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Sunday, 19 February, 2006

Myanmar thanks China for its firm support as a true friend on issues that directly connected with interest of Myanmar

Prime Minister General Soe Win

As good neighbour, Chinese government very much delighted to see Myanmar gaining success in its political, economic and social sectors

Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao

YANGON, 18 Feb — Premier of the People's Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao held a ceremony to welcome Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe at the north hall of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing at 5.15 pm on 14 February.

Prime Minister General Soe Win and

wife Daw Than Than Nwe arrived at the Great Hall of the People from Diaoyutai State Guesthouse by car. At the north entrance, Premier Mr Wen Jiabao warmly welcomed Prime Minister General Soe Win and his wife.

Prime Minister General Soe Win presented his entourage to Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife. Next, Prime Minister General Soe

Win presented his entourage to Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao.

While Prime Minister General Soe Win and Premier Mr Wen Jiabao took the salute of the Guard of Honour, the State Band played national anthems of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China. Next, they inspected the Guard of Honour.

(See page 16)

Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao cordially greets Prime Minister General Soe Win at Great Hall of the People in Beijing.
MNA



Myanmar has been supporting one China policy and she permanently accepted that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China.



Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Soe Win and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao and party hold talks at Great Hall of the People. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 19 February, 2006

Endeavour for development of tourism industry

Myanmar is rich in natural resources. Different geographical conditions, a wide variety of culture and traditions of local ethnic groups and handicrafts of various national races are contributing factors for success of ecotourism in Myanmar.

Peace and stability in the nation and hospitality of the people attract the tourists to visit Myanmar.

Tourism industry is a profitable business in the world. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is trying its utmost for the development of tourism industry while striving for economic development of the State.

The Myanmar Tourism Promotion Board, the Travels and Tours Committee, the Hoteliers Committee and the Myanma Tourism Market Committee are making concerted efforts for the development of tourism industry.

In an effort to ensure the development of tourism industry emphasis is to be placed on development of ecotourism. In Myanmar, there are a variety of ancient cultural heritage that draws the interest of tourists. Moreover, Myanmar is blessed with long stretches of beaches, snow-capped mountains, seaside resorts and recreation camps in the forest.

Ecotourism plays an important role in man's recreation and relaxation. Bio-diversity benefits the physical well-being of human beings as well as their spiritual satisfaction.

Such being so, steps are being taken for conservation of Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park, Mt Popa Park, Hlawga Park, Upper Shweseztaw Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary and Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. Putao and Khakaborazi regions in northernmost part of Myanmar are places of interest for adventurous tourists. Seaside resorts such as Ngapali, Chaungtha, Ngwe Hsaung and Maungmagan are also tourist destinations.

Tourism industry benefits a great deal not only the nation but also the hoteliers, tour operators, entrepreneurs, artists and local people.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the respective committees related to development of tourism industry, tour operators, hoteliers and entrepreneurs to lend themselves to the development of tourism industry, making better use of favourable conditions created by the government.



In memory of late U Tun Win, the family of 366 B on Nawaratzay Road in Shwepyitha Township presented K 100,000 to Joint Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board recently. — H

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

USDA members to cooperate with people in regional development tasks

YANGON, 18 Feb—Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo held a meeting with USDA members, townsenders and departmental officials at Byetkyi Village, DaikU Township, Bago Division, on 15 February morning.

In his discussion, the secretary-general called for participation of local people and members in the tasks for stability and peace of the State and rural development.

The minister paid a visit to Byetkyi Monastery Abbot U Candima and offered alms to him.

In the afternoon, the secretary-general viewed

renovation of the Moegaung Pagoda and the Hsutaungpyae Pagoda and ordination hall, and construction of a building in Thiri Yadana Monastery in Kanyutkwin and made cash donations. He also offered alms to the monastery Abbot U Silacara.

He inspected the construction of auto exchange in Kanyutkwin. He instructed the members to join hands with the people in the tasks for stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and rural development, to be convinced of the goals and policies of the Association, and to serve the interest of respective regions.

MNA

USDA Central Level Extempore Contest concludes

YANGON, 18 Feb — Organized by the Work Committee for Organizing the Literary and Photo Contest to mark the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Central Level Extempore Talks Contest of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at the hall of USDA Headquarters on New University Avenue, here, this morning.

Present on the occasion were CEC member of USDA Chairman of the Work Committee Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein and CEC member U Maung Pa, members of the panel of judges led by Head of Myanmar Department of Yangon University Professor Dr U Khin Aye, officials of the USDA Headquarters, secretaries of the Division, District and Township USDAs, and guests.

Out of 16 participants in the contest, Maung Kyaw Maung Maung Sein of Yangon Division won the first prize, Maung Htet Aung Hein of Magway Division the second prize, and Maung Kyaw Phyo Khaing of Mandalay Division the third prize.

CEC members U Thein Sein and U Maung Pa presented prizes to the winners.

Next, Deputy Minister U Thein Sein gave gifts to leader of the panel of judge Professor Dr U Khin Aye.

MNA



USDA CEC member U Thein Sein presents prize to a winner in USDA Central Level Extempore Talks Contest. — MNA

First ICT Exhibition Ayeyawady 25-26 Feb

YANGON, 18 Feb—The Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council and the Management Scientific and Information Technology Group will jointly organize the First ICT Exhibition Ayeyawady at Ayeya Shwe Wah Hall in Patheingyi on 25 and 26 February 2006.

At the exhibition, various models of computers and accessories will be displayed by Accel International Co Ltd, Citicom Computer, Computopia Computer, Concordia International Co Ltd, Golden Power Technology Co Ltd, Lucky Bird Co Ltd, Myanmar Unique Computer Ltd, Management Scientific & Information Computer Training Centre, Perfect Image Co Ltd, Smart Computer Technology, and Spring Technologies & System Co Ltd.

MNA



Wellwishers U Zaw Myint-Daw Sein Myaing donate exercise books, pencils and rulers for 108 students and teachers of Pabesu BEPS to Headmistress Daw Mya Sein at the opening ceremony of Thuta Alin Library in Pabesu Village in Maubin Township. — H

All this needs to be known

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

Vietnam, Russia to bolster multifaceted ties

HANOI, 17 Feb— Vietnam and Russia are actively seeking ways of broadening and deepening their friendly and cooperative ties in various spheres, the countries' prime minister said here Thursday.

"We have discussed measures to strongly develop the multifaceted relations on the strategic partnership basis. The bilateral ties in such spheres as politics, economy, trade, investment and culture

will be deepened and deepened," Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai said at a Press briefing after holding talks with visiting Russian counterpart Mikhail Fradkov. Vietnam and Russia

inked two cooperation deals on Thursday, including an agreement on combating narcotics, and an amended protocol on training Vietnamese post-graduates in Russia.

MNA/Xinhua

Hopes fade for Philippine victims

MANILA, 17 Feb— Rescue work has resumed on the island of Leyte in the Philippines, where a huge landslide has destroyed a village.

A military official leading the relief effort says 1,800 people are feared dead. Only a few dozen were pulled out of the mud alive on Friday. Rescue work was

halted for several hours because helicopters used to ferry equipment could not fly at night.

An international rescue effort is under way. The US has sent two ships and a UN disaster assessment team is on its way. The Red Cross sent a plane with basic equipment for rescuers and appealed for \$1.5m for relief supplies.

Hundreds of homes and a school full of children were destroyed when a mountainside collapsed on the remote coastal village of Guinsaugon after several days of rain.

Internet

A video grab shows a man as he carries a landslide victim in Leyte province in the Philippines, on 17 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET



11 wounded as car bomb hits Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 Feb — A car bomb blew up in Baghdad's northern Shiite neighbourhood Thursday morning, wounding 11 people, a police source told Xinhua.

"A car bomb went off in the Settien Street in the

Shula District," said Captain Ahmed Abdullah, from Baghdad police.

"So far, our reports said that 11 people were wounded in the attack of the heavily populated area," Abdullah said.

MNA/Xinhua

Unclaimed Beijing lottery tickets worth 17 m yuan

BEIJING, 17 Feb — A total of 17 million yuan (2.1 million US dollars) of lottery winnings went unclaimed last year, reports Thursday's Beijing News.

According to the Beijing welfare lottery authority, most of the unclaimed tickets had a winning value of five yuan and were bought by travellers, who did not bother to return to the city to cash them in. In addition, some tickets were lost, ignored or damaged.

China launched its first lottery in June 1987. Lottery ticket sales are one of the major sources of fund-raising for sports facilities and the country's social welfare programmes.

MNA/Xinhua

China cargo ship sinks, 37 missing

BEIJING, 17 Feb — Thirty-seven Chinese sailors were missing on Friday after their cargo ship sank off southeast China, Xinhua news agency said.

A search and rescue operation had been launched after Thursday's accident but the chance of finding survivors was slim, Xinhua said.

The ship, carrying fully loaded with "aquatic products" and headed for Indonesia, struck a reef near coastal Fujian Province's Dongjia Island at around 11:00 pm (0300 GMT) on Thursday, Xinhua said.

