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Tuesday, 21 February, 2006

Experts, entrepreneurs from PRC invited to invest in Myanmar

Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe tour Guanzhou, Shenzhen

YANGON, 20 Feb — Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and Myanmar goodwill delegation members together

photos. Myanmar goodwill delegation members arrived at China Hotel. In the evening they toured Guanzhou Science City and got to Guanzhou

Technological Innovation Base where they were welcomed by members of the board of directors. Member of the board of directors Mr Deng

Youman explained location and area of the city, establishment of the city, assistance of central government and province, investors, fulfillment for

intellectuals in the city, establishment of the city without any harm to the environment, experiences, research, increase of investments from abroad and achievements to the Prime Minister and party. The Prime Minister asked some facts.

Guanzhou Science City was established in December 1998 in the east of Guanzhou. It is 3,734 square kilometres wide. The City runs computer and software industry, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry, photo-electronics and metallurgy are concentrated in the city. It is the science city that will serve as technological cutting-edge for future development.

The Prime Minister and party visited the steel mill of Lianzhong

Stainless Steel Corporation where Chairman Mr Lee reported on establishment of the mill, investment and production of steel sheets. They were conducted round the production process at the mill. The Prime Minister and the chairman exchanged gifts. With the use of modern equipment the steel mill produces 800,000 tons of various kinds of steel sheets whose thickness ranges from 0.3 mm to 10 mm.

On 18 February, the Prime Minister and party went to Shenzhen High Tech Industry Park in Shenzhen where Vice-Mayor Mr Zhuo Qinrui and members of the board of directors of Shenzhen High Tech Industry Park welcomed them.

(See page 8)

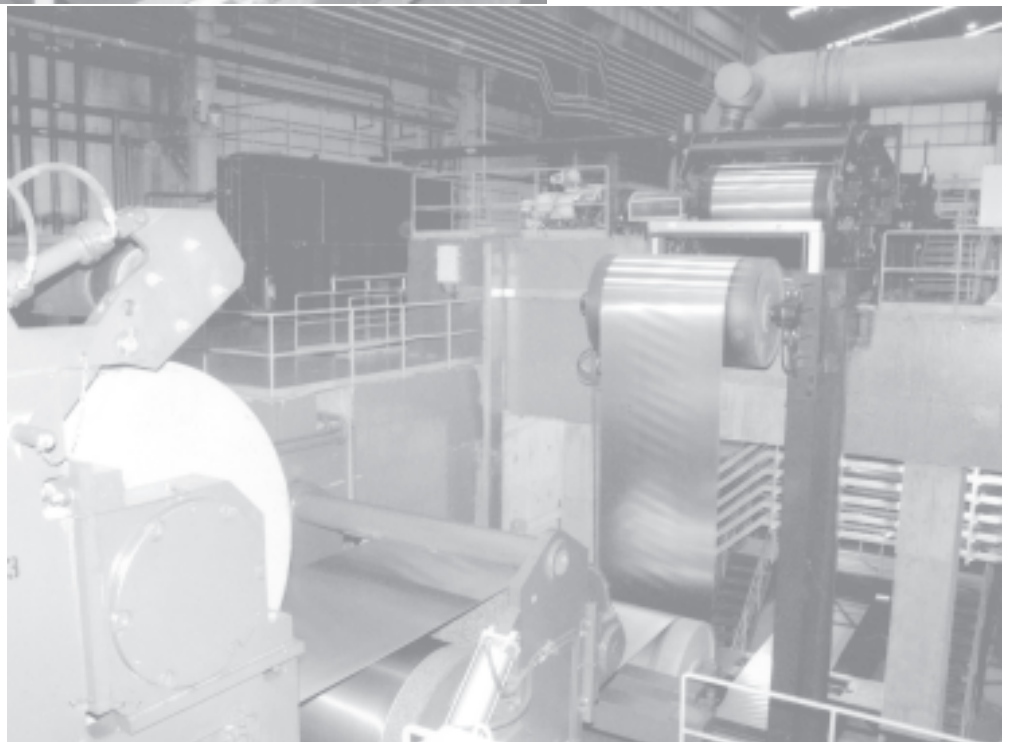


with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and wife and officials left Xian of Shaanxi Province on 17 February and arrived at Guanzhou of Guangdong Province by special aircraft of China Eastern Airline.

Myanmar goodwill delegation members were welcomed at Baiyun International Airport by Executive Vice Governor of Guangdong Province Mr Tang Binquan, Vice Mayor of Guanzhou Mr Chen Mingde and officials. Two children presented bunch of flowers to the Prime Minister and wife.

The Prime Minister and wife, the Executive Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province and the Vice Mayor of Guanzhou and party posed for documentary

Prime Minister General Soe Win and party visit a steel plant of Lianzhong Stainless Steel Corporation in Guanzhou Science City.
MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 21 February, 2006

Myanmar and China respect each other's sovereignty

The Union of Myanmar has friendly relations with all her neighbours and the nations in the region. The leaders of the Union of Myanmar and her neighbours exchange visits with the intention of cementing friendship and boosting economic relations.

During his official visit to the People's Republic of China, Prime Minister General Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar paid a courtesy call on Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 15 February. On the occasion, Mr Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China said that maintaining friendly relations with Myanmar was the foreign policy of China, that China paid attention to ensuring peace and stability and prosperity of neighbouring countries and respected security, independence and sovereignty of Myanmar.

Prime Minister General Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar said that it was heartening to see the People's Republic of China developing rapidly under the leadership of President Hu Jintao and the entire people were also unitedly and actively taking part in the national development endeavours.

Myanmar and China have a long common border and the governments and peoples of the two nations have been friendly since time immemorial. As successive leaders of the nations, with farsightedness, have cultivated the Sino-Myanmar friendship, it is flourishing and becoming closer. And as the two nations have always adhered to the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, changes in international affairs and domestic affairs of both countries have not affected the bilateral relations.

In recent years, leaders of the two nations have exchanged goodwill visits to cement mutual friendship and promote mutually beneficial cooperation. Myanmar has always supported the one-China policy and accepted that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China. In the same way, China has always expressed her belief that Myanmar people are to shape their future and opposed the imposition of economic sanctions on Myanmar by foreign nations.

We believe that Prime Minister General Soe Win's visit to the People's Republic of China will cement the Sino-Myanmar friendship and the two nations will continue respect each other's sovereignty.



In memory of WO-II Aye Ko, wife Daw Khin Kywe and family of No 95 in fourth floor on Yekaw Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, recently donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of the Home.—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

Ceremonies of 59th Anniversary Union Day, Htamane preparing competition held in Patheingyi

YANGON, 17 Feb — A ceremony to mark the 59th Anniversary Union Day was held in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Division on 12 February morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe, senior military officers, departmental heads at division, district and township levels, members of social organizations, students, locals

numbering 10,000.

First, the commander read out the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe. Next, the commander attended Htamane (Myanmar Traditional Snack) offering ceremony, organized by Ayeyawady Division Women's Affairs Organization.

Next, the commander and wife as well as officials concerned cheered Htamane preparing competition and then presented prizes to winning teams.

MNA

Minister goes on inspection tour of Kyaukse in Mandalay Div

YANGON, 19 Feb — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang went on an inspection tour of Kyaukse in Mandalay Division yesterday morning. At Winthuza shop, the minister inspected Myanmar traditional medicines, household medicines, textile, varieties of clothing, paper and chemical products and different kinds of foodstuff and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister arrived at Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries (PyinOoLwin) Project and oversaw places chosen for a raw material industry and a finished goods industry to be constructed and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the minister arrived at a newly-built warehouse and looked into machines arriving from abroad. In the evening, the minister and party went to a special sale



Minister U Aung Thuang views products of the Ministry of Industry-1.—INDUSTRY-1

of Ministry of Industry-1 in honour of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day held at Mahanwesin Sports Grounds, Maha Aungmyay Township, Mandalay Division.

The special sale was opened on 17 February, fetching K 56.048 million on that day.

MNA

Myanmar PGA, MGF President's Cup from 26 Feb to 1 March



YANGON, 20 Feb— Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation President Cup golf tournament organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation will be held at Hanthawady Golf Course, 10th Mile Hill, Bago Township, Bago Division, from 26 February to 1 March.

The tournament will be categorized as profes-

sional golfer division, men's amateur division (handicap 0-12) and women's amateur division (handicap 0 to 24). Those wishing to take part in the tournament may enlist at the office in Hanthawady golf course not later than 4 pm on 24 February. For further information, please dial phone numbers 09-99-72554, 542989 and 052-22254.—MNA

Myanmar, German entrepreneurs to promote trade

YANGON, 20 Feb— A 19-member German Business Mission led by Professor Dr Ing Eckhard Rohkamm, President of German Asia-Pacific Business Association, met officials of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry led by Vice-President U Aung Lwin on 18 February. German guests were accompanied by German Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Dietrich Andreas.

