

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 312

10th Waning of Tabodwe 1367 ME

Wednesday, 22 February, 2006

### Four political objectives

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

### Four economic objectives

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

### Four social objectives

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

## Secretary-1 inspects construction of Twantay Bridge, road linking No 5 Highway and Dalla-Twantay Road



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects Twantay Bridge Construction Project. — MNA

future work. The Secretary-1 stressed the need for timely completion of the project. Next, Twantay Bridge construction project Deputy Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Naing reported on construction progress of Twantay Bridge and future tasks. The Secretary-1 called for the

timely completion of the project and the need for meeting the standard set.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe also briefed on construction of the road linking Dalla-Twantay Road and the eight villages on the other bank of Hline River and bridges along the road.

(See page 8)

**Twantay Bridge is being built across Twantay Canal. It is 840 feet long with 2730-foot-long approach road. The two-lane bridge is 28 feet wide with a four-foot pedestrian lane on both sides.**

YANGON, 21 Feb — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and senior military officers and officials of the SPDC office, visited the Twantay Bridge construction site in Twantay township in Yangon South District this afternoon. The project is being implemented by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction.

At the briefing hall of the project Yangon Division Superintending Engineer U Soe Tint briefed the Secretary-1 on progress in construction of the road linking Hlinethaya Industrial Zone No 5 Highway and Dalla-Twantay Road and



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

## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 22 February, 2006

### Mutual benefits through continued cooperation in all fields

The Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China are close neighbours and they are cooperating with each other for their mutual interests. And leaders of the two nations exchange visits with the object of promoting mutual friendship and bilateral cooperation. Prime Minister General Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar, at the invitation of Chinese Prime Minister Mr Wen Jiabao, visited the People's Republic of China from 14 to 18 February.

During his visit, Prime Minister General Soe Win met with Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and Mr Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and had frank and friendly discussions on promotion of bilateral cooperation in political, economic and social fields and in science and technology. Moreover, eight agreements and MoUs were inked.

Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province Mr Tang Bingquan also met Prime Minister General Soe Win and hosted a dinner his honour. At their meeting, Prime Minister General Soe Win said that, as Myanmar had been striving for all-round national development through systematic implementation of various plans, there had been tangible results in various fields and that, in the drive for the national development, economic cooperation with countries in the region, especially the People's Republic of China, was necessary.

Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province Mr Tang Bingquan said that, out of the provinces in China, Guangdong Province had the most social stability, the highest economic growth and the largest investment and that it was due to the assistance and support of friendly nations including Myanmar.

Myanmar and China have a tradition of supporting each other and safeguarding each other's interests. It is necessary to make continued cooperation in all fields in accordance with the wishes of leaders of the two nations. We believe that the visit to China by Prime Minister General Soe Win will be a shot in the arm for the existing friendship between the two neighbours.



In memory of late U Phyu Tun Oo and Daw Aye Sein, U Khin Maung Oo and Daw Khin Kyi and family of No 714, Thein Nyo 1st Street, Ward-9, Dagon Myothit (East), donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently through Joint Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of the Home for the Aged.—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

### Commander, Mayor inspect upgrading of roads



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect tarmacking on U Chit Maung Road in Bahan Township. — MNA

YANGON, 21 Feb — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected upgrading of pedestrian lanes on Natmauk Road in Tamwun Township this morning.

Next, they inspected tarmacking of U Chit Maung Street in Bahan Township and construction

concrete ditches; widening of Thumingala Street in South Oakkalapa Township; widening of Pinlon Street in Dagon Myothit (North) Township; and tarmacking of Tawwin Street at the entrance to Dagon University in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

During their inspections, the commander and mayor called on officials concerned to carry out upgrading tasks meeting the set standard.

MNA

## LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### President of MFF leaves for Malaysia

YANGON, 21 Feb— To attend the meeting of the working committees of Asia Football Federation, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and General Secretary U Tin Aung left here for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this morning. —NLM



MFF President U Zaw Zaw and General Secretary U Tin Aung. — NLM

### Kanbawza team beat Rail Transportation

YANGON, 21 Feb — Myanmar League Football Tournament for 2005-2006 football season continued at Aung San Stadium this afternoon.

**Aung San Stadium**

Kanbawza team: 2

Rail Transportation: 0

Out of 11 matches, Kanbawza team won in 4 matches, 2 draws and 5 losses and stood at 8th position with 14 points. Rail Transportation team played 11 matches, won three, draw one and 7 losses and stood at 13th position with 10 points.

**Today's matches**

**Aung San Stadium**

Finance and Revenue vs YCDC

**Thuwunna Stadium**

Construction vs Transport—NLM



Members of La-sa-ya (4) Hockey Team of Yangon Division seen together with the championship trophy on 19-2-2006. Yangon Division Team emerged the champion of Myanmar Olympic Committee President's Trophy tournament on 19 February. MNA



Nay Win of Kanbawza Team fights for a ball against San Lwin Oo of Rail Transportation Team. —NLM

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ

# Musharraf begins state visit to China

**BELING, 20 Feb — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf arrived here Sunday, starting a five-day state visit to China.**

Musharraf came to China at the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

His current visit is expected to unveil a series of events celebrating the 55th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic

relations. During his stay in Beijing, Musharraf will meet his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao and other senior Chinese leaders. The two sides will discuss how to further promote the friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation, exchange views on international and regional issues of common

concern, and sign some cooperative agreements.

China and Pakistan are always considered as close neighbours enjoying an all-weather friendship. But the recent gun attack in southern Pakistan that led to the death of three Chinese engineers has shocked both countries.

MNA/Xinhua



Pakistan's President Gen Pervez Musharraf, right, and Chinese President Mr Hu Jintao walk past a Chinese honour guard at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 20 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

## Bird flu kills Thai boy

**BANGKOK, 20 Feb —** A 5-year-old boy in Thai Nakhon Nayok province outside Bangkok has died of bird flu, becoming the 14th Thai victim of avian influenza, local media reported on Saturday.

News of the death of the youngster came as a shock. Thailand has been largely free of bird flu in the past two months, since a small outbreak killed a man last October, the *Bangkok Post* said on its web edition.

The boy died in hospital on Wednesday, Thai Deputy Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakula was quoted as saying.

He was not known to have had direct contact with chickens, but investigations are continuing.

The death brings the Asian death toll from H5N1 avian flu to 70.

MNA/Xinhua

## Beijing attracts record foreign investment

**BEIJING, 21 Feb —** Beijing attracted a record 35.3 billion US dollars of foreign investment in 2005, a rise of 14.4 per cent from the previous year, according to the city's statistics bureau.

Beijing approved 2,136 overseas-financed projects last year, up 18.3 per cent.

The tertiary sector accounted for 65.5 per

cent of the total amount of foreign funds flowing into the capital last year, as more fields like commercial services, finance, insurance and logistics were opened up to overseas investors.

By the end of 2005, about 239 research institutions, 146 investment companies and 45 regional headquarters of foreign corporations had been set up in Beijing.

MNA/Xinhua



In this photo released by China's Xinhua news agency, air hostesses of Cathay Pacific Airways line up delicacies which are to be served in the plane, in Hong Kong, on 20 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

## France, Britain, Germany join UN call to close Guantanamo camp

**WASHINGTON, 20 Feb —** The British, French and German envoys to Washington, on Sunday joined the UN call for closing the unpopular US detention camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte told CNN: "Guantanamo is an embarrassment, and so it has to be solved one way or the other".

Levitte made the comments during an

interview alongside his British and German counterparts.

German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger said: "The sooner it's closed, the better it will be for the image of the United States, not only as a military and political but also as a moral leader in the world".

The British envoy, Sir David Manning, said: "It's difficult to find the right line to draw between your duties as a government for security and safeguarding liberty, but it is clearly an anomaly and it needs to be dealt with".

MNA/Xinhua

## Over 40,000 bicycles burnt down in Tianjin fire

**TIANJIN, 20 Feb —** More than 40,000 bicycles were burnt after a fire broke out at a bicycle factory on Saturday afternoon in north China's Tianjin Municipality with no casualty reported, according to local government.

The fire took place at the painting workshop of the Tianjin Kelihui Bicycle & Electric Vehicle Company at around 5:30 on Thursday and more than 10,000 square metres of workshop were also destroyed.

MNA/Xinhua



Teams of search dogs are fanning out across the site of a deadly Philippines landslide on 21 Feb, 2006 as rescuers hope to find signs of life buried deep under piles of mud and rubble. —INTERNET

## UN says 11 million in Africa may starve

**GENEVA, 20 Feb —** As many as 11 million people are threatened with starvation across east Africa because of a

combination of drought and conflict, a UN special investigator warned on Monday.

Urging donor countries to come immediately to their aid, Jean Ziegler, UN special rapporteur on the right to food, said that pre-famine conditions were increasingly being reported throughout the region.

"Severe droughts coupled with the effects of past and present conflicts have led to acute shortages of water and food," he said in a statement.

"Approximately 11 million people are currently threatened by starvation in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia

and Tanzania," he added.

Hundreds of people and tens of thousands of head of livestock are believed to have died from hunger and thirst since the drought began in late 2005.

The World Meteorological Organization, a UN agency, has warned that rain is unlikely before April.

Ziegler, who reports to the Geneva-based Human Rights Commission, said Tanzania and Kenya had the largest number at risk — 3.7 million and 3.5 million, respectively.

In Somalia, there were 2 million at risk, with 1.75 million in Ethiopia and 150,000 in Djibouti.

