan Ordination Hall and statues of a group of white elephants in Rakhine Village and Inlay Lake and statue of female Padaung national.

The Union National Races Village serves as a recreation centre and as an exhibition where cultural heritages of national races living in various parts of Myanmar can be observed at a single place.

Besides recreation facilities, the village comprises a lake of crocodiles, a house of rabbits, a house of

guinea-pigs, a house of birds, and a site for deer.

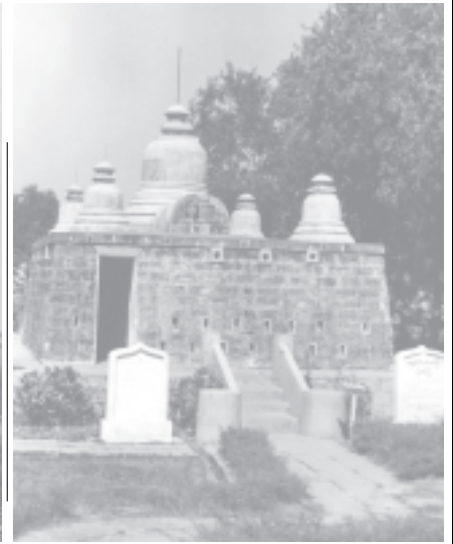
Children visitors can play in the playground of the village. Visitors can take a boat ride in the Inlay Lake for recreation.

On 4 January 2004, the Nanmyint Tower was inaugurated from which visitors can enjoy the scenes of Yangon City.

Thirty-one staff are appointed to perform cultural demonstrations of national races for public study. And a traditional band of national races formed with eight youth students performs entertainment programmes.

The entertainment programmers are presented at a house of a national race on weekend and gazetted holidays from 9 am to 11 am and from 3 pm to 5 pm.

A total of 480,993 adults, 56,317 children



Kyaikhtyoe Pagoda (Left) in Mon Village and Htokkathan Sima (Right) in Rakhine Village in the National Races Village. — MMAL

and 1,755 foreigners visited in 2003-2004, 376,090 adults, 125,951 children and 2,286 foreigners in 2004-2005, and 388,709 adults, 25,871 children and 1,542 for-

eigners in 2005-2006 (up to January).

A traditional cultural exhibition of national races is being constructed on the ground floor and the first floor of the Nanmyint Tower, two statues of Aukchin (Indian

and hornbill) bird couple in Chin Village, a statue of buffalo in Shan Village, and Mingun Bell in Bamar Village, a 160-foot long, 80-foot wide and 36-foot high concert hall with the use of arched-roof technology, the first-ever

of its kind in Myanmar. National people are therefore urged to pay a visit to the Union National Races Village to observe cultures of national races and for relaxation.

Translation: MS

The Union National Races Village serves as a recreation centre and as an exhibition where cultural heritages of national races living in various parts of Myanmar can be observed at a single place.



Taungkwe Pagoda in Kayah Village in the National Races Village. — MMAL

Nutritious refreshments donated to fire victim students of Hline Township

YANGON, 17 Feb — Information Department and Education Sub-Working Group of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation this evening presented nutritious refreshments to fire victim students from Hline Township, at Yuwady Hall of the school on Pyay Road, here.

The students are being camped by teaching at Basic Education High

School No 2 in Sangyoung Township, for taking the matriculation examination.

The Deputy Head of Information Department, the leader of the Education Sub-Working Group and members handed over nutritious refreshments worth K 60,000 for 32 students to Headmistress Daw Khin Lay Myint.

MNA



On behalf of fire victims, Daw Khin Lay Myint accepts nutritious refreshments. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs receives German guests



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu receives Prof Eckhard Rohkamm of German Asia-Pacific Business Association. — MNA

YANGON, 17 Feb — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu received a delegation led by Chairman Prof Eckhard Rohkamm of German Asia-Pacific Business Association at Zizawa Yeiktha of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs this morning.

They cordially discussed matters pertaining to ASEAN, AFTA, Greater Mekong Sub-region, international economic matters and bilateral relations between the two countries. — MNA

Special Market Festival opens

YANGON, 17 Feb — As a gesture of honouring the 61th Armed Forces Day, Special Market Festival of the Ministry of Industry-1 was opened today at Maha Nwezin Sports Ground in Mandalay.

Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Brig-Gen Thein Tun unveiled the signboard of the festival and Chairman of Mandalay City Development Commit-

tee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and an official of the Ministry of Industry-1 formally opened the festival.

Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 staged booths where a total of 337 kinds of goods produced by the industries are available.

A concert and fashion show are staged at the festival from 2 am to 8 pm daily. — MNA

Myanmar produces bio-diesel from physic nut

Bio-diesel and natural fertilizer can be obtained from physic nut



Seeds of physic nut.

Natural fertilizers can be categorized into two groups — fertilizers produced from animal droppings and fertilizers produced from decayed parts of trees. Myanmar being rich in aquatic and terrestrial resources, every state and division is pursuing the target of putting 500,000 acres under

physic nut in three years. Now, Myanmar produces bio-diesel from physic nut seeds by milling and the paste of physic nut, a by-

product, is used as organic fertilizer.

The following table compares the content rate of the three important

kinds of nourishment needed for crops, of physic nut paste with those of some other materials.

Subject	Nitrogen %	Phosphorus %	Potassium %
Physic nut paste	4.44	2.09	1.68
Cow dung	3.04	6.27	2.08
Compost	1.48	0.46	0.48
Neem paste	5.00	1.00	1.50

Physic nut paste contains more nitrogen than cow dung, chicken droppings and humus, and its phosphorus content rate is high like other natural fertilizers. So, physic nut provides natural fertilizers as well as bio-diesel.

LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Soe Kyaw Naing celebrates championship success in Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour



YANGON, 17 Feb — Former champion Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) claimed champion in the professional golfers division of the Seventh Leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour at Yangon Golf Club

Next, Managing Director U Soe Win of Air Bagan Ltd presented the first prize to Aung Win (Forestry Ministry) who shot a five-over-par 293 total in the amateur golfers division, the second prize to Naing Naing Lin who fired a 295 strokes on aggregate in four rounds, and the third prize to Derek Htet Doe who scored a 301 total.

MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win

ing Director U Zaw Win Naing of KBZ Bank Ltd K 500,000, and Air Bagan Ltd Managing Director U Soe Win a cheque of reward worth K 1.2 to champion Soe Kyaw Naing.

Afterwards, MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) gave the gift to Air Bagan Ltd Vice-Chairman U Zaw Min. Likewise, Tournament Director U Min Thein of Air Bagan Myanmar



Winners of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour pose for a photo together with the president of MPGA and MGF. — MGF

in Danyingon, Insein Township, this afternoon.

After completion of the fourth and final round, the prize presentation ceremony followed. Executive U Ko Ko Lay of Myanmar Professional Golfers Association and Myanmar Golfers Federation presented the first prize to Ye Myo Hein in the Tiger Putting Challenge Contest.

Director U Htoo Thet Htwe and Director U Aung Hsan of Air Bagan Ltd gave prizes to daily best golfers in the amateur and professional golfers divisions.

Hlaing (Retd) awarded the first prize for the professional golfers division to Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) who fired a two-under-par 286 in total, the second prize to Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) who scored a four-over-par 292 total, and the joint third prize to Aung Win (YCDC + Srixon) and Kwanchi Tannin (Thailand) who tied at 293 strokes on aggregate.

Professional golfer U Aung Hla Han, who is country agent of Srixon, presented US\$ 300, U Win Kyi for Kachin Golfer Group K 500,000, U Aye Win for Ayer Shwe Wah Co Ltd K 500,000, Manag-

Golf Tour presented gifts to Executive U Hla Win of Yangon Golf Club.

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

MNA

F&R, Sports Ministry meet in U-20 Youth Final

YANGON, 17 Feb — The second-leg semifinal matches of the U-20 Youth Closing Cup Football Tournament took place at Hline and Padetha Sports Grounds, here, this afternoon.

Finance & Revenue Youth Team, and Sports Ministry Youth Team sailed up to the final by winning over their opponents.

Hline Sports Ground

Finance & Revenue

Youth Team: 1

Banner Youth Team: 0

Both teams met in the first leg with a one-all draw. Hence, they played today's second-leg match with utmost efforts for achieving success. Players of Finance & Revenue Youth Team showed their brilliant skills in their moves. At the end of the match, Finance & Revenue Youth Team cruised into the final with a one goal win over the rival.

At the 25th minute, Than Naing scored a precious winning goal for Finance & Revenue Team.

Due to the two-match combined scores 2-1 with a 1-1 draw in the first leg and a 1-0 win in the second one, Finance & Revenue Team moved up to the final.

Padetha Sports Ground

Sports Ministry: 2

SPEI: 0

In the first-leg match, Sports and Physical Education Institute Team edged Sports Ministry 1-0. However, Sports Ministry shaded SPEI 2-0 in the second-leg match. Due to the two-match combined scores 2-1, Sports Ministry has the opportunity to enter the final.

The final match between Finance & Revenue Youth Team and Sports Ministry Youth Team will take place at Aung San Stadium on 25 February.

NLM

Sun Ye, Rail Transportation take wins in Myanmar League

YANGON, 17 Feb — Myanmar League Football Tournament for 2005-2006 football season continued at Aung San Stadium, and Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) this afternoon.

Aung San Stadium

Sun Ye team defeated Agriculture and Irrigation team 1-0. Referee U Hla Tint handled the match.

Thanks to the winning result of today's match, Sun Ye will reach the seventh position in the league standings, and A&I went down to the 14th position.

The only goal for Sun Ye came through Sa Htet Naing Win at the 67th minute.

Sun Ye stood in the seventh position with 13 points from three wins, four draws and three losses. A&I held its position at the 14th with seven points from two wins, one draw and seven losses.

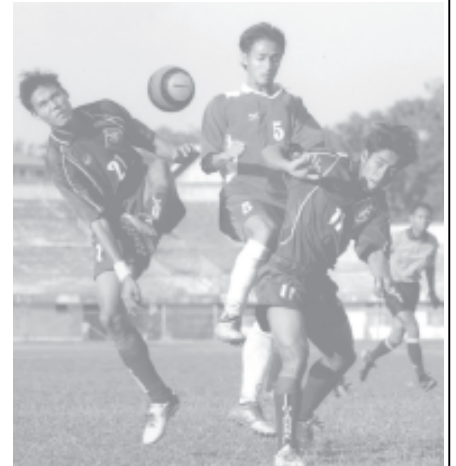
Youth Training Centre

Rail Transportation trounced Army-A 4-0. Due to winning over the opponent team by a wide margin, Rail Transportation leaped up to the 13th position from the relegation zone. Till today, Army-A

is at the bottom of the standings with lack of points in 10 matches.

Today's fixtures:

Aung San Stadium
Finance & Revenue vs Construction
YTC (Thuwunna)
Defence vs YCDC. — NLM



Aung Thu Winn of Sun Ye Team fights for a ball with defenders of Agriculture and Irrigation Team.

NLM

Siemens plans to set up telecom equipment facility in India

BARCELONA, 17 Feb — German engineering conglomerate Siemens plans to set up a network equipment manufacturing base in India, Federal Communications and IT Minister Dayanidhi Maran has said.

“Siemens has plans to make telecom networking equipment in India,” he told *PTI* after a meeting with top Siemens officials on the sidelines of GSM Association conference here.

Maran said in the last 10 months, many global players including telecom and IT giants had come forward and set up manufacturing and research facilities in India.

This included Alcatel, AMD, Ericsson, Cisco, Flextronics, Intel,

Microsoft, Motorola, Nokia, LG and Samsung, he said, adding these global IT and telecom firms had together committed an investment of eight billion dollars.

“Never before have so many telecom giants entered India in such a short period. I hope this encouraging trend will continue in future as well,” he said.

