

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 24 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

## Diplomats, journalists participate in physic nut plantation ceremony in Lashio

YANGON, 23 Feb — Diplomats, officials of UN agencies and journalists, together with Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, on 21 February afternoon participated in the Physic nut plantation ceremony of the North-East Command in Lashio, Shan State (North).

At the tree planting ceremony held at the model 100-acre farm of the command, they sow the seeds and planted the grafts of the physic nut together with local national races and members of social organizations.

When they arrived at the farm, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of the North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and officials welcomed them.

After the ceremony, they observed the test run of generators and grinding machines run on physic nut oil.

Shan State (North) set its target of over 500,000 acres of physic nut and so far, 13,600 acres



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and guests view physic nut oil-used stoves, lamps and physic nut seeds. — MNA



Diplomats grow physic nut plants. — MNA

have been put under the physic nut.

Over 50,000 pine apple, 50,000 physic nut, 1,000 lychee and 1,800 honey orange are grown in the model farm of the command.

Moreover, total of 2,040,000 physic nut seeds had been sown and 120,000 grafts had been

planted in the farm.

Diplomats and journalists on 21 February morning attended the Press Conference No 2/2006 of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held in Lashio.

MNA

- \* **Shan State (North) set its target of over 500,000 acres of physic nut and so far, 13,600 acres have been put under the physic nut.**
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**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**

**PERSPECTIVES**

Friday, 24 February, 2006

**Expose and crush terrorists and safeguard national interests**

The Press Conference No 2/2006 of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council was held at the town hall in Lashio, Shan State (North), on 21 February. The conference dwelt on the atrocities and murders committed by Thangyaung (a) Myint Soe (a) Sao Khun Kyaw of All Burma Students' Democratic Front, formerly of SSA (South), and terrorist acts by ABSDF.

Now is the time when the government is implementing the seven-point Road Map for the emergence of a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy and, due to the correct leadership of the government and the active participation of the entire national people, considerable progress has been made.

However, pessimists within and without the nation, turning a blind eye to the foundations being laid down by the Tatmadaw government for the emergence of a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy, are using foul means to jeopardize the stability of the nation. Moreover, destructive elements are plotting to launch underground and above-ground attacks, using the funds provided by some foreign powers.

The purpose of ABSDF insurgent group is to stage terrorist acts against the government in cahoots with other insurgent and anti-government groups. It is obvious from the clarifications made at the press conference that ABSDF and NLD-LA, in collusion with other insurgent groups, are committing atrocious crimes against the nation and the people. Thangyaung (a) Myint Soe (a) Sao Khun Kyaw, military operations incharge of ABSDF (North), will be known as the most notorious criminal in the history of internal insurgency. He, alone or in group, tortured 13 people to death and inhumanely made away with 19 others. This has proved him to be a terrorist.

Destructionists and terrorists are constantly plotting to create unrest not only in rural and border areas but also in towns and cities. Not only that, they are committing sabotage acts to harm the life and property of people. It does not matter how they are scheming to destroy the peace and stability of the nation, we believe that the government, the people and the Tatmadaw will always unitedly expose and crush terrorists and destructionists and safeguard the national interests.

**နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်  
မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ**

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှ အပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

- ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလအတွက် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) (၂၆-၂-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့ နှင့်
- ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လအတွက် (၁၂-၃-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့ နှင့်
- (၂၆-၃-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့

**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

**Kyunsu Township MCWA gets new building**

YANGON, 23 Feb — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe attended the ceremony to open the building of Kyunsu Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Kyunsu on 16 February.

The building is 36 feet long, 28 feet wide and 22 feet high. It is a two-storey building constructed at a cost of K 7.9 million. Next, the cash donation ceremony for the Township MCWA followed.

The commander also attended the physic nut sapling planting ceremony at the nursery in Kyunsu Station. Commodore Win Shein of the local station explained planting of physic nut saplings in the station. At the ceremony, the commander viewed sowing 192,000 physic nut seeds and 37,000 cuttings.

Afterwards, the commander inspected Kyunsu Township Hospital and attended to the needs. He also oversaw BEHS in Kyunsu and the pepper farm of the local station.

MNA

**MYANMAR GAZETTE**

YANGON, 23 Feb — The State Peace and Development Council has transferred Rector Dr Nilar Thein of Mandalay University of Computer Studies under the Ministry of Education as Rector of the Yangon University of Computer Studies (Hlawga) under the same ministry on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

| Name                                    | Appointment   |
|---|---|
| (a) Col Aye Lwin (Ministry of Defence)  | Director-General No 2 Department of Basic Education Ministry of Education                   |
| (b) Col Ohn Myint (Ministry of Defence) | Director-General Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau Ministry of Education.—MNA |

**Commerce, Banner end in 3-3 draw**

YANGON, 23 Feb — Myanmar League Football Tournament 2005-2006 football season continued at Aung San Stadium and Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) this morning.

YTC (Thuwunna)

Commerce team: 3

Banner team: 3

The Commerce kept staying at the second place with 30 points and the Banner was at the fifth place with 21 points at the league standings.

Aung San Stadium

Forestry team: 4

Defence team: 0

The Forestry was at the seventh place with 16 points and the Defence at 12th place with 10 points.

Today's fixtures

Aung San Stadium

MAPT Vs Sun Ye

YTC (Thuwunna)

Energy Vs Rail Transportation.

NLM



Daw Hlaing of USA donates K 110,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Vice Chairman of the Home Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) recently. She donated the cash in memory of her husband, son and son-in-law of No 4, Theikpan Road, Ahlon Township. — H

**MWJA CEC meets**

YANGON, 23 — Central Executive Committee of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association held a meeting at Sarpay Beikman here this afternoon.

Vice-Chairman (1) of MWJA U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) gave the opening address. Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun—Twantay) explained progress in realizing the resolutions of the previous meeting. The meeting discussed organizational and financial issues, publishing, knowledge dissemination, fund raising and international relations.

The CEC members presented discussions concerning the holding of a meeting on copyright in the coming month, and organizing of the MWJA conference.

U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) gave the concluding remarks. — MNA



A defender of Commerce Team defends the attack of Banner Team. — NLM

**All this needs to be known**

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

# Presidents of China, Pakistan vow to develop stronger ties

BEIJING, 22 Feb— Chinese President Hu Jintao and visiting Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf vowed to build stronger ties between the two countries in their talks here on Monday.

“China-Pakistan relations have stood the test of time and international ups-and-downs since the two countries forged diplomatic ties 55 years ago,” Hu said. As close neighbours, China and Pakistan enjoy “an all-weather friendship”, Hu said, adding that the friendship serves as a paradigm of peaceful coexistence and sincere cooperation between countries of different social

systems and cultures. “We appreciate the support Pakistan has given China on Taiwan and other issues,” Hu said. “We will, as always, back the efforts Pakistan has made to safeguard state independence and sovereignty.” Hu said that the

Chinese Government and people value the traditional friendship with Pakistan and would like to take the 55th anniversary of the bilateral ties as an opportunity to raise the strategic partnership to another height.

MNA/Xinhua

## Two Canadian tourists killed in Mexico

OTTAWA, 22 Feb— Two Canadian tourists, who were reportedly in Mexico for their daughter's wedding, have been found dead in their hotel room, Canadian Foreign Affairs Ministry confirmed on Tuesday.

“Foreign Affairs has been informed yesterday of the death of a Canadian couple in Cancun, Mexico,” Foreign Affairs spokeswoman Pamela Greenwell said. “Contact has been established with accompanying family in order to offer consular assistance,” she said, adding that Mexican authorities have launched an investigation into their deaths.

The resort hotel is said to be located some 20 kilometres south of Playa del Carmen, on the Gulf of Mexico. Local papers said the Toronto-area couple was discovered in their hotel room on Monday morning. The manager of the hotel said he believed the couple had been stabbed to death.