Internet

## Venezuela's Chavez warns Rice, "don't mess with me"

CARACAS (Venezuela), 20 Feb—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday warned US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice not to "mess with" him days after Rice described Venezuela as a menace to regional democracy in the midst of tense diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"Don't mess with me Condoleezza. Don't mess with me, girl," Chavez said during his weekly Sunday broadcast, sarcastically offering her a kiss and jokingly referring to her as "Condolence".

The warning comes days after Rice described Venezuela as one of the "biggest problems" for the Western Hemisphere and promised to develop regional alliances as part of an "inoculation" strategy to expose what the State Department calls anti-democratic behaviour in Venezuela.

Chavez has repeatedly accused Washington of trying to topple him, and says the United States will attempt to sow chaos

this year as he launches a re-election bid.

Diplomatic relations between the United States and Venezuela, the world's No 5 oil exporter, have been strained since Chavez accused the United States of plotting a coup d'etat that briefly ousted him in 2002. Chavez, a former soldier turned populist leader, has promised to create socialist revolution in

Venezuela and promote regional integration in Latin America to roll back US-supported economic reforms.

The State Department says Chavez is using the nation's bountiful oil wealth to meddle in the affairs of neighbouring countries, and has slammed him for boosting ties to US foes like Cuba and Iran.

MNA/Reuters



A tractor clears snow near the wall of Moscow's Kremlin on 17 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

### Diamond necklace theft stuns Bangkok's luxurious shopping centre

BANGKOK, 20 Feb—A five-million-baht (about 125,000 US dollars) diamond necklace was stolen from Siam Paragon on Saturday in the first theft case since the opening of the luxury shopping centre in central Bangkok on 9 December.

Naran Thammawaranukhup, the owner of the Blue River Diamond shop, said he discovered the 51-karat diamond necklace was missing after a group of foreigners had visited his shop which was located in the mall's Hall of Mirror zone. He rushed to Pathum Wan police station to report the crime.—MNA/Xinhua

### All 12 crew accounted for after US helicopter crash

NAIROBI, 20 Feb— All 12 crew members from two US military helicopters that crashed off Djibouti on Friday have been accounted for, the US military in the Horn of Africa country said on Saturday.

"Next of kin notifications are still ongoing; therefore, no further information regarding the status of or condition of the crew members will be released at this time," it said in a statement. It had earlier on Saturday said 10 crew members were still missing after the crash during a training mission off the Red Sea state, while two were rescued on Friday.—MNA/Reuters

### Two killed in accident at south African mine

JOHANNESBURG, 20 Feb— Two people were killed and one was injured on Saturday in a mine accident in South Africa's central Free State Province, news agency Sapa reported. Sapa quoted President Steyn Mine executive Gerrit Kennedy as saying the accident in the gold mine may have been caused by earth tremors in the area.

"The accident occurred at 11 am on Saturday. The cause of the accident is being investigated but it is suspected that seismic activities in the area caused a collapse of ground at Shaft One," he said. The President Steyn Mine belongs to Toronto-listed Thistle Mining Inc.—MNA/Reuters

### Ten injured in railway station blast in western India

NEW DELHI, 20 Feb— At least 10 people were injured in a blast at the railway station of Ahmedabad, major city of western India's Gujarat, on early Sunday morning, NDTV reported.

A powerful device went off on Platform Two at 1.45 am on Sunday, the TV news said. There were very few people on the platform when the explosion took place shortly after the departure of two trains. The explosion shattered glass panes on the adjoining platform and in the outside corridor of the station. Train traffic to the station was suspended for a few hours before it resumed at 4.30 am.—MNA/Xinhua

### Cholera death toll rises to 52 in south Sudan

KHARTOUM, 20 Feb— A cholera outbreak in south Sudan has claimed 52 lives with more than 2,000 cases of the deadly disease which spreads rapidly through brimming urban centres, the World Health Organization said on Saturday. The disease, identified this week as cholera, has infected 2,029 people in the towns of Yei and the regional capital Juba, and aid agencies are rushing to prevent the outbreak spreading to neighbouring towns.—MNA/Reuters

### Six bodies found in wreck of small plane in Iraq

SULAIMANIYA (Iraq), 20 Feb— Six bodies were found on Sunday in the wreckage of a small plane that crashed in the snow-covered mountains of northern Iraq three days ago, officials said.

The plane was carrying at least three Germans from Azerbaijan to Sulaimaniya Airport in Kurdish-run northern Iraq when aviation officials lost contact on Thursday.

"I am standing by the wreckage right now. There are six bodies and we have asked for a helicopter to come from the American base and pick them up," said Kameran Ahmad, director of Sulaimaniya Airport. "The plane crashed and experts are here to

investigate what happened." Ahmad said he had received an email the day before the plane was due to arrive listing the passengers as four Germans and an Iraqi.

But a German police spokesman said the Cessna plane was carrying three German employees of a company from a town north of Munich, along with an Iraqi business partner and two pilots whose nationality was not known.

MNA/Reuters



There's a lizard on the loose in peaceful Cambridgeshire, a 1.2 metre (four foot) black and white Argentinian tegu lizard that goes by the name of Gonzo.—INTERNET

### US troops kill three civilians west of Baghdad

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 20 Feb— Three civilians were killed on Sunday after US troops opened fire at their car near Fallujah, medics told Xinhua.

"A US patrol shot dead three civilians, two brothers and their relative, as they were travelling in Ameriyat al-Fallujah area, some 7 kilometres south of Fallujah," a medical source in Fallujah Hospital said on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua



A column of black smoke rises into the sky as waste oil burns outside Iraq's largest oil refinery near the northern Iraq town of Baiji on 20 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

## London policemen face charge for faking log on tube shooting

LONDON, 20 Feb—London police officers are facing criminal charges over allegations that they changed evidence after shooting dead an innocent Brazilian at a London Underground station.

British's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) officials investigating the killing of 27-year-old Jean Charles De Menezes plan to charge the officers who oversaw the operation, according to *The Independent* newspaper on Sunday.

The disclosure comes three weeks after reports that undercover police deliberately attempted to

blame firearms officers for the shooting.

Police surveillance officers allegedly tried to disguise the fact that they had mistaken De Menezes for Hussain Osman, the alleged terrorist being hunted for a failed suicide bombing on the Tube.

Action is planned over the allegations that officers took part in the cover-up, in which words

clearing them of any wrong-doing were written into the police log. Senior legal sources say that officers who were allegedly involved in altering the log, which detailed the last movements of De Menezes, face charges of obstructing public justice or conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

MNA/Xinhua



A Russian girl shows her skills in assembling and disassembling a Kalashnikov assault rifle at a military school in Russia's southern city of Stavropol, on 20 Feb, 2006. Over eight hundred pupils of the school attend military training in addition to regular school lessons. —INTERNET



A dwarf African goat stands on wooden posts at the "Living Desert" zoo in Palm Desert, California on 19 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

## California woman, 62, gives birth to baby boy

REDDING, 20 Feb—A 62-year-old woman gave birth on Friday to a healthy 6-pound, 9-ounce baby boy, becoming one of the oldest women in the world to successfully bear a child. Janise Wulf gave birth to her 12th child. She is also a grandmother of 20 and a great-grandmother of three.

Family members said the delivery went smoothly, despite earlier concerns about the mother's health. Wulf, a diabetic, experienced swelling and higher blood pressure earlier this week, prompting doctors to

perform the Caesarean section a week early.

Wulf and her third husband, Scott, 48, named the red-haired boy Adam Charles Wulf. He follows just 3 1/2 years behind his older brother, Ian.

The oldest woman on record to give birth is a 66-year-old Adriana

Iliescu of Romania, who had a Caesarean section on 15 January, 2005.

The *Guinness Book of World Records* also lists two 63-year-old women who have given birth: Rosanna Della Corte of Italy in 1994 and Acheli Keh of California in 1996.

Internet

## Quake jolts Bulgaria, no casualties

SOPIA, 21 Feb — An earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale rattled Bulgaria on Monday, shattering windows and sending people fleeing into the streets, officials said.

The tremor was centred 200 km (125 miles) south of the capital near the town of Kardzhali, said Rumén Angelov, an officer at Bulgaria's national civil defence agency.

"There are reports of cracked walls, fallen chimneys and broken windows on the top floors of buildings. There is no sign of any casualties, nor has anyone reported damage to road infrastructure or dams," Angelov said.

MNA/Reuters

## Nine foreign oil workers abducted in southern Nigeria

LAGOS, 20 Feb—Nigerian militants on Saturday abducted nine foreign oil workers for a subcontractor of the oil giant Royal Dutch Shell in the country's restive south, Shell spokesmen said.

"I can confirm the kidnap, we have that report, but I don't have details," the spokesman told *Xinhua*. Another Shell spokesman said the workers were abducted from a barge, operated by US oil services company Willbros.

Militants from the Movement for the

Emancipation of the Niger Delta, which held hostages for 19 days last month, in an email statement, claimed responsibility for the kidnap.

They identified the workers as three Americans, a Briton, two Egyptians, two Thais and one Filipino.

MNA/Xinhua

## Half of Britons chat to their motor cars

LONDON, 20 Feb—Nearly half of motorists regularly talk to their cars, giving words of encouragement ahead of a long trip and lavishing praise for a job well done at journey's end, according to research on Monday.

A survey of 2,000 owners also found 40 percent thought their car had a personality and was capable of being upset whilst 19 percent worried about how their car was feeling.