The two sides discussed matters on

promotion of trade and investment between the two countries.—MNA



A business meeting between UMFCCI of the Union of Myanmar and German Asia-Pacific Business Association (OAV) in progress.—UMFCCI

Pakistan, India resume train service after 40 years

ZERO POINT (Pakistan), 18 Feb — Pakistan and India resumed a train service across the Thar Desert on Saturday, 40 years after it was suspended following the second of the three wars between the two South Asian rivals.

Sitting on camels, paramilitary troops patrolled the desert as the train carrying around 250 passengers arrived at Pakistan's southern border village of Khokhropar for its

onward journey to Munabao in India's Rajasthan State.

Many passengers burst into tears and shouted "Long Live Pak-India friendship" as the Thar Express halted

at Zero Point, the last stop on the Pakistani side of the border.

Dancers wearing traditional dresses danced to the beat of drums to greet the train, decorated with colourful bunting. Lathi Singh Sodho, a Hindu Pakistani engineer, was making his first visit to his in-laws since he and his wife married in 1992.

Up to 12,000 people bade farewell to the train when it stopped at the southern Pakistani city of Hyderabad on Friday night on its way to Khokhropar.



Soldiers of the Indian Border Force look at the Pakistani passenger train 'Thar Express', which returns to Pakistan with Indian passengers at Zero Point on the Pakistan-India border, on 18 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

11 villages evacuated from landslide struck region in Philippines

MANILA, 19 Feb — Philippine officials said on Saturday that 11 villages in Southern Leyte where a landslide buried a village on Friday have been evacuated and seven centres have been set up in Saint Bernard Township, where the landslide took place, to shelter the evacuees.

Officials participating in an emergency meeting on landslide held by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo told reporters that the evacuation was made in fear that more landslides could strike in the region, which is known for faulty geological structure, according to experts.

Heavy rainfalls triggered by the La Nina weather, and possibly a mild earthquake, also contributed to Friday's devastation which buried a village alive with hundreds, if not thousands

of people inside.

Arroyo held the emergency meeting to hear the reports of officials from different government agencies under the National Disaster Coordination Council (NDCC).

The NDCC said so far 22 bodies have been found and 53 rescued from the huge burial ground four kilometers long and half a kilometer wide with 30 feet thick mud and rocks. Officials said at least 1,500 could have been buried under the mud and are feared dead.

The US Charge d'Affaires Paul Jones also attended the still on-going meeting after the US military said it could look into the assistance it could provide to the disaster rescue and relief operation.—MNA/Xinhua



Filipino soldiers cross the raging river to conduct search and rescue operation on 18 Feb, 2006, a day after a massive landslide which buried the entire village of Guinsaugon in southern Leyte Province in central Philippines.—INTERNET

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The directory of Turin's Egyptian Museum, Eleni Vassilika, stands in a new gallery of ancient statues at the museum in Turin, Italy, on 16 Feb, 2006. Turin's Egyptian Museum offers ancient marvels to visitors looking for a break from the Winter Games. The Museo Egizio claims one of the largest collections of Egyptian antiquities outside Cairo.—INTERNET

Two bomb blasts kill eight Iraqis in Fallujah

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 19 Feb— Eight people, including six Iraqi soldiers, were killed Saturday in two bomb attacks targeting Iraqi Army and US military patrols around the restive city of Fallujah, witnesses said.

A roadside bomb went off in the afternoon near an Iraqi Army patrol at the southern entrance of Fallujah, some 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, destroying a vehicle and killing six soldiers aboard, according to witnesses.

In another blast, a roadside bomb was detonated in the Falahat area in western Fallujah, when a US military patrol was passing by, damaging

a US Humvee, local residents said.

Two civilian passers-by were killed in the attack, they said.

Medical source in

Fallujah Hospital confirmed to Xinhua they received two bodies of civilians killed in the Falahat attack.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indian shepherd herds his cows and oxen at a field in Tharad, in India's western state of Gujarat, on 19 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Man questioned over police shooting

LONDON, 19 Feb — A man is being questioned by detectives investigating the shooting of a 23-year-old policewoman in Nottingham earlier this

week. Police arrested 24-year-old Trevon Kyrion Thomas as he boarded a plane at London's Heathrow Airport on Friday. He was later handed over to officers from Nottinghamshire Police for questioning.

Thomas had earlier been named as a suspect in the shooting.

Probationary officer Rachael Bown was shot in the lower abdomen, below her body armour, in the early hours of Monday as she and an experienced male colleague investigated reports of a burglary.

Bown had emergency surgery following the attack and again on Thursday morning and is now stable in intensive care.—MNA/Reuters

2,273 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 19 Feb — At least 2,273 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes six military civilians. At least 1,781 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is three lower than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EST. The British military has reported 101 deaths; Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, one death each.—Internet

Iran hails IAEA chief's suggestion on enrichment

TEHERAN, 19 Feb— Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki on Saturday hailed as “a step forward” a recent suggestion to allow Iran to perform small-scale uranium enrichment by the UN nuclear watchdog chief to break the deadlock over the issue.

“We welcome our friend’s positive view toward the issue of enrichment inside Iran and

regard it as a step forward,” Mottaki said.

According to ElBaradei, a deal could be made by permitting Iran to operate a pilot enrichment plant for small-scale work in exchange for Teheran’s withdrawal from industrial-scale enrichment.

Mottaki said Iran was ready to continue negotiations on the compromise plan and was

determined to find “a suitable formula for building confidence on Iran’s peaceful nuclear activities that would at the same time preserve its nuclear right”.

“We find the view that upholds enrichment in Iran as a step forward. Iran is ready to continue talks with its friends to reach a comprehensive formula,” Mottaki stressed.

MNA/Xinhua



Cheerleaders entertain during a break in an ice hockey match between Russia and Latvia at the 2006 Turin Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy on 19 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Venezuela to build houses for Sri Lankan tsunami victims

COLOMBO, 19 Feb — Venezuela signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) recently with Sri Lanka’s Reconstruction and Development Agency (RADA) to launch a housing project to assist tsunami victims in the country, *Daily News* reported on Saturday.

Venezuela donated funds worth 6.2 million US dollars for Sri Lanka’s post tsunami reconstruction activities in June last year, it said.

The MoU, signed by Counsellor of the Embassy of Venezuela, Luis Raul Montell and Chief Operating Officer of RADA, Saliya Wickremasuriya, will enable Venezuela Embassy officials and RADA to use the funding and embark on the housing construction project.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်ရုဗွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်ဖွား

British gas, electricity bills to soar to 1,000 pounds this year

LONDON, 19 Feb— An energy bill of 1,000 pounds a year could soon be the norm for an average family in Britain, after the British Gas Corporation announced on Friday that it is to further raise its gas and electricity prices by 8.6 per cent, *The Daily Telegraph* reported on Saturday.

The increase, which will come into force on 1 March, was announced just five months after the company, the country’s biggest gas supplier, raised its gas and oil prices by 14 per cent.

It will bring the average British Gas bill for gas to 628 pounds a year, while

electricity will cost 391 pounds.

Energywatch, the consumer watchdog, said that it was “the bleakest day yet” for consumers. It warned that by next winter, 3 million consumers could fall into the fuel poverty bracket — which means they will spend more than

10 percent of their income heating their homes.

British Gas, which is said to be the most expensive gas supplier in Britain, has 16.9 million customers. It explained that the main reason for the price hike is “the North Sea gas production is falling since 2004”.

The electricity price hike is due to the fact that 40 per cent of the electricity in the country is generated in gas-powered power stations.

It is estimated that the British Gas price rise could cost customers 2.7 billion pounds a year.

MNA/Xinhua



Nepali girls wear traditional dress during a procession celebrating Nepal’s Queen Komal’s 56th birthday in Kathmandu on 19 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

McDonald’s sued over fries ingredients

CHICAGO, 19 Feb— McDonald’s Corp faces at least three lawsuits claiming the fast-food giant misled the public after it acknowledged earlier this week its french fries contain milk and wheat ingredients.

Debra Moffatt of Lombard, Illinois, seeks unspecified damages in a suit filed on Friday in Chicago.

Her attorney, Thomas Pakenas, said his client has celiac disease, which causes gastrointestinal symptoms set off by eating gluten, a protein found in wheat.

Jack Daly, McDonald’s senior vice president, said in a statement the company had not reviewed the case yet and is testing its fries for gluten through a food allergy research programme at the University of Nebraska.

Mark and Theresa Chimiak of Jupiter, Florida, sued Friday in Florida, claiming their 5-year-old daughter has an intolerance to gluten and became seriously ill after eating the fries.

Internet

Blasts injure one in India

NEW DELHI, 19 Feb — Two bomb blasts took place near the residence of West Bengal Chief Minister (CM) Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee in east Indian city Kolkata Friday morning, injuring one and causing tension in the region, *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported.

The blasts were the result of a clash between two groups of workers of Congress Party, PTI quoted city Police Commissioner Prasun Mukherjee as saying.