MNA/Xinhua



A sea otter looks out from behind a rock in its exhibit at the New York Aquarium at Coney Island, in the Brooklyn borough of New York, on 16 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

## Would-be rock star plunges from bed to death

SINGAPORE, 22 Feb—A teenage guitarist got so carried away while bouncing up and down on his bed mimicking a rock star that he flew out of a third floor window to his death, a Singapore newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The Straits Times said Li Xiao Meng, a 16-year-old from China who was studying at Singapore's Hua Business School, was a keen musician who liked to jump up and down while playing his guitar in his hostel room.

“But on 17 November he took things a bit too far,” the newspaper said, reporting on a coroner's court findings. Ruling death by misadventure, the court said evidence “points to the deceased unintentionally falling out of the window to his death when he was hyped up with exhilaration, jumping up and down on the bed placed against an open window while mimicking a rock guitarist.”

Normally the windows were locked, the newspaper said, but students sometimes forced them open so they could smoke, something prohibited by the hostel.—Internet



A man is seen cleaning the windscreen of a Beechcraft T-6, Raytheon Aircraft's primary training plane, on display, on 23 Feb, 2006 during the Asian Aerospace exhibition in Singapore.—INTERNET

## Russia to build two nuke electricity generators each year before 2030

MOSCOW, 22 Feb— Russia plans to build two sets of nuclear electricity generators each year to bring its nuclear electricity production capacity to 25 per cent of the country's total electricity output by 2030, head of Russia's Atomic Energy Agency Sergei Kiriyenko said on Tuesday. The Atomic Energy Agency is negotiating with private investors in the hope of engaging them in the planned construction of

nuclear power stations, Kiriyenko said, adding that these stations will still be state-owned.

Currently, Russia has ten nuclear power stations and 31 sets of nuclear electricity generators, which produce 16 per cent of the country's electricity.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the end of January that the country's nuclear electricity production capacity should reach a quarter of the country's

total by 2030, which is considered feasible by experts. With the implementation of the plan, Russia is expected to be able to save 70 billion cubic metres of natural gas annually by 2010, 105 billion by 2020 and 150 billion by 2030.

The cost-effective plan is also conducive to Russia's implementation of the Kyoto Protocol which aims to reduce global greenhouse emissions—MNA/Xinhua

## Armed gang steals at least 44 million dollars in British depot raid

LONDON, 22 Feb—An armed gang disguised as police stole more than 25 million pounds (44 million dollars, 37 million euros) from a security depot after abducting its manager and his family, the Bank of England said.

Police said the gang

were highly sophisticated and had planned the raid in detail, while the hostages were subjected to a “terrifying ordeal”.

There were unconfirmed reports that the final figure could be up to 40 million pounds, which would make it the biggest heist in British

history. The manager of the Securitas main cash depot in Tonbridge, south of London, was pulled over while driving on Tuesday evening by what he believed was an unmarked police car, Kent Police said.

They said a man wearing a high visibility jacket and

a police-style hat got out of the vehicle, which had blue lights on it. The manager, believing they were genuine police officers, got into their car, was handcuffed, threatened at gunpoint and told to cooperate or his family would be hurt.

Two other robbers disguised as police abducted his wife and son from their home, telling them the manager had been involved in an accident. Six men, some armed with handguns, then threatened and tied up around 15 staff at the depot of Securitas, a company providing security guards, alarm systems, and cash transportation services.

The gang loaded the stolen money into a white lorry before driving off in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Internet



A general view of the Securitas depot in Tonbridge, Kent, on 22 Feb, 2006, where armed robbers impersonating police officers stole some 25 million pounds (US\$43.5 million) from a security company south of London early Wednesday in one of the largest robberies in British history, the Bank of England said.—INTERNET

## Chemical spill disrupts water supply in S-W China town

**BEIJING, 21 Feb**—A chemical spill has contaminated a river in a southwestern China town since last Wednesday, disrupting water supply for some 20,000 people.

A power plant on the upper reaches of the Yuexi River in Guanyin Town of Sichuan Province polluted the water at the intake point, discharging much-than-permitted toxic pollutants into the 100-kilometre stretch around the city of Yibin, Monday's *China Daily* reported.

An official surnamed Liu from the environmental protection bureau of Yibin said the amount of fluoride in Yuexi

River is double the standard level at present, and there are excessive levels of nitrogen and phenol in the water.

The spill was discovered on Tuesday when an employee of the local water supply company noticed water at the intake point turning yellow.

Residents have been relying on water trucked in from a town 23 kilometres away. And although the local government pressed six

fire trucks into service, the supply has not been able to meet demand.

The local government activated an emergency plan—suspending water supply in Guanyin and trucking in 20 tons of water from another town on Wednesday to provide temporary relief.

Liu could not say how much of the pollutants had flown into the river. The power plant is being investigated in the pollution.

MNA/Xinhua

## ဝက်ကုန်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



China's Xu Nannan competes during qualification in the women's aerial freestyle competition at the Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Sauze d'Oulx, Italy, on 21 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET



A US soldier secures an area where a rocket slammed a street just outside the entrance of Baghdad's poor neighbourhood of Sadr City. —INTERNET

## Off-course runners rewarded for going the distance

**LONDON, 21 Feb**—Three women in the Dubai marathon had their prize money increased after running four kilometres further than anyone else because they were given wrong directions.

Luminita Talpos of Romania and Ethiopians Hirut Abera and Diribe Hunde complained they were led off course when in third, fourth and fifth place respectively in Friday's race.

The trio eventually finished fourth, fifth and sixth. A review of the race tapes backed up their complaints and as a gesture of goodwill the race director agreed to pay them for the positions they were in when they went off course.

Accordingly, the athletes received \$8,000,

\$6,000 and \$4,000 respectively, a statement from the organizers said on Tuesday.

Internet

## Eight Neb Co workers share \$365m jackpot

**LINCOLN, 23 Feb**—Eight workers at a Nebraska meatpacking plant are really bringing home the bacon now: They stepped forward Wednesday to claim the biggest lottery jackpot in US history — \$365 million.

The seven men and one woman bought the winning Powerball ticket at a convenience store near the ConAgra ham processing plant where they worked. At least three of the winners are immigrants — two from Vietnam and one from the Republic of Congo.

"This is great country!" said Quang Dao, 56, who came to the United States in 1988. He still has family in Vietnam and said he plans to help them financially with his winnings.

The previous US jackpot record was \$363 million, won by two ticketholders in Illinois and Michigan in 2000.

The Nebraska workers had the option of taking

the money in one lump sum or 30 annual installments. They chose the lump sum and will get \$15.5 million each after taxes.

Three of the group quit their jobs when they hit the jackpot. "I've been retired for about four days now," said Eric Zornes, 40.

Alain Maboussou, 26, said he fled the Congo in 1999 to escape unrest after the civil war there. He said he plans to quit work and return to school for a degree in business administration. The money will provide for his wife and baby daughter.

"She's going to be happy for the rest of her life," he said of the 3-month-old girl. —Internet

## Five killed in shell explosion in Kazakhstan

**ALMA ATA, 21 Feb**—Five workers were killed in an explosion of a military shell in central Kazakhstan at the weekend, regional emergencies agency said on Monday.

The shell, which was sold as scrap metal, went off when the workers were cutting it at a workshop in the central town of Balkhash, about 550 kilometres southeast of the capital Astana, the emergencies agency said. The agency said the shell could have come from some abandoned military facility, adding that several more shells were found at the site of the explosion. —MNA/Xinhua

## Spain seizes 2.5 tons of cocaine off Canaries

**MADRID, 22 Feb**—Spanish police said on Tuesday they had seized 2.5 tons of cocaine hidden on a fishing boat near Tenerife and arrested four Russian and Ukrainian crew members.

Police said that the drugs were so well hidden on the Panamanian-registered fishing boat *Mars*, that it took them several hours to find the contraband in a false bottom. Fourteen other people, of various nationalities, were arrested in different parts of Spain as part of the operation, it said. —MNA/Reuters

## Car bomb hits US patrol in western Baghdad

**BAGHDAD, 22 Feb**—A car bomb struck a US military patrol in western Baghdad on Tuesday, wounding a civilian, a police source said.