“I hope we will be able to realize our dream of seeing India as an important regional hub, not only for domestic supplies but

also for servicing other countries in the region,” he added.

Global leading companies like Ericsson, Alcatel, Elcot Elcoteq and LG have already set up their manufacturing base in India. Nokia is also setting up an integrated manufacturing facility near Chennai with an investment of 150 million dollars.

MNA/PTI



Visitors watch a film while sitting on reclining chairs at the Museo Nazionale del Cinema (The National Cinema Museum), in the towering Mole Antonelliana (Turin's biggest landmark) in Turin, Italy on 14 Feb, 2006. Visitors are awestruck by gorgeous architecture, luminous lighting and six floors of historical, visual innovations from shadow puppets to Sophia Loren. Turin is the host city for the 2006 Winter Olympic Games. —INTERNET

Turkey, Egypt sign MoU on gas cooperation

ANKARA, 17 Feb — Turkey and Egypt signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Istanbul on Thursday over natural gas cooperation, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Turkish Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Hilmi Guler and Egyptian Minister of Oil Sameh Fahmi inked the MOU after talks in Turkey's largest city of Istanbul, said the report.

Under the MOU, Turkey and Egypt will establish a joint company named “Tergas” to transport and market Egyptian natural gas in Turkey and Europe.

Guler was quoted by *Anatolia* as saying that Tergas would construct a new gas pipeline, which, upon completion, will transport 2-4 billion cubic metres of natural gas to Turkey and 2-6 billion cubic metres to Europe.

The pipeline will also transport 1.5 billion cubic

metres of gas to Lebanon, two billion cubic metres to Syria and three billion cubic metres to Jordan, he added.

The Turkish minister also said that Turkey and Egypt would hold 50 per cent of the company's shares respectively.

Fahmi, on his part, said that the project was designed to carry Egyptian natural gas to Romania as the final destination, adding that the East European country could also become a partner of the joint venture.

In addition, Fahmi said

Syria could also take a stake in Tergas in the future.

Meanwhile, local reports revealed earlier that the to-be-built pipeline was about 323 kilometres in length, 93 kilometres on the Turkish soil.

MNA/Xinhua

Putin calls for boosting ‘IT’

Moscow, 17 Feb — Russian President Vladimir Putin called for boosting information technology on Thursday for it to contribute more to economic growth in the country.

Putin said he is not satisfied with the small share of information technology in Russia's gross domestic product (GDP). “Last year, information technology made up a mere 5.3 per cent of Russia's GDP,” he was quoted by the *ITAR-TASS* news agency as saying at a session of the State Council, Russia's highest consultative body.

In this respect, Russia stands far behind other industrialized countries, where “information technology accounts for 30 per cent or more of GDP,” Putin said.

“Information technology is simply destined to become the main pillar of Russia's economic growth and modernization of government procedures, and it must be the focus of high consumer demand,” he said.

Russia's GDP grew 6.4 per cent last year and Putin has set a target of doubling the country's GDP by 2010. Russia is the world's second largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia and also provides about a quarter of the natural gas consumed in the European Union.

But Putin urged economic diversification to reduce the Russian economy's dependence on natural resources. — MNA/Xinhua

Two Italian volunteers found dead in Afghanistan

ROME, 17 Feb — Two Italian aid workers have been found dead in their beds in the Afghan capital of Kabul, the Italian Foreign Ministry said on Thursday. It is suspected they died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Italy's Ambassador in Kabul, Ettore Francesco Sequi, who rushed to the scene, said he had found no evidence of violence on their bodies, Italy's ANSA news agency reported.

Investigators declined to rule out the possibility of an attack, saying they could have died from carbon monoxide poisoning from a defective stove in their compound. The two volunteers have been

named as Iendi Iannelli and Stefano Siringo. Iannelli was in Kabul to help develop Afghanistan's judi-

cial system, while Siringo was employed by the Italian Foreign Ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

Cops probing complaint of south Indian actress

CHENNAI, 17 Feb — A special team is looking into a complaint made by South Indian film actress Kushboo against the Indian edition of a London based magazine Maxim which carried an allegedly

morphed and obscene photo of hers, City Police Commissioner R Natraj said on Thursday.

The process of investigation is on and appropriate action would be taken, he told reporters.

On 30 January, the actress had given a complaint to the Police Commissioner seeking action against the magazine for publishing an “immodest” picture of hers in one of its editions.

Following her complaint, several hundred copies of the magazine's issue were seized from various shops in the city. Wednesday, the actress had sent legal notices seeking Rs three crore as compensation from the magazine.

MNA/PTI

Bomb goes off in Spain's Basque region, no injuries reported

MADRID, 17 Feb — A bomb exploded near a construction company in Spain's Basque County late Thursday, the second explosion blamed on ETA in three days. No injuries were reported.

The blast came one hour after a warning call placed in the name of Basque separatist group ETA to local *Gara* newspaper, media reports said.

Police were able to evacuate the area before the bomb went off and no one was injured.

The previous ETA attack, near a night club in Spain's northern Navarre region on Tuesday, caused major damage but no injuries. More than 800 people have died in attacks blamed on ETA, which was branded a terrorist group by the European Union and the United States, since the 1960s. — MNA/Xinhua



A pair of tropical ‘kissing fish’ kiss at a pet store in Shanghai on 14 Feb, 2006. ‘Kissing fish’, called ‘jie wen yu’ locally, are popular gifts during Valentine's Day in China. —INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (049)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (049) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

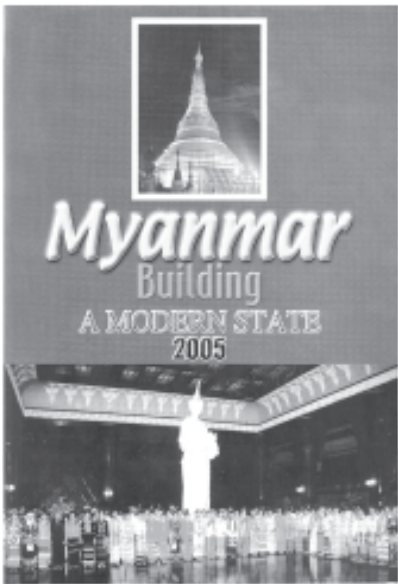
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