MNA/Reuters

ထုတ်ပြန်ချက်များ

An undated handout picture showing a 6,500-year-old gold jewel that has been picked up in a northern Greek field by a hiker who handed it over to authorities, an archaeologist said in the northern Greek port city of Thessaloniki on 16 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET



Malaysia reiterates its support to Thai Deputy PM for next UNSG

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Feb — Malaysia Friday reiterated its support to Thai Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai as candidate for the post of the next Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"Following the endorsement made by ASEAN at its summits in 2004 and 2005, Malaysia has given its commitment

to supporting Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, for the post of the United Nations Secretary-

General," the Malaysian Foreign Ministry said in a statement released here.

"Malaysia as Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC) would like to reiterate that support," it said. Current UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's term would expire on December 31 this year. Currently, three candidates are racing for the post, including Surakiart, South Korea Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon and Sri Lanka's former UN Vice-Secretary-General Jayantha Dhanapala.

MNA/Xinhua



A hostess shows a mobile phone at the 3GSM World Congress in Barcelona, Spain on 16 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

China to remeasure length of the Great Wall

BEIJING, 18 Feb — China will remeasure the length of the Great wall with the help of aeronautic remote sensing technology, according to the China Great Wall Institute.

Experts from the

Institute and the State Mapping Bureau will jointly carry out a programme on comprehensively measuring and surveying the Great Wall.

Meanwhile, the

Beijing municipal cultural relics bureau will organize a team of experts to explore current conditions and produce detailed information about the Great Wall section in Beijing. — MNA/Xinhua



In this photo provided by the Sea Launch Company, the EchoStar X satellite is launched from the Odyssey Launch Platform, on 15 Feb, 2006, in the Pacific Ocean, West of Hawaii. The EchoStar X satellite was built by Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems in Pennsylvania and then assembled in Sunnyvale, Calif.—INTERNET

INTERNET

Survey shows some mechanics charge more than lawyers

LONDON, 18 Feb— Getting a car serviced has become so expensive that many drivers are paying their mechanics more per hour than a doctor or lawyer earns, according to a survey on Friday.

An investigation by a motoring magazine found consumers were often paying more than 100 pounds per hour for labour rates at franchised dealers.

In contrast, a locum doctor would charge up to 500 pounds a day while a junior lawyer might invoice for as little as 30 pounds an hour.

"Consumers could save hundreds of pounds if they shopped around and did their research. Quite simply, dealership labour rates for repair bills are just too high," said What Car?'s Steve Fowler.

The magazine's group editor said his researchers discovered that advances in technology have turned once simple tasks, in the past often undertaken by many owners, into fiddly,

time-consuming jobs.

Replacing a main-beam bulb on an Audi A2 model for example can cost as much as 66 pounds

— with the bulb costing just 3.96 pounds.

Motorists discovered the widest gap was for a full service on an Audi

A4 1.9 TDi. In Scotland it was 220 pounds compared with 440 pounds in London.

Internet

Rice acknowledges mistakes in training Iraqi forces

WASHINGTON, 17 Feb— US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Thursday acknowledged that the United States has made mistakes in building Iraqi security forces.

Testifying before the Senate Budget Committee, Rice said "To be fair, we made a mistake earlier. We relied on numbers rather than on quality."

However, the top US diplomat noted that "large

portions" of the Iraqi infrastructure had been modernized and some 227,000 "quality" Iraqi troops had been trained and equipped to battle against insurgency alongside US forces. The United States

has been trying to speed up training of Iraq's Government troops and security forces in a bid to pave way for the eventual military withdrawal from the Gulf country.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese workers make electronic parts at a television set factory in Foshan, in Guangdong province in Southern China on 17 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

75% of world's toys made in China

BEIJING, 18 Feb— Almost 75 per cent of the world's toys are made in China, figures from the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Light Industrial Products and Arts-Crafts (CCCLA) showed.

Chinese-made toys are being exported to Europe, the United States, Japan and other regions and countries. More than 60 per cent of Chinese toy exports go to the United States, according to the CCLA.

MNA/Xinhua

550 more right-wing guerillas disarm in Colombia

BOGOTA, 17 Feb— Another group of around 550 paramilitaries from the right-wing United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC) handed in their weapons on

Wednesday.

The combatants from the Cagun Proceres Front and the Andaquie Heroes Front — both from the AUC's Central Bolivar Bloc— officially

demobilized in a ceremony led by Luiz Carlos Restrepo, Colombia's high commissioner for peace, according to local media.

The demobilization took place in Liberia, part of the Valparaiso Municipality, 420 kilometres south of Bogota.

The ceremony was the thirtieth of its kind, part of a peace process which, to date, has seen some 23,000 AUC fighters disarm and become normal citizens after being granted amnesty from prosecution for rebellion as well as other benefits.

The final few thousand AUC members are expected to disarm in the coming weeks.

Attendees of the ceremony included Caqueta's Governor Juan

ဝက်ဆွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



Indonesian pharmacy workers conduct research on a prototype of the Oseltamivir capsule, a local version of Tamiflu, at the country's Kimia Farma laboratory in Bandung, west Java, on 17 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Iraq calls on US to hand over Iraqi detainees

BAGHDAD, 17 Feb— Iraq's human rights minister called on US-led forces on Thursday to hand over all Iraqi inmates at US-run prisons to the Iraqi Government, following more footage of prisoners being abused.

"We are very worried about the Iraqi detainees in Abu Ghraib. The

multinational forces and the British forces should hand them over to the (Iraqi) government," Zuhair al-Chalabi told Reuters.

"This is a very dangerous issue that the Iraqi Government should review," he said.

"The Iraqi Government should move immediately to have the prisons and the prisoners delivered to the Ministry of Justice."

In an interview, Chalabi condemned the previously unpublished images as "major human rights violations" and compared them to abuses committed under dictatorships.

The footage was broadcast on Wednesday by an Australian television station.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

Four Germans aboard plane that crashed in Iraq

SULAIMANIYA, 18 Feb— Four Germans and an Iraqi were aboard a small civilian plane that has crashed in northern Iraq, the director of Sulaimaniya airport said on Friday.

Kameran Ahmad told Reuters that the he had received an email the day before the plane was due to arrive on Thursday listing the passengers as four Germans and an Iraqi.

On Friday, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Iraq said a small German plane en route to Iraq from Azerbaijan had crashed in northern Iraq. He added it was a civilian plane.—Internet



Iraqi youths watch a burning oil pipeline near Taji, north of Baghdad, on 17 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Russia to set up national counter-terrorism committee

Moscow, 17 Feb — President Vladimir Putin has ordered the creation of a national counter-terrorism committee to improve government management in fighting terrorism, the Kremlin said on Thursday.

The committee, which will be headed by the director of the Federal Security Service, Nikolai Patrushev, will "serve as the organization that coordinates the activities of federal, regional and municipal agencies in the counter-terrorism field and prepare the corresponding proposals for the Russian Presi-

dent", a Kremlin Press release said.

Putin also ordered regional counter-terrorism commissions to be established to coordinate the efforts of local authorities in preventing terrorist acts and dealing with their aftermath.

Patrushev was quoted by the *Interfax* news agency as saying that the President

made the decision to "build a strictly organized vertical system of operation to prevent and counter terrorism and deal with the aftermath of terror attacks."

The committee will "enhance efficiency in our operations and accelerate decision-making", Patrushev said.

MNA/Xinhua



Mariachi band members play as balloons fly during the 464th Anniversary of the foundation of Guadalajara City on 14 Feb 2006, Mexico. —INTERNET

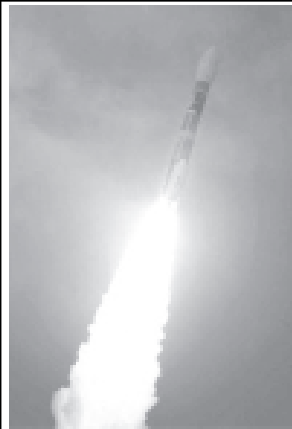
UN urges US to try or release Guantanamo detainees

GENEVA, 17 Feb — The United Nations on Thursday urged the United States to try or release all the detainees held at its detention centre in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and shut down the facility.

In a 54-page report released on Thursday, the United Nations also called on the US Government "to close down the Guantanamo Bay detention centre and to refrain from any practice amounting to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment".

The report, summarizing an investigation by five UN experts, was based on interviews with former detainees, public documents, media reports, lawyers as well as a questionnaires filled by the US Government.

In response, the US Ambassador to UN office in Geneva Kevin Moley said the investigation had taken little account of the evidence provided by the United States, and moreover, the UN experts turned down an invitation to visit Guantanamo. However, the experts stressed that the reason why they refused to visit the detention centre in Guantanamo was that the US Government would not allow them to interview the detainees. —MNA/Xinhua



A Japanese H-2A rocket, carrying a 4.6-ton weather and navigation satellite, lifts off from its launch pad at the Tanegashima Space Center on Tanegashima Island in southwestern Japan on 18 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Girl's prosthetic legs stolen for second time

For the second time in three months, a 16-year-old California girl who lost a leg in an accident has had her artificial limbs stolen.