The poll, conducted by organizers of July's British International Motor Show found women rather than men tended to have a close relationship with their car. Giving a pet name to their car but not their human partners was admitted to by 20 percent of women.

The survey that revealed fully 47 percent of drivers talked to their cars also looked at how people felt about their cars across the country.

More people chat happily to their cars in the

southwest than anywhere else in the country, with 54 percent enjoying a good chat, compared with the more taciturn Scots where 26 percent indulged.

Half of all cars on East Anglian roads rejoiced in a pet name compared with just 31 percent of cars in the southeast.

Internet



Iraqi residents look at the remains of a destroyed garbage bin at a park square after a bomb attack in Baghdad, on 20 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

## India confirms bird flu in poultry, testing humans

NEW DELHI, 20 Feb—India confirmed its first bird flu infections in poultry on Saturday and began tests on eight human beings after 50,000 birds died in the western state of Maharashtra, officials said on Saturday.

"We are testing eight humans for (the) bird flu virus in the affected area of Maharashtra," Federal Health Secretary PK Hota told *Reuters*.

"Their blood samples have been sent for testing in Pune. Four other people, including three children, are being kept under observation."

But the official said so far there were "no clinical symptoms" in the cases. Test reports would be available in 72 hours, he said, adding all states had been advised to be on a "lookout".

Maharashtra Animal Husbandry Minister Anees Ahmed earlier confirmed the presence of the H5N1 avian flu virus in some of the dead chickens in Nandurbar District, about 450 kilometres (280 miles) north of Mumbai, the country's bustling commercial hub.

Samples sent to a government laboratory in the central town of Bhopal had confirmed bird flu, he said. — MNA/Reuters

## Thailand, Japan to sign FTA accord in April

**BANGKOK, 21 Feb—** Thailand and Japan are expected to sign a bilateral free trade area (FTA) agreement in early April, according to Deputy Commerce Minister Preecha Laohapongchana.

After a meeting with Japanese Ambassador to Thailand Hideaki Kobayashi on Monday, Preecha said he discussed with the Japanese top envoy on preparations for the official signing of the Thai-Japanese FTA accord in early April.

The Thai negotiation team had managed to persuade Japan to ease

strict rules on imports of Thai farm products in the agreement, Preecha was quoted by *Thai News Agency* as saying.

The Commerce Ministry had also persuaded Japanese businessmen to make more investment in electronics and auto industries as well as intellectual properties.

Thailand has been in

trade deficit with Japan mainly due to the import of machinery and raw materials for production.

Japanese investors are interested in a planned bidding for mega-projects in Thailand and want the bidding process to be implemented in a transparent manner, said the Deputy Minister.

MNA/Xinhua



Pakistani conjoined twin girls are admitted at local hospital in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 19 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

## Gum chewing helps bowels after surgery

**CHICAGO, 21 Feb —** Chewing gum after intestinal surgery can help reactivate paralyzed bowels and get patients out of the hospital sooner, a study said on Monday.

Patients who have abdominal surgery often suffer a slowdown or shutdown of the bowels called ileus that causes pain, vomiting and abdominal swelling, and they may not be able to tolerate food or even water, the report published in the *Archives of Surgery* said.

Study participants had no problem chewing sugarless gum three times a day. Chewing stimulates nerves that promote the release of hormones responsible for activating the gastrointestinal system, wrote study author Rob Schuster of Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital in California.

MNA/Reuters

## First APEC events start in Vietnam

**HANOI, 21 Feb—** First meetings of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2006, kicked off here Monday, acting as initial steps to the APEC Summit slated for 12-19 November in Vietnam.

The first senior officials' meeting and related meetings with the participation of officials and experts from APEC members in such fields as e-commerce, Customs, intellectual property, market access, anti-corruption, and counter-terrorism are scheduled to take place from 20 February to 2 March in capital Hanoi.

On Monday, delegates from APEC

member economies, including China, China's Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, the United States and Australia, focused their discussions on issues relating to electronic commerce, Customs procedures, electrical and electronic mutual recognition, and information privacy protection in e-commerce and e-government.

Chinese experts presented reports on activities of the World

Customs Organization in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Apart from the summit, Vietnam will host about 100 APEC events this year, including a joint foreign and trade ministerial meeting, meetings of ministers responsible for finance, trade, healthcare and tourism, and senior officials meetings. The first officials' meeting is to take place on 2 March.

MNA/Xinhua

## Gunmen kill four Iraqi truck drivers in northern Iraq

**TIKRIT (Iraq), 21 Feb —** Gunmen ambushed a convoy of trucks carrying construction materials to a US military base in northern Iraq on Sunday, killing four drivers, a source with the Iraqi-US liaison office in Tikrit told *Xinhua*.

"Unknown armed men opened fire at a convoy of trucks carrying construction materials to a US military base in the al-Nibaie area, some 70 kilometres north of Baghdad, killing four truck drivers," the source from the Joint Coordination Centre said on condition of anonymity.

The gunmen set all the trucks of the convoy on fire and kidnapped an unknown number of the drivers after killing four of them, the source said.

Earlier in the day, unknown armed men gunned down Saba Hamid Hussein, who works in a US Military base in Yathrib town, some 90 kilometres north of Baghdad, the source said.

Tikrit, some 170 kilometres north of Baghdad, and its surrounding towns in Salahudin Province have been a hotbed for insurgents against US and Iraqi security forces since the US-led invasion in 2003. — MNA/Reuters

## Cambodia sets up commission to save endangered Mekong dolphin

**PHNOM PENH, 21 Feb—** Amid fears that more Mekong River freshwater dolphins will die, Cambodian Government has formed a commission charged with conserving the endangered species.

The commission started work last week to ensure that no more dolphins die, the commission chairman Touch Seang Tana was quoted on Tuesday by *The Cambodia Daily* as saying. He said 24-hour monitoring posts will be built, and no fishing equipment will be allowed inside the conservation zone. Touch Seang Tana said that fishermen will be trained in new jobs, such as making handicrafts for tourists.

MNA/Xinhua



Robots assemble Volkswagen cars in Wolfsburg, Germany. German producer prices, the price of goods at the factory gate, rose by 5.6 percent in January compared with the same month of 2005, the highest increase since July 1982.

INTERNET

## 1.3 million Vietnamese aged around 30 have diabetes

**HANOI, 21 Feb—** Some 1.3 million Vietnamese people aged around 30 have already suffered from diabetes, a local health official told reporters ahead an international diabetes meeting slated for Tuesday. It is difficult to give the exact number of diabetes patients at different ages as the disease does not exhibit clear symptoms at early stages, but the total figure in Vietnam with a population of 83.1 million is estimated at 2-2.5 million, said Ta Van Binh, director of the country's Central Endocrinology Hospital in Hanoi capital.

The infection rates are currently very high in major urban areas, such as over 4.3 per cent in southern Ho Chi Minh City, and 3.7 per cent in Hanoi, much higher than the rates one decade ago.—MNA/Xinhua

## Colombian Coast Guard seize nearly one ton of cocaine

**BOGOTA, 21 Feb—** Colombian Coast Guard have seized 930 kilos of cocaine, on board a motorboat abandoned in Pacific waters, close to the port of Buenaventura, Jairo Pena, commander of the Colombia's Pacific Navy said on Sunday.

Pena said that the boat's two-man crew leapt into the water and fled for shore when the coastguard appeared.

The small boat, with two outboard motors, was spotted Saturday night. It was setting off from a coastal village some 600 km from the Colombian capital, Bogota.

Pena said the suspected smugglers had managed to reach the nearest beach and because of the darkness, it had been impossible to find them.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi soldier holds a weapon at a checkpoint along a road in Baghdad on 20 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

# Re-emerging pearl market of Myanmar

Article: Myint Lwin

Photos: Thaug Myint (MNA) and Tint Lwin (MNA)

Myanmar held its first pearl emporium at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel in mid February where 427 lots or 92,864 pearls were

display, pearl sales can be held in a single room with an appropriate space. Mostly, world nations organize pearl emporiums

love to buy jade, while pearl is preferred mostly by Americans, Japanese and Europeans. The 35 merchants



Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein inspecting pearl lots.

displayed. Thirty-five merchants from 20 foreign companies bought 210 pearl lots at the sales that were held at the hotel for three days from 17 to 19 February as the Myanmar Pearl Auction (2006).

In the previous years beginning 1964, the nation sold pearl to foreigners at the Myanmar Gems Emporiums where jade and gems were also put on sale together with pearl.

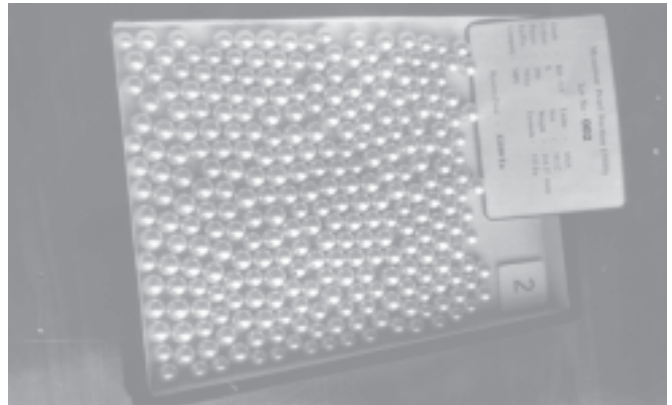
Unlike jade, that needs a large place for

at high-class hotels for the convenience of merchants from all over the world. Chinese people

who attended the Myanmar Pearl Auction (2006) were 11 from nine Japanese companies, three



Foreign merchants inspecting pearls at the Myanmar Pearl Auction (2006).