Three persons carrying nine crude bombs were arrested by the security personnel posted near the chief minister’s residence, he said.

Mukherjee said the blasts took place when members of one group, carrying the explosives, were trying to flee after being chased by the other group near the CM’s residence.

The security personnel at the chief minister’s

residence arrested the three persons, he said.

“It was neither a terrorist activity nor anything to do with the chief minister’s security,” PTI quoted Mukherjee as saying. He added that security in the area had been tightened following the incident

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists see growing animal-disease risk

St LOUIS, 19 Feb— Humans risk being overrun by diseases from the animal world, according to researchers who have documented 38 illnesses that have made

that jump over the past 25 years.

That’s not good news for the spread of bird flu, which experts fear could mutate and be transmitted easily among people.

There are 1,407 pathogens — viruses, bacteria, parasites, protozoa and fungi — that can infect humans, said Mark Woolhouse of the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Of those, 58 percent come from animals. Scientists consider 177 of the pathogens to be “emerging” or “re-emerging.” Most will never cause pandemics.

Experts fear bird flu could prove an exception. Recent advances in the worldwide march of the H5N1 strain have rekindled fears of a pandemic.

Internet



A Sydney Wildlife career cleans the wounds of a two-month-old Australian Brushtail Possum after it was rescued from the jaws of a cat in Sydney, Australia, on 18 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Musharraf says shooting incident not to affect ties with China

ISLAMABAD, 19 Feb—Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said here on Friday that all development activities between Pakistan and China would continue and the incident of the killing of three Chinese engineers would not affect the friendship between the two countries.

In an interview at the presidential palace, Musharraf told *Xinhua* that the incident had shocked him, the Pakistani

Government and the whole Pakistani nation.

“We condemn it in the strongest terms,” he said. “We are annoyed at those who carried out this very evil act. We are determined to catch them and give them strongest and harshest punishment.”

“Those elements do not want Pakistan to prosper and progress,” he said. “They do not want development in Pakistan.”

“Since Chinese are our

great friends and they are helping us in this development and progress in various projects, they (the gunmen) have targeted the Chinese to achieve two things: deny progress in Pakistan and create a misunderstanding between Pakistan and China,” Musharraf said. “But we are determined that none of these two objectives will be achieved.”

“Our friendship with China is very strong and it will not be affected by the incident,” he said. “We are determined to carry out all development activities as we were doing before. And we will be able to bring the elements to justice and suppress them.”—*MNA/Xinhua*



Iraqi policemen watch as smoke rises after a car bomb attack in Baghdad on 19 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

13 dead in flooding in southern Philippines

MANILA, 19 Feb—At least 13 persons were dead, three others missing and three more injured in flooding in northeastern Mindanao of southern Philippines because of continuous rains since last week, official sources said Saturday.

The Office of the Civil Defence (OCD) in Butuan City in northern Mindanao added that damage to infrastructure and farm products was placed close to 350 million pesos (6.7 million US dollars).

The local government has declared a state of calamity in flood-stricken areas.

Local non-government organizations have contributed nearly 1 million pesos' worth of relief goods and clothing for nearly 1,000 families inside evacuation centres.

The heavy rainfalls in southern Philippines, including the eastern Visayas region where a devastating landslide took place on Friday, were triggered by the La Nina weather phenomenon, characterized by incessant rains. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A little girl enjoys kiteflying at the Tiananmen Square in Beijing on 18 Feb, 2006. The weather in Beijing became increasingly warmer and milder.—INTERNET



Women dressed in traditional medieval costumes are carried by men dressed as gondoliers through St Mark's Square in Venice, Italy, on 18 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Jackpot winner: laying low, or not aware?

LINCOLN, 19 Feb—Someone, somewhere held the only winning ticket for the record \$365 million Powerball jackpot,

but likely wasn't in a rush to come forward, Nebraska lottery officials said Sunday.

The only ticket matching

the winning numbers drawn Saturday night for the multistate lottery was sold at a U-Stop convenience store in Lincoln, Nebraska Lottery spokesman Brian Rockey said. It was the biggest jackpot on record for any lottery in the United States. No one had come forward to claim the jackpot Sunday, Rockey said. “We don't know if the winner knows yet,” he said.

Even when the lucky individual or group realizes it, they might not leap into the public eye.

“We have found ... that they tend to wait until they have sought legal counsel or financial counsel,” Jim Haynes, acting director of the Nebraska Lottery, said of large jackpot winners.

Whoever it is, U-Stop store clerk Stacey Carey has a message for them.

Internet

Bomb kills janitor for US troops in Philippines

MANILA, 19 Feb—A janitor for US troops was killed and 13 people wounded in an explosion near an Army base on the southern Philippine island of Jolo, but no American soldiers were hurt, the Philippine military said on Saturday.

Some 250 US soldiers are due on Jolo from Monday to conduct two weeks of humanitarian missions as part of a 5,000-strong US force taking part in annual war games with Philippine units.

The dead man was a local resident hired to clean toilets used by US troops, Brigadier-General Alexander Aleo, the Army commander on Jolo, told reporters.

Six women, five men and two children were wounded.

The blast came from a makeshift karaoke stall

about 10 metres (yards) from the gate of the camp, Aleo said, but US soldiers were spared by not being allowed into town.

“We don't know who was behind the attack,” he told reporters. “But there's only one group capable of doing this—it's the Abu Sayyaf.”

Jolo is the stronghold of Abu Sayyaf, a small but deadly Muslim rebel group that is blamed for the worst attack in the country — the bombing of a ferry in February 2004 that killed more than 100 people.

MNA/Reuters

65 trapped Mexico miners in extreme danger

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, 19 Feb —A gas buildup in a northern Mexico coal mine triggered a pre-dawn explosion on Sunday, trapping at least 65 coal miners underground with a limited supply of oxygen. Emergency officials were tunneling through the debris to rescue them.

At least eight miners who had been near the mine's exit when the explosion occurred were rescued and were hospitalized with burns and broken bones.

The trapped miners were in extreme danger, said Ruben Escudero, director of Grupo Industrial Minera Mexico, which owns the mine. The company is a subsidiary of mining giant Grupo Mexico.

A statement by the

National Miners' Union said 65 people were trapped below the surface, but Escudero said there were 66 miners still underground.

The explosion occurred at the mine near the town of Sabinas, 85 miles southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas, on the Mexico-US border, Escudero said.

The mine is about 985 feet below ground, he said. Radio reports said the workers were in three different locations in the

mine, and rescue workers were working to reach them while checking for poisonous gases.

Officials had cordoned off the area, and concerned family members waited outside the security zone for information.

Daniel Romo, a spokesman for Coahuila state's emergency services, said authorities did not know how long it would take to reach the trapped miners.

Internet

Certificates presented to members of the Sangha who passed exam

YANGON, 20 Feb—A ceremony to present certificates to members of the Sangha who passed the 7th All Ganas of Sangha Vinayadhika Examination held in Dagon Myothit (North) Township took place at Aung Dhamma Yeiktha Kyaungtaik in the township yesterday.

Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Dawei Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Acinnabhivamsa delivered Ovadakatha and the head of Township Religious Affairs Department supplicated on religious

affairs.

Next, officials from the Township Peace and Development Council and the Committee for Holding the Examination presented offertories, certificates and cash to 270 members of the Sangha who had passed the exam.—MNA



Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Dawei Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Acinnabhivamsa presents a completion certificate to a monk.—H

Wider tourism knowledge in best interest of nation and people

Ma Swe (Yangon University)

The word "tourism" has become popular in a decade since 1995-96. More and more people have taken interest in tourism. Many persons at different ages such as experts, educated persons, businessmen, and those who want new types of jobs have defined the word "tourism" variously based on the knowledge they gained, presenting variety of opinions and suggestions.

In fact, they are taking an interest in tourism due to the conviction that tourism is a lucrative business.

Tourism industry can make a nation prosperous in a short time. So, tourism is considered to be a profitable business.

In reality, that is not all.

In a country with a thriving tourism industry, the people's standard of living and education are getting higher with strong economy.

Tourism industry is a business that can satisfy the human desire to get richer and achieve greater aim.

However, tourism industry is not a normal business involving investment, production and sales. It is a business of offering different sorts of services to satisfy the wishes of tourists from various countries while preserving the attractions such as the nation's natural resources, cultural heritages, way of life, customs and traditions of the people so that these resources will not deteriorate. Otherwise, the nation concerned will lose its dignity damaging the business and finally putting an end to it.

After completing the Tourism Diploma Course

for faculty members at the Yangon University, I came to realize the nature of tourism industry that is different from other businesses — delicateness, vulnerability and the need to take remedial measures.

I have also learnt that tourism industry is not just a business but an art, it is interrelated with many sectors such as social affairs, education, and environmental conservation, and knowledge of tourism should be disseminated to the people.