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2005

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**ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့
Civil Service Selection and Training Board**

လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၃ / ၂၀၀၆
၁၆၇၉ ခုနှစ် တစ်တွဲလပြည့်ကျော် ၁ ရက်
(၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ ၁၃ ရက်)

၁။ ရထားပို့ဆောင်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ကုန်းလမ်းပို့ဆောင်ရေးတွင် လက်လုပ်လျက်ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရာထူးများအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများအလိုရှိပါသည်။

ရာထူး	ပညာအရည်အချင်း	လက်လုပ်
လက်ထောက်မန်နေဂျာ (စာရင်း)	ဝါကိစ္စတွဲ (သို့) စာရင်းကိုင်ပညာတွဲ	၃ နေရာ

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည်-
 (က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်၊
 (ခ) ၉-၃-၂၀၀၆ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၂၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပီက အသက် ၄၀ နှစ်) ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ခန်းသို့ ၉-၃-၂၀၀၆ နေ့ အရောက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၄။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့် စာရွက်စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၂၀၀/- ပေးသွင်းရမည့် နည်းလမ်း၊ ရေးဖြေနှုတ်ဖြေ စစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန် လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့် စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့က ကြေညာချက်အမှတ် ၁/၉၁ ဖြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာခေါ်ယူသော ရာထူးများသို့ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများအတွက် လမ်းညွှန်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၅။ ရန်ကင်းမြို့နှင့်မန္တလေးမြို့များတွင် ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲ စာစစ်ဌာနများ ထားရှိမည်။ မိမိ ဖြေဆိုလိုသော စာစစ်ဌာနကို လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ရှင်းလင်း တိကျစွာဖော်ပြရမည်။

၆။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိ တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအကဲ မှတစ်ဆင့် ဝန်ကြီးဌာနသို့ ပြန်လည်ရောက်ရှိရမည်။ ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ခန်းသို့ ၉-၃-၂၀၀၆ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာ တစ်စောင်ကို ဓါတ်ပုံနှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့ခန်းသို့ တိုက်ရိုက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၇။ ၈-၄-၂၀၀၆ နေ့နှင့် ၉-၄-၂၀၀၆ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ် ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲ ကျင်းပမည်။ ၈-၄-၂၀၀၆ နေ့မှ စ၍ မန္တလေးတိုင်း အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနခန်းသို့ ဤအဖွဲ့ခန်းသို့ တွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့်ကတ်ပြားများကို ထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၈။ စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုပါက ဤအဖွဲ့ခန်းသို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်း အမှတ် (၃၇၁၀၆၃) သို့ ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

၉။ ဤကြော်ငြာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့၏ Website လိပ်စာ csstb.imis.com.mm တွင်လည်း ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။



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၁၆၈၇ ခုနှစ် တစ်တွဲလပြည့်ကျော် ၁ ရက်
(၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ ၁၃ ရက်)

၁။ အလုပ်သမားဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ အလုပ်သမားလျှောက်လွှာရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့တွင် လက်လုပ်လျက်ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရာထူးများအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများအလိုရှိပါသည်။

စဉ်	ရာထူး	ပညာအရည်အချင်း	လက်လုပ်
(က)	ဦးစီးအရာရှိ (စီမံခန့်ခွဲရေးဝန်ထမ်းအဆင့်-၂)	မဟာပညာစာမေးပွဲ	၂ နေရာ
(ခ)	ဦးစီးအရာရှိ (စီမံခန့်ခွဲရေးဝန်ထမ်းအဆင့်-၂)	မဟာပညာစာမေးပွဲ	၂ နေရာ
(ဂ)	ဦးစီးအရာရှိ (စီမံခန့်ခွဲရေးဝန်ထမ်းအဆင့်-၂)	စက်မှုနှင့်အင်ဂျင်နီယာ (သို့) အင်ဂျင်နီယာ (စက်မှု) ဝန်ထမ်းလက်ထောက်	၂ နေရာ

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည်-
 (က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်၊
 (ခ) ၉-၃-၂၀၀၆ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၂၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပီက အသက် ၄၀ နှစ်) ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ခန်းသို့ ၉-၃-၂၀၀၆ နေ့ အရောက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၄။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့် စာရွက်စာတမ်းများ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၂၀၀/- ပေးသွင်းရမည့် နည်းလမ်း၊ ရေးဖြေနှုတ်ဖြေ စစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန် လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့် စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့က ကြေညာချက်အမှတ် ၁/၉၁ ဖြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာခေါ်ယူသော ရာထူးများသို့ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများအတွက် လမ်းညွှန်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၅။ ရန်ကင်းမြို့နှင့်မန္တလေးမြို့များတွင် ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲ စာစစ်ဌာနများ ထားရှိမည်။ မိမိ ဖြေဆိုလိုသော စာစစ်ဌာနကို လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ရှင်းလင်း တိကျစွာဖော်ပြရမည်။

၆။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိ တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအကဲ မှတစ်ဆင့် ဝန်ကြီးဌာနသို့ ပြန်လည်ရောက်ရှိရမည်။ ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ခန်းသို့ ၉-၃-၂၀၀၆ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာ တစ်စောင်ကို ဓါတ်ပုံနှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့ခန်းသို့ တိုက်ရိုက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၇။ ၈-၄-၂၀၀၆ နေ့နှင့် ၉-၄-၂၀၀၆ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ် ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲ ကျင်းပမည်။ ၈-၄-၂၀၀၆ နေ့မှ စ၍ မန္တလေးတိုင်း အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနခန်းသို့ ဤအဖွဲ့ခန်းသို့ တွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့်ကတ်ပြားများကို ထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၈။ စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုပါက ဤအဖွဲ့ခန်းသို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်း အမှတ် (၃၇၁၀၆၃) သို့ ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

၉။ ဤကြော်ငြာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့၏ Website လိပ်စာ csstb.imis.com.mm တွင်လည်း ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။

Don't smoke

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (45)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (45) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 16.2.2006 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Cheney breaks silence on his shooting, rejects criticism

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb— Vice-President Dick Cheney took the blame on Wednesday for accidentally shooting a friend while bird hunting and said it was "one of the worst days of my life", but rejected criticism that he waited too long to make it public.