Melissa Huff, an Arcadia High School student who uses a \$16,000

prosthetic limb to play softball for the school team and another one, valued at \$12,000, for everyday use, said both were taken from her bedroom Tuesday.

"I was picking up my little brother from school when my mom called me and asked where I left the two prosthetic legs," Huff, who lives in the Los Angeles suburb of Temple City, told Reuters in an interview.

Police say they were talking to the girl's friends, neighbors and relatives for information about the missing legs. —Internet

ICRC urges emergency aid to drought-hit east Africa

GENEVA, 17 Feb — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) made urgent appeals here on Wednesday, urging the international community to provide emergency assistance to some East African nations suffering worsening drought.

Plagued by lasting drought, more than eight million people in Djibouti, southern Ethiopia, northern Kenya, and the central and southern parts of Somalia are in dire need of aid, the ICRC said.

It added that the situation in Somalia is most severe and the drought there is the worst in 10 years. About two million people are threatened with shortages of drinking water and food. The drought "is making an already dire situation worse for the

majority of people in southern Somalia", said Pascal Hundt, the ICRC Somalia delegation chief.

Although no people have been starved to death up to now in the country, it

will occur as the situation worsens. "This will depend a lot on the outcome of the next rainy season (starting in March or April)," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Afghan boys play Ghursay, a type of traditional Afghan wrestling, in Kabul Afghanistan on 17 Feb, 2006. In Ghursay, players hold one leg up and two teams try to push over their opponents, with the team whose player reaches a target on the ground becoming the winner. —INTERNET

Oil pipeline blown up in northern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb — Saboteurs blew up a main oil pipeline in northern Baghdad on Friday, causing a huge fire, a police said.

"A huge fire flared around 9:30 am (0630 GMT) after saboteurs blew up a bomb under the oil pipeline that feeds the al-Doura oil refinery in southern Baghdad with crude from Iraq's northern Kirkuk oil fields," Captain Ahmed Abdullah, from Baghdad police, told *Xinhua*.

Firefighters and Iraq security forces reached the area, where black and thick smoke could be seen pouring into the sky, he said. —MNA/Xinhua

Two US Marine helicopters crash off African coast

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — Two US Marine Corps helicopters have crashed in Africa off the coast of Djibouti and two crew members have been found alive but 10 are still missing, a Pentagon spokeswoman said on Friday. There was no reason to believe hostile fire was involved in the crash, CNN said, quoting US officials. "There is an investigation under way," said Tech Sergeant, Cindy Dorfner, a US Air Force spokeswoman in the Horn of Africa office. —MNA/Reuters

Winter batters Canada, killing at least four

OTTAWA, 18 Feb — Powerful winds, freezing rain and snowstorms blasted a large part of Canada Friday, causing at least three deaths near the capital Ottawa and another in Quebec as slick roads turned treacherous.

Southern Ontario was battered Thursday night by high winds, freezing rain and thunderstorms, and the extreme weather spilled over into the Friday morning rush hour, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported Friday. In the capital area, whiteout conditions and a flash freeze led to multiple accidents, including a pileup of at least 20 cars that killed at least three people on an eastbound section of Highway 417. —MNA/Xinhua

Two killed, 30 hurt in Greek train derailment

ATHENS, 17 Feb — Two people were killed and 30 injured on Thursday when an intercity train collided with a truck and derailed near the northern Greek city of Serres, railway and fire brigade officials said.

"We have two dead people, one man who is thought to have been driving the truck and a woman passenger on the train," a fire brigade official told *Reuters*. The train, on the Athens-Thessaloniki-Alexandroupoli route, consisted of four coaches and was carrying about 101 passengers, according to a statement by Hellenic Railways (OSE). The accident occurred near the village of Chryso. —MNA/Reuters

Vietnamese, Russian PMs hold talks

HANOI, 18 Feb — Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and his Russian counterpart Mikhail Fradkov held talks on issues of common concern, including ways of boosting the bilateral ties, here on Thursday.

The ongoing official visit of Fradkov will “create new development in the strategic partnership” between Vietnam and Russia, Khai said during the meeting with the Russian Prime Minister, who arrived here Thursday morning for a

two-day visit. The two sides will touch upon issues of mutual interest, the Vietnamese Prime Minister said.

According to an announcement of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry prior to the visit,

Fradkov and Vietnamese top officials will discuss measures to step up friendly and cooperative relations and the strategic partnership between the two countries, including the ties in economy, trade, investment and anti-narcotics.

Some five agreements and protocols, including deals on drug prevention, intellectual property protection, and facilitation of the life of the Vietnamese community in Russia, are expected to be inked during the visit, said the announcement.

Vietnam and Russia have seen improvement in bilateral relations in different spheres including economy, investment, trade, education and culture. Russia has heavily invested in and assisted Vietnam in the fields of petroleum, construction, seafood and energy.

The Vietnamese Trade Ministry estimated that the two-way trade surged 24 per cent to 1.1 billion US dollars in 2005. Vietnam’s exports to Russia rose 18 per cent to 255 million dollars last year.

MNA/Xinhua



A Singapore Armed Forces helicopter technician checks Singapore's first attack helicopter, the AH-64D Apache Longbow, used for a static display on 17 Feb, 2006 in Singapore.—INTERNET

Aging population to hinder economic growth in Finland

HELSINKI, 18 Feb — Finland’s population is aging faster than any other country in the European Union, setting a 20-year record, according to a report published here on Thursday.

The Finnish Finance Ministry’s report, which predicts the trend will affect the country’s economy, estimates that the old-age dependency ratio, that is those over 65 years old in relation to working age population (15-64), will almost double — rising from the current 24 per cent to 45 per cent by 2030.

Working age population will begin to decline in 2010 and the number of employed people will start falling in 2015, said the report.

Due to the shrinking

work force, economic growth in Finland is foreseen to decline to an average of 1.5 per cent per year, and after 2015, Finland’s GDP growth will entirely depend on productivity growth.

Population aging is set to lead to a strong increase in pension expenditure in Finland. According to the report, pension expenditure in relation to GDP rises by about 3.5 percentage points and is forecast to be at its highest during the early 2030s.

MNA/Xinhua

Venezuelan oil minister urges OPEC to cut output

CARACAS, 18 Feb — The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should cut its oil production by 500,000 to 1 million barrels a day, Venezuela’s Oil and Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez said on Thursday.

He did not say,

however, when the cut should begin.

Ramirez, also president of Petroleos de Venezuela, the state-owned oil company, said that based on current demand estimates, OPEC is now overproducing 1 million barrels per day.

MNA/Xinhua



A Thai scuba diver cleans the inside of a tank near a spotted seal at Siam Ocean

World in Bangkok on 16 Feb, 2006. Qualified and non-certified divers can swim with sharks and other marine animals in the 4.5-million-litre aquarium inside the Siam Paragon centre.—INTERNET

British minister urges US to close Guantanamo prison camp

LONDON, 18 Feb — A British Cabinet member has urged the United States to close the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, the BBC reported.

“I would prefer that it wasn’t there. I would prefer it was closed,” Peter Hain, the minister responsible for Wales and Northern Ireland, said Thursday night on a televised discussion programme.

Hain said some

useful information had been obtained from detainees at Guantanamo, but that Britain’s government was uncomfortable with the camp’s existence. It was Britain’s policy that the camp should be closed, he added.—MNA/Xinhua

China, Iran may finalize oil deal in March

BEIJING, 18 Feb — China and Iran could sign a multi-billion dollar agreement on developing a major oilfield in Iran as early as next month, the semi-official *Caijing Magazine* said on its website.

The magazine cited Mu Shuling, an executive at Sinopec Corp. as saying a delegation of the National Development and Reform Commission, China’s economic-planning body, could go to Iran as early as March, where the two could sign a deal on jointly developing the Yadavaran field in southern Iran.

The deal, which the magazine said could be worth as much as 100 billion US dollars in gas and oil sales and field development costs, follows a memorandum of understanding signed in October 2004. Negotiations over Iranian oil projects often drag on for years.

A spokesman at the Iranian embassy said he could not confirm the report but news of the potential deal comes as Iran is

engaged in a stand-off with the West over its nuclear programme.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) voted earlier this month to report Iran’s case to the UN Security Council, which could impose sanctions.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore’s non-oil exports up 18% in January

SINGAPORE, 18 FEB — Singapore’s non-oil domestic exports (NODX) registered a healthy growth of 18 per cent to 13.5 billion Singapore dollars (about 8.3 billion US dollars) in January as compared with the same month of last year.

According to the figures released by the International Enterprise Singapore (IESingapore) on Friday, the exports of non-electronic products grew by 25 per cent in January over a year ago, while the exports of electronics rose by 9.5 per cent in the same month.