Quality pearls for sale at the Myanmar Pearl Auction (2006).

from three Australians companies, 12 from three Thai companies, two from one American company, five from three Hong Kong companies, and two from one German company.

Although Myanmar

is producing more pearls these years, only a few foreign merchants are buying Myanmar pearl as its quality has not yet known worldwide. Besides, the number of pearls displayed at the Gem Emporiums was small.

We need to ensure harmony between the reserve price for the Myanmar pearl and the global pearl reserve price.

The Myanmar Pearl Auction (2006) is included in the arrangements of the Myanmar Pearl Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines to address the weaknesses of the nation's pearl

industry. By holding such pearl sales, MPE can invite more merchants.

The MPE has years of experience in pearl culture, and it has formed joint ventures with entrepreneurs to run oyster farms on profit sharing basis. Myanmar is going to produce as many as 100,000 pearls or so annually.

Myanmar pearl once attracted buyers of the world market is gaining ground again, and the re-emerging pearl market in Myanmar will earn more foreign exchange for the nation.

(Translation: TMT)

## Colombian woman gives birth to gigantic baby in Spain

MADRID, 21 Feb — A Colombian woman and her newborn baby have made big news in Madrid. The baby girl, born by cesarean section a week ago, weighed seven kilos at birth, around twice the normal birth weight, it was announced at a Press conference held Monday in the Spanish capital.

The girl, 56.6 centimetres long, was the heaviest newborn at the La Paz hospital in its 40-year history, said Jesus Perez Rodriguez, head of

the pre-natal department.


The Colombian parents of the child, Rocio and Juan Carlos, have lived in Colmenar Viejo, a town close to Madrid, for the last five years. They have named their daughter Arancha, said Rodriguez.

Rocio, 38, who appeared at the Press conference with Arancha in her arms, said she had had a difficult pregnancy: she put on 22 kilos and had difficulty walking.

"The size of the child must be a genetic factor,

rather than a result of Rocio's mild diabetes," said Rodriguez, adding that Rocio gave birth to a five-kilo baby girl nine years ago, and a strict diet that she followed during the pregnancy did little to halt Arancha's swift growth. Doctors said both mother and baby are in good health and would soon leave the hospital. The Guinness Book of Records says the heaviest newborn ever recorded weighed 10.8 kilos, but only lived 11 hours.

MNA/Xinhua



နဝမအကြိမ် unicef

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Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hears a report by an official on construction progress of Twantay Bridge. — MNA

**Secretary-1 inspects construction...**

(from page 1)

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 inspected construction of the bridge. The bridge is built with reinforced concrete frame with steel cables. It is being built

across Twantay Canal. It is 840 feet long with 2,730-foot-long approach road. The two-lane bridge is 28 feet wide with a four-foot pedestrian lane on both sides. It can withstand 60-ton loads and its clearance is 45 feet high and 700 feet wide. The road linking Hlinethaya Industrial Zone No 5 High-

way and Dalla-Twantay Road is being built by Special Road Construction Group-16 of Public Works. It is 11 miles and 1 furlongs long.

Later, the Secretary-1 inspected the construction of Twantay-Dalla-Hlinethaya road with the use of heavy machinery. — MNA

**Commander, minister supervise...**

(from page 16)

of monsoon and summer paddy for local rice sufficiency in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, replacement with Hsinshweli hybrid paddy strain whose per acre yield of exceeds 200 baskets, and speedy implementation of rural development tasks.

Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint reported on the process to



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing awards a prize to an outstanding farmer. — MNA

paddy strains for local rice sufficiency in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State and extended growing of physic nut from which bio-diesel can be extracted and that can contribute towards rural development. At the prize-distribution ceremony, the commander, the minister, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence and the deputy commander presented prizes to outstanding farmers and staff.

(See page 10)



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan awards a prize to an outstanding staff. — MNA

produce Hsinshweli hybrid paddy strain; Shan State PDC Secretary Lt-Col Kyaw Shwe on cultivation of summer paddy in Shan State (North) and steps taken for exceeding production target; and officials on methods to achieve the target of per acre yield of over 200 baskets and supply of water from Humon Dam.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan stressed the importance of extensive dissemination of methods to grow hybrid



Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint awards a prize to an outstanding farmer.

MNA

**Chinese-Myanmar Amity**

- \* Myanmar-Chinese, Chinese-Myanmar  
Two folds form a leaf, like the Swedaw  
Ages pass, but amity does not wither  
It's been many, many years.
- \* Tapeng, Shweli and Thanlwin  
With clear waters, the three rivers  
Carry forward, the meaning  
Starts in China, as the source  
And then flows into Myanmar  
Upriver or down, no differentiation  
No barrier, the water all level  
Drinking the same water, never diminish  
Paukphaw kinship, ever awake  
Bonds of amity, fastened.
- \* Around era AD 800  
Myanmar-born, Pyu prince  
And retinue, headed for China  
On goodwill mission, they traversed  
Supple movements, good dances  
Tantalizingly sweet, pretty songs  
Able musicians, artists  
Performing arts, they exchanged  
True and close friends firmly established  
It's been over a thousand years.
- \* Anawrahta's palace-step  
When excavated recently  
Signs of friendship, firm evidence  
Chinese characters, and letters  
Among the finds, pottery works  
When these realities, were assessed  
Dealings of friendship, interchanged  
Were shown as evidence in Bagan era  
Reciprocally told, depicted  
Long have been the years of amity.
- \* Today, in this modern world  
Love and amity ying  
Leaders of the two nations  
Exchange visits, with true goodwill  
From one to the other, reciprocally  
Envoys were exchanged, and  
With unequivocal, policy  
To enhance, economic conditions  
Helping one another and each other  
Upon good concepts, amity is added  
Amity tied, through good love  
It's been firmer than in ancient times
- \* O, Myanmar-Chinese, Chinese-Myanmar  
Two folds form a leaf, like the Swedaw  
Ages pass, but amity does not wither  
It's been many, many years.

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)



## Efforts being made for better results

(from page 16)

constantly conducting research and for application in the fields of disease control, treatment, diagnosis and medical science teaching.

At the symposium 41 papers and 14 posters will be discussed, four symposiums will be held and 11 academic talks will also be given by prominent experts from major hospitals in South East Asian region. The symposium also includes a clinic-pathological conference and question and answer session.

Human resource development is the most basic and important in making efforts for medical units to be organizations on which the State and the Tatmadaw rely. The role of research comes to the fore in international field and work is done through research orientation. Efforts are being made for better results in disease control, treatment, diagnosis and teaching sectors through research.

The medical units set up Defence Services Medical Academy and the academy conducts courses on master of science in medicine and Ph.D courses. Various medical degrees are conferred on graduates by Defence Services Nursing and Paramedical Academy. Cardiac, neuro, kidney and eye operations can be performed by local specialists in cooperation with experts from abroad.

He spoke of the need to apply the findings in

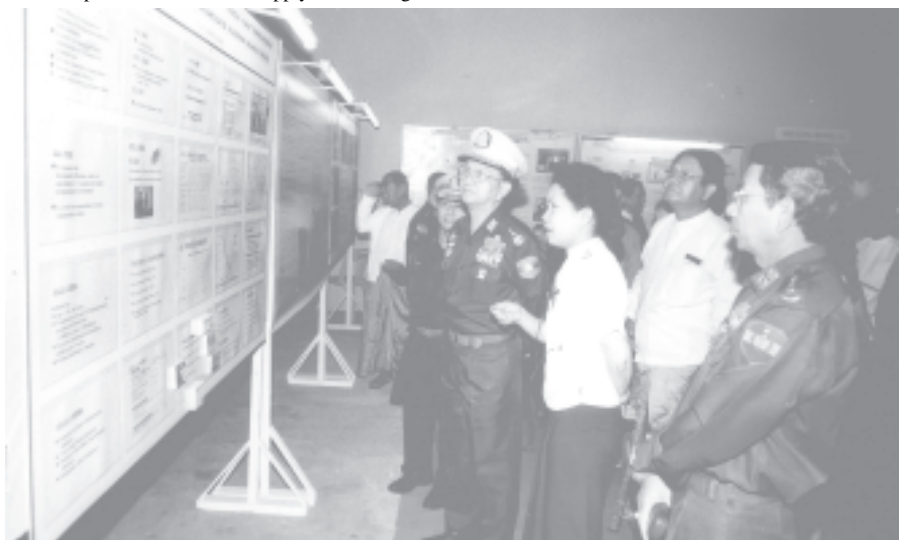


Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cuts the ribbon to open the Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference.—MNA

practical fields. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thein Sein formally opened the 14th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference and visited Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition.

A total of 10 papers were read at the symposiums which will be held till 25 February.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views booths displayed at the Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference.—MNA

## Thai NDC delegation arrives

YANGON, 21 Feb — Thai delegation led by Maj-Gen Sirichai Ratanavara of Thai National Defence College arrived here by air this morning. Thai guests were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Commandant of National Defence College Brig-Gen Than Maung, senior military officers, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, Military Attache Col Prissapa Suvanarat and officials.

Thai guests paid homage to Shwedagon pa-

goda. The delegation leader signed the visitors' book and made cash donation.

Accompanied by Military Attache Col Prissapa Suvanarat, the Thai delegation this afternoon called on Commandant of NDC Maj-Gen Moe Hein who extended greetings.