If a nation plans to earn income through tourism industry, it is to be a sustainable one without harming the nature, cultural heritage, lifestyle and customs of the nation. That is the most important factor of the tourism industry.

Tourists are interested in the attractions of lush and green environment, archaeological sites, seaside beaches, and regions where various national races live. Supposing such regions attract a large number of tourists, it will adversely affect the environment due to the fact that the tourists throw waste materials indiscriminately. Moreover, cultural heritages may be destroyed or lost owing to touching, taking some parts away as souvenirs, and stealing objects at a profit. Local people tend to think highly of the tourists who can spend lavishly, and imitate their costumes abandoning the traditional ones. Later, environment, cultural heritages and way of life of local people will deteriorate and such regions will be no longer attractive to tourists.

Tourism industry will be like an inexhaustible resource if the people can make most of it systematically. But, if not, tourism industry will be just a short-term

business and the nation concerned will suffer undesirable effects such as environmental degradation, climate changes, decadent lifestyles, frequent outbreaks of diseases, and tarnishing of the image of the nation and the people concerned.

However, if a nation avoids the running of the tourism industry in fear of negative impacts, such a nation will not enjoy economic, social and education development, modernization, and will not be able to catch up with international standard.

If a nation could not attract tourists, its green and lush environment, peace, culture, hospitality and archaeological sites will remain in obscurity. And the image of its land will remain in dim view.

Only when a nation can draw the attention of a host of tourists, will it be well-known. Moreover, it will be able to make its dignity known to international community, and can create jobs for its people. As tourism industry is a highly profitable business, local people will be able to enjoy development in economic, education and social sectors if they are engaged in the business.

To ensure sustainable tourism, it is required to inculcate correct concepts and conviction into local people and regional administrative bodies.

In particular, travel and tour companies and their staff, tourist guides, local people and authorities in tourist destinations, hotels, motels and inns, restaurants, souvenir shops, souvenir producers, meat, vegetables and fruits suppliers, drivers and owners of travel and tour buses, and those who do their business in tourism industry are to be knowledgeable about tourism industry, to have correct outlook on tourism, and to make the best use of tourism industry.

The tourism diploma courses are to try to disseminate the knowledge of tourism industry, and tourism diploma certificate holders and trainees to employ various ways to distribute knowledge of tourism industry to the people by teaching, discussing and studying subjects on tourism industry, compiling papers, writing articles, participating in broadcasts, arranging interviews, taking part in the discussions in seminars, and attending workshops so that the tourism industry will serve the best interest of the nation and the people.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 20-2-2006

In particular, travel and tour companies and their staff, tourist guides, local people and authorities in tourist destinations, hotels, motel and inns, restaurants, souvenir shops, souvenir producers, meat, vegetables and fruits suppliers, drivers and owners of travel and tour buses, and those who do their business in tourism industry are to be knowledgeable about tourism industry, to have correct outlook on tourism, and to make the best use of tourism industry.

Leaders of both nations...

(from page 16)

Myanmar delegation thanked the host for its warm welcome. Myanmar and Guangdong Province have long-lasting bilateral relations. Myanmar delegation is happy to hear the economic progress of the province. Guangdong Province was designated as a model province when PRC launched economic reforms in 1978.

Myanmar has been laying down and implementing national development projects, and thanks to the efforts, the nation is now enjoying the fruits of progress.

In launching its economic drive, Myanmar has been cooperating with the neighbours, especially the PRC, that is its close friend. Myanmar is rich in land and water resources and mineral, oil and gas. But Myanmar still needs technological know-how. Myanmar invites entrepreneurs of the province to study economic opportunities, and also invites invest-

ments. Myanmar will provide assistance and legal protection for the investors.

Leaders of both nations wish to cement friendly ties and extend cooperation. New generation leaders will have to strive to translate the wish into reality.

After exchanging souvenirs, Prime Minister General Soe Win and Executive Vice-Governor Tang Bingquan posed for documentary photos.

Also present were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister 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 the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Myanmar Ambassador to PRC U Thein Lwin, Director-General of Prime Minister's Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of the Protocol Department of

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet, Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw of the Ministry of Defence, Director-General of Political Department U Nyan Lin, Director-General of Mechanized Farming Department U Win Maw, Managing Director of Myanmar Telecommunications U Maung Maung Tin, Col Tin Wai of Defence Ministry and officials.

Together with Mr Tang Bingquan were PRC Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu, Secretary General of Guangdong Province Government Mr Xu Shangwu, the Vice-Mayor of Guangzhou and officials.

Executive Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province Mr Tang Bingquan hosted a dinner in honour of Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and delegation.

After the dinner, Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and delegation enjoyed the night scene of Guangzhou aboard a cruise vessel on Pearl River. — MNA

North-East Command steps up efforts to achieve 500,000-acre physic nut target

YANGON, 20 Feb — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence yesterday participated in a ceremony to grow physic nut plants at the 1000-acre

high land cultivation No 3 of the command in Lashio.

According to the commander, with the aim of producing bio-diesel, North-East command sets its target of 500,000 acres of physic nut plants within three years and so far 13,000 acres have been put under physic nut plants.

Moreover, physic nut nurseries have planted on 110 acres of the 1000-acre

high land cultivation No 3 to distribute to local farmers. As part of an effort to supply electricity to rural areas in the region, generators and physic nut grinding machine will be supplied to villages. At the ceremony, Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan urged departmental officials to participate in the cultivation of physic nut plants joining



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint scatter physic nut seeds into plastic bags. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan view Tawwin physic nut crushing machine. — MNA

hands with the people to meet the target of the command.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan distributed physic nut seeds and grafts to members of Shan State (North) Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Wel-

fare Association and residents and grow physic nut plants together with them.

After the ceremony, the commander and minister went to the 1000-acre model cultivation of the command and inspected the thriving physic nut plants. Next, they proceeded to the cultivation land of Shan State (North) Police Force where Police Col Win Naing of the po-

lice force reported on arrangements for growing of physic nut plants on 1,000 acres.

On arrival at the briefing hall of the seed farm zone of the command, the commander, the minister and party heard reports on growing of Sinshweli, honey orange, coffee, belleric myrobalan (Thit Seint), pineapple, sunflower, sugarcane, summer and monsoon paddy, physic nut as well as poultry in the zone.

The commander explained the agricultural objectives for boosting crop production. Next, the commander and party inspected paddy, sesame, soybean and sunflower displayed at the briefing hall.

The commander, the minister and party oversaw thriving sugarcane and physic nut plantations.

They also inspected thriving physic nut and pineapple in the model mixed crop plantation of the zone and systematic nurturing of physic nut grafts. — MNA

Myanmar produces bio-diesel from physic nut

Physic nut, multi-purpose crop

The natural world creates resources to satisfy man's requirements. So, human beings explore and exploit the natural resources. In Myanmar, physic nut is now popular as a crop, from which bio-diesel is obtained, and is to be used in the agricultural, environmental conservation, health, social, transport and economic spheres.

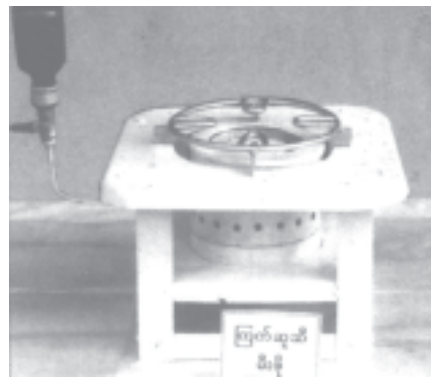
Physic nut used in various sectors

Physic nut is used as natural fertilizer in the agricultural sector; as ingredients in compounding household medicines in the health sector; as a species of plant for conservation of fertile soil, and as windbreakers and fences in the environmental conservation sector; as a cash crop in the economic sector; as a crop from which bio-diesel can be obtained to run vehicles, trawler-

Gs and powered boats in the transport sector; and as diesel-substitute fuel to generate electricity and cook meals.

Medicinal crop

Physic nut's oil is used as traditional purgative and traditional medicine for infected skin diseases and to cure muscular pains, its soft stalks as toothbrush and to cure toothache; and juice of its leaves and roots to cure diarrhoea, as anti-venom medicine, and as pesticide.



Stove can be kept burning with physic nut oil for rural folks.

Experts, entrepreneurs from PRC...

(from page 1)

The Vice-Mayor extended greetings to Myanmar goodwill delegation members. Director Mr Lim reported on establishment of the park and development with audio-visual aids. Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and U Soe Tha asked some questions. The Vice-Mayor and Director Mr Lim replied to the queries.

The Vice-Mayor said that Shenzhen has greatly developed with the introduction of open door policy of the People's Republic of China. The central government of

quality medicines, communication equipment and computers produced in Shenzhen.

Next, the Prime Minister signed in the visitors' book. Members of Myanmar goodwill delegation went to 384-metre high Meridian View Centre, the highest tower in Shenzhen. They viewed development of the city from the 69th storey.