The NODX to the European Union and China increased by 53 per cent and 12 per cent respectively in January while the NODX to the United States contracted by 12 per cent in the first month of 2006.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indian border security force personnel stands guard near an iron gate at the border between India and Pakistan in Munabao in India’s desert state of Rajasthan on 17 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Myanmar produces bio-diesel from physic nut



A bunch of fruits thriving at physic nut plant that can be useful not only as industrial crop but also as herbal plant.

A multi-purpose crop

Oil, obtained from physic nut by milling the seeds, is filtered through a cloth to remove the sediments in the oil. The filtered physic nut oil can be used directly for operating diesel engines. Physic nut oil was first tested in the engines of the tractors of the Agricultural Mechanization Department, and the test showed success.

Growing physic nut creates jobs

Physic nut seeds are milled to produce bio-diesel and the paste is used as natural fertilizer, and dry branches of physic nut plants as firewood. Physic nut plants serve as fences and

windbreakers. The crop prevents depletion of fertile soil and contributes towards environmental conservation. Now, the crop is being grown on an extensive scale across the nation, thereby creating jobs for rural people.

Physic nut can be used as industrial raw material

Physic nut being medicinal, its leaves, gum and oil are used as ingredients to compound household medicines. The essence of physic nut has a potency that can kill insects and so it can be used as an insecticide.

It can also be used as an industrial raw material in producing soap and cosmetics and compounding medicines.

LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

First Cycling Contest for 2006 held in Tachilek

YANGON, 17 Feb — The Tachilek District Sports and Physical Education Department held the First Cycling Contest for 2006 at Shan Yoma Sports Ground in Tachilek, Shan State (East), on 25 January.

The contest was categorized as the men's and women's open classes, the 40 and above senior class, and the under-13 youth class.

Cyclists in the men's open and the 40 and above classes took part in the contest from Mongkoe Village to Shan Yoma Sports Ground in Tachilek. Likewise, participants in the

women's open class and young cyclists in the under-13 youth class competed in the competitions from Meiyau Village to Shan Yoma Sports Ground.

Under the arrangements of cycling event development programme of Myanmar Cycling Federation, the cycling contest was held with the assistance of departments concerned and the District Sports and Physical Education Department. Furthermore, the contest was organized for the first time by solo cyclist U Myo Myint and Lwehsun (Tachilek) Cycling Club.

Kyemon



Cyclists taking part in First Cycling Contest of Tachilek District.

SPED

Hole-in-one scored

YANGON, 18 Feb — While playing together with four golf partners U Nyan Win Maung, U Tin Tun Win, U Aung Tun Lin and U Win Htut Aung, U Phyo Wai Htet scored an ace at the 140-yard-distance hole No 6 at Dagon Golf Course, here, yesterday evening. — MNA

F&R takes easy win over Construction team in Myanmar League



Striker Sithu Than of Construction (right) is challenged by defender Soe Lin Tun of Finance & Revenue for the ball. — NLM

YANGON, 18 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

Finance & Revenue Team: 3
Construction Team: 0

The F&R team keeps staying at the top of the league standings after defeating the opponent Construction team. Although selected Myanmar players— Myo Hlaing Win, Soe Myat Min, Zaw Htaik and Yan Paing — were not playing in today's match, the F&R team took an easy win over the Construction team with Selected Myanmar players: San Dae Thein, Soe Thiha Aung and Sithu Than.

The F&R team shot three goals within nine minutes in the first half. At the 36th minute and injury time,

two goals for the F&R team came through striker Kyaw Kyaw Soe. At 42nd minute, the ball, a pass from Lin Lin Oo on the right side, deflected off defender Myint Soe Htwe of the Construction team into the goal.

Both teams did not score any more in the second half.

YTC (Thuwunna)

YCDC team: 1

Defence team: 0

Due to the winning result of today's match, the YCDC team stood at the sixth place with 17 points from five wins, two draws and four losses. The Defence team held its position at the 12th with 10 points from two wins, four draws and five losses.

Today's fixtures:

Aung San Stadium

The Banner Vs Transport

YTC (Thuwunna)

MAPT Vs Forestry

NLM



Prime Minister General Soe Win and Premier of PRC Mr Wen Jiabao take salute of Guard of Honour. — MNA

Myanmar thanks China...

(from page 16)
for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Hotels and Tourism and Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin, Director-General Col Thant Shin



Guard of Honour gives salute to Prime Minister General Soe Win and Premier of PRC Mr Wen Jiabao. — MNA

of the Prime Minister's Office, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brig-Gen

Kyaw Kyaw of the Ministry of Defence, Director-General U Nyan Lin of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-

tions, Posts and Telegraphs and officials.

Premier Mr Wen Jiabao was accompanied by Minister for Railways Mr Liu Zhijun, Minister for Information Industry Mr Wang Xudong, vice ministers, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and senior officers.

At the discussions, Prime Minister General Soe Win said he was paying an official visit to the PRC for strengthening the existing friend-

ship and promoting economic cooperation of common interest between the two countries.

He said establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations has turned 56 years. The two countries maintained the good neighbourly relations based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence during these years. Bilateral relations

have improved day after day.

that directly connected with the interest of Myanmar. Myanmar fully believes that China will continue to stand by Myanmar with understanding concerning the pressures imposed on her. He assured that Myanmar has been supporting one China policy and she permanently accepted that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China. Myanmar thanked China for understanding and assistance. Though the two countries share long borders, difficulties encountered could be overcome at the grassroots level, especially eradication and control of narcotic drugs. Progress has been made in normal border trade. As a good neighbouring country, Myanmar will maintain the good tradition, he added.

(See page 9)



Premier of PRC Mr Wen Jiabao introduces Chinese ministers and officials to Prime Minister General Soe Win who then presents members of Myanmar delegation to the PRC counterpart.—MNA



New generation leaders will continue to strengthen deep-rooted Paukphaw friendship laid down by the great leaders of the two countries. Myanmar wishes to promote bilateral cooperation such as political, economic and social sectors and science and technology.

Prime Minister General Soe Win

Myanmar thanks China...

(from page 8)

The government will continue to implement the tasks for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the seven-step Road Map. He explained about the holding of the National Convention.

In connection with economic cooperation, the Prime Minister went on to say that arrangements were made for signing eight economic and cooperation agreements including MoUs. He said there were some projects agreed by the PRC left to be implemented, and he wanted them to be completed as soon as possible.

He also explained clearing the waterway for 20,000-ton vessels to go in and out along the Yangon River in connection with Thilawa Industrial Zone Project, construction of Lashio-Muse Railroad, Glass Factory in Myeik and Tyre Factory in Taikkyi.

In his discussion, Premier Mr Wen Jiabao said the friendship between the two countries has always been cemented as both place emphasis on mutual amity and



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Chinese Minister for Railways Mr Liu Zhijun sign an agreement. — MNA

of ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3 and Mekong Basin. It will also implement the already-agreed projects till their completion in cooperation with Myanmar, added the Premier. China has a wish to cooperate in implement-

Myanmar's affairs and imposition of economic sanctions as well as submission of a report to UN Security Council to take action against Myanmar. China wished the success of Myanmar democratization process. China is giving assistance to Myanmar as a good neighbour, the Premier added.

Later, Prime Minister General Soe Win expressed thanks to his counterpart and extended invitation to the Premier and wife to pay a cordial visit to Myanmar on opportune time. And the Premier thanked him and accepted the invitation.

The ceremony to sign MoUs, agreements and contract notes between the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China and talks between the Prime Ministers of the two countries took place at Hebei Hall of the Great Hall of the People at 6 pm.

Present on the occasion were Prime Minister General Soe Win and ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to China and departmental heads, Premier of the PRC Mr Wen Jiabao, ministers, vice ministers, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and senior officials.

Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin and Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce Mr Wei Jianguo signed an Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of China and exchanged the notes.



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Chinese Minister for Information Industry Mr Wang Xudong sign an MoU. — MNA

good neighbourliness. Besides, both countries protect each other's interest.

China praised Myanmar for its continuous support for the One-China policy. China, on its part, has underscored and will continue cooperation with Myanmar. He said the country also has a wish to cooperate with Myanmar in the area of international affairs. It is necessary to stimulate mutual interest and cooperation between the two countries. As a token of showing amity towards Myanmar people, China will pledge 70 million yuan. In addition, US \$ 200 million will be loaned at low interest rates. The loans will be used in purchasing oil drilling

ing hydro-electric power and railroad projects. Continued assistance will be provided to Myanmar for its building of infrastructures that will improve the country's economy. Myanmar has made progress in its narcotic drug elimination drive. Again, the two countries have seen success in their cooperation in the narcotic

Myanmar, PRC have witnessed success in their cooperation in narcotic drug elimination.

platform and implementing work projects in Myanmar, he said. Moreover, China has granted tax relief on 133 kinds of goods and provided exemption from 87 kinds of goods from Myanmar. The Chinese government urged the Chinese companies to invest in Myanmar energy sector, said the Premier.