The Commandant and leader of the Thai delegation exchanged souvenirs. The guest, next, viewed round NDC and left later in the afternoon.—MNA



Maj-Gen Moe Hein of National Defence College receives Thai NDC delegation.—MNA

## Road and bridge projects inspected

YANGON, 21 Feb — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected bridge projects in Hlaingthaya yesterday.

In the morning, the minister looked into the road upgrading tasks along Hlaingthaya-Kanbe-Twintay Road that is linking Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone No 5 Highway.

On arrival at the Twintay Bridge Project, the minister heard a report by in-charge of the bridge Deputy Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Naing on work progress, and future tasks on the project. The minister gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

On completion, the steel suspension facility will be 3,570 feet long with a 28-foot-wide motorway and two four-foot-wide walkways on it. It can withstand 60-ton loads.

He also inspected the Pyapon Bridge Project and instructed the officials to supervise the tasks for timely completion of the approach roads. The 3,932 feet eight inches long bridge will be able to withstand 60-ton of loads.

The minister supervised the road upgrading tasks along Pyapon-Kyaiklat-Maubin Road, Yangon-Pathein Road and Pantanaw-Einme-Myaungmya Road.

MNA

## Rakhine State WAO holds educative talks

YANGON, 21 Feb — Rakhine State Women's Affairs Organization held educative talks on 15 February at the Prisons Department in Sittway, Rakhine State.

The talks focused upon activities of women participating in TB elimination tasks and environmental conservation and intellectual capacity of modern women, rights of women and preventive measures against human trafficking.

After the talks, Chairperson of Sittway Township WAO Daw Khin Pyone Kyi presented membership certificates to an official.—MNA

## Mekong Exhibition from 20 to 24 Feb

YANGON, 21 Feb — A six-member Myanmar delegation led by Executive of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Sai Ba Nyan, on 19 February, left here for Japan to attend the Mekong Exhibition to be staged in Tokyo, Japan, from 20 to 24 February. The delegation was seen off at the airport by General Secretary of UMFCCI U Sein Win Hlaing, CEC member U Tun Aung and officials.—MNA

## Minister inspects Chaungmange Dam construction in Lewe



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Chaungmange Dam construction project in Lewe township, Mandalay Division. —MNA

YANGON, 21 Feb — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo on 19 February inspected Chaungmange Dam construction project in Lewe township, Mandalay Division.

The earthen dam is

being constructed on Chaungmange Creek in Lewe and 40 per cent of the main dam has been completed. Its 389-foot long conduit pipe is an iron reinforced type. Spillway is 590 ft long and 80 ft wide.

On completion, the

dam is expected to irrigate 8,000 acres of farmland.

In the afternoon, the minister went to Agricultural Research Department in Pinyinmana and inspected the physic nut nurseries and research plantation of paddy. —MNA

## Commander, minister supervise...

(from page 8)

The commander, the minister and party inspected the 100-acre model field of Hsinshweli hybrid summer paddy. They visited the exhibition of the Myanmar Agriculture Service.

Next, they inspected K a u k k w e c h a u n g Hsinshweli Dam Project. Officials reported on the project, nurturing of physic nut saplings to grow physic nut around the facility, and prospects for benefiting about 400 acres of crops. The commander fulfilled the requirements for supply of sufficient clean water and irrigation water, and for launching the Namhswan Dam Project.

They visited the physic nut propagation

farm and viewed the nurturing of 36,000 physic nut grafts and gave instructions on extended growing of physic nut.

On arrival at Humon Region Lunge Arman 2,000-acre rubber farm, they observed documentary photos, samples of rubber products and equipment and the nurturing of 20,000 rubber saplings.

Afterwards, they viewed the nurturing of 120,000 saplings in the model physic nut farm near Humon Village and instructed the officials to transfer the saplings to the ground in the beginning of the rainy season.

They saw over the 100-acre model farm of physic nut near Humon Village. The in-charge of

the farm reported on the nurturing tasks, putting 176.4 acres under physic nut, and the nurturing of physic nut seeds and grafts. In response, the commander and the minister gave instructions on extended growing of physic nut, calling for access. The commander and the minister visited the 100-acre model field of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy near Yaypusan Village in Lashio and viewed the thriving paddy plantations. —MNA

## Objectives of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day

- \* To work in concert with the people for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic new nation
- \* To strive for successful realization of the seven-point policy programme of the State
- \* To crush every danger posed to the State hand in hand with people
- \* To build a strong, capable and modern Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes



Head of the Information Department of MAAF Daw Kyi Kyi Win presents K 40,000 and books for Pyogonyi Library in Bo Dawnagon Village in Hmawby Township to U Kyaw Htwe. —MNA

## MWAF donates books to village library

YANGON, 21 Feb — Information Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation donated books and cash to a library in Hmawby Township today.

At the book dona-

tion ceremony held at the library of Dawnagon Village in Hmawby, Head of the Information Department of MAAF Daw Kyi Kyi Win presented cash and handed over 1,120 books and journals to a

responsible person of the library. Yangon Division Information and Public Relations Department also presented 600 books to the library. Wellwishers also donated cash and furniture to the library. —MNA

## Myanmar extracts bio-diesel from physic nut

### Production of bio-diesel

Physic nut is easy to be grown. It starts to bear fruits in a short time although it is a perennial plant. It is a multi-purpose crop. It is not difficult to extract oil from physic nut fruits.

### Produce physic nut oil on small scale

There is no need to use large machines to extract physic nut oil. In rural areas, physic nut oil is extracted with the use of small machines. Physic nut seeds can be milled with a manual miller, hydraulic miller or a simple crushing machine to obtain oil.

### Take systematic measures

If physic nut seeds are to be stored, the storing process must be proper. Otherwise, the oil content rate in the fruits may be reduced. The oil obtained by milling seeds is filtered through a thin cloth. And the filtered oil can be used directly in the engines of small tractors, generators, water pumps, reapers and small vehicles. In this regard, engines and pumps need to be cleaned regularly.

### It causes no environmental pollution

Using bio-diesel can reduce air pollution. It causes no environmental

pollution, so it is not harmful to the health of human beings. Use of bio-diesel in engines directly can reduce the global warming and contribute to-

wards environmental conservation. So, producers and users are to produce and use physic nut oil efficiently.

\*\*\*\*\*



Chairman of the Work Committee for Holding the Literaty and Photo Competitions to mark the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein and members scrutinizing the photos at Myanmar Radio and Television on 21-2-2006. —MNA



Grafts and saplings nurtured at physic nut nursery in Pauktabin village in Thabeikkyin Township, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Division.



Artists Carl Jara (L) and Suzanne Altamare fashion sand sculptures, one like a race car, near the garages at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida on 19 Feb, 2006. The 48th Daytona 500 is scheduled for later in the day.—INTERNET

## Annan hopes UN power struggle will not derail reforms

**UNITED NATIONS, 21 Feb**—Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Monday he hoped a power struggle at the United Nations between the major powers and developing countries would not derail UN reforms.

Many of the developing nations that make up a majority of the UN membership have expressed outrage in recent days over what they see as a power grab by the 15-nation UN Security Council led by the United States.

A group of countries known as the Non-Aligned Movement and a bloc of 132 developing nations and China have formally

protested that the Council, chaired this month by US Ambassador John Bolton, was trespassing on UN General Assembly turf by scheduling meetings this week on procurement fraud and sexual abuse by peacekeepers.

The two blocs argued these were General Assembly matters rather than the Council's, a stand Annan supported.

Bolton dismissed their concerns, saying the

two UN bodies shared jurisdiction over the matters and the Assembly was free to hold its own meetings.

Annan acknowledged the tensions triggered by the reform drive and the widespread unhappiness with the power wielded by the Security Council's five veto-equipped permanent members, the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain.

MNA/Reuters

### Great Lakes Region nations meet to discuss anti-AIDS strategies

KINSHASA, 21 Feb—Delegates from six nations in Central Africa's Great Lakes Region met here on Monday for a ministerial meeting to discuss anti-AIDS strategies.

Emile Bongeli, Health Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), said the region is home to about 3 million AIDS orphans and 6 million cases of AIDS infection, and accounts for a quarter of the total AIDS population in sub-Saharan Africa.

He also said AIDS-infection rates range from 4 to 9 per cent among the people aged between 15 and 49.

Confronted with such a grim situation, countries in the region have to cooperate actively with each other to hammer out strategies for the prevention of the disease, delegates to the meeting agreed.

MNA/Xinhua

### Western diet helps raise S Korea breast cancer rate

**SEOUL, 21 Feb**—Breast cancer among South Korean women is increasing at a rapid rate due in part to a more Western lifestyle and consumption of more fatty foods, according to a paper made available on Tuesday.

In the paper published in the February issue of the *Archives of Surgery*, a Journal of the American Medical Association publication, South Korean scientists found that South Korean women have increased risk factors for breast cancer in recent years.

"We believe that the younger generations of Korean women have been directly affected by the progressive Westerniza-

tion of the Korean lifestyle," the authors wrote.

Medical researchers at South Korea's University of Ulsan and Asan Medical Centre, based in Seoul, analysed data from a group of 5,001 women who underwent surgery for breast cancer at the hospital from between July 1989 and March 2004. Apart from diet, the authors did not mention any specifics about how South Korean lifestyles

have become more Westernized. However, other studies have shown that in recent years, South Korean women are having babies later in life and fewer of them than previous generations.