The Prime Minister and wife and party arrived at Wuzhou Guest House in Shenzhen at 11.40 am. Mayor Mr Xu Zongheng called on the Prime Minister at 11.45 am. At the

call, the mayor briefed on economic and social affairs of the town, use of advance science and technology in Shenzhen Economic Zone, transport, stock market and tourism services and arrangements for future five-year plan.

Next, the Prime Minister explained the strengthening of friendship between the two countries, economic cooperation, efforts being exerted for economic progress of Myanmar, opportunities for economic cooperation with Myanmar and Chinese entrepreneurs' investment in economic sector. Then they exchanged gifts and posed for a documentary photo.



Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province Mr Tang Bingquan welcomes Prime Minister General Soe Win at International Airport in Guangzhou. — MNA

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and wife and party went to

Shenzhen International Airport to leave for home. They were seen off by the

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and wife, the deputy mayor, Myanmar Ambassador U Thein Lwin and wife and officials.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, who were members of the Myanmar goodwill delegation, received Assistant Minister for Commerce Mr Chen Jian and party at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse Hall-14 in Beijing at 2 pm on 15 February.

(See page 9)



A member of the Board of Directors of Guangzhou Technological Innovation Base clarifies progress of the science city. — MNA

China designated Shenzhen as a pilot region to gain economic progress. According to the experiences, reforms were made very often for economic progress. Fifty two per cent of the companies are high tech-applied ones.

The Prime Minister thanked them for the clarifications. As Myanmar also has industrial zones, he invited experts and entrepreneurs to make investment in Myanmar. He observed modern equipment for fitness, high



Mayor of Shenzhen Mr Xu Zongheng meets Prime Minister General Soe Win. — MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win and party visit Shenzhen High Tech Industry Park in Shenzhen. — MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe observe development scene of Shenzhen from 69th floor of 384-metre high Meridian View Centre.—MNA

Experts, entrepreneurs from PRC...

(from page 8)

Also present at the call were Foreign Economic Relations Department Director U Maung Maung Khin and officials. Minister U Soe Tha also received Vice President Mr Zhimin Li of Sinosteel Corporation at the same venue in the afternoon.

Similarly, member of the delegation Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received President of China National Offshore Oil Corporation Mr Fu Chengyu and China National Petroleum Corp President Mr Chen Geng at Hall-12 on 15 February. They discussed energy cooperation between the two nations.

Likewise, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw received China Telecommunications Corporation Director Mr Liang Niu at Hall-14 on 15 February afternoon. They discussed cooperation of communication sector. Also present on the occasion were Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin.

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min received Chinese Assistant Railway Minister Mr Lu Dongfu at Hall-14 on 15 February. Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min said rail transport

service in Myanmar is being upgraded. He called for a close cooperation of rail transport sector between the two nations. He also thanked the PRC for its donating 130 rail coaches. Mr Lu Dongfu explained improvement of rail transport services in China, construction of railroad from Kunming in Yunnan to Tali, plans to build railroad up to Shweli, the border of the two countries and survey to be conducted for construction of railroad up to Lashio.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min also received China National Complete Plant Import & Export Corp (Group) President



Prime Minister General Soe Win shakes hands with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu, Shenzhen Vice Mayor and officials.—MNA

Mr Li Zhimin at the same venue. They discussed production services at Myitnge concrete sleeper

factory jointly owned by Myanmar Railways and China National Complete Plant Import & Export

Corp (Group). The factory produces 300,000 sleepers a year.

MNA



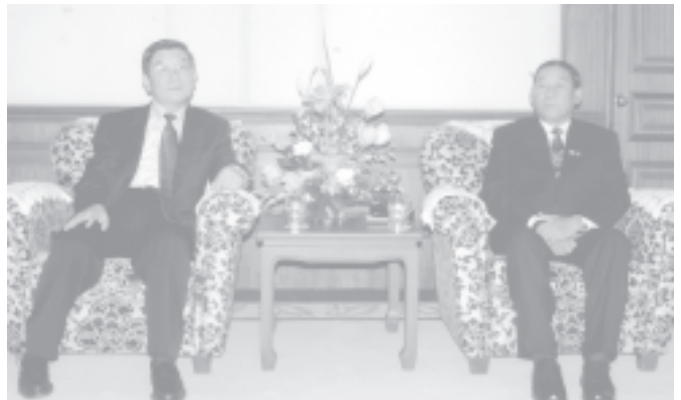
Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha receives Vice President of Sinosteel Corporation Mr Zhimin Li. —MNA



Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw receives Director of China Telecommunications Corporation Mr Liang Niu.—MNA



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min receives Chinese Assistant Railway Minister Mr Lu Dongfu. —MNA



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi receives Mr Fu Chengyu of China National Offshore Oil Corporation. —MNA

Higher education standard of the State will be able to shape new modern developed nation

Prime Minister General Soe Win meets family members of Myanmar Embassy, Military Attaché's Office, scholars in Beijing

YANGON, 19 Feb — Prime Minister General Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and goodwill delegation members went to Myanmar Embassy in Beijing of the People's Republic of China, where they were welcomed by family members of Myanmar Embassy, Military Attaché's Office and scholars at 6 pm on 15 February.

Upon arrival at Myanmar Embassy, the Prime Minister presented souvenirs to Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin, Military Attaché' Col Sein George and two scholars who are pursuing further studies.

In meeting with

family members of Myanmar Embassy, Military Attaché's Office and scholars, Prime Minister General Soe Win said that he and his goodwill delegation members were in China to further strengthen Myanmar-China ties existed throughout their history and cooperate in all aspects. China's development measures drive should be an example to all and China has already reached on the right track. The Government was trying to build a peaceful developed nation. Now, development of the State had been witnessed thanks to the guidance of the Head of State and work efficiency of the service personnel. The people had already en-

joyed fruits of development. Only higher education standard of the State would be able to shape a new modern developed nation. The Government was rendering assistance to improve human resources. The scholars pursuing further studies in China were to be proficient in their respective subjects. A next generation would have to build a new State. Family members of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché's Office were to promote mutual understanding and interests between the two nations.

Next, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin and wife hosted a dinner in honour of Myanmar goodwill del-



egation members.

After the dinner, Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife and delegation members returned to Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe being greeted by family members of Myanmar Embassy, Military Attaché's Office.—MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win meets family members of Myanmar Embassy, Military Attaché's Office and scholars.—MNA



MWWAF's President meets ACWF's Chairperson

YANGON, 20 Feb — President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister General Soe Win, on 15 February met with Chairperson of All China Women's Federation Madame Gu Xiulian in Beijing.

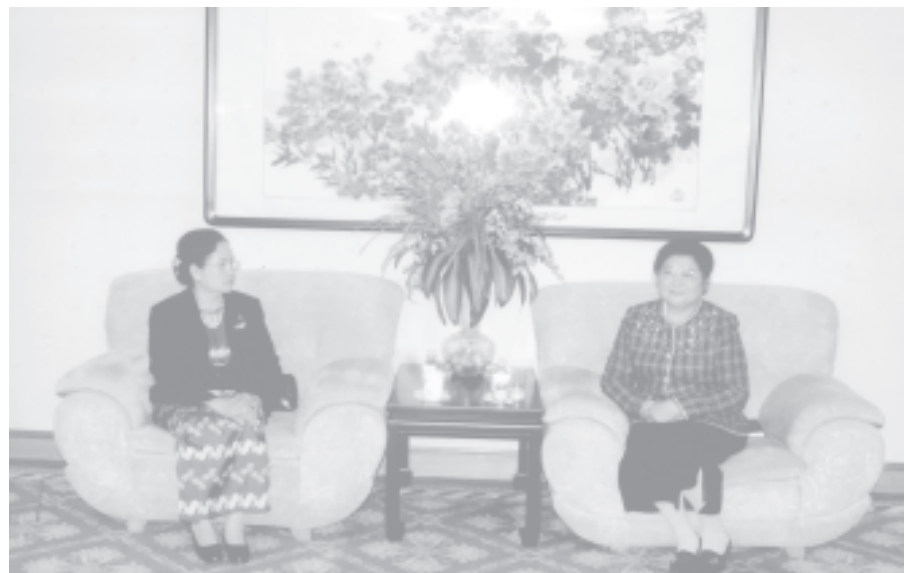
Also present were member of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Myint Myint Soe, Daw Nwe Nwe Han, wife of Ambassador of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China and officials.

After the meeting, they had a documentary photo taken and exchanged gifts.

MNA

President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe meets Chairperson of All China Women's Federation Madame Gu

Xiulian.—MNA



MWAF's President holds talks with GWF's Chairwoman

YANGON, 20 Feb — Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister General Soe Win and President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation on 17 February met with Chairwoman of Guangzhou Women's Federation Ms Li Jin at the building of GWF in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, and discussed matters on women's affairs.

Also present were Member of MWAF Daw Myint Myint Soe, Daw Nwe Nwe Han, wife of Myanmar Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, and officials.