Under pressure from

Democrats and some Republicans to break his silence about his shooting of 78-year-old Texas lawyer Harry Whittington on Saturday, Cheney described the incident to the Fox News Channel in dramatic fashion.

"The image of him falling is something that I'll never be able to get out

of my mind. I fired and there's Harry falling. And it was, I'd have to say, one of the worst days of my life at that moment," Cheney said.

Cheney's interview with Fox was his first public comment on the accident and came amid a mounting furor that news of the shooting was not

disclosed to the media sooner.

Cheney left it up to Katherine Armstrong, owner of the Texas ranch that hosted the shooting party, to tell *The Corpus Christi Caller-Times* newspaper at least 18 hours after the shooting occurred.

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီမှု ပိုမိုတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး စည်ဆောင်အံ့

Film uses real account to tell of Guantanamo ordeal

BERLIN, 16 Feb— The story of three friends who said they set off from Britain for a wedding overseas and ended up as terrorist suspects in Guantanamo Bay is the theme of a provocative and disturbing new film by Michael Winterbottom.

The British director, in Berlin for the world premiere on Tuesday of "The Road to Guantanamo", was unapologetic for adapting the men's account to the big screen.

Considering they accuse the US military of torture at the Cuban prison, where they were held for more than two years before being freed without charge, it is not surprising the US Army and the war on terrorism are cast in an unflattering light. The men have even brought a legal suit against US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and others over their ordeal.

When asked how he thought the US

Government would react to his film, Winterbottom replied:

"I don't know. I don't really care to be honest."

He said he had not sought balancing comment from US or British officials to include in a film he described as a portrayal of a personal tale. The picture is a blend of interviews with the real protagonists, news footage from 2001 and a drama set in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay using actors.

Among its most harrowing scenes are those set in Afghanistan during the US bombing of suspected Taleban and al-Qaeda strongholds, which

give a glimpse of the side of the conflict that few in the West witnessed through the media.

As well as a searing indictment of the US military, it also tackles alleged abuses of detainees by soldiers under Afghan commander Abdul Rashid Dostum, a key ally of US forces. Its most controversial element may be the scenes at Guantanamo, where the men say they were beaten, held in solitary confinement for weeks, prevented from praying and pressured to admit they belonged to the al-Qaeda network that carried out the 11 September attacks.

MNA/Reuters



The bronze 'Charging Bull' sculpture that symbolizes Wall Street is photographed on 14 Feb, 2006, in the financial district of New York. —INTERNET

Rare dolphin heading for extinction in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 16 Feb — The rare Asian dolphin has moved closer to extinction in Cambodia after a series of deaths in fishing nets over the past few weeks, officials said on Wednesday.

Two baby dolphins were found dead in nets on Monday, taking the toll to 10 since early

December, said Leang Seng of the fishery office in Kratie Province, 130 miles (210 kilometres) northeast of Phnom Penh where 90 of the mammals lived.

"This is terrible news, making a serious situation even more critical," said Robert Mather of the World Wildlife Fund's Greater Mekong Programme.

There are believed to be about 1,000 of the dolphins alive, with other groups being found in

Thai coastal estuaries and a few other freshwater areas in Asia.

Leang Seng said it appeared unlikely Cambodia could save its population because villagers dependent on fish for protein ignored orders not to spread nets in areas where the dolphin lived.

"It is a matter of time," he said. "We lack human resources, technical experts and financial support

MNA/Reuters

Fit teens less apt to have chronic pain later on

NEW YORK, 16 Feb — Good flexibility in the teen years for boys can lower the risk of tension neck in adulthood, while good endurance strength may do the same for girls, Finnish researchers report.

Little is known about how physical fitness in adolescence contributes to the likelihood of common muscle and bone problems later on, such as lower back pain and knee injuries, Dr Lasse O Mikkelsson of the Pajulahti Sports Centre in Nastola and colleagues note.

To investigate, they followed up with more than 1,000 men and women 25 years after they had completed tests to evaluate strength and flexibility, in 1976, when they were 12 to 17 years old. The researchers tested flexibility by measuring participants' ability to reach forward while sitting

with straight, outstretched legs, and their endurance by seeing how many sit-ups they could do in 30 seconds.

The follow-up included 520 men and 605 women, aged 37 to 42. Nearly 40 per cent of women reported having tension neck as adults, compared to about 15 per

cent of men, while 23 per cent of men and 15 per cent of women had low back pain. Knee injury had occurred in 14 per cent of men and 7 per cent of women.

The men who were most flexible as teens were half as likely to have tension neck as those who were the least flexible, the researchers found. Women with the greatest endurance strength in adolescence had a 34 per cent lower risk of tension neck than those with the least endurance strength.

Physical activity during the teen years also appeared to cut risk of later low back pain, while moderate activity in adulthood resulted in reduced likelihood of low back pain for women.

The risk of tension neck and low back pain grew as body mass increased for both men and women.

MNA/Reuters

Dedicated monitor teams to protect China's Great Wall

BEIJING, 16 Feb — Beijing has called up a team of dedicated Great Wall monitors to protect it from damage from tourists, adventurous hikers and party revellers, the *China Daily* said on Thursday.

The Great Wall, which snakes its way across more than 6,400 kilometres (4,000 miles) of China, receives an estimated 10 million visitors a year, mostly to the mere 10 kilometres of wall opened to tourists at Badaling, the nearest stretch to Beijing.

All that traffic had taken a heavy toll on the structure, prompting the move to employ local villagers to keep watch, the report said.