The study found that the proportion of patients with risk factors such as late menopause, high-fat diets and obesity had increased dramatically between 1996 and 2000.

MNA/Reuters

### Europe uses Army, coops up poultry to stop bird flu

**PARIS, 21 Feb**—Europe called in the military and shut chickens in sheds and coops on Monday to halt the spread of deadly bird flu that has reached France and hit poultry sales across the continent.

With European cases so far limited to wild birds, authorities worked furiously to prevent the H5N1 virus infecting the European Union's one-billion-strong domestic poultry flock and threatening an

industry worth 20 billion euros (23.88 billion US dollars) a year.

French authorities clad in protective suits installed a three-kilometre (two-mile) security zone around the spot near Lyon where an infected

duck was found. Veterinarians were busy on Monday checking all birds within the zone. Birds from other French regions were being tested too, but two suspected cases in the Somme region turned out negative.

MNA/Reuters

### Thailand to host 37th Bangkok Gems and Jewellery Fair

BANGKOK, 21 Feb—Thailand's Export Promotion Department and Thai Gems and Jewellery Traders Association will jointly host the 37th Bangkok Gems and Jewellery Fair from 1 to 5 March at the Impact International Exhibition Centre of Bangkok, the Export Promotion Department Monday announced.

Chantra Buranarek, the Director-General of the Export Promotion De-

partment, said during a Press conference that Dr Somkid Jatusipitak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce will preside over the opening ceremony of the internationally recognized jewellery fair, showcase of the most outstanding Thai-made gems and jewellery, said the official.

Chantra said that Thailand had become an important production hub of gems and jewellery in the world.—MNA/Xinhua

### Brazil confirms new foot-and-mouth outbreaks

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Feb**—Another six cases of foot-and-mouth disease have been confirmed among livestock raised in Brazil's Parana State near the borders with Argentina and Paraguay, said Minister of Agriculture Gabriel Alvez Maciel on Monday.

The minister said that the ministry had quarantined the affected farms, and informed the Panamerican Animal Health Organization of the cases that have been located in the municipalities of Bela Vista do Paraíso, Grandes Rios, Maringa and Loanda.

"The outbreaks have hit farms which had already been placed under quarantine by the state's veterinary service. Nine farms in Parana were identified as suspicious in November last year," he said.—MNA/Xinhua

### US removing documents from public access

**WASHINGTON, 21 Feb**—US intelligence agencies have been secretly removing from public access at the National Archives thousands of historical documents that were available for years, *The New York Times* reported on Monday.

The restoration of classified status to more than 55,000 previously declassified pages began in 1999, when the CIA and five other agencies objected to what they saw as a hasty release of sensitive information after a 1995 declassification order signed by President Bill Clinton, the *Times* said on its Web site.

The secret programme accelerated after the Bush

administration took office and especially after the 11 September attacks, according to archives records, the paper said.

It came to light after intelligence historian Matthew Aid noticed dozens of documents he had copied years ago had been withdrawn from the archives' open shelves, the *Times* said.

Under existing guide-

lines, government documents are supposed to be declassified after 25 years unless there is a particular reason to keep them secret.

Some historians say the programme is removing material that can do no conceivable harm to national security and note that some of the documents have been published by the government, the *Times* said.

MNA/Reuters



A thirty foot (9 metres) inflatable model of the animated film character 'Gromit' is displayed in Trafalgar Square in London, on 20 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

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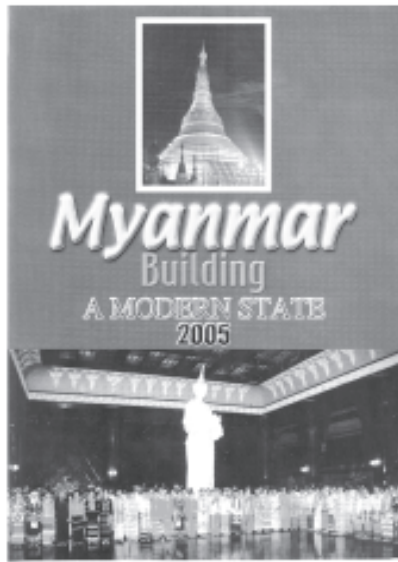
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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (279)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (279) are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive on 22.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

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**Domain names registered for donated pandas to Taiwan**

BEIJING, 20 Feb— Sixteen domain names related to the two pandas donated to Taiwan have all been registered with marked price for all the 16 hitting as high as 3.33 million yuan (416,000 US dollars), the *Beijing Morning Post* reported Sunday.

The 16 domain names both in Chinese and English for Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan have all been registered by one person, an IT worker surnamed Peng in Shanghai.

"I'm engaged in IT industry, I'm quite confident in prospects of domain-names of 'tuantuanyuanyuan.com.', and 'tuantuanyuanyuan.com.cn,'" Peng was quoted by the paper as saying.

Peng spent only about 2,000 yuan to register all the 16 domain names and wish to sell them each at

price ranging from 100,000 yuan to 880,000 yuan, the paper said.

The Chinese Mainland announced the decision to donate pandas to Taiwan on 3 May, 2005. The two pandas were chosen from 11 candidates last January. The names "Tuan Tuan" and "Yuan Yuan", which mean reunion, were chosen as names for the two donated pandas during the Spring Festival.

"From 12 January, when the list of possible names for the two pandas were publicized, I think 'Tuan Tuan' and 'Yuan Yuan' will be the winners," Peng said.

"Then I started to register all related domain names of 'Tuan Tuan' and 'Yuan Yuan', and finished registration for the 16 names before final result was unveiled," he said. For his best four domain names including tuantuanyuanyuan.com and tuantuanyuanyuan.com.cn, Peng said "many companies have contacted with me and all offered price exceeds 200,000 yuan." —MNA/Xinhua

**Study says India, China to be major beneficiaries of R&D investment**

SILICON VALLEY, 20 Feb— India and China will continue to be major beneficiaries of research and development expansion drive of companies seeking new market opportunities and access to top scientific and engineering talent, according to a new study.

Contrary to popular belief, lower cost is not the chief factor driving companies to locate their R&D operations in foreign countries like India, the study sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation showed.

The quality of R&D

personnel available and opportunities for university collaboration are often more important attractors, said Marie Thursby, professor of strategic management at Georgia Tech College of Management, and Jerry Thursby, professor and chair of economics at Emory University, in

the study.

However, their survey of more than 200 multinational companies across 15 industries, mostly based in the US and Western Europe, also revealed that despite the trend toward offshoring R&D operations in Asia, companies are keeping their most cutting-edge research in developed countries where intellectual property (IP) protection is the strongest.

According to the study, only 22 per cent of the R&D effort in emerging countries is for new science. "While costs are higher in the United States and other developed countries, these economies still have a comparative advantage in R&D because of the high calibre of their scientists, particularly given the IP environment," said Marie Thursby.

"Not everything's moving to China and India." —MNA/PTI

**Vietnam to have 3 oil refineries by 2009**

HANOI, 21 Feb — Vietnam has planned to put into operation, by 2009, three oil refineries with total annual capacity of processing 14.5 million tons of crude oil, local newspaper *Vietnam Economic Times* reported Monday.

The country started to build its first refinery in central Quang Ngai Province late last year. Capitalized at 2.5 billion US dollars, the refinery with an annual capacity of 6.5 million tons of crude oil is expected to become operational in late 2008 or early 2009.

A Chinese Hong Kong-invested project on building a refinery in central Binh Dinh Province with annual capacity of five million tons has recently been approved by the Vietnamese Government. The 1.5-billion dollar project is expected to come into operation in 2009.

Recently, a feasibility study of another oil refinery project has been submitted to the country's Ministry of Planning and Investment. The refinery with annual capacity of three million tons, to be located in central Phu Yen Province and invested by Britain and the Netherlands has been planned to operate in 2009.

Vietnam has eyed to have two more oil refineries with annual capacity of seven million tons each in central Thanh Hoa Province and in the southern region by 2020, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



The Houston Rockets mascot Clutch kisses singer Beyonce Knowles before the NBA All-Star game in Houston, Texas, on 19 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

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## Golden monkeys quadruple but still endangered in S-W China

**GUIYANG, 20 Feb** — The grey snub-nosed monkey, an endangered species only found in the southwest China's Guizhou Province, has quadrupled to around 800 over the past 20 years, said a local official in charge of protection for the animal.

The monkey, the rarest among the three species of golden monkeys in China's Sichuan, Yunnan, Gansu and Hubei provinces, mainly lives in the Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve in northeast Guizhou.

"We have acquired through research detailed data concerning the number, clans, distribu-

tion and existence of the animal," said Yang Yeqin, director of the reserve, who participated in a decade-long field investigation on the species. The findings of the systematic research provide us with valuable first-hand data for better preserving and protecting this animal, he said.

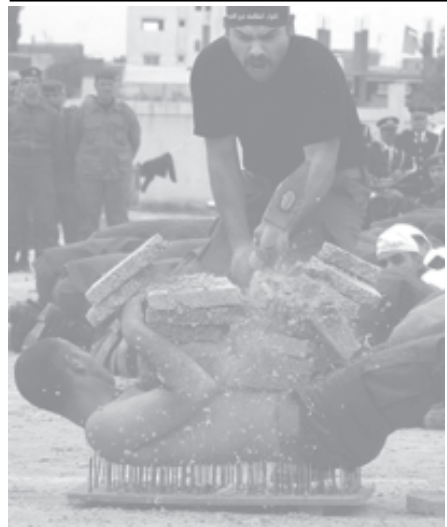
Groups of the snub-

nosed animal were not found by Chinese scientists until early 1980s, when they estimated the number of the animal was around 200. The systematic field investigation, which began in 1987, lasted more than ten years, under the instruction of the State Forestry Administration.