After the meeting, Daw Than Than Nwe and party visited the training centre of GWF. — MNA



Daw Than Than Nwe, President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation holds talks with Chairwoman of Guangzhou Women's Federation Ms Li Jin.—MNA

Yangon Division WAO holds coord meeting



Patron Daw Mar Mar Wai of Yangon Division WAO speaking at coordination meeting No 5/2006.—MNA

YANGON, 20 Feb — Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization this morning held its coordination meeting No 5/2006 focusing on the future tasks of the organiza-

tion at the meeting hall of the organization at the office of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council.

Participants of the meeting also discussed matters on

women's affairs sector wise, and the meeting ended with concluding remarks by Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai.

MNA

Minister inspects raft jetties

YANGON, 20 Feb — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung this morning inspected No 3 raft jetty in Ahlon Township and Setsan raft jetty in Pazundaung Township of Myanma Timber Enterprise.

The minister gave instructions on preparation for sales of timber which will be held at the jetties through tender system. — MNA

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects raft jetties of Myanma Timber Enterprise.—MNA



Lectures on how to prepare for 2006 Matriculation Examination to be on air

YANGON, 20 Feb — With the sponsorship of Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information and Myanmar Education Research Bureau under the Ministry of Education, lectures on how to prepare for the 2006 Matriculation Examination will be on air under the radio programmes of MRTV on the following days, starting from 4.30 pm, through 520 meters medium wave and 50.13 meters short wave.—MNA

SN	Subject	Date	Repetition
1.	Optional Myanmar	21-2-2006	2-3-2006
2.	Economics	22-2-2006	3-3-2006
3.	Geography	23-2-2006	4-3-2006
4.	Biology/History	24-2-2006	5-3-2006
5.	Physics	25-2-2006	6-3-2006
6.	Chemistry	26-2-2006	7-3-2006
7.	Mathematics	27-2-2006	8-3-2006
8.	English	28-2-2006	9-3-2006
9.	Myanmarsar	1-3-2006	10-3-2006

Myanmar delegation to attend business forum in Japan

YANGON, 20 Feb — A four-member Myanmar delegation led by Vice-President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U

Aung Lwin, on 18 February, left here for Japan to attend the Forum on SME Development in Mekong Region to be held in Tokyo, Japan, from 20 to 24 February.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Vice-President U Zaw Min Win, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and officials.

MNA



Myanmar delegation seen before their departure for Japan.

MNA

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Iraqi police official escapes bomb attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 19 Feb—An Iraqi police official escaped a roadside bomb which struck his convoy in central Baghdad on Saturday, killing one of his guards and wounding another, a police source said. "A roadside bomb hit the convoy of Brigadier Abdul Karim Maryoosh, head of Karrada police station at about 10:20 a.m. (0720 GMT) near Uqba Bin Nafea Square," Captain Ahmed Abdullah, from Baghdad police, told *Xinhua*.

Maryoosh escaped unhurt in the attack, but one of his guards was killed and another wounded, he said.

Guerillas frequently attack Iraqi security forces and senior government employees in an attempt to cripple the US-backed political process.

MNA/Xinhua

Italy's trade deficit in 2005 rises sharply

ROME, 19 Feb—Italian statistics office, ISTAT, issued unadjusted data on Friday, showing that Italy's trade deficit in 2005 increased by 850 per cent from 2004 to reach 10.37 billion euros (12.32 billion US dollars).

According to the data, Italy saw a deficit of 1.22 billion euros in 2004.

ISTAT attributed the increase of the deficit to the sharp rise in the cost of importing oil and gas during the year.

MNA/Xinhua

Bulgaria tests man for bird flu

SOFIA, 19 Feb—Bulgarian health authorities have put a man in an isolation chamber and were testing him for bird flu on Saturday after two of his ducks died, but said he was not showing symptoms of the disease.

The man, from the southern Bulgarian village of Preslavtsi, has been in close contact with the dead ducks, which are being tested by veterinary authorities for the H5N1 strain of bird flu, which has killed more than 90 people since late 2003.

"We are keeping the man in an isolation chamber as a precautionary measure," said Todor Gogovski, the doctor on duty at the hospital at the southern city of

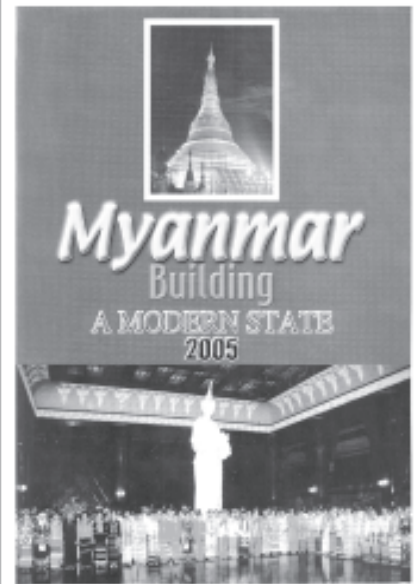
Haskovo.

"We are testing him for bird flu and are awaiting the results, but so far he does not show the symptoms of the disease. He just has a running nose and does not have high temperature."

Bulgaria detected its first outbreak of the H5N1 strain of avian flu in a wild swan on the Danube River town of Vidin, close to the Romanian border, at the end of January.

The Balkan country, which lies on one of the major routes of migratory birds from Europe to Africa, has stepped up measures to prevent the spread of the disease to domestic fowl and urged people to avoid contact with wild birds.

MNA/Reuters



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Swans and ducks are seen on the water in a park in east London, on 19 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Two Chinese Canadians receive Canada's highest honour

OTTAWA, 19 Feb—Two famous Chinese Canadians were among the 33 people who received Canada's highest honour on Friday.

Doctor Steven Aung and writer Wayson Choy joined 31 others at Rideau Hall in Ottawa to be awarded the Order of Canada by Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

As a strong proponent of the synergy between western and eastern medicines, Aung has a unique approach to healing that has had a distinct and lasting impact.

After immigrating to Canada in 1974, he embarked on a mission to share traditional Chinese concepts of wellness, balance and harmony with

health care professionals, students and patients.

To this end, he founded the Certificate Programme in Medical Acupuncture in the University of Alberta, a Canadian first.

For his part, Choy is admired as a writer of stories that reflect the history of the Chinese community in Vancouver. And he is equally known as a passionate, caring and motivating teacher.

Choy is deeply committed to nurturing the process of self-awareness and discovery in his students. The humanity that he reflects in his writing is also very much resonant in his personal life.

Working from a place of compassion and

true understanding of life's joys and sorrows, he consistently gives of himself, whether for the crusade against AIDS or through teaching at shelters for abused women, runaways and homeless children.

The award, established in 1967, is Canada's highest honour for lifetime achievement in a variety of fields.

Appointments are made on the recommendation of an advisory council, chaired by the chief justice of Canada.

Recipients can wear either the snowflake medal or the lapel pin, and are entitled to add the initials CC (companion), OC (officer), or CM (member) after their names.

MNA/Xinhua



Indian sand artist Sudarshan Patnaik makes a sand sculpture of a rooster to raise awareness about bird flu in Puri, 80 km (50 miles) east of Indian south-eastern state of Orissa on 19 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Don't smoke

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Australian Co announces successful results of bird flu vaccine trial

CANBERRA, 19 Feb— An Australian company's preliminary results from its human clinical trial of a pandemic influenza vaccine showed that it is possible to vaccinate people against the bird flu virus using existing technology, Australian Health Minister Tony Abbott said on Friday.

Australia's CSL Ltd announced earlier in the day the results from its clinical trial of a pandemic influenza vaccine based on the H5N1 bird flu virus.

The company has stated that further research is needed to determine the optimal doses of vaccine.

Abbott said the vaccine will be tested in a widerange of age groups to ensure safety and a sufficient immune response in the young and elderly.

"The Howard

Government provided 4.93 million Australian dollars (3.65 million US dollars) to fast track this trial. Today's results are an important step in Australia's efforts to ensure it has the capacity to rapidly develop a vaccine on-shore to respond to a possible influenza pandemic," Abbott said in a statement. "Australia is one of the

most prepared countries in the world to respond to an outbreak of avian influenza or an influenza pandemic," he said.

Since the emergence of avian influenza in Asia in 2003, the Australian Government has committed a total of 555 million Australian dollars (410 million US dollars) on avian influenza and pandemic preparedness measures, including 141 million dollars (105 million US dollars) to help its regional neighbours, according to Abbott.

MNA/Xinhua



Michelle Williams, Ang Lee and James Schamus with their award for best film Brokeback Mountain, at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards in London, on 19 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET



Pillow fighters battle in Union Square during a massive urban pillow fight in New York, on 18 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Roche seeks EU early-stage OK for breast-cancer drug

ZURICH, 19 Feb— Swiss drugmaker Roche AG said on Friday it was seeking approval from European authorities for the use of its breast cancer drug Herceptin in post-surgery therapy for women with early-stage cancer. Roche said in a statement that it had submitted a marketing

authorization application to the European Medicines Agency for Herceptin as adjuvant treatment for early-stage HER2-positive breast cancer. Herceptin is already licenced in Europe and in the United States as treatment for metastatic advanced cancer. The new license, if granted, would

extend the use of the drug to early stage cancer.