China will provide continued assistance to Myanmar for its establishment of Thilawa Special Economic Zone. China also wants to be a partner of Myanmar in the regional economic cooperation. Particularly, China will provide help to the development



Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin and Director Mr Yang Yuan Yuan of Chinese General Administration of Civil Aviation sign air services agreement. — MNA

drug elimination. As a good neighbour, the Chinese government is very much delighted to see that Myanmar has gained success in its political, economic and social sectors. The Chinese government will never change its policy towards Myanmar, he said. Myanmar's internal affairs need to be dealt with by its own government and people. China condemned interference of

Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin and Director of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of the PRC Mr Yang Yuan Yuan signed an Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of China and exchange the documents.

Afterwards, Ministers for Rail Transportation of Myanmar Maj-Gen Aung Min and Chinese Minister for Railways Mr Liu Zhijun signed an Agreement on the Ministry of Railways of the PRC Donating Passenger Coaches to the Ministry of Rail Transportation of Myanmar and exchanged the documents.

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Chinese Minister for Information Industry Mr Wang Xudong signed an Memorandum of Understanding on the Construction of Greater Mekong Information Superhighway Myanmar Section between Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs of the Union of Myanmar and Ministry of Information Industry of PRC and exchanged the notes.



Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin and Vice Minister for Commerce Mr Wei Jianguo signing an agreement. — MNA

(See page 11)

Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe pay homage to Sacred Buddhist Tooth Relic in Beijing



Prime Minister General Soe Win, wife Daw Than Than Nwe and members of Myanmar delegation paying homage to Buddhist tooth relic and Jade Buddha Image.—MNA

YANGON, 18 Feb— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and Myanmar goodwill delegation members arrived at Ling Guang Si Buddhist Temple in Beijing at which the sacred Buddhist

history of the sacred Buddhist tooth relic, visits of the tooth relic for public obeisance in Myanmar, and matters related to the Jade Buddha Image donated by Myanmar being kept in the Gandakuti Building of the tooth relic. Next, the Prime

Minister and wife made cash donation towards the fund of the Buddhist tooth relic. The ministers and party also offered alms to the Sayadaws. Sayadaw Ven Sheng Hui gave Dhamma gifts to the Prime Minister, wife and party. The Prime Minister and party paid homage to Buddha images in the Gandakuti Building. The Sayadaws recited religious verses. Prime Minister General Soe Win, wife Daw Than Than Nwe and party paid obeisance to the Buddhist tooth relic and the Jade Buddha Image donated by the Union of

Myanmar. Afterwards, they also paid homage to the Buddha Image donated by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing at Myanmar prayer hall in

ment Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Com-

mander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay The, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives welcomed the Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe. MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win, wife Daw Than Than Nwe and members of Myanmar delegation together with Sayadaw Ven Sheng Hui and officials of Chinese Buddhist Association pose for a documentary photo.—MNA

tooth relic is being kept, at 9 am on 15 February. They were welcomed by officials of the Chinese Buddhist Association and members. Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and party paid homage to Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Buddhist Association Ling Guang Si Buddhist Temple Sayadaw Ven Sheng Hui and members of the Sangha who are taking security measures of the Buddhist tooth relic. Sayadaw Ven Sheng Hui explained the

Minister and wife made cash donation towards the fund of the Buddhist tooth relic. The ministers and party also offered alms to the Sayadaws. Sayadaw Ven Sheng Hui gave Dhamma gifts to the Prime Minister, wife and party. The Prime Minister and party paid homage to Buddha images in the Gandakuti Building. The Sayadaws recited religious verses. Prime Minister General Soe Win, wife Daw Than Than Nwe and party paid obeisance to the Buddhist tooth relic and the Jade Buddha Image donated by the Union of

the precinct of the Gandakuti Building. They posed for a documentary photo together with Sayadaw Ven Sheng Hui and officials of the Chinese Buddhist Association. Next, they went back to the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. After paying a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and party arrived back home by air this evening. Chairman of the State Peace and Develop-



Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe being greeted by staff and members of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attache's Office at Beijing Airport. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win ...

(from page 16)

The Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister General Soe Win left Kunming International Airport by special aircraft and arrived at Beijing International Airport at 2.45 pm local time. Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and delegation members were greeted by Chinese Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Cui Tian Kai.

Next, the Prime Minister took the salute of the Guard of Honour. The Myanmar goodwill delegation members were welcomed by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and wife and officials.

Afterwards, Daw Nwe Nwe Han, wife of Myanmar Ambassador U Thein Lwin, Military Attaché Col Sein George and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Oo, staff and families of the Myanmar Embassy and the Military Attaché's Office welcomed the Prime Minister and party. Later, the Myanmar goodwill delegation led by the Prime Minister left for Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. — MNA

Myanmar thanks China...

(from page 9)

Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Governor Mr Li Ruogu of the Export-Import Bank of China signed a sub loan agreement, which loaned US dollar 31.50 million to MPT from Exim Bank, PRC and exchanged the documents.

Later, Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung of the Central Bank of Myanmar and Governor Mr Li Ruogu of the Export-Import Bank of China signed a loan agreement for urea fertilizer factory project between Myanma Foreign Trade Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China and exchanged the documents.

Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin of



Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and Chairman Mr Yin Yimin of ZTE Corporation of China sign a supply contract. — MNA



Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and Governor Mr Li Ruogu of the Export-Import Bank of China sign a sub-loan agreement. — MNA

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Chairman Mr Yin Yimin of ZTE Corporation of China signed a supply contract (phase-1) between Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and ZTE Corporation for Myanmar National Telecommunication Network Construction Project and exchanged the documents.

Director-General U Win Kyaw of Hydro Electric Power Department of the Ministry of Electric Power and Chairman of Yunnan Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Co Ltd Mr Feng Ke signed a contract for the supply of mechanical and electrical equipment and services for Paunglaung Hydropower Project Phase II, exchanged it and the ceremony ended.



Director-General of Hydro Electric Power Department U Win Kyaw and Chairman of Yunan Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Co Ltd of PRC Mr Feng Ke sign a contract. — MNA

Premier Mr Wen Jiabao hosted a dinner to Prime Minister General Soe Win, wife Daw Than Than Nwe and Myanmar delegation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing in the evening.

Also present at the dinner were the Minister for Foreign Affairs and his wife, the ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to the PRC and departmental officials, the ministers and the deputy ministers from the PRC, the Chinese ambassador and senior officials.

After the dinner, the Myanmar delegation returned to Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. — MNA

Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung of the Central Bank of Myanmar and Governor Mr Li Ruogu of the Export-Import Bank of China signed a loan agreement for urea fertilizer factory project. — MNA

UMFCCI meets German Business Mission

YANGON, 18 Feb—A 19-member German Business Mission led by Chairman of German Asia-Pacific Business Association Professor Dr Ing Eckhard Fohkamm met with CEC members and executives of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry led by Vice-President U Aung Lwin at the federation this morning.

The vice-president of the UMFCCI extended greetings. Joint-Secretary-1 Dr Maung Maung Lay explained matters on investment opportunities in Myanmar.

The two sides held cordial discussions on bilateral trade and investment. — MNA

147 lots of pearl sold at Myanmar Pearl Auction

YANGON, 18 Feb— Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the Myanma Gems Emporium Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein this afternoon viewed Myanmar Pearl Auction-2006 of Myanma Pearl Enterprise that commenced yesterday at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel, here.

The Myanmar Pearl Auction-2006 will be held till tomorrow.

A total of 35 gem merchants of 20 companies from six countries are attending the auction. A total of 427 lots of pearl comprising 92,864 pearls weighing 53,571.3 mommes are being displayed at the sales.

Foreign gem merchants purchased 147 lots

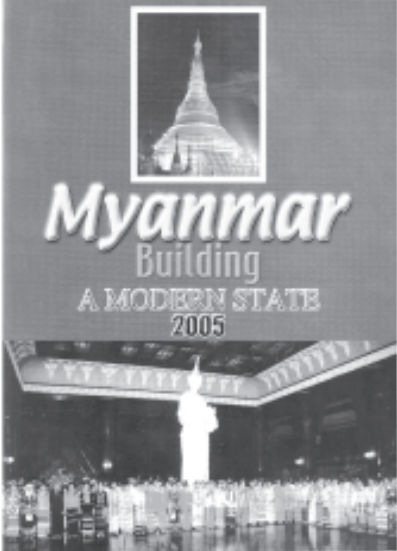
of pearl through tender system yesterday and today.

The third and final day of sales continues tomorrow.

MNA

Gem merchants view lots of pearl being displayed at the sales. — NLM





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Venezuela, Iran to set up joint fund for trade, social projects

CARACAS, 17 Feb — Venezuela and Iran agreed on Wednesday to set up a joint fund of 200 million US dollars for social projects, businesses and trade, Venezuela's Finance Ministry said.

Under the agreement, the two countries will contribute at least 15.5 million dollars in their first deposit within 15 days and build up the fund gradually afterward.