"A booby-trapped car parking on the side of a main road in the Kadhraa District, detonated when a US military patrol was passing by," Captain Ahmed Abdullah told *Xinhua*.

The powerful blast wounded an Iraqi civilian and caused unknown casualties among the US troops which cordoned off the area, preventing the Iraqi police from approaching the scene. —MNA/Xinhua

## Cholera epidemic kills 8 from 40 cases recorded in Luanda

**LUANDA, 22 Feb**—An Angolan health official has said that an outbreak of cholera in one of the most impoverished areas of the capital of Luanda has caused eight deaths from the 40 cases already registered.

Briefing reporters on the epidemic declared Sunday by the World Health Organization and the Angolan authorities, Health Minister Sebastiao Veloso said here on Monday cholera was confined to the Boavista area of the capital overlooking Luanda Bay. —MNA/Xinhua



A rainbow emerges over Kan-Abag mountain and the farming village of Guinsaugon buried by a mudslide near Saint Bernard town in southern Leyte Province in Central Philippines on 22 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

## Vietnamese President, Spanish King hold talks

HANOI, 21 Feb — Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong and visiting Spanish King Juan Carlos met here on Monday, seeking ways of boosting bilateral relations and other issues of common concern.

The ongoing official visit of Juan Carlos will contribute to beefing up the ties between the two countries, Luong said while meeting with the Spanish King, who started his two-day trip to Vietnam on Monday.

According to an announcement of the Vietnamese Foreign

Ministry prior to the visit, the King and accompanied government officials are to discuss with some Vietnamese leaders and senior officials about measures to strengthen friendly and cooperative relations, especially those in economy, trade, culture and tourism.

After the meeting, the King and the President witnessed ceremonies of signing four cooperative

deals, including a co-operation agreement on investment promotion and protection. Other deals involve the two countries' sports, culture and news agencies.

MNA/Xinhua



A worker at a construction site in China's Shaanxi Province. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) teamed up with several large construction companies to unveil an initiative aimed at "greening" the building business.—INTERNET

## Indian Airlines finalizes deal with Airbus

NEW DELHI, 21 Feb — Indian Airlines, the state-owned domestic carrier, signed a final pact on Monday with French aircraft manufacturer Airbus Industries to buy 43 planes with 2 billion US dollars.

Kiran Rao, Airbus vice president (marketing and contracts), and Indian Airlines chairman V Trivedi signed the agreement while French President Chirac and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met here Monday.

According to the agreement, Indian Airlines will buy 19 A-319 planes, four A-320s and 20 A-321s. The first aircraft will be delivered in October or early November this year and all the order will be completed by 2010.

MNA/Xinhua

## Iraq provincial governor suspends US cooperation

KERBALA, 21 Feb — The governor of Iraq's Kerbala province, Aqil al-Khazali, said on Tuesday he had suspended all cooperation with US forces because US security staff last week used police dogs to search government buildings.

The incident occurred before a meeting between officials from the US regional embassy in Al-Hilla and local officials at government offices in the city of Kerbala, 110 km (70 miles) south of Baghdad.

US security staff ignored Iraqi personnel and angered local guards by using dogs to search the buildings where the talks were to take place,

showing a lack of respect, Khazali said in a statement. The use of dogs "created a situation of discontentment and anger from these acts so we decided to suspend the cooperation with them and we will not let them interfere in the future," Khazali said.

US authorities said security staff had taken the normal precautions. "We regret that these procedures

often cause inconvenience to Iraqi citizens and officials," said John Roberts, an information officer at the US Embassy in Baghdad.— Internet

A Vietnamese farmer works on a rice field outside Hanoi on 22 Feb, 2006. Vietnam's agricultural exports are expected to rise 7.1 percent to \$7.3 billion in 2006, led by higher sales of coffee, rubber and black pepper but rice exports will ease, the Trade Ministry said.— INTERNET

## Five objectives raised for new countryside development

BEIJING, 22 Feb—China raised five specific objectives in building "a new socialist countryside", a senior official told a new conference here on Wednesday.

China would boost rural productivity, improve rural infrastructure construction, promote social development and deepen democracy in the countryside as well as increase the living standards of farmers, Chen Xiwen, deputy director of the Office of the Central Financial Work Leading Group said.

China's central authorities released Tuesday its first major document of the year calling for the construction of a "new socialist countryside" as the foremost task facing China in the 2006-2010 period.

It's the third consecutive time since 2004 that agriculture, farmers and countryside development have become topics of the first documents of the year issued by the central authorities.

Building a socialist new countryside should not be interpreted as merely constructing new villages, Chen said.

China should focus on efficiency and actual effects instead of speciosity. Central and local governments should support the development through democratic negotiation instead of commanding, he said.

Also, rural areas should develop themselves according to their abilities and carry forward their own characteristics while governments should provide proper support.

Internet



A miner surviving the cave-in is carried out of the mine in Fuxin, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 21 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

## Trapped miners all rescued in N-E China coal mine cave-in

FUXIM (Liaoning), 21 Feb — All seven miners who were trapped in a coal mine cave-in in northeast China's Liaoning Province on 18 February were rescued and hoisted to the ground early on Tuesday.

They were hurried into the ambulances parking near the entrance of the coal mine and will receive further health checkups at a local hospital, an official in charge of the rescue operation told Xinhua.

A cave-in occurred at around 7:45 pm on 18 February in Aiyu Coal

Mine affiliated to Fuxin Mining Group Co Ltd of Liaoning Province, trapping seven miners who were working at the underground passage.

Rescuers dug a separate tunnel to facilitate the rescue operation.

With the help of a newly installed conveyer belt, the

rescue workers built a 29-metre-long tunnel connecting to the location where the trapped miners stayed and eventually found the miners around 3:50 am on Tuesday.

Cause of the accident is under further investigation.

MNA/Xinhua



Doves rest near a sign of Chinese characters saying 'China' on 21 Feb, 2006 in Shanghai, China. —INTERNET

## Vitamin C helps preserve Vitamin E in smokers

NEW YORK, 22 Feb— Vitamin C supplements can help reduce the high rate of Vitamin E depletion that occurs in smokers, according to the findings of a small study published in the journal *Free Radical Biology and Medicine*.

As senior investigator Dr Maret G Traber told *Reuters Health*, "if you are under oxidative stress, have low Vitamin C intakes, then Vitamin E doesn't do its job as well as it should and gets destroyed."

Vitamin C supplements appear to reduce this tendency in smokers, Traber of Oregon State University, Corvallis and colleagues report, based on the findings of a study

with 11 smokers and 13 nonsmokers.

"We studied college-age people who smoked a half a pack to a pack of cigarettes per day," she said. The subjects were randomly assigned to receive Vitamin C supplements at 500 milligrammes twice daily for 2 weeks or placebo.

After two weeks, the study participants switched over to the other treatment. In both phases of the study, the subjects did not know if they were receiving a supplement or placebo.

The researchers found that during the placebo phase, tocopherols, the active form of Vitamin E, disappeared significantly faster in smokers than in

non-smokers. The disappearance rates of blood levels of alpha-tocopherol in smokers were inversely correlated with blood levels of Vitamin C.

Vitamin C supplements in both groups slowed the disappearance rate of alpha-tocopherol by 25 per cent and blood levels of gamma-tocopherol by 45 per cent.

"Vitamin E and Vitamin C have been predicted to interact based on more than 50 years of test tube studies," Traber continued. "This is the first demonstration that Vitamin E reacts with Vitamin C in the human body."

MNA/Reuters

## India, France sign defence cooperation agreement

NEW DELHI, 22 Feb— France and India on Monday signed a comprehensive defence agreement that will pave the way for transfer of advanced armament technologies, giving a major boost to strategic bilateral ties.