The European request is based on data from an international study showing that patients treated with Herceptin experienced statistically significant improvements in disease-free survival compared to patients who did not receive it.

Study says orphanages stunt growth, foster care better

ST LOUIS, 19 Feb — Children raised in orphanages are stunted physically, emotionally and intellectually but good foster care can help orphans start to grow again, researchers said on Friday.

An experiment in which foster homes were set up in Romania showed that children taken out of the country's notorious orphanages began to grow taller and put on weight, gain intellectually and lose the most marked symptoms of depression and anxiety.

The researchers said their findings apply to all

children in orphanages, not just in Romania. Their study, however, provided them a unique opportunity to examine the effects of foster care in a place where it had never existed before.

"An orphanage is a bad place for a child to grow up in," Dr Dana Johnson, a pediatrician and adoption specialist

at the University of Minnesota, told a news conference.

Johnson and colleagues, funded by the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, did the first scientific comparison of what happens to children raised in orphanages versus those raised in foster care and children raised in normal families.

They persuaded the Romanian Government to place 69 children in foster homes — something that had not existed in Bucharest before. Another 67 had to remain in the orphanage and the researchers compared the two groups.

Social workers trained the foster families and checked on the children's progress.

MNA/Reuters

China to better regulate food products for children

BEIJING, 19 Feb— China will monitor the production and sale of food made for children and those made for the rural population, China's health watchdog told Xinhua on Friday.

"We mean to strengthen the protection of this disadvantaged group," a spokesman of the Health Ministry said on condition of anonymity.

The Ministry will punish producers who cheat peasants by making inferior food products, the spokesman said. — MNA/Xinhua

"Results from four large trials with nearly 12,000 patients analysed from around the globe provide consistent evidence that Herceptin reduces the risk of cancer coming back by about half, providing the best chance of long-term survival to women with this aggressive form of early-stage breast cancer," Roche said.

MNA/Reuters

Next space shuttle crew confident of foam fix

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 19 Feb— The crew chosen to fly the space shuttle on NASA's second mission since the 2003 Columbia disaster said on Friday they are confident that changes to the fuel tank will result in a safe, but not debris-free, liftoff.

The modifications were ordered after shuttle Discovery's fuel tank shed large pieces of its insulating foam during launch in July 2005 on the first mission since the accident, which also was caused by falling foam debris. "The (shuttle) programme has never advertised that we would never lose any foam," said astronaut Steven Lindsey, the commander of the next crew, which also will fly on shuttle Discovery. — MNA/Reuters



Dogs pull a dog sleigh during the annual Russian Dog Sledging Championship in the settlement of Yakhroma outside Moscow on 18 Feb, 2006. Riders from all over Russia arrived on Saturday for the two-day event. —INTERNET

SPORTS



Japan's women's curling team celebrate after they defeated Britain at the Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Pinerolo, Italy on 19 Feb, 2006. Japan won the match 10-5. —INTERNET

Hamburg edge Eintracht to close on Bayern

FRANKFURT, 20 Feb—Hamburg SV trimmed Bayern Munich's lead in the Bundesliga to eight points by winning 2-1 away to Eintracht Frankfurt on Sunday.

Piotr Trochowski and Daniel van Buyten got the goals for Hamburg, who had slipped off the pace after defeats in their previous two away games.

Bayern remain on course for a successful defence of their title despite Saturday's 1-1 draw away to Hanover 96. With 22 games played, the Bavarians have 55 points, with Hamburg's victory on Sunday taking them back up to second on 47.

Werder Bremen, 1-0 winners away to Borussia Dortmund on Saturday, are third on 46.

VfB Stuttgart won 2-1 at home to Mainz on Sunday, a first victory for Armin Veh since he replaced Giovanni Trapattoni as coach on 10 February.

Hamburg were untidy in the first half in Frankfurt, giving the home side plenty of opportunities, but after taking the lead for the second time shortly after the break, their first away win of 2006 never looked in danger.

Trochowski had created the first out of nothing in the 20th minute, nipping past the covering defender and poking out a boot to convert a high, hopeful cross from Sergej Barbarez on the left.

Eintracht kept pressing for an equalizer and it arrived three minutes after the break, when Alex Meier's header hit Van Buyten and deflected past the keeper.

Van Buyten made amends seven minutes after the break, calmly stroking in after being teed up by Trochowski's cut-back. "We didn't give them a chance after they'd got their equalizer," coach Thomas Doll said. "We were very disciplined." —MNA/Reuters

Moya wins third Buenos Aires title

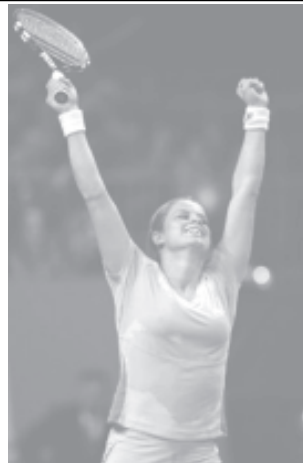
BUENOS AIRES, 20 Feb—Former world number one Carlos Moya won his third Buenos Aires title on Sunday when he beat Italian Filippo Volandri 7-6, 6-4 in the Copa Telmex ATP claycourt tournament final.

The fifth-seeded Spaniard also won in Buenos Aires in 1995, his first career title, and 2003. He lost the 2004 final to Guillermo Coria.

It was the 29-year-old Moya's first title of the year after losing the Chennai final to Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic and 19th overall.

Sixth seed Volandri, ranked one place above Moya at number 33 in the world, broke serve to lead 5-3 in the first set and then had two set points in the 10th game.

Moya, French Open winner in 1998, fought back to force a tiebreak which he won 8-6. He had little trouble clinching the match in the second set. —MNA/Xinhua



Kim Clijsters of Belgium reacts after winning against Elena Dementieva of Russia in the WTA Proximus Diamond Games tennis tournament in Antwerp, Belgium on 18 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Late Cole goals edge Chelsea past Colchester

LONDON, 20 Feb—Chelsea needed two late goals by Joe Cole to beat Colchester 3-1 in the fifth round of the FA Cup on Sunday after the Third Division side had taken the lead and threatened to hold on for a notable Stamford Bridge draw.

A Ricardo Carvalho own goal put Colchester ahead in the 28th minute with Paulo Ferreira equalizing nine minutes later.

Champions Chelsea looked increasingly nervous until substitute Cole scored in the 79th minute and the England midfielder then curled in a sublime second in injury time.

Earlier Middlesbrough won 2-0 win at Preston North End and Birmingham City won 1-0 at Stoke City to ensure that the quarterfinals will contain eight Premier League sides.

Later on Sunday Aston Villa host Manchester City in the final fifth round game.

Colchester hold a special place in FA Cup history thanks to their giant-killing 3-2 win over then-mighty Leeds United in 1971.

The Essex team were in the Fourth Division then, this time they are in the third and pushing for promotion. Their entire squad cost 15,000 pounds (26,030 US dollars) compared with the 227 million of their billionaire-backed opponents on Sunday.

Colchester went close to taking a

shock lead in the 22nd minute when on-loan Mark Yeates drove a low shot against a post.

Chelsea failed to heed the warning though and paid the price for more slack defending. A neat build-up sent Richard Garcia free down the right and when he drove in a low cross Carvalho clumsily turned it into his own net.

The equalizer came in the 37th minute when Carvalho got his shoulder to a corner and fellow Portuguese international Ferreira hooked the loose ball in from close range.

MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Paulo Ferreira, left, competes with Colchester United's Mark Yates during their English FA Cup 5th round soccer match at Stamford Bridge, London, on 19 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Cuban cyclist wins Tour of Cuba for fourth time

HAVANA, 20 Feb—Cuban cyclist Pedro Pablo Perez won for the fourth time in the overall competition of the Tour of Cuba, which concluded on Sunday in Cuban capital Havana.

Slovenia's Borut Bozic won the 45km-long final stage, completing it with five laps of Revolution Square, site of the finishing line for the first time, with a time of 1:02:05 hours. Joseph Papp of the United States and Cuba's Perez tying for second place right behind Bozic.

Venezuela's Franklin Chacon won third place in the general classification, followed by fellow Venezuelan Jackson Rodriguez, who led the competition's Under-23 class. —MNA/Xinhua

Tipsarevic wins Belgrade Open tennis

BELGRADE, 20 Feb—Serbian & Montenegro tennis player Janko Tipsarevic won on Sunday the title of the fifth international tournament Hypo Alpe-Adria Open, which started on 13 February in Belgrade with the prize money of 100,000 US dollars.