A high committee will be formed to work out guidelines for projects. Contributors will range from individual citizens to public institutions, according to a statement by the ministry.

The agreement was signed after an Iranian delegation arrived in Caracas Tuesday in a latest sign of strengthened ties between the two countries, which had recently agreed to work together to produce tractors, auto parts and cement.

Venezuelan Deputy Planning Minister Eudomar Tovar and Iran's Export Development Bank chief Nowrouz Kohzadi attended the signing ceremony of the agreement. —MNA/Xinhua



Miss Kimono of Japan Hiromi Yasuda shows off her Japanese obi belt during a news conference announcing an opening of a new kimono dressing class in Tokyo's trendy Ginza district on 16 Feb, 2006. The school will offer courses on ways to wear kimonos and obi belt arrangement.

INTERNET

Vietnam to import more steel scraps

HANOI, 17 Feb — Vietnam plans to import 1 million tons of steel scraps in 2006 and 2 million tons in 2007, up from only 200,000 tons in 2005, according to the Vietnam Steel Association Thursday.

The anticipated rise is mainly because some new steel makers in Vietnam will go into operation this year. Besides, most of local steel producers use steel scraps for production, and the supplies in the country become thinner.

Vietnam imported 5.6 million tons of steel billets and finished steel products totalling 3 billion

US dollars in 2005, posting respective rises of 8.7 per cent and 16 per cent against 2004, according to country's General Statistics Office. It imported nearly 2.3 million tons of steel billet worth 863 million dollars last year.

Vietnam consumed 3 million tons of steel products in 2005, a year-on-year increase of 10 per cent. Steel makers in the country currently have a combined annual production capacity of 5.6 million tons.

MNA/Xinhua

President says Iran's nuclear progress irreversible

TEHERAN, 17 Feb — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday that Iran's progress in the nuclear field was irreversible, the official IRNA news agency reported.

"The achievements of the Iranian nation in the field (of nuclear technology) are irreversible," IRNA cited Ahmadinejad as saying.

Ahmadinejad made the remarks when travelling to the central town of Natanz, where the country's uranium enrichment facilities were located.

The President also said that Iran's "enemies", who use the accusation of nuclear weapon development as a pretext, were rather "concerned over and panicked by the self-sufficiency and knowledge of the Iranian nation and the progress of youth in the nuclear field".

Ahmadinejad also stressed that there would be "no end" to the country's work on nuclear technology and that the Iranians could "always

increase the speed of progress".

Ahmadinejad's comments came two days after Iran resumed some small-scale uranium enrichment work in the Natanz facilities, which had been suspended for nearly two and a half years.

On Tuesday, both Javad Vaidi, Deputy Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, and Gholam-Reza Aqazadeh, chief of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, confirmed Monday's resumption but said the resumed enrichment work was just for research purposes.

Both officials said that it would take several months for Iran to actually resume full-scale industrial enrichment due to the suspension of more than two years.

MNA/Xinhua

Newmont to pay Indonesia over pollution dispute

JAKARTA, 17 Feb — US gold miner Newmont Mining Corp has agreed to pay the Indonesian Government 30 million US dollars to settle dispute over alleged water pollution in the company's plant on Sulawesi Island, an official said here Thursday.

But the government warned that the payment would not end the criminal charges.

"This agreement doesn't end the legal proceedings on the suspected crimes... It only resolves the commercial issues," Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Aburizal Bakrie said at a news conference.

The minister said the "goodwill agreement" details Newmont's initiatives for sustainable development and post-mining scientific monitoring worth 30 million dollars.

Newmont has pledged to pay off in 10 years and another 20 million dollars if the company is proven polluting the environment based on scientific research, he said.

The Indonesian Ministry of Environment last year lodged a civil case against Newmont and demanded 133 million dollars in damage compensation.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan police accuse woman of killing 5-year olds

TOKYO, 17 Feb — A Japanese mother was arrested on suspicion of fatally stabbing two of her child's kindergarten classmates on Friday, killing a five-year-old boy and girl.

The woman had picked up the two children to drive them to school along with her own child, who was unharmed, said a police spokesman in Shiga Prefecture, some 356 kilometres west of Tokyo.

MNA/Reuters

Greeks rescue 18 migrants after boat sinks

ATHENS, 17 Feb — The Greek Coast Guard rescued 18 illegal immigrants on Thursday after their boat caught fire and sank off the island of Samos in the eastern Aegean near the Turkish coast, authorities said. "A Coast Guard vessel rescued 18 illegal immigrants about six-and-a-half miles north of Samos after their boat had earlier caught fire and sank," a Merchant Marine Ministry official told Reuters. The migrants, said to be suffering from hypothermia but in no immediate danger, were believed to be from Algeria and Palestine, according to initial reports.

Each year, thousands of migrants attempt to enter European Union member Greece illegally, by boat bound for one of Greece's islands or by crossing the Greek-Turkish land border in the northeast of the country.

MNA/Reuters

စည်သူ့စည်ရမ်း ငြိမ်းချမ်းစွာ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး စည်ပင်သာယာမှု

Renewable energy technologies to play an important role in a clean, clever, and competitive energy future

PARIS, 17 Feb — “Renewable energy technologies are a crucial element in achieving a balanced global energy future; renewables can make major contributions to the diversity and security of energy supply and to economic development”, said Claude Mandil, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) today in Paris, at the launch of a new publication: **Renewable Energy: RD&D Priorities, Insights from IEA Technology Programmes.** “Furthermore, considerable attention has been drawn to their potential for mitigating climate change”, Mr Mandil added.

He pointed out that in 2005, IEA Ministers had called for a clean, clever, and competitive energy future, and stated that renewable energy technologies as part of a balanced energy mix will need to play a significant role in this future.

“We need to use public funds as effectively as possible in achieving this”, Mr Mandil said. “Countries must improve their market deployment strategies for renewable energy technologies and above all, increase targeted renewables RD&D— simultaneously ensuring continued cost-competitiveness. There is much at stake.”

The publication recommends priorities for this important effort, drawing on studies, analyses and technology programmes carried out by the IEA technology network. It also reviews the trends in government RD&D spending and lists RD&D policies in IEA member countries.

Government energy RD&D budgets in IEA member countries increased sharply after the oil price shocks of the 1970s. By 1987 however, they had declined to about two-thirds of their peak level and thereafter stagnated until 2003. The share of renewable energy technologies in total energy RD&D spending remained relatively stable, averaging 7.6% for the whole period.

Among renewable energy technologies, the shares in global funding of biomass, solar photo-voltaic and wind have increased, while those of ocean, geothermal and concentrating solar power have declined—broadly reflecting the evolving consensus as to where the greatest potential lies. Of course, there are great variations in the balance of spending of individual countries, reflecting resource potential and national energy policies. The United States, Japan and Germany

are the biggest total spenders on energy technology RD&D, although Switzerland, Denmark and the Netherlands are the leaders on a spending per capita basis.

The purpose of the IEA publication is to assist governments in prioritising their RD&D efforts for renewable energy. RD&D activities have played a major role in the successful development and commercialisation of a range of new renewable energy technologies in recent years. Successful RD&D programmes need to be well focused and should be co-ordinated with both industry efforts to promote commercialisation and competitiveness in the market, and with international programmes.— *Internet*



A child from the Miao Ethnic Minority Group looks on during a traditional Lusheng (reed-pipe wind instrument) Festival in Kaili, southwest China's Guizhou Province on 17 Feb, 2006. Miao people make friends by singing and dancing at Lusheng Festival.—INTERNET

NASA chief warns of gap in US spaceflight programme

WASHINGTON, 17 Feb — The US human spaceflight programme is “strained to the limit”, NASA’s chief said on Thursday, warning against any long gap between the end of the shuttle era and the first flight of a planned new spaceship.

“The United States risks both a real and a perceived loss of leadership on the world stage if we are unable to launch our own astronauts into space for an extended period of time when other nations possess their own

capabilities to do so,” NASA Administrator Michael Griffin told a congressional committee. Griffin acknowledged that NASA already expects a gap between the shuttle’s planned retirement in

2010 and the start-up of a new crew exploration vehicle in 2013 or 2014.

But he said extending this gap would over-stress an already stretched programme. “Our human spaceflight programme is not an

optional programme,” Griffin told members of the House of Representatives Science Committee. “We are already strained to the limit.”

Griffin fielded pointed but largely sympathetic questions about the Bush Administration’s 16.8-billion-US-dollar budget request for NASA for fiscal 2007.

“I am extremely uneasy about this budget,” Representative Sherwood Boehlert, a New York Republican who chairs the committee, told Griffin. “This budget is bad for space science, worse for Earth science and possibly worse for aeronautics.”

A large slice of the US space agency’s resources are focused on achieving President George W Bush’s ambitious plan to return US astronauts to the moon by 2020 and eventually send humans to Mars. But before that can happen, NASA must satisfy its commitments to finish building the orbiting *International Space Station* by 2010, and that cannot occur without a working space shuttle fleet.