Less than 20 per cent of the original facade of the wall near the capital had been preserved well, Yu Ping, deputy director of Beijing's cultural heritage administration, was quoted as saying.

"Almost every brick at Badaling has been carved with people's names and graffiti," the newspaper said.

More adventurous visitors climbed wilder, crumblier sections that are not officially open to the public, making them potentially dangerous and more susceptible to damage.

MNA/Rwuters



Tourists play with Pyan, a 41-year-old Asian elephant, in a river at the Malaysia's National Elephant Conservation Centre in Kuala Gandah, 110 km (68 miles) east of Kuala Lumpur on 16 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

SPORTS



Switzerland's goalie David Aebischer makes a save against the Czech Republic in the second period play of their men's ice hockey game at the Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy on 16 Feb, 2006. Switzerland won 3-2. —INTERNET

Clijsters through at Antwerp tournament

BRUSSELS, 17 Feb—World's No 1 Kim Clijsters sailed to the quarterfinals at the Proximus Diamond Games in Antwerp after beating Tatiana Golovin from France on Wednesday.

Clijsters fought three tough sets and ousted Golovin 4-6, 7-6, 7-5. Eighteen-year-old Golovin was close to a stunt against Clijsters. The French player won the first set with 6-4 and went along very well in the second and third set. In the end she had to give in at 7-6 and 7-5.

Clijsters not only bought the audience a stunning thriller of a match, but also a bottle of Infini champagne for everyone, a promise she has kept after having become the world's No 1 a couple of weeks ago.

Wednesday's battle was Clijsters' first action after she injured her ankle at the Australia Open last month.

Clijsters now faces Russia's Dinara Safina, who grounded Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia 6-2, 6-4 earlier on Wednesday. Safina said after her victory that she was looking forward to a clash with Clijsters.

"I really wanted to win here tonight. In the quarterfinals I should be playing against Kim, provided she wins against Tatiana Golovin tonight, and that means something to me. "I've never been able to win against her and it might happen this time," she said.

However, she admitted that the battle could be tough. "I've seen her during at a training session and I pretty much believe she's fit."

In other Day 3 action, fourth-seeded Nadia Petrova of Russia shut down Ana Ivanovic from Serbia and Montenegro 7-5, 6-3. The duel between Petrova, who had a bye in the first round, and Ivanovic completely lived up to the expectations. The difference between No 7 and No 18 of the world was not that big at all. One break in each set helped Petrova to reach the quarterfinals.

Greek Eleni Daniilidou erased Czech Klara Koukalova 6-4, 6-1. Daniilidou replaced third-seeded Mary Pierce who pulled out from Antwerp on Tuesday for a foot injury. Patty Schnyder of Switzerland will proceed to the quarterfinals without playing.

Her opponent Czech Kveta Peschke injured herself on Wednesday at her right wrist and had to withdraw from the tournament. Peschke defeated Karolina Sprem of Croatia 6-1, 6-2 on Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua



John McEnroe returns a serve during a doubles match against Wayne Arthurs and Stephen Huss during the SAP Open tennis tournament in San Jose, Calif. on 15 Feb, 2006. McEnroe was playing with Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman. —INTERNET

Nadal beats Simon to reach quarterfinals

PARIS, 17 Feb—Spain's Rafael Nadal routed Frenchman Gilles Simon 7-5, 6-4 to reach the last eight at the Marseille Open on Thursday.

The world number two, who has not played a competitive match for four months because of a foot injury, returned to action this week in Marseille.

Nadal, the 2005 French Open winner, said it is far from being easy in spite of being qualified for the quarterfinals.

In the day's main match, Simon led Nadal 5-2 before the top seed rallied to win five games in a row and wrap up the first set. In the second set Nadal, who was treated for blisters on his right foot, needed to break his opponent only once.

In the next round, Nadal will take on another Frenchman, Paul-Henri Mathieu who defeated the Czech Republic's Radek Stepanek 7-6, 6-3.

MNA/Xinhua



Finland's Teemu Selanne (L) shoots the puck past Italy's goalie Gunther Hell to score Finland's fourth goal during third period play in their men's ice hockey game at the Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy on 16 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Barcelona's Larsson signs with Helsingborg

STOCKHOLM, 17 Feb—Sweden striker Henrik Larsson has signed an 18-month contract with hometown club Helsingborg, taking him from Barcelona in the close season, the Swedish First Division club said on Thursday.

"We're obviously incredibly happy we've made this deal and to get Henrik back to Helsingborg," chairman Sten-Inge Fredin said in a statement on the club's website.

The 34-year-old Larsson, who returned from international retirement to help Sweden qualify for the World Cup finals in Germany, could make his first appearance on July 16 against BK Hacken when the Swedish league resumes.

"I believe Helsingborg always strive to be at the top," Larsson said in a pre-recorded film aired by Helsingborg at a news conference.

"One player never makes up a team, that goes for me too. It's all about what the team can accomplish together." —MNA/Reuters

Hasselbaink leads Boro to 2-1 win over Stuttgart

FRANKFURT, 17 Feb — Middlesbrough held off a late rally from VfB Stuttgart to claim a 2-1 win at the Gottlieb Daimler Stadion on Thursday and take control of their UEFA Cup first knockout round tie.

The English side moved ahead against the run of play when Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink pounced on a defensive mistake in the 20th minute. Middlesbrough got their second two minutes after the break through Stuart Parnaby and looked to be heading for a comfortable win before a Danijel Ljuboja free kick four minutes from time gave Stuttgart a lifeline.

It was the first goal Middlesbrough have conceded in this season's competition.

Part of the ground had been briefly evacuated around half an hour before kick-off after fire alarms sounded. Supporters were soon readmitted to the stadium, one of the 12 venues for the World Cup, and the match began on time.

For Stuttgart coach Armin Veh it was a second straight defeat since he replaced Giovanni Trapattoni last week.

Stuttgart began well and in the 16th minute Jon Dahl Tomasson nipped in ahead of the defence at the near post but was just wide.