During the singles finals of the ATP Challenger event, unseeded Tipsarevic was leading by 6-4, 4-1 against Tomas Cakl from the Czech Republic, before his opponent was forced to retire due to a shoulder injury. Tipsarevic, who was ranked No 137 in the world, led the semifinals by 6-4, 2-1 against France's Michael Llodra, who was forced to retire to injury.

In the doubles finals on Sunday, Michael Kohlmann and Alexander Waske of Germany beat the Czech pair Ivo Minar and Jan Minar by 7-6 (3), 6-3.

MNA/Xinhua



AS Roma's midfielder Simone Perrotta in action during the Italian Serie A Top League soccer match between AS Roma and Empoli at Rome's Olympic Stadium, Italy, on 19 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Celtic thrash Dunfermline 8-1 to leave Strachan purring

GLASGOW, 20 Feb—Celtic thrashed Dunfermline 8-1, with Polish striker Maciej Zurawski netting four goals, to re-open a 13-point gap at the top of the Scottish Premier League on Sunday.

Second from bottom Dunfermline were level at 1-1 after 14 minutes before Celtic raced to their biggest win of the season and of Gordon Strachan's managerial career.

"Dunfermline were unlucky to get us on a day like this," Strachan told Setanta TV after the second biggest away victory in Celtic's history.

"I have never been through this in my life before," said Dunfermline manager Jim Leishman.

"It is really hurting. My heart is pounding and my stomach's churning. It is hard to take." The two sides meet again in the League Cup final on March 19 at Hampden.

Celtic have 67 points from 27 games

with Hearts second courtesy of their 3-0 home win over Motherwell on Saturday.

Champions Rangers ended their Hibernian hoodoo with a 2-0 home victory on Saturday, their first in four league and cup tussles this season, to go third with 46 points.

Bulgarian Stilian Petrov grabbed the third minute opener for Celtic who were denied a penalty soon afterwards when Petrov was brought down. A minute later Dunfermline levelled.

Craig Wilson whipped over a corner and the ball found its way to Andy Campbell who hooked it back across for Andy Tod to head high into the net.

MNA/Reuters

Over 3,000 firemen convene in HK for World Firefighters Games

HONG KONG, 20 Feb—More than 3,300 firefighters from across the globe turned up Saturday in Hong Kong, not for an emergency this time, but to compete with each other in the 9th World Firefighters Games.

In the following seven days, the firefighters from 35 countries or regions, will demonstrate their skills and athletic prowess for 59 tiles in a number of competitions which are specific to the firefighters' emergency service role.

"Hong Kong is honoured to be the first Asian city to host this event since it was launched in 1990," said Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, Chief Executive of

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), at the opening ceremony at Tamar Site Saturday afternoon.

Tsang said the Games provide with an opportunity to salute the bravery and selflessness of all firefighters who are called to duty wherever flames may rage and give of their best in guarding every neighbour and protecting his property.

Quoting the Hong

Kong Fire Services Department's achievement, Tsang said Hong Kong had a proud history in fire service and its uniformed services had helped achieve its current status as one of the safest cities in the world.

The department responded to about 90 per cent of building fires in built-up areas within six minutes over the past five years with the number of fire calls declining by

more than 15 per cent from 2000 to 2005 through the department's publicity and education effort.

MNA/Xinhua

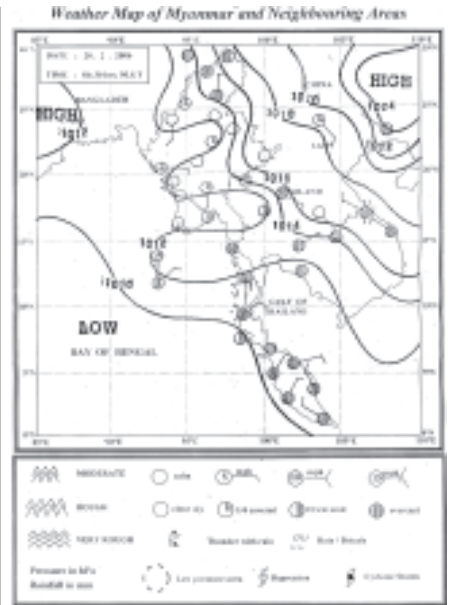
Syria condemns US aid to opposition

DAMASCUS, 20 Feb—Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem on Sunday condemned the US decision to fund the Syrian opposition.

"It is interference in our internal affairs. We reject it totally," Muallem told reporters.

The US State Department said in a statement on Friday that it would spend about five million US dollars to finance the Syrian opposition "to accelerate the work of reformers in Syria".

The grants "will build up Syrian civil society and support organizations promoting democratic practices such as the rule of law; government accountability; access to independent sources of information; freedom of association and speech; and free, fair and competitive elections", the statement said.—MNA/Xinhua



A firefighter from Japan, participates in a game of 'Toughest Firefighter Alive' during the ninth World Firefighters Games in Hong Kong, on 19 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Monday, 20 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30

hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division, and weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Northern Shan States and upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Rakhine States, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Pinlaung (5°C) Lashio, Heho and Haka (6°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 19-2-2006 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 20-2-2006 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 20-2-2006 was (80%). Total sunshine hours on 19-2-2006 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 20-2-2006 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 (8) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 19-2-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.


Forecast valid until evening of 21-2-2006: Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of light rain in the Northern and Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-2-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-2-2006: Fair weather.



Tuesday, 21 February
View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းထွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံယောဇဉာတော်အဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရတနာပုဂ္ဂိုလ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရတနာပုဂ္ဂိုလ်၊ တီပို့ဂီတဓလေ့၊ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘုရား၊ ဝိပဿနာသုတ်၊ ဝိပဿနာသုတ်၊ ဝိပဿနာသုတ်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. ကဏ္ဍပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:00 am

6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

7. Song of yesteryears

8:20 am

8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Let's Go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Musical programme

4:40 pm

4. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လှည့်ပေးရန်ပြင်ဆင်ကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ပထမနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု)

4:55 pm

5. Dance of national races

5:10 pm

6. ခဲစားနားဆင်ထားဇာတ်ဝင်

5:20 pm

7. "အနိုင်အရုံး" (ပိစိ၊ ကောင်းမြတ်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့)

5:25 pm

8. Sing and Enjoy

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရယ်ရယ်အေးအေး ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်တို့လေး" (အပိုင်း-၆၆)

6:50 pm

12. The mirror images of the musical oldies

7:05 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်လျှောက်ထားထစ်လေးများ" (အပိုင်း-၄၁)

8:00 pm


14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ပျော်ရွှင်စွယ်စုံ ဇနီးမောင်မယ်များ" (အပိုင်း-၁၂)

18. The next day's programme



Tuesday, 21 February
Tune in today

8.30 am Brief news

8.35 am Music:

8.40 am Perspectives

8.45 am Music:

8.50 am National news & Slogan

9:00 am Music:

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music

1:30 pm News & Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music

9.00 pm English Speaking Course Level III, Unit()

9.15 pm Article/Music:

9.25 pm Weekly sports reel

9.35 pm Music for your listening pleasure

9.45 pm News & Slogan

10.30 pm PEL

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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

**Leaders of both nations wish to cement friendly ties and extend cooperation
Executive Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province hosts dinner in honour of Prime Minister General Soe Win, wife and delegation**

YANGON, 20 Feb — Executive Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province of the People's Republic of China Mr Tang Bingquan called on Prime Minister General Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar at Crystal Ballroom of China Hotel in Guangzhou at 6.30 pm on 17 February.

At the meeting, Mr Tang Bingquan said he warmly welcomed Prime Minister General Soe Win and delegation's visit to Guangzhou in Guangdong Province, and honoured Myanmar Prime Minister for the success of the good-will visit. He expressed hope that the visit will further strengthen the existing cordial relations between the two nations.

He said, Guangdong Province located in the southernmost part of China has a population of over 80 million. Thanks to the economic reforms, Guangdong Province is enjoying economic

progress.

During a period of 27 years the total investment amount of Guangdong Province was one-fourth of the total investment volume of the entire nation. Its income during the previous fiscal was one-fourth of the nation's income. Its export volume accounted for one-fourth of the total export value.

Of all the provinces of the PRC, Guangdong is the province enjoying social stability and economic development to the highest degree, and that has the largest investment. The province is gaining success thanks to the assistance and support of the friendly nations including Myanmar. The province will strive for achieving further progress.

The province has given priority to cooperating with other nations including Myanmar. There is cooperation between business compa-



Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province of PRC Mr Tang Bingquan welcomes Prime Minister General Soe Win. — MNA

nies of China and Myanmar. The companies of the province are investing in Myanmar, especially in the tourism business.

Prime Minister General Soe Win said, (See page 10)

Myanmar has been laying down and implementing national development projects, and thanks to the efforts, the nation is now enjoying the fruits of progress.



Prime Minister General Soe Win and party enjoys night scene of Guangzhou. — MNA