MNA/Reuters



The owner (R) of a golden retriever rests his head on his dog as a veterinarian prepares the canine to donate blood at the Beit Dagan Animal Science Institute near Rishon Letzion on 15 Feb, 2006. 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.—INTERNET

China sets up first patrol team to protect Great Wall

BEIJING, 17 Feb — China has established the first group of dedicated personnel to patrol over 7,000-kilometre-long Great Wall, one of the seven wonders of the world, to check wanton man-made damages to architectural marvel.

A dedicated team will patrol the Great Wall to check against damage of the mammoth structure, *China Daily* reported.

The unit will focus on the 630-kilometre-long section in Beijing. Team members, who will be paid by local governments, will be mainly rural residents who live near the Wall, said Yu Ping, deputy director of the Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage, Yu Ping said.

It is the first time that the Great Wall in Beijing, a must-see tourist spot, has had a special team to

guard its ancient facade, of which only less than 20 per cent has been well preserved, Yu said.

It follows growing concern over the impact of tourism on the structure. Currently, about 10 kilometres of the Beijing section of the Great Wall, such as Badaling and Mutianyu, is open to visitors.

Saturated tourism is often blamed for damage to the oriental epitome of ancient Chinese civilization. Almost every brick at Badaling has been carved with people’s names and graffiti.— *MNA/PTI*

Singapore releases 4th five-year Science, Technology plan

SINGAPORE, 17 Feb — Singapore announced its fourth five-year Science and Technology Plan Thursday, aiming to transform itself into an innovation-driven knowledge-based economy.

The government will invest 13.55 billion Singapore dollars (about 8.3 billion US dollars) over the next five years in research and development (R&D), said Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang at a Press

conference announcing the Plan 2010.

The Plan 2010 “aims to sustain innovation-driven growth by strengthening R&D capabilities in both public and private sector”, Lim said.

The Plan will support

four key programmes in the areas of developing research talent, deepening and strengthening public research capabilities, promoting private sector R&D and providing excellent R&D infrastructure.— *MNA/Xinhua*

SPORTS



FC Thun's Ljubo Milicevic, left, jumps for the ball with Hamburg's Sergej Barbarez, from Bosnia Hercegovina, during their UEFA Cup soccer match between FC Thun and Hamburger Sportverein HSV at the Stade de Suisse Wankdorf in Bern, Switzerland, on 16 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Vogts to scout for Germany at World Cup

BERLIN, 18 Feb— Former Scotland and Germany coach Berti Vogts will coordinate the scouting of Germany's World Cup opponents, the German Football Association (DFB) said on Friday.

Vogts had been a candidate for the post of technical director but turned it down after the DFB rebuffed his demands to make a quick decision. The refusal was a disappointment for Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann who had played for Vogts and won the 1996 European Championship with him.—MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Permitted
- 5 English poet
- 8 Waxed spill
- 9 Handicraftsman
- 10 Touched
- 12 Australian bird
- 13 Servile follower
- 14 Garbo's country
- 17 Affirmative
- 18 Warship
- 20 Stir up
- 21 A piano-key
- 23 Dean or senior member
- 24 Strain of twisting

DOWN

- 1 Room in roof
- 2 Insolence (sl.)
- 3 Armed conflict
- 4 Famine
- 5 Observed
- 6 Dry at eyes (anag.)
- 7 Excessive tan
- 11 Great need
- 13 Lancashire town
- 15 Participator in 3
- 16 A way up
- 18 Attracted
- 19 Cellulose textile
- 22 Japanese sash

Mourinho laments Chelsea's potato field pitch

COBHAM (England), 18 Feb— Jose Mourinho described his Stamford Bridge pitch as a potato field on Friday in the run up to Chelsea's high profile Champions League encounter with Barcelona.

The Chelsea manager told reporters it was far from the worst in the Premier League, however, and it would do his side no more favours than the Spanish

champions next Wednesday.

Before that first knockout round first leg game, the pitch will be churned up again during the FA Cup fifth round tie against Third Division Colchester United on Sunday.

Spanish newspapers have suggested Chelsea deliberately let the playing surface deteriorate to ruin Barcelona's flair-filled passing game.

"We know the pitch is not good, the criticism is fair," said Mourinho, though he cited Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Everton as having worse surfaces.

"But only stupid people can think that a team like Chelsea with the quality Chelsea have can be happy with a pitch like this.

"All we can do is take care of it the best we can," he said, adding

Chelsea had not trained on it since the start of the season and would not do so before Wednesday's game.

With heavy irony, Mourinho added: "Because we have no technical players we need a potato field, so we play on a potato field."

There is no love lost between Chelsea and Barcelona following last season's Champions League spat after which Mourinho was fined for suggesting rival coach Frank Rijkaard spoke to referee Anders Frisk at halftime.

On Friday, Mourinho took a gentle sideswipe by referring to a spate of injuries among the Catalans.

"Maybe you have to ask in Barcelona why they have so many injuries to knees," he said. "Maybe it's because the pitch is too good."

MNA/Reuters

Anderlecht go clear at top in Belgium

BRUSSELS, 18 Feb— Anderlecht moved three points clear at the top of the Belgian First Division with a 2-0 win at home to 10-man FC Brussels on Friday.

A 14th minute goal by Nicolas Frutos — his fifth in as many games — and captain Par Zetterbergh second-half strike, after Sofiane Zaaboub's 43rd minute sending off, earned the points.

Anderlecht's victory meant that a day which started miserably for both the club and Belgian football ended on a happier note for the country's most famous team.

Anderlecht sacked Marius Mitu and Laurent Delorge earlier on Friday after the players admitted to club officials they had helped influence results last season while playing for Lierse.

Later on Friday, Excelsior Mouscron sacked Paul Put, the former coach of Lierse after he admitted he fixed two matches because he and his family were threatened with violence.—MNA/Reuters



Middlesbrough's Adam Johnson, left, falls beside Stuttgart's Andreas Beck, right, during the UEFA Cup soccer match between VfB Stuttgart and FC Middlesbrough in Stuttgart's Gottlieb Daimler stadium, southwest Germany, on 16 Feb, 2006. Middlesbrough won the match 2-1.—INTERNET

Eriksson sees Rooney as future England captain

STOCKHOLM, 18 Feb— England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said Friday that Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney has matured to the extent he sees him as a possible future national captain.

"When he came into the team he was 17 years old and hardly said a word. When he did say something I did not understand what he said because of his accent," he told Swedish news agency TT.

"But now he has not only grown on the pitch, but also as a person. I can really see him having a future as a leader, he has those sorts of qualities," he said.

Eriksson said he was still undecided over his next role after his decision to leave his position with the English Football Association after the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany.—MNA/Reuters

Benitez says Anfield crowd may sway Man Utd tie

LIVERPOOL (England), 18 Feb— Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez says the Anfield crowd may prove the difference when his side meet Manchester United in the FA Cup fifth round on Saturday.

"The last game we played (against United) was very close," Benitez told a news conference on Friday. "We made one mistake at the end and that was the difference. "But playing with our supporters behind us at Anfield will make it difficult for them and having beaten Arsenal (this week) we are playing with more confidence."

Alex Ferguson's team beat Liverpool in the Premier League last month with a last-minute goal from Rio Ferdinand, leaving Benitez without a victory in four matches against United.

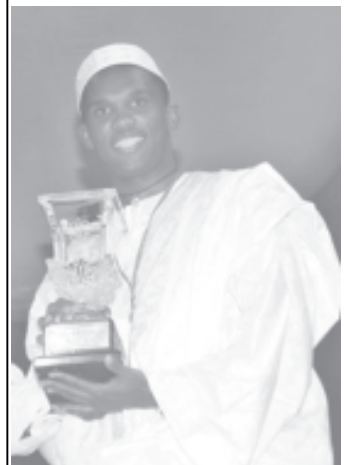
"People said we couldn't win

against these teams but we have beaten Arsenal and maybe we can beat United," said Benitez.

"Maybe tomorrow we will start changing the statistics and we can beat United. It will be good to finish the FA Cup record at 85 years," he added in reference to Liverpool's nine-match barren run in the competition against United.

Benitez said Tuesday's 1-0 win over Arsenal encouraged him to believe his side now had the measure of rivals like United.