The Defence cooperation agreement was signed by visiting French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie and her Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee after a summit-level meeting between French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

France is the third country after Russia and United States with which India has signed such a defence cooperation agreement, with the military sales from Paris averaging 300 million to two billion euro's a year, for the past few years. Under the agreement, the two countries announced

setting up of joint committee which would be responsible for defining, organizing and coordinating bilateral cooperation agreements in defence sector. The

committee on the Indian side would be headed by Defence Secretary and by a representative of the French Defence Minister.

After inking the agreement, the defence

ministers from the two countries held a nearly 45-minute one-to-one meeting which was followed by delegation level talks.

MNA/PTI

## ASEAN central role highlighted in meeting

HANOI, 22 Feb— The ASEAN Special Senior Officials Meeting concluding here Tuesday stressed the current and future central role of the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), *Vietnam News Agency* reported.

Delegates to the two-day meeting analyzed challenges ASEAN is facing in maintaining its central role and resolving regional issues, especially in the context of rapid changes in the region and the world as well as emerging problems, including natural disasters, epidemics, terrorism and transnational crimes.

The officials stressed ASEAN needs to continue maintaining and reinforcing its role in the

regional cooperative structure in order to ensure peace, stability and development in the region.

They agreed that ASEAN has played an important role in promoting peace, stability and development not only in Southeast Asia but also the Asia-Pacific region.

They also affirmed ASEAN has constantly expanded and deepened cooperative ties with dialogue partners, as well

as successfully initiated and played vital part in many regional dialogues and cooperation forums such as ASEAN + 3, ASEAN + 1, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the East Asia Summit (EAS).

ASEAN comprises of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

## Bird flu kills two more swans in Hungary

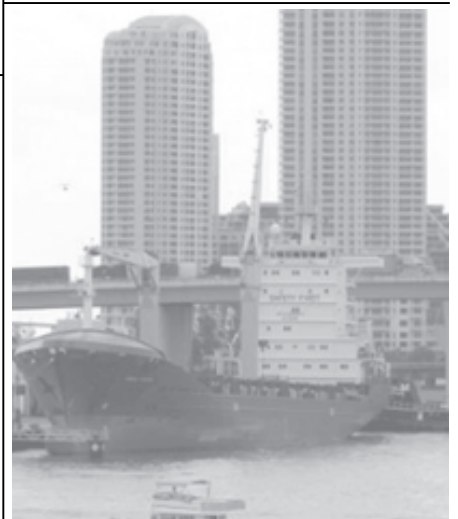
BUDAPEST, 22 Feb— Two more swans were killed by bird flu in Hungary where three swans had previously died from the deadly disease, Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany said on Monday.

Further laboratory tests would be carried out in Britain in order to verify whether the swans were killed by the H5N1 strain, Gyurcsany said.

The two dead birds were found on February 13 near Nagybaracska in the south of the country, the same area where the three previous swans were found. — MNA/Xinhua



US Marines cross over a raging stream of mudwater created after heavy rains overnight in the central Philippine village of Guinsaugon. —INTERNET



A ship is docked at the entrance to the Port of Miami in Miami, Florida, on 21 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

## Floods, landslides kill 24 in eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 Feb— Landslides and floods triggered by torrential rain have killed at least 24 people in Indonesia's eastern city of Manado, search and rescue officials said on Wednesday.

The disaster occurred on Tuesday in the North Sulawesi provincial capital, where parts of the city were inundated with one-metre (three foot) high floodwaters after hours of rain. Most of the dead were buried by mud from landslides in hilly parts of the city.

"Today we found four bodies so the total is now 24," said Rinaldi, a search and rescue official in Manado, about 2,200 kilometres (1,365 miles) northeast of Jakarta.

Another search and rescue official on the scene in the seaside city said rescuers were still searching for survivors.

Floods and landslides are common in Indonesia, especially during the wet season. Many landslides are caused by illegal logging or the clearing of farmland that strips away natural barriers to such disasters.

Landslides killed at least 130 people on Java island last month.

MNA/Reuters

# Fruits of development on west bank of Ayeyawady River

Zeya Myo Htet

The government has been laying down and putting into action the projects for equitable development of all parts of the Union, bridging the development gap between one region and another and raising the standard of living of the people. In the process, the government is putting its energies into the harmonious implementation of the border areas and national races development project, the 24-special development regions project and the rural development project.

It has built bridges one after another across the Ayeyawady River, which flows from north to south, with the aim of ensuring smooth transport between the regions on the east bank and those on the west bank of the river. It is also constructing bridges and roads with added momentum for equitable

progress of the regions on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River. Now, the project for the progress of Yinmabin, Pale and Salingyi in Sagaing Division and Pakokku, Yesagyo, Myaing, Pauk and Seikpyu in Magway Division has taken shape.

Thanks to the measures taken under the guidance of the Head of State, the regions on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River have witnessed remarkable development. The purpose of the rural development project is to narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas as much as possible. The harmonious co-operation of the government, the Tatmadaw and the people has yielded the fruit of the high standard of living of local people in almost all the villages with the development in the economic, education and social sectors.

The Ministry for

Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs has inaugurated clean water supply facilities in Yinmabin, Pale and Salingyi in Sagaing Division. Now, households in rural areas have access to clean water through water meter system or through the public concrete water tank. The government spent K 10.8 million in Yinmabin, K 13.6 million in Pale and K 20.5 million in Salingyi under the extended water supply project. Moreover, it has constructed tarred roads and upgraded the existing roads in these towns.

Since 1992, the government has established 34 vocational training centres for women under the regional development drive with the objectives—to enable young women to run their own businesses after completing respective courses; for the trainees to become ones with



The opening of The-inn-gu self-reliant tarred road in progress on 1-1-2006.

good morality who preserve national prestige and integrity; to uplift dynamism of patriotic spirit; and to further flourish traditional culture and vocational sciences. Vocational training centres for women have been set up in Yinmabin, Pale and Salingyi that prescribe subjects on tailoring (basic) and (advanced), knitting, weaving wool, making snacks and cooking meals. The centres open 14-week courses for local young women. During the training term, the centres stand for all the expenses for the trainees and help them run private businesses through the vocations they pursued after the courses.

Now, local people in Yinmabin, Pale and Salingyi in Sagaing Division have enjoyed the fruits of the goodwill of the government.

In compliance with the guidance of the Head

of State on the progress of the regions on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River in Magway Division, the projects for supply of clean water to rural areas and to urban areas, upgrading of the roads to tarred ones in urban areas, and establishment of vocational training centres for women in Pakokku, Yesagyo, Pauk, Myaing and Seikpyu townships have been implemented.

The 10-year project for supply of clean water to rural areas will have to cover 335 villages. Of 1,209 villages in Pakokku, Yesagyo, Myaing, Pauk and Seikpyu in Pakokku District, up to 2004-2005 fiscal year, 216 villages have enjoyed sufficient clean water. The government has spent K 228.60 million on the clean water supply project for the remaining 119 villages. So, the entire Pakokku District has now got sufficient clean water.

Regarding the urban water supply programme, the government has spent K 75.9 million in Pakokku, K 58.1 million in Yesagyo, K 51.575 million in Myaing, K 32.3 million in Pauk, and K 20.83 million in Seikpyu.

The government has been taking necessary measures for sustainable progress of all states and divisions including border areas and urban and rural areas. Now, rural areas are enjoying fruitful results of development in parallel with urban areas.

The development projects for the regions on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River have taken shape owing to the goodwill of the government and concerted participation of local people. All are therefore duty-bound to maintain the facilities collaboratively for their durability.

Translation: MS



The billboard to mark achievement in supply of sufficient clean water to all the villages in Yesagyo Township.

## Doctors may offer heart ops without missing a beat

LONDON, February 23 — Surgeons may soon be able to operate on a beating heart using software that synchronizes its pumping action with the movement of robotic surgical tools, New Scientist magazine reported on Wednesday. Special motion software, developed at Imperial College London, has been de-

signed for use with a surgical robot to perform procedures such as bypass surgery, the magazine said.