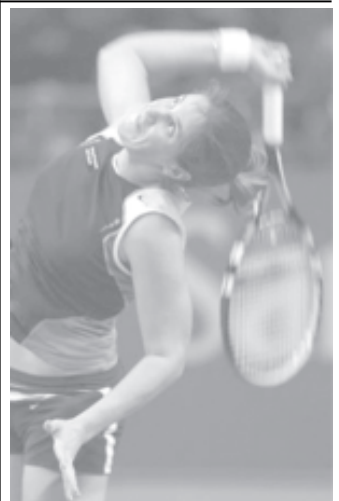
Two minutes later, Jesper Gronkjaer got clear down the right and picked out Ljuboja with a cross that the Serbia & Montenegro forward turned wide.

Within a further two minutes Middlesbrough were ahead, after making the most of a slice of luck.

Fernando Meira, bringing the ball out of defence, saw his attempted long ball hit George Boateng in the back and drop to

Hasselbaink. The Dutch striker made it 1-0 with a shot that went in off of Timo Hildebrand's legs.

Boateng also set up Middlesbrough's second, this time with a more traditional assist. The Dutchmen beat the covering defender on a run down the right and pulled the ball back for Parnaby to stroke in. —MNA/Reuters



Olga Savchuk of Ukraine serves to Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia in the second round of the WTA Proximus Diamond Games tennis tournament in Antwerp, Belgium on 16 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Eto'o voted African Footballer of the Year

ABUJA, 17 Feb — Cameroon's Samuel Eto'o was named African Footballer of the Year for the third year running on Thursday, edging out Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba by two points in the annual poll.

Eto'o became only the second player to take the award three times in a row, matching the feat of the Ghanaian Abedi Pele in the early 1990s.

The Barcelona striker polled 108 votes to 106 for Chelsea's Drogba in the closest finish in the three decades of the award, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) announced at its annual gala in Abuja.

Ghana midfielder Michael Essien, who also plays for English champions Chelsea, finished third in the voting by the national coaches of the 52 members of CAF.

Eto'o, who flew into Abuja on a private jet hours before the event with Barcelona president Joan Laporte, dedicated his award to African children.

"My struggle lasted for so long and the more I advanced the harder it became but today I'm lucky to be a legend of African football because for three times in a row I have won this trophy," he told the audience, which included Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Eto'o's award came after a year in which he helped Barcelona win the Spanish league title and finished third in the polling for the FIFA World Player of 2005.

The major disappointment for Eto'o was failing to qualify for this year's World Cup finals with Cameroon, a feat achieved by both Drogba and Essien.

Drogba also won the English title with Chelsea in 2005 and a League Cup winners' medal while Essien was a French champion with Olympique Lyon in 2005 and voted the best player in France by his fellow professionals at the end of last season before his move to London. —MNA/Reuters

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



France's Florence Baverel-Robert climbs a hill in the snow during the Women's Biathlon 7.5 km sprint at the Turin 2006 Winter Olympics on 16 Feb, 2006, in Cesana San Sicario, Italy. Baverel-Robert won the gold medal with a time of 22:31.4. —INTERNET

China's college graduates compete for jobs in rural areas

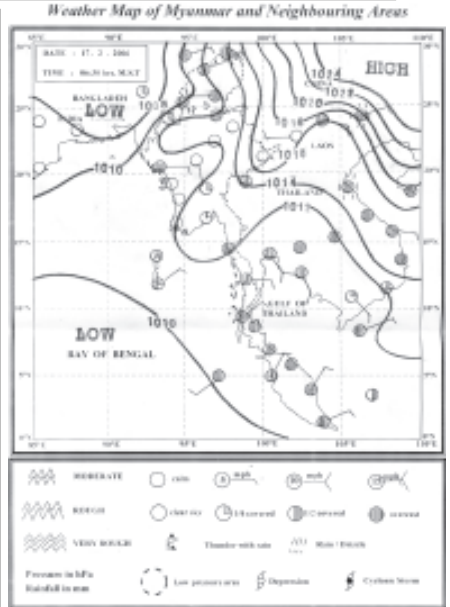
BEIJING, 17 Feb — College graduates at Beijing-based colleges and universities are set to compete for around 1,800 grassroots jobs in rural areas after the application process was opened on Wednesday.

More than 3,000 villages are seeking college graduates to fill posts including assistants to village heads and assistant secretaries of village committees of the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing's seven outlying districts and two counties, the *Beijing News* reported. From now until 15 March, students can apply for these jobs at the employment websites of all Beijing-based colleges and universities and their schools' employment officials will submit all the applications to the municipal personnel bureau for verification.

Applicants who survive the first round of assessment will have to go through several interviews, a health checkup and certain professional training before they are given the jobs.

Successful candidates will start working in July. A bachelor degree holder will make about 2,000 yuan a month, with a pay rise of 500 yuan every two years.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Friday, 17 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been widespread in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in Chin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Yangon and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Chin States and Taninthayi Division, (7°C) above normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan and Pinlaung (4°C) each and Lashio (6°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Putao (1.50) inches, Machanbaw (1.18) inches and Homalin (0.67) inch.

Maximum temperature on 16-2-2006 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 17-2-2006 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 17-2-2006 was (80%). Total sunshine hours on 16-2-2006 was (8.7) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 17-2-2006 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 (5) mph from Southwest at (03:30) hours MST on 17-2-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-2-2006: Isolated light rain are likely in Kachin, Chin, north Rakhine and northern Shan States and Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will 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 isolated rain in the upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-2-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-2-2006: Likelihood of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for last weekend of February 2006: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

UNTIMELY RAINFALL WARNING

Issued at (10:30) hours M.S.T on 17th February, 2006

Due to the low pressure area moving from the west, isolated light rain are likely in Kachin, Chin, North Rakhine and Northern Shan States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions during the next (48) hours commencing this morning.