"When you are against a good team it's more difficult. But we are now stronger than last season," he said.—MNA/Reuters



Cameroon and Barcelona of Spain player Samuel Eto'o holds his trophy after he was named the African Footballer of the Year by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) in Abuja, Nigeria, on 16 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

ဒုတိယမိုလ်ချုပ်ကြီးတင်ဦး (၅)နှစ်ပြည့် ကောင်းမှုကုသိုလ်ဒါန

ချစ်လှစွာသော မိသားစုနှင့် ရုတ်တရက်ခွဲခွာသွားသည့်မှာ ယနေ့ဆိုလျှင် (၅)နှစ်ပြည့်မြောက်သွားပါပြီ။ ကျေးဇူးရှင် ဖေဖေကြီး ဒုတိယမိုလ်ချုပ်ကြီးတင်ဦးအတွက် နေ့စဉ်နှင့်အမျှ ပြုခဲ့သော ကောင်းမှုကုသိုလ်အလှူဒါနများနှင့် (၅) နှစ်ပြည့်မြောက်သည့် (၁၉-၂-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့တွင် သံဃာတော်အရှင်သူမြတ်များအား အရက်ဆွမ်း၊ နေ့ဆွမ်းနှင့် လှူဖွယ်ဝတ္ထုအစုစုတို့ကို ဆက်ကပ်လှူဒါနခြင်း စသည့် ကောင်းမှုကုသိုလ်များ ပြုလုပ်ပါသည်။ ဤကောင်းမှုကုသိုလ်အစုစုတို့အတွက် ကောင်းမြတ်သော ဘုံဘဝမှ ကျေးဇူးရှင်ဖေဖေကြီး အနေဖြင့် သာဓုအနုမောဒနာခေါ်ဆို၍ ယခုရောက်ရှိနေသော ဘုံဘဝမှ နိဗ္ဗာန်ရောက်သည့်တိုင်အောင် ဘုံမိမိအဆင့်ဆင့်မြင့်သတက်မြင့်စွာ တက်လှမ်းနိုင်ပါစေကြောင်း ဆုတောင်းမေတ္တာပို့သ အမျှပေးဝေအပ်ပါသည်။

- ဇနီး-ဒေါ်ခင်သန်းနွဲ့
- သားသမီးများ-
မိုလ်မူးမောင်မောင်ကျော်(ငြိမ်း)(၈၈၈)-ဒေါ်ချိုလှဦး
- မြူမြူတင်ဦး
- ဒေါက်တာမြတ်နိုး-ယဉ်မာဦး
- ဇော်ထွန်းဦး-ခင်သီတာ
- နေထွန်းဦး
- မြေးများ-
မောင်ဟိန်းထက်၊ ယဉ်မာမြတ်နိုး၊ ဖူးငုံကျော်၊ မောင်သန်းလိဟန်ဇော်(ဖိုးသီလ)

First Chinese shopping centre in LatAm opens in Chile

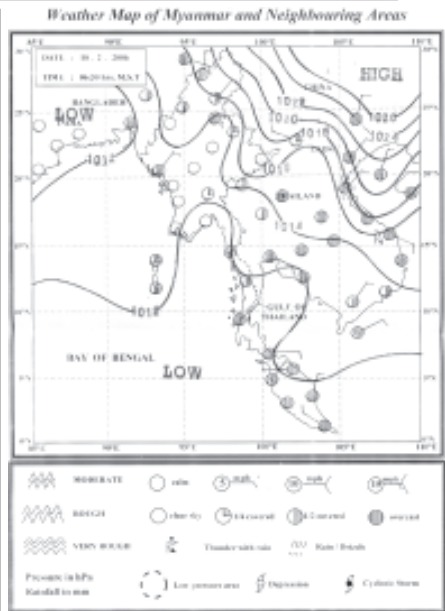
SANTIAGO, 18 Feb—Wholesalers from a southern Chinese boom town Thursday opened in Chile their first major Chinese shopping mall in Latin America.

The Chinese Commercial Centre, located in Chile's capital Santiago, is also the 14th shopping mall opened overseas by businessmen from Wenzhou, China's eastern Zhejiang Province.

The shopping centre, which costs 500,000 US dollars, is a joint project with the local government, a city official told *Xinhua* on Thursday.

It houses 54 shops selling clothes, shoes and handicrafts from Wenzhou. All the shops are owned by businessmen from Wenzhou, whose economy has enjoyed vigorous development in the last two decades thanks to China's economic reforms.

"It is a privilege for the City of Santiago that the Chinese business people have chosen this spot to begin their trade in our domestic market. It is something that will stimulate development in this area," said Hector Feely, deputy mayor of Santiago.



WEATHER

Saturday, 18 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30

hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been scattered in Kachin State, isolated in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Yangon Division and (5°C) below normal in Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine State and Magway Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan, Pinlaung and Haka (4°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Machanbaw (0.24) inch.

Maximum temperature on 17-2-2006 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 18-2-2006 was 59°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 18-2-2006 was (90%). Total sunshine hours on 17-2-2006 was (8.7) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 18-2-2006 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 (6) mph from Southwest at (11:30) hours MST on 17-2-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19-2-2006: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin, Chin and northern Shan States and Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-2-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-2-2006: Generally fair weather.



Sunday, 19 February
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂူရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဋ္ဌမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:15 am
- 2. တိပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ(မဟာဆရာတော်) မဟာကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တီပါဠိတော်
- 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. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈)မြာမင်္ဂလာ
- 8:05 am
- 7. အတီးဖြူပွဲ
- 8:15 am
- 8. အရာတော် ရေလှောင်တံခွန်
- 8:25 am
- 9. အရေးဖြူပွဲ

- 8:30 am
- 10. International news
- 8:45 am
- 11. Say it in English
- 11:00 am
- 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am
- 2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am
- 3. Round up of the week's international news
- 11:35 pm
- 4. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "Doraemon"
- 12:00 pm
- 5. Myanmar video feature: "ချစ်မြင်ပွဲ၊ မိုးတိမ်" (လူမင်း၊ ကြည့်လဲလွဲဦး၊ နှင်းဝတ်ရည်သောင်း၊ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဟိန်းနိုး)
- 1:50 pm
- 6. ကွန်ချောင်းရေလှောင်တံခွန်
- 2:00 pm
- 7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:10 pm
- 8. "စည်းကမ်းလိုက်နာ ဆေးကင်းမှု" (ကျော်ရဲအောင်၊ ချစ်သူ၊ ဇော်ဝင်းမောင်၊ မောင်မင်း၊ လင်းစာနည်မော်၊ မွန်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စင်စော်၊ မြင့်စိုး၊ (ဝ/သ) ရန်ကုန်)
- 2:25 pm
- 9. အတီးဖြူပွဲ
- 2:35 pm
- 10. ရခိုင်ချောင်းတံခွန်
- 2:45 pm
- 11. International news
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Songs to uphold
- National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. English for everyday use
- 4:40 pm
- 4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝဏ္ဏရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယပုဒ် (ရုက္ခဓာအထူးပြု) (ရုက္ခဓာ)
- 4:55 pm
- 5. Dance of National Races
- 5:00 pm
- 6. Musical programme
- 5:10 pm
- 7. Agricultural source of country's development
- 5:20 pm
- 8. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm
- 9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အသည်းနှလုံးနဲ့လူသာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၂)
- 7:50 pm
- 12. အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်၏ ဥပဒေပြုအသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ (အပိုင်း-၁၉)
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. International news
- 15. Weather report
- 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မိပြီဆိုရင်" (အပိုင်း-၂၄)
- 17. The next day's programme

Liu Zhouxi, an official from Wenzhou, thanked the Santiago government on behalf of his city authorities for the opening of the mall, saying that Wenzhou would guarantee product quality and low prices to Chilean customers with its 54 factories doing businesses with 150 overseas countries.

MNA/Xinhua



Sunday, 19 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Stop the rock
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Fame
- 8:50 am National news & slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -If you wanna party
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am Music: -If you had my love
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm Children's delight -Story for children -Songs for children
- 9:00 pm Weekly new review
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Music: -The visitor -Piano man
- 9:45 pm News & Slogan
- 10:30 pm PEL

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

Myanmar thanks China...

(from page 1)

After the ceremony, they held a discussion at the east hall of the Great Hall of the People. Also present at the discussion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister

(See page 8)

Prime Minister General Soe Win and Premier Mr Wen Jiabao inspecting the Guard of Honour. — MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe arrive Beijing to pay goodwill visit to China



Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe being greeted by Yunnan Province Vice-Governor Mr Qing Guan Rong at Kunming International Airport.—MNA

YANGON, 18 Feb — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, ministers, and departmental heads, left here by special aircraft of Myanmar Airways International at 7 am on 14 February to pay a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of

Premier of the People's Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao, and arrived at Kunming International Airport of Yunnan Province of China at 10.30 am local time.

They were welcomed on board the aircraft by Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China U Thein Lwin and Director-General Madam Zhou Hong of the Foreign Affairs Office of

Yunnan Province.

Next, Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife and party were welcomed by Vice-Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Qing Guan Rong, General Secretary of the People's Government of Yunnan Province Mr Huang Yi and provincial level departmental officials, Consul-General U Myo Tint and wife Daw Maw Maw Myint, staff and family members of Myanmar Consulate-General

in Kunming.

Furthermore, two Chinese girls and two Myanmar children presented bouquets to Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe.

Members of the Myanmar goodwill delegation took rest at the special lounge of Kunming International Airport. General Soe Win and Vice-Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Qing Guan Rong held a cordially talk.

(See page 10)



Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe being greeted by staff and family members of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attache's Office at Beijing International Airport. — MNA