In traditional bypass surgery, the heart is usually stopped and an artificial pump used to keep the blood flowing around the body. But this is traumatic as it involves opening up the heart and means the blood must be rerouted through a machine.

The new software, used with a robot called da Vinci, uses a two-camera endoscope that feeds images to a viewer. The software models the heart and creates a three-dimensional image which appears to the surgeon to be stationary.

At the same time, the software tracks the beating of the heart and instructs the robot's instruments to move back and forth in time with the movement.

The software has so far only been tested on artificial silicone hearts using a robotic arm.

MNA/Reuters



LIBRARY OPENED: Opening of Thuta Alin Library took place on 15 February in Pabesu Village, Thongwa village tract in Maubin Township. On behalf of the wellwihers—U Zaw Myint (Writer Tekkatho Phone Maung)+Daw Sein Myaing, (Writer Saw Thanda Tun) and Ko Kyaw Myint Oo and Ma Swe Zin Oo—Saw Thanda Tun donates books to Chairman of Thongwa Village Tract Peace and Development Council U Soe Myint. — H

UNICEF logo and Burmese text: စာမျှင်အားပေးပေးခြင်းကြောင့် သို့မဟုတ် အခြားမည်သည့်အကြောင်းကြောင့်မှ သူတို့၏ အကျိုးအမြတ်ကို မျှော်လင့်ရန် မရပါ။

# Shwehtidaw hoisted atop eight encircling zedis of Yantaingaug Pagoda in Lashio

YANGON, 23 Feb — A ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop encircling zedis of Yantaingaug MyoU Pagoda was held at the pagoda in Lashio on 21 February.

Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and party offered 'dawn soon' to members of the Sangha.

Kanmein Monastery Sayadaw State Ovadaçariya Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Muninda of Lashio ad-

mond bud) and Hngetmyatnadaw for the pagoda and alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Muninda.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and party of-

First, Chairman of



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife offer Seinbudaw (diamond bud) and Hngetmyatnadaw for the pagoda and alms to a sayadaw. — MNA



Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing fixes shwehtidaw atop one of the encircled zedis of the Yantaingaug MyoU Pagoda. — MNA

Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife, Minister for Information

ministered the Nine Precepts.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife Daw Khin Thant Sin offered Seinbudaw (dia-

ferred Seinbudaws and Hngetmyatnadaws for encircled zedis to the Sayadaws.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing,

Daw Khin Thant Sin, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and officials hoisted diamond buds, Hngetmyatnadaws and tiers of the Htidaws atop the encircled zedis of the pagoda. They sprinkled scented water on them.

They poured water to a Bo tree near the platform of the pagoda.

Afterwards, the

commander and wife and the minister planted coconut palm trees near the entrance road to the pagoda.

At the briefing hall near the construction site of Thukha Mingala Hsinshweli Sasana Beikman, Director U Maung Kyay of Asia World Co Ltd reported on construction

matters of the Beikmandaw that will be 140 feet long, 60 feet wide and 36 feet high. The commander, the minister and officials laid cornerstone of the Beikmandaw.

The ceremony ended with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and congregation receive the Nine-Precepts from Sayadaws. — MNA

## Wellwishers fund to cleft lips and palate treatment

YANGON, 23 Feb — Wellwishers on 17 February donated cash to Ayeyawady Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association to provide treatment to cleft lip and palate patients in the division.

At the cash donation ceremony held at the meeting hall of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council, wellwisher presented K 3 million to Chairman of Ayeyawady Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Daw Than Than Nwe. Myanmar Trading Co Ltd also contributed K 1.5 million to the fund of the committee and donated food.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung also attended the cash donation ceremony.

MNA

## Work coordination meeting of Yangon Division and District WAOs

YANGON, 23 Feb — Patron of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization and Yangon North District Women's Affairs Organization held work coordination meeting at District Peace and Development Council Office this afternoon.

First, the patron of District WAO and CEC members and group leaders explained the activities of WAOs.

Next, chairpersons of Township WAO reported the respective works carried out and those present took part in the discussions.

Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai gave conclusion remarks and presented K 250,000 as a capital for the tasks of promoting the

family incomes of women through Patron of District WAO Daw Saw Shwe and Chairperson Daw San San Htay and the meeting ended. — MNA



Daw Mar Mar Wai presents cash assistance to Patron of Yangon North District WAO Daw Saw Shwe. — MNA



# Functions of MRTV must serve interest of the nation

## 60th founding anniversary of MRTV observed

YANGON, 23 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of Myanma Radio and Television of the Ministry of Information at Studio-A on Pyay Road, here, yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that today's 60th anniversary of MRTV was held with the aims of reviewing strong and weak points in order to achieve optimum success in the

staff, the ministry places emphasis on development of human resources. Hence, all the staff are to try their best to have more efficiency.

MRTV is a department that is carrying out its heavy functions in time. He praised that the department could perform media functions with success due to concerted efforts of all the staff. The department will have to strive to obtain improvement in both form and essence to capture the hearts of audience all over the nation.

TV stations of other countries. Hence, efforts are to be made for making more and more achievements.

Upholding the work policy, innovative measure is to be taken in carrying out the tasks, and functions of the department must serve the interest of the nation.

In conclusion, the minister pointed out the aims of the department for 2006. They were to strive for realization of the seven-step Road Map through media, to air quality radio and TV

gineer), Senior Engineer U Sein Thaug (Lashio Zone), and Electronic Technician-1 U Hla Thein of Yegu Radio Sub-station, Public Good Service Medal winner Deputy Head of Vehicle Department U Ohn Lwin, Director (TV) U Myint Oo, Director U Win Kyi (MRTV-3), Deputy Director (Admin) U Maung Pe, Deputy Director of MRTV-4 U Myint Aung, Staff Officer (Deputy In-Charge of Admin Department) Daw May Aye Kywe, and Electronic



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents prizes to an outstanding staff. — MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses ceremony to mark 60th founding anniversary of Myanma Radio and Television. — MNA

functions of the Ministry of Information and MTRV, and instilling in the minds of staff with competitiveness to help enhance work efficiency and unity.

All the staff are to discharge their respective duties in the future with 14 points of directives. He stressed the need to develop human resources. By presenting prizes to outstanding

Based on its past experiences, MRTV should strive to stand shoulder to shoulder with

programmes to all over the country, to earn more income for the department, to extend

Technician-1 U Ohn Maung.

Deputy Minister U Thein Sein and Director-

General U Khin Maung Htay of MRTV presented prizes to other outstanding staff and their children.

On behalf of the winners, Head of Lashio Zone Senior Engineer U Sein Thaug expressed gratitude.

Later, the minister, the deputy minister, the director-general and officials presented prizes of lucky draw

to the respective winners.

Also present on the occasion were officials of departments and enterprises under the ministry, advisers, those who contributed to the tasks of the department, chairmen of Myanma Music Asiayon and Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, and staff.

MNA

**Upholding the work policy, innovative measure is to be taken in carrying out the tasks, and functions of the department must serve the interest of the nation.**



Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein presents prize to an outstanding staff. — MNA

functions of DVB-T linking the country-wise network for converting of Analogue system into digital system, to strive for converting of radio and TV cover to reach other countries, to practise thrifty methods in tasks, and to carry out agriculture and livestock breeding.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented prizes to Excellent Performance in Industrial Field (Third Class) winners U Win Thu (Deputy Chief En-



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and wife being welcomed by Charge d'Affaires of Brunei Darussalam Mr Haji Azizul Abdul Aziz at the reception to mark 22nd Anniversary National Day of Brunei Darussalam Thursday. — MNA

## Trainees of Thai National Defence College conclude visit

YANGON, 23 Feb — The trainees of excursion tour led by Major General Sirichai Ratanavara of the National Defence College of Thailand visited the National Races Village in Thakayta Township yesterday morning and viewed round the village.