Saturday, 18 February
View on today

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am**
2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မဗျူဟာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာဝဏ္ဏိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တ သိန္ဓရာဘိဝံသ(သောစရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူ အပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am**
3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
6. အထီးမြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am**
7. သံလွင်တံတား (တပေါ့)
- 8:20 am**
8. အဆိုမြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am**
9. International news
- 8:45 am**
10. Grammar made easy
- 11:00 am**
1. Martial song

- 11:15 am**
2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am**
3. Games for children
- 12:00 pm**
4. Round up of the week's TV local news
- 12:45 pm**
5. နိုင်ငံခြားကတုန်းစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "Doraemon"
- 1:05 pm**
6. ကြားမြင်သူတို့ ပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပဒေသာ
- 1:15 pm**
7. "ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ် ဒီဆိုက်အင်္ဂါနီ" (လွင်နီ၊ ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ အိန္ဒြာကျော်စင်၊ ဧဝသန်းနွယ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စိုးကျော်စန်း)
- 1:35 pm**
8. Musical programme
- 1:45 pm**
9. Dance of National Races
- 2:00 pm**
10. အထီးမြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:10 pm**
11. "အလံသောတော့ ထိုင်ပြပါ" (စွန်းဝင်း၊ ရတနာစင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုတ်စိုင်း)
- 2:25 pm**
12. အကမြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:35 pm**
13. စလင်းရေလှောင်တစ်
- 2:45 pm**
14. International news
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song

- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. အကမြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:35 pm**
4. အစားသင့်တော်သလိုလုံညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သန့်နု၊ တေတေဒေါ၊ ရုဝဏ္ဏအလှ-မြူဖျား) (သန့်နု)
- 4:45 pm**
5. နားဝင်ပီယံ သူလတ်သံ
- 4:50 pm**
6. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
7. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:15 pm**
8. Musical programme
- 5:25 pm**
9. Games for children
- 5:50 pm**
10. ယာကြီးရေထိန်းတစ်
- 6:00 pm**
11. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "အသည်းနုလုံးနုလူသား" (အပိုင်း-၁၁)
- 7:45 pm**
14. ရှမ်း(မြောက်) ကြတ်ဆူ (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:00 pm**
15. News
- 8:00 pm**
16. International news
- 8:00 pm**
17. Weather report
- 8:00 pm**
18. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မိမြို့ရပ်" (အပိုင်း-၂၉)
- 8:00 pm**
19. The next day's programme



Saturday, 18 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: -What a way to wanna be
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: -Butterfly
- 8:50 am** National news + 12 Objectives & People's Desire
- 9:00 am** Music: -All she wrote
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music: -Loaded -Personal -Bob Bop baby
- 1:30 pm** News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Music at your request -When will I see you again? -Nothin's gonna change my love for you -Girl you are my love
- 9:00 pm** ASEAN review -Exchange d news
- 9:10 pm** Article
- 9:20 pm** Myanmar culture
- 9:30 pm** Souvenirs -Love letter in the sand -Am I easy to forget you -Love me tender
- 9:45 pm** News & Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

Minister inspects construction of Yenwe Multipurpose Dam Project

YANGON, 17 Feb — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo together with departmental officials inspected the construction of feeder canals of Baida Diversion Dam near Hlewine Village in DaikU Township on 15 February.

The main canal is 15 miles long and 30 feet wide and the 337 acres of summer paddy are being cultivated in DaikU and 5,233 acres of summer paddy in Nyaunglebin Township.

Next, the minister inspected diversion dam, sluice gate and canals and heard reports on the progress of the tasks. Later, the minister gave instructions on durability of canals and growing physic nut plants on both sides of canals.

Afterwards, the



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo oversees progress in construction of Yenwe Multipurpose Dam Project in Kyaukdaga Township. — A&I



minister inspected the construction tasks of Yenwe Diversion Dam in Sisonne village in Kyaukdaga Township.

At the briefing hall, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks and attended to the needs.

On arrival at

Yenwe Multipurpose Dam Project, the minister heard reports on progress of construction tasks and gave instructions on future plan.

Next, the minister looked into progress of work, water storage of the dam and spillway No 1 and 2. — MNA

Minister inspects road, bridge construction in Rakhine State

YANGON, 17 Feb — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun on 13 February went to Rakhine State to assist officials of Public Works engaged in the road and bridge construction projects in the state.

On his tour of Rakhine State, the minister first met with officials of the Public Works and road & bridge construction special groups at Maei Bridge construction project on Maei-Kyaukpyu Road in Rakhine State. At the meeting, officials concerned reported to the minister on condition of roads and bridges in Rakhine State, construction

tasks of road sections along Maei-Kyaukpyu road and An-Padekyaw-Maei Road during the 2005 fiscal year and tasks to be carried out. Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun attended to the needs.

After the meeting, the minister inspected the earth work on An-Padekyaw-Maei Road with the use of heavy machinery.

During his inspection tour, the minister also looked into the road construction tasks along An-Padan Road and fulfilled the requirements for the construction.

MNA

Union National Races Village

Article by Hla Sein & photos by Thein Win Lay (Myanma Alin)

The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs established the Union

National Races Village near the Thanlyin Bridge in Thakayta Township on 28 December 2002 with a view to enabling the peo-

ple to study at a single place the way of life, customs and traditions of national races who have been living in the Union throughout the successive periods and to ensuring further flourishing of Union Spirit.

Just beyond the entrance of the village is an archway made up of eight

pillars representing eight national races. Four pillars each are on either side and they get closer at the top with the picture of national races joining hands.

In the recreation centre of the village are traditional styles of houses belonging to eight national races — Kachin, Kayah,

Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan. And representative traditional utensils are displayed in the houses.

Moreover, scale models and emblems of respective national races are built such as Mt Khakaborazi, Mt Phonkanrazi and

Mulashidee Suspension Bridge in Kachin Village, Ngwedaung Dam, Thiri Mingalataung (Taunggwe Pagoda), and statues of Keinnayi and Keinnara (couple of mythical bird) in Kayah Village, Mt Zwegapin, Kayin ceremonial

(See page 9)



Nanmyint Tower at Union National Races Village.



The archway of Union National Races Village.