MNA/Xinhua



China's golden monkeys, a species more endangered than giant pandas, have made a surprising comeback with populations quadrupling in the past two decades.—INTERNET



Palestinian security men perform a stunt during a graduation ceremony in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on 19 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

## Japan successfully places satellite into orbit

**TOKYO, 20 Feb**— Japan successfully launched a rocket carrying a satellite on Saturday, the second time it has done so in less than a month and a much-needed boost for its space programme after a string of mishaps.

The H-2A rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southern Kagoshima Prefecture and is carrying a 4.7-ton satellite, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said.

A JAXA spokesman described the launch as success, adding the rocket had placed the satellite into the right orbit.

The satellite will be

used for controlling air traffic as well as gathering meteorological data.

"It shows that the reliability of the H-2A is surely rising and that our nation's space programme is steadily progressing," Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said of the launch, according to Kyodo news agency.

After a lapse of nearly a year, the H-2A, the largest rocket in Japan's space programme, successfully put a land-observation satellite into orbit in January.

Both launches will likely bolster Japan's plans to enter the commercial satellite business and lift

confidence among the country's space community, after two unsuccessful launches of the H-2, the H-2A's predecessor, in the 1990s.

More recently, Japan's space programme appeared to have made history when JAXA announced in November that an unmanned probe successfully collected rock samples from an asteroid nearly 300 million kilometres (186 million miles) from Earth.

But jubilation soon turned to disappointment as data sent from the probe showed that it had probably failed to collect samples.

MNA/Reuters

## 66 trapped in Mexican coal mine after blast

**MEXICO CITY, 20 Feb**— Sixty-six miners were trapped two-mile (3-kilometres) underground in a remote, semi-desert region of northern Mexico on Sunday after an explosion ripped through a coal mine, rescue workers said.

Soldiers and civil protection staff were working with specialist mine teams to free those trapped in the mine, in the northern part of Coahuila state, which borders Texas.

"The information that we have is that 66 people are trapped and seven others, who were outside the mine but affected by the explosion, are injured," said Miguel Angel Beltran of the civil protection agency in Saltillo, capital of Coahuila state.

MNA/Reuters

## Two powerful explosions rock central Baghdad, two killed

**BAGHDAD, 20 Feb**— Two powerful explosions rocked central Baghdad near the entrances of the heavily-fortified Green Zone on Sunday, killing two Iraqis and wounding 10 others altogether, a police source said.

"The first blast caused by a car bombing near a blocked suspension bridge near the Green Zone went off when a convoy of an unidentified Iraqi senior official passed by," said Captain Ahmed Abdullah, from Baghdad police.

The official escaped unhurt, he said, adding that two Iraqi civilians who

happened to be close to the bombing scene were killed and six others wounded.

"Following the first blast, a suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest blew himself up near an Iraqi Army checkpoint located at one of the entrances of the Green Zone," Abdullah said.

The blast damaged

four civilian cars and wounded four Iraqi Defence Ministry employees who were heading to office in the Green Zone.

The carefully guarded zone, lying in central Baghdad, houses the Iraqi Government and the US Embassy. It has frequently witnessed bomb attacks.

MNA/Xinhua

## China exports dairy cows to Mongolia for first time

**HOHHOT, 20 Feb**— China has exported 26 high producing black-and-white cows known as Holstein-Friesia to neighbouring Mongolia for the first time, according to local authorities.

The 26 cows were from North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and underwent 21 days of quarantine and testing for seven kinds of epidemic diseases before going to Mongolia, said Feng Yongsheng, an official with the Erenhot City Inspection and Quarantine Bureau in Inner Mongolia.

MNA/Xinhua



Moto GP riders Nicky Hayden (C) of the United States, Dani Pedrosa (L) of Spain and Makoto Tamada of Japan pose with Honda's new 'RC211V' for 2006 at a news conference in Tokyo on 20 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

# SPORTS

## Ronaldo says unhappy with Real Madrid fans

MADRID, 21 Feb— Ronaldo Nazario, Brazilian-born striker for Spanish league team Real Madrid, told reporters on Monday he was upset by the behaviour of Real Madrid's fans, saying he never felt at home at the team's Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

He added that he would consider his future at the end of the season.

"In Bernabeu stadium... I was never treated with affection. I never felt at home where people don't love me," he told a Press conference.

"At the moment, I am concentrating on winning the League and the European Cup, but at the end of the season I will weigh things up."

Ronaldo made his statement just a day before Real is due to play English team Arsenal in the Europe's Champions League.— *MNA/Xinhua*

## Italy striker Totti fractures ankle

ROME, 20 Feb— AS Roma striker Francesco Totti is expected to be out of action for about two months after breaking his ankle during a Serie A match against Empoli, the *Gazzetta dello Sport's* website said on Sunday.

The Italy international was carried off after going down under a heavy challenge from defender Richard Vanigli in the 12th minute of the game, which Roma won 1-0 to equal the record of 10 Serie A wins in a row.

*MNA/Reuters*



Manchester City's Micah Richards (3rd L) scores against Aston Villa during their English FA Cup soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England, on 19 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

## Wenger says defence key in Arsenal-Real match

MADRID, 21 Feb— Arsene Wenger, head coach of England Premier League side Arsenal, rated on Monday a good defence the key in gunners' Champions League match against Real Madrid this week.

"We need to be united as a team on the field, to be disciplined and know what to do when we have the ball at our feet," Wenger told a press conference.

"I feel it is going to be a

very special day for Thierry Henry: although it is a tough game, big players rise to the challenge of important games, and Henry is one of the biggest players in the world."

The first knock-out round match of Champions League between England Premiership and Spanish Primera Liga former champions will take on Tuesday in Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

At Monday's press conference, Wenger faced the press with smiles and jokes, and said that despite missing players due to injury, his team would fight hard in the game.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Lyon out to settle score with PSV

LYON (France), 20 Feb— Olympique Lyon will be out for a revenge when they visit PSV Eindhoven in the first leg of their Champions League knockout round tie on Tuesday.

The Dutch side eliminated the French champions in a penalty shootout in the quarterfinals last year after the two sides were level 2-2 on aggregate.

"More than taking a revenge over them we will aim at settling scores," said Olympique Lyon's chairman Jean-Michel Aulas, who is still bitter over the manner of last year's elimination.

"We should have been awarded a penalty for a foul on (young Brazilian striker) Nilmar during extra-time", Aulas told journalists.

Things have slightly changed since the last sea-

son's tie as PSV have lost several key players such as midfielder Mark Van Bommel, who joined Barcelona, and Swiss defender Johann Vogel, now at AC Milan - who beat PSV in last year's semis. Korean midfielder Park Ji-sung has left for Manchester United and his compatriot Lee Young-pyo followed him to the English Premier League when he moved to Tottenham Hotspur.— *MNA/Reuters*



Jeff Burton in the number 31 Chevrolet leads the field for the start of the 48th Daytona 500 race at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida on 19 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

## United's Smith has surgery on double leg injury

LONDON, 20 Feb— Manchester United's Alan Smith had an operation on Sunday on the broken leg and dislocated ankle he suffered during the 1-0 FA Cup defeat at Liverpool.

"The operation was a success. Alan will remain in hospital for a couple of days, and the leg will be in plaster for several weeks," a United spokesman said.

The 25-year-old midfielder suffered the horrific injury to his left leg when he landed badly trying to block a shot by defender John Arne Riise late in Saturday's fifth-round match at Anfield.

Liverpool reached the quarterfinals with their first victory over United in 10 FA Cup ties spanning 85 years. "Everybody connected with the club is wishing Alan well for a speedy recovery", the spokesman told United's website.— *MNA/Reuters*



Anastasia Myskina of Russia hits a backhand to Jie Zheng of China during their Dubai Duty Free Women's Tennis Open match in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 20 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

## Last chance for Arsenal against rejuvenated Real

MADRID, 20 Feb— It is the last-chance saloon for Arsenal when they face a rejuvenated Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League knockout tie at the Bernabeu on Tuesday.

For Arsene Wenger's side the game represents their only remaining hope of saving a season that is threatening to disintegrate around them and to make matters worse they appear to have caught the Spaniards just when they have rediscovered their best form.

The Londoners, who impressed in the group stage, have gone into freefall in recent months and hardly look to be in the best shape to face up to their first-ever meeting with the nine-times European champions.

They are out of both English cups and are struggling in fifth place in the league, 25 points behind runaway leaders Chelsea.— *MNA/Reuters*

## Primera Liga match reports

MADRID, 21 Feb— Brief reports of Primera Liga matches played on Sunday:

### Cadiz 1 — Osasuna 3

Osasuna kept pace with the leaders by coming from behind after Cadiz had taken the lead when Argentine forward Lucas Lobos dinked a free kick over the wall after 15 minutes.

Serbia & Montenegro striker Savo Milosevic equalized with a header in the 35th minute and two minutes later David Lopez curled a free kick round the wall.

Cadiz had Uruguayan striker Alexander Medina sent off 14 minutes from time and Raul Garcia scored the third from 20 metres in the final minute.