In the afternoon, they proceeded to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Laba Muni Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township and Yadana White Elephant Park and donated cash for the food of white elephants through Director of Forest Department U Myint Swe. This morning, the trainees led by Major General Sirichai Ratanavara of the National Defence College of Thailand left here for home by air and they were seen off at the airport by the National Defence College Deputy Commandant Brig-Gen Than Maung and senior officers, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, Military Attaché Col Prissapa Suvanatat and officials of the embassy. — MNA



Trainees of Thai National Defence College leave for home. — MNA

## Workshop for mid-career level diplomats held

YANGON, 23 Feb — Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized the management workshop in connection with international seminar/meeting for mid-career level diplomats at Grand Plaza Park royal Hotel, here, this morning.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano, officials, scholars of International Relations Department of Yangon University, experts from ASEAN Secretariat, officials of Sasakawa Peace

Foundation and guests.

First, the deputy minister gave a speech.

Secretary of Myanmar ISIS Ambassador U Nyunt Tin extended greetings and the Joint Project Officer of Sasakawa Peace Foundation spoke words of thanks.

Experts from ASEAN Secretariat submitted management subjects concerning international seminar/meeting for mid-career level diplomats.

The workshop continues tomorrow at the same venue. — MNA

## Home Affairs Minister meets departmental personnel at Lewe Township

YANGON, 23 Feb — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo together with Director-General of Administration Department U Myat Ko, the deputy director-general and directors, met with Ward and Village Tract Peace and Development Council Chairman and members, office staff and departmental officials at Lewe Township Development Affairs Committee Office yesterday morning.

The minister made a speech saying that staff needed to strive for the economic development from all sides, the implementation of five rural development tasks, the manageable scale agricultural and breeding tasks, growing physic nut plants and being good staff who can serve the interest of people.

MNA

## Workshop on Industrial Training and Technical Internship Program held

YANGON, 23 Feb — Organized by Labour Department of the Ministry of Labour and Japan International Training Cooperation Organization (JITCO), a workshop on Industrial Training and Technical Internship Program in Japan took place at International Business Centre on Pyay Road this afternoon. It was attended by officials of Labour Department, JITCO and others.

Senior Manager Mr Ryosei Suzuki of JITCO made an opening speech.

Acting Director-General U Win Swe of Labour Department and Second Secretary Mr Tomofumi Yokoyama of Japan Embassy also spoke on the occasion.

JOHO Cooperative, Kantsu Kokusai Koryu Cooperative Association and Tokyo Enterprise Information Management Cooperative Society to the workshop were introduced.

Later, Mr Ryosei Suzuki discussed Industrial Training and Internship Programme and Roles of Sending Organizations.

Director U Khin Maung Lay made supplementary explanations and officials replied to queries raised by those present.

MNA



Ryosei Suzuki, Senior Manager of JITCO addresses the workshop on Industrial Training and Technical Internship Program. — MNA

# Myanmar extracts bio-diesel from physic nut

## Extraction of bio-diesel from physic nut brings benefit

Researchers have discovered that increase in temperature of the earth's atmosphere is due to the increase of particular gases. Content rate of the gases that cause greenhouse effect in the atmosphere such as carbon dioxide and methane has been much higher than that in the past. The hole of the ozone layer of the earth is getting larger, so the temperature of the earth is increasing.

### Seek ways to solve problems

Moreover, the world has seen environmental degradation owing to environmental pollution and deterioration of natural resources.

World nations are therefore seeking various ways and means to remedy these problems. In the process, emphasis is placed on establishment of forests and planting trees that can conserve environment, and on extensive use of diesel-substitute fuel that can reduce air pollution.

### Diesel-substitute bio-diesel

Now, some nations are using solar power, wind power and bio-diesel extensively in place of nuclear power and oil that call for high technology and heavy expenses and cause air pollution. In so doing, they are extensively producing coal-

substitute fuel that can fulfil great requirement of fuel and extracting bio-diesel from such crops as sugarcane, potato, wheat, corn, soya bean and physic nut.

### Multi-purpose crop

The crops, from which bio-diesel can be obtained, do not call for much expense to extract bio-diesel. Various types of bio-diesel emit less carbon dioxide. Among them, physic nut is the best to extract bio-diesel and to grow. It costs less, and its fruit yield rate is high and its oil emits less carbon dioxide than other types of bio-diesel. Myanmar has achieved success. The benefits of physic nut are



Physic nut saplings seen in the compound of Kawthoung Township Police Force on 11 Feb 2006.

widely known to the people, and its oil can be used in various sectors. Therefore, physic nut is being grown extensively across

the nation as a national task. Extensively growing physic nut and extraction of bio-diesel from the crop enhance the interests of

the entire national people, cut fuel requirement, and contribute towards environmental conservation.

## Fake drugs, including Tamiflu, thrive on Internet

GENEVA, 23 Feb — Criminals are using the Internet to sell increasing quantities of counterfeit medicines, including fake versions of bird flu drug Tamiflu, a senior UN health expert said on Tuesday.

Vitamin and health supplements, so-called "lifestyle medications" like erectile dysfunction drugs, and steroids bought over the Internet were especially likely to be false.

Antibiotics, anti-malarials and pain killers were also susceptible to fraud because of the huge demand, while Tamiflu, made by Swiss firm Roche, had also entered the market amid rising avian flu fears.

"Yes, there have been cases reported in counterfeit Tamiflu," said Howard Zucker, the World Health Organization's assistant director-general for health technology and pharmaceuticals.

But he declined to give details on the quantity or where the fake drugs had been found.

The WHO has estimated as many as 10 per cent of drugs on the world market are mislabelled or fake, with the phony medicines sometimes causing illness and even death in consumers.

Speaking to reporters after a high-

level meeting in Rome, where pharmaceutical industry and health experts agreed to set up a task force to fight the counterfeit drug trade, Zucker said better oversight of online drug sales was essential.

At the meeting, the UN health body said it would help set up an international expert group to raise awareness about fake drugs and to improve cooperation between governments, industry groups and international agencies on the issue.

"Counterfeiting medicines should be distinguished from other types of counterfeiting which do not affect human health and should be combated and punished accordingly," the conference participants said in a statement at the end of their meeting. Harvey Bale, director-general of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations, said fake medicines remain more prevalent in developing countries than in places like Western Europe.

MNA/Reuters



A Bosnian pharmacist displays Swiss drug maker Roche's Tamiflu bird flu anti-viral tablets at a pharmacy in the capital Sarajevo in this 18 Feb, 2006 file photo. Criminals are using the Internet to sell increasing quantities of counterfeit medicines, including fake versions of bird flu drug Tamiflu, a senior UN health expert said on 21 Feb. —INTERNET

## British bar owner murdered in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 23 Feb — A British bar owner was stabbed to death by an 18-year-old youth during an apparent botched robbery in the Cambodian capital, police and neighbours said on Wednesday.

The youth, a street kid called Tong Chen, was arrested in a park as he cleaned blood off his knife after stabbing David Mitchell, from Walsall in central England, five times in the chest, police investigator Neang Sopheap said.

New Zealand journalist Jane Nye, who worked as managing editor of Cambodian *Scene* magazine and who had been

staying in the same house, sustained injuries to her neck, hands and head and was evacuated to Thailand for medical treatment.

"The boy could have climbed up the wall to steal their property but woke them up," Neang Sopheap said after a preliminary investigation of the scene, which still had pools of blood on the floor.

Chhum Sara, who lived next door to Mitchell's Ginger Monkey bar — a favourite hang-out for Phnom Penh expatriates and tourists — said she heard Nye screaming "Help me! Help me!", adding that she

feared her friend might die of blood loss.

MNA/Reuters



A floral arrangement in the form of a conga drum is delivered to the wake for Ray Barretto in New York, on 22 Feb, 2006. Barretto, a Grammy-award musician whose music straddled the worlds of jazz and Latin music for six decades, died last Friday at the age of 76. —INTERNET

## Sudan rejects UN troops for Darfur

KHARTOUM, 23 Feb — Sudan rejects US-backed efforts to have UN peacekeeping troops take over from African Union troops in the country's troubled Darfur Region, Foreign Minister Lam Akol said on Wednesday.

The United States has urged the African Union (AU) to accept a handover to UN peacekeepers.

"The government has rejected this... We did not hear anybody saying they (the AU) are not doing enough to stop the violence. What we are hearing is that they're short of funds," Akol told *Reuters*.

Sudanese officials had previously shown a softer position towards the deployment of UN troops in Darfur, which the AU says it supports "in principle". The United Nations has already begun contingency planning for any takeover.

Sudan has in the past taken a hard public stance, rejecting the deployment of any troops to Darfur. But they eventually reluctantly accepted the AU force.

The AU has said the government has at times not cooperated with it, delaying for months the deployment of heavy equipment and placing troops under a night-time curfew in North Darfur. The government denies any obstruction.

MNA/Reuters

## Smoking wanes in Western countries

STOCKHOLM, 23 Feb — A new Swedish study showed that the number of smokers is shrinking in Western countries, Radio Sweden reported on Wednesday.

The ten-year project by researchers from Uppsala University Hospital surveyed 9000 people in 29 cities in Europe, Australia and the United States. It found that the number of smokers dropped during the period from 34 to 28 per cent.

More dramatic is the decrease in passive smokers. During the past ten years non-smokers exposed to second hand smoke on a daily basis dropped from 41 to 24 per cent, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua

## Digging grinds on for survivors of Philippine mudslide

GUINSAUGON (Philippines), 23 Feb — Rescue workers kept digging on Wednesday for survivors from a deadly Philippine mudslide, but some officials said the time to call off the search was fast approaching as hopes faded of finding anyone alive.

"It is torturous for the survivors. We need to concentrate on preparing them for the future," a senior politician, who declined to be named, told *Reuters*.

Around 1,000 people remain missing after Friday's landslide obliterated the remote farming community of Guinсаugon, about 675 kilometres (420 miles) southeast of Manila.

So far, 107 bodies have been pulled out. No one has been brought out alive from the fetid mud, which is up to 40 metres deep in some places, since hours after the catastrophe struck.

Around 400 people who escaped the deluge of earth and debris, along with around 1,600 people evacuated from neighbouring villages, are sheltering in packed parish churches and schools while emergency teams dig up and then bury the dead.

The Philippines is usually hit by about 20 typhoons each year, but environmental groups such as Greenpeace blame the government for turning a blind eye to illegal logging or mining, which makes the ground unstable.

MNA/Reuters

## Malaysia says 7 from bird flu area in hospital

PUTRAJAYA (Malaysia), 23 Feb — A Malaysian minister said on Wednesday seven people staying near the site of a bird flu outbreak were in

hospital with respiratory problems, but test results would only be available after a day.

Health Minister Chua Soi Lek told a news conference in Malaysia's administrative capital two adults and five children aged between 2 and 12 staying within 300 metres of the affected area on the edge of the Malaysian capital had been taken to hospital.

"Those warded are the ones exposed to the chickens," he said, using a common term for hospitalization.

Malaysia on Monday reported its first case of H5N1 bird flu in more than a year, with the death of 40 chickens last week, in what authorities called an isolated event.

MNA/Reuters

**ADVERTISEMENT**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOYNO (096)N**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOYNO (096)N are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV PRECIOUS RIVER VOYNO (602)N**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PRECIOUS RIVER VOYNO (602)N are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CORPORATION**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Health, Central Medical Stores Depot for the supply of Medical Equipment.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores), Central Medical Stores Depot, No-57, Sakawa Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, commencing from (24.2.2006).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores), Central Medical Stores Depot, not later than (10.3.2006) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraphic/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores) Phone No. 371284, 371969.  
Central Medical Stores Depot  
Department of Health

**S Korea Air Force shoots down Lotte sky-scraper plan**

SEOUL, 21 Feb— South Korea's Air Force said on Monday it will not permit construction of what would have been the country's tallest building because the proposed 555-metre (1,820-foot) structure could interfere with flight routes.

Lotte Group has been looking to build a 112-storey structure as part of the expansion of an area near its amusement park in Seoul called Lotte World. Currently the tallest building in South Korea is 63 storeys high. "We do not think it is appropriate to construct the building, because the plan cannot ensure the safety of flights," the Air Force said in a statement.

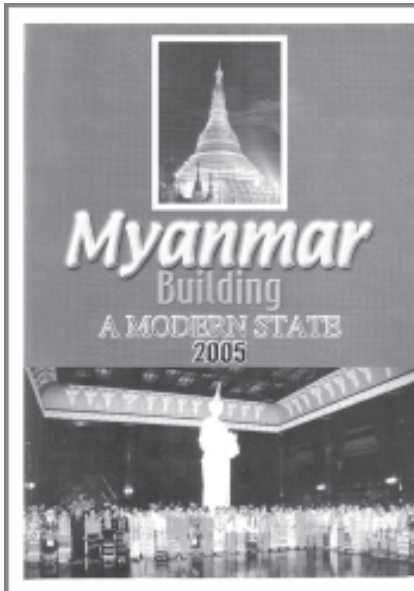
The Air Force said the skyscraper had been pro-

posed for a zone where height limits would bar such a tall structure.

In 1994, Lotte proposed expanding development around the amusement park, which stands near the main stadium used in the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

In October 2004 it proposed building a skyscraper housing a hotel, stores, business areas and a cultural centre. Lotte has already begun construction on the foundations.

"We cannot accept the Air Force's assertions because the skyscraper will be located outside the flight-restriction zone," Kim Myung-soo, vice president of a Lotte-affiliated company, told local broadcaster YTN.—MNA/Reuters



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**Ethiopia's coffee birthplace to host 1st ever beauty contest**

**ADDIS ABABA, 21 Feb— Ethiopia's southwestern city of Jimma, commonly known as the birthplace of coffee, is for the first time in its history braced to host a beauty contest, it was learned on Sunday.**

Cleopatra Promotion, a private local company, will organize the beauty pageant on March 24, at Jimma's prestigious Gojeb Minch Hotel.

According to a Press release sent to international media here, the pageant will include beauty contests for Miss Jimma and Mr. Jimma titles.

As criteria for joining the contesting group, girls should be above 1.68 me-

ter and men should be above 1.75 metre, the organizing company said.

The contestants should be residents of Jimma but they can have any ethnic origins because only 23 per cent of the residents in Jimma are Oromo while the other 77 per cent of the society is from the southern region of Ethiopia, the Press release said.

Around 140 contestants, including students from

Jimma University, are registered, the organizing company said, adding that it expects more contestants to get registered.

In addition, the event will be transmitted to the public with video projectors in different locations outside Gojeb Minch Hotel. The event will also be transmitted live to 10,000 people.

Talking about the judges, Adege Negussie,

general manager of Cleopatra Promotion, said the judges are comprised of people, who are working in Jimma University.

Responding to some critics of beauty contests who claim that it spoils local culture, Adege said that since it is their first time to organize such an event in Jimma and it being new for the society, they will try to compromise things.

"For instance, contestants will not stand with swimming pants in front of the judges. However we also try to maintain the show's international standard without forgetting our tradition."—MNA/Xinhua



*A giraffe is seen at the "Living Desert" zoo in Palm Desert, California on 19 Feb, 2006. The zoo was established in 1970 as a 360 acre wilderness preserve of the deserts of the world and is the only zoological and botanical park specializing in one ecosystem.—INTERNET*

**China to enhance rail freight transport capacity by 16.7%**

**BEIJING, 21 Feb— China is trying to enhance its railway freight transportation capacity by 16.7 per cent through upgrading freight trains with 70-ton ones, the Shanghai Securities News reported on Sunday.**

From this year, all the newly-built freight trains in China will be 70-ton trains, which will gradually replace the outdated 60-ton trains widely used in China, the Ministry of Railways told the newspaper.