### Deportivo Coruna 1 — Real Zaragoza 1

King's Cup finalists Zaragoza took the lead after 17 minutes when Alvaro headed Leonardo Ponzio's free kick to Argentine striker Diego Milito to head his 12th

goal of the season. Depor, who could meet Zaragoza in the Cup final, have struggled at home this season but they levelled in the 55th when Pedro Munitis scored direct from a free kick.

The home side finished with 10 men after Argentine defender Fabricio Coloccini was sent off in the 82nd minute.

### Getafe 0 — Atletico Madrid 3

Atletico made it five wins in a row with a convincing derby victory.

A poor clearance from a free kick after half an hour allowed French midfielder Peter Luccin to score with a low shot and another free kick after 49 minutes broke to Argentine forward Maxi Rodriguez, who buried his effort at the near post.— *MNA/Reuters*

# Opening ceremony of Asian Aerospace held in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 21Feb— The opening ceremony of this year's Asian Aerospace, the world's third largest and Asia's biggest airshow, was held in Singapore's Suntec City Convention Centre on Monday night.

Some 154 delegations from more than 40 countries, as well as 800 exhibitors and 27,000 trade visitors will attend the four-day trade show, which is to open on Tuesday through Friday at the Changi Exhibition Centre, Channel NewsAsia report said, adding that the two public days during this weekend expect to see 60,000 visitors.

More than 40 civil, military and business aircraft including the Apache helicopter, the F-15 and F-16 fighters and the

world's biggest commercial airliner Airbus A380 will be displayed in a static area outside the exhibition hall during the show.

F-16 fighters, two Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and the Airbus A380 are also to be seen during the daily flying displays.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister S Jayakumar said that the aviation sector is an integral part of the global economy.

"According to the

International Air Transport Association (IATA), aviation's global economic impact is estimated at close to 3 trillion US dollars, with the industry accounting for about 29 million jobs globally," Jayakumar noted.

This year's Asian Aerospace, the 13th in its series, is the last one to be held in Singapore. It will move to Hong Kong next year. A new series of airshows called the Singapore Airshow, which was originally named the Changi International

Airshow, is scheduled to make its debut in 2008 to replace the Asian Aerospace. — MNA/Xinhua

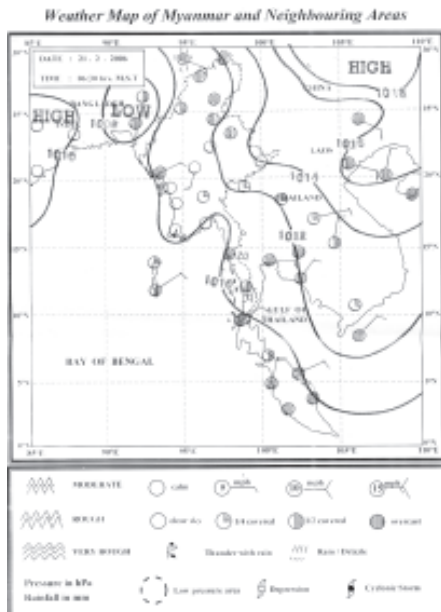
## Indonesian police say women used in new terrorist strategy

JAKARTA, 21 Feb — The Indonesian police have said there is increasing evidence that women are being used by terrorist groups here to smuggle and receive explosives and weapons, a report said on Monday.

Five women in two separate cases have been arrested and charged recently with smuggling bomb detonators and explosive materials from Malaysia into Indonesia.

National Police spokesman Brigadier General Anton Bachrul Alam said the women could be playing important roles as couriers and recipients of smuggled materials, reported *The Jakarta Post* daily.

MNA/Xinhua



A Singapore Airlines double-decker Airbus A380 flies in the sky during a practice run of a flight display, on 20 Feb, 2006 in Singapore. —INTERNET

## WEATHER

Tuesday, 21 February, 2006

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain has been scattered in Taninthayi Division, and weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine and Mon States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State and Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperature was Haka (6°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (0.94) inch and Myeik (0.67) inch.

Maximum temperature on 20-2-2006 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 21-2-2006 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 21-2-2006 was (80%). Total sunshine hours on 20-2-2006 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 21-2-2006 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 (12) mph from Northwest at (03:10) hours MST on 21-2-2006.

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


**Forecast valid until evening of 22-2-2006:** Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be 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:** Possibility of light rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-2-2006:** Fair weather.


**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-2-2006:** Fair weather.



**TV Myanmar**

**Wednesday, 22 February**  
View on today

<p><b>7:00 am</b></p> <p>1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓောတိက၊ တီပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မတာဏှာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p><b>7:25 am</b></p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p><b>7:40 am</b></p> <p>4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p><b>7:55 am</b></p> <p>5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>8:05 am</b></p> <p>6. မြို့မြူကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအတ</p> <p><b>8:15 am</b></p> <p>7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p>	<p><b>8:20 am</b></p> <p>8. လှူးချောင်းတံတား</p> <p><b>8:30 am</b></p> <p>9. International news</p> <p><b>8:45 am</b></p> <p>10. Let's Go</p> <p><b>4:00 pm</b></p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p><b>4:15 pm</b></p> <p>2. Songs to uphold National Spirit</p> <p><b>4:30 pm</b></p> <p>3. Practice in Reading</p> <p><b>4:40 pm</b></p> <p>4. Musical programme</p> <p><b>4:55 pm</b></p> <p>5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လိုပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရူပဗေဒအလှူငြိ) (ရူပဗေဒ)</p> <p><b>5:00 pm</b></p> <p>6. Song of national races</p> <p><b>5:20 pm</b></p> <p>7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>5:30 pm</b></p> <p>8. Classical song</p> <p><b>5:40 pm</b></p> <p>9. ရွှေယံရောင် အာဆီယံအစဉ်</p> <p><b>5:50 pm</b></p> <p>10. Strong and healthy Myanmar</p>	<p><b>6:00 pm</b></p> <p>11. Evening news</p> <p><b>6:30 pm</b></p> <p>12. Weather report</p> <p><b>6:35 pm</b></p> <p>13. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညွှန်ရှင်</p> <p><b>7:00 pm</b></p> <p>14. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>7:05 pm</b></p> <p>15. ဒီ.ကုန်ချေးကွက် အလှူ နှစ်အား တီလားပီးလား ရေရှိုင်း</p> <p><b>7:20 pm</b></p> <p>16. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>7:30 pm</b></p> <p>17. Musical programme</p> <p><b>7:45 pm</b></p> <p>18. ကြားမြင်သူတပြည် ဝေရာစာပေသာ</p> <p><b>8:00 pm</b></p> <p>19. News</p> <p>20. International news</p> <p>21. Weather report</p> <p>22. ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် (၅၉)နှစ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ တိုင်းရင်းသား ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု ပေသာကဏ္ဍ (အပိုင်း-၁)</p> <p>23. The next day's programme</p>
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**Radio Myanmar**

**Wednesday, 22 February**  
Tune in today

<p><b>8:30 am</b> Brief news</p> <p><b>8:35 am</b> Music: -Funky twin</p> <p><b>8:40 am</b> Perspectives</p> <p><b>8:45 am</b> Music: -Lady mameledi</p> <p><b>8:50 am</b> National news &amp; Slogan</p> <p><b>9:00 am</b> Music: -Blame it on the Boogie</p> <p><b>9:05 am</b> International news</p> <p><b>9:10 am</b> Music -You &amp; me are everything</p> <p><b>1:30 pm</b> News &amp; Slogan</p> <p><b>1:40 pm</b> Lunch time music -Because of you -Stoney -Now I can dance</p> <p><b>9:00 pm</b> Variations</p> <p><b>9:15 pm</b> Article/Music:</p> <p><b>9:25 pm</b> Music</p> <p><b>9:45 pm</b> News &amp; Slogan</p> <p><b>10:30 pm</b> PEL</p>
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# Efforts being made for better results in disease control, treatment, diagnosis and teaching sectors through research

## 14th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference opens

YANGON, 21 Feb—The 14th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference was opened at Defence Services Orthopedic Hospital (500-bed) in Mingaladon Township this morning, with an address by Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers, commanding officers of medi-

cal units under the Directorate of Medical Services, specialists, post-graduate students, specialists of Institute of Paramedical Science, officials of the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and International

Federation of Red Cross and researchers.

In his address, Lt-Gen Thein Sein said medical symposiums have been held since 1990 under the leadership of Tatmadaw Medical Research and Development Committee.

Tatmadaw Medical Research and Development committee formed as a research and development committee under the military technological development committee is mainly responsible for (See page 9)

**Various medical degrees are conferred on graduates by Defence Services Nursing and Paramedical Academy. Cardiac, neuro, kidney and eye operations can be performed by specialists in cooperation with experts from abroad.**



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein speaks at the 14th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference. — MNA

# Commander, minister supervise agricultural tasks in Lashio

YANGON, 21 Feb—A ceremony to mark the completion of ploughing 705 acres to grow Hsinshweli strain summer paddy was held along with prize-presentation ceremony at Hsinshweli hall near the 821-acre model field in Humon Dam irrigated area in Lashio yesterday morning.

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing elaborated on extended cultivation (See page 8)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspect thriving Hsinshweli paddy plantations. — MNA

### INSIDE

*Myanmar pearl once attracted buyers of the world market is gaining ground again, and the re-emerging pearl market in Myanmar will earn more foreign exchange for the nation.*

ARTICLE: MYINT LWIN

PHOTOS: THAUNG MYINT (MNA) AND

TINT LWIN (MNA)