The new-type 70-ton freight trains, designed with

China's own intellectual property right, can carry more weight and run at a speed of 120 kilometres per hour. While the 60-ton freight trains speed at about 80 kilometres per hour.

In 2005, about 2,000 70-ton freight trains were firstly used in China on the railways connecting

western coal-rich Shanxi Province and Qinhuangdao, a port city in the North China's Hebei Province. The wide use of such new freight trains is expected to further alleviate China's transportation crunch, the Ministry of Railways said.

MNA/Xinhua

**HK musician wins Berlin Silver Bear music award**

HONG KONG, 21 Feb— Hong Kong musician Peter Kam, who won the Silver Bear for the best music for the film "Isabella" at the 56th Berlin Film Festival which ended on Saturday in Berlin, told the Hong Kong Press on Sunday that he did not expect to win the award and that he felt very excited.

In a telephone interview with a Hong Kong radio station, Kam said the story of "Isabella" took place in Macao. So when he composed music for the film, he put lots of Portuguese music elements, which are quite different from those for other Hong Kong-made movies.

MNA/Xinhua

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### China warns of fresh bird flu outbreaks this spring

BEIJING, 21 Feb— China has warned of fresh outbreaks of bird flu this spring and has banned imports of pet and wild birds from 10 countries recently hit by the disease, state media said on Tuesday.

China has reported more than 30 outbreaks of the H5N1 strain of bird flu in both poultry and wild birds in a dozen provinces in the past year, along with 11 human cases in recent months, eight of whom have died.

“There is still the possibility of bird flu epidemics across a large area (of the country) this spring,” Agriculture Minister Du Qinglin was quoted by the *China Youth Daily* as telling a conference.

Du cited increased movement of migratory birds after the winter and more shipping of poultry as the new raising season

begins, the newspaper said. “The protection given inoculated birds last autumn is waning and vaccination work for family-raised poultry in remote rural areas is difficult,” Du said. “The situation is still very grave.”

A team of scientists in Asia published a paper in 2004 saying that H5N1 virus had been circulating in China since 2001, with winter the peak season.

Bird flu is endemic among China’s estimated 14 billion poultry, many of which are raised in family backyards close to humans.

MNA/Reuters

### New drug formulation may help drug addicts quit

NEW YORK, 21 Feb— An injectable, sustained-release formulation of naltrexone is a safe and effective treatment for patients who are addicted to opioid drugs, such as heroin, new research suggests.

Naltrexone in oral form is very effective in preventing and reversing the effects of opioid drugs.

However, it has not been particularly useful because patients often stop taking it, according to the report in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*.

The development of a longer lasting naltrexone formulation has renewed interest in this drug.

Dr Sandra D Comer, from the College of

Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in New York, and colleagues assessed the outcome of 60 heroin-dependent adults who were randomly assigned to receive injections of sustained-release naltrexone, at a 192-milligrammes or 384-milligrammes dose, or placebo. This formulation can block the effects of injected drugs for three to five weeks, depending on the dose—MNA/Reuters



People examine a display of a Bell 429 helicopter on 21 Feb, 2006 during the Asian Aerospace exhibition in Singapore. —INTERNET

### N-W China province moves to tackle water shortage, pollution

BEIJING, 22 Feb— Northwest China’s Qinghai Province plans to provide cleaner water in the coming years for more than 1.7 million farmers and herdsmen by launching a series of projects. About 1 million

farmers and herdsmen who are suffering from water shortages or polluted drinking water will see improvement by the end of 2010, said Xing Lianwen, an official with the provincial water

resources bureau.

The official said the remaining 730,000 people will be provided with adequate clean water during the period of 2011-2020, *China Daily* reported on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

### Thai officials to visit Australia for export promotion

BANGKOK, 21 Feb— A high level Thai trade delegation will visit Australia next month in a bid to boost export opportunities amid concern that the maximum benefit was not being extracted from the two countries’ free trade pact.

Thai trade negotiator and ministerial advisor Panpree Pahitanukorn was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying on Sunday that the delegation would leave in mid-March, and comprise a variety of government officials and representatives of the Federation of Thai Industries and Chamber of Commerce.

MNA/Xinhua

### Giant panda to return to wild in S-W China this year

CHENGDU, 21 Feb— The first giant panda that has received survival training will be released into the wild this year, sources with the Wolong Giant Panda Research Centre said.

Xiang Xiang, the giant panda bred in captivity, was first released by the centre in July 2003 as part of the training programme. It proved successful as the panda recovered some of its weakened natural instincts.

Xiang Xiang will return to nature in the

Chousuigou area in the Wolong Nature Reserve, southwestern Sichuan Province, the source said.

Experts will track the giant panda over an area of 35 square kilometers at an altitude of 2,300-3,400 metres with a GPS (global positioning system) necklace and a radio for two years after its return to nature.

Yang Dongsheng, director of the Sichuan Forestry Bureau, said that the purpose of the programme is to improve the genetic diversity and quality of the species.

Xiang Xiang is now able to find food with the correct nutrients, look for drinking water and cope with dangers, experts said.

The Wolong Giant Panda Research Centre was established in 1980 with the aim of enlarging the population of giant pandas and conserving them in the wild.

MNA/Xinhua



Giant pandas ‘Tuan Tuan’ and ‘Yuan Yuan’ play on snowfield at the Wolong Giant Panda Research Centre in southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 17 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

### Explosion kills labourer, wounds 22 in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 21 Feb— An explosive charge went off in a busy area in central Baghdad early on Monday, killing a labourer and wounding 22 others, a police source told *Xinhua*.

“An explosive charge detonated at about 7:45 am (0445 GMT) among a crowd of labourers who were waiting for daily work in the al-Tahrir Square in the Bab al-Sharji area,” said Captain Ahmed Abdullah, from Baghdad police.

The blast also damaged several nearby shops, Abdullah said. Iraqi police rushed to the scene and searched the area immediately for more possible bombs while ambulances evacuated the casualties to nearby hospitals. —MNA/Xinhua



Japanese Formula One driver Takuma Sato drives a new Super Aguri SA05 car during training session at Catalunya’s racetrack near Barcelona, on 21 Feb, 2006. Some teams are testing their cars until next Friday. —INTERNET

# SPORTS



Shingo Katayama of Japan hits his drive at the par three second hole during the first round of the WGC Accenture Match Play Championship golf tournament in Carlsbad, California on 22 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

## Milan's Ancelotti says goal in Munich good but not enough

MUNICH, 22 Feb — AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti was duly impressed with Bayern Munich's strong showing in their Champions League match on Tuesday and expects another tough battle at home against the German champions in two weeks.

Despite the favourable outcome of their 1-1 draw with the important away goal, Ancelotti sounded a note of caution after his men abruptly ended Bayern's 15-match winning streak at home in the first leg of their knock-out round encounter.

"Nothing has been decided with this draw," he said. "I think we can be satisfied with this result. But Bayern are an excellent club. They are a very physical side." — MNA/Reuters

## Liverpool's Sissoko stays in Lisbon due to eye injury

LISBON, 22 Feb — Liverpool's Momo Sissoko has had to stay in Lisbon after hospital treatment for

an eye injury suffered in Tuesday's 1-0 Champions League loss to Benfica. Sissoko took a kick in

the face following a high challenge by midfielder Beto on the half-hour and went off on a stretcher. Beto was booked and Sissoko was replaced by Dietmar Hamann.

After hospital tests the Mali midfielder was told he would not be flying home to Merseyside with the rest of the squad on Tuesday night and would have to remain Lisbon.

"It is a serious eye injury which means Momo will be staying in hospital overnight for observation and further tests," a Liverpool spokesman said on the club's website.

"The club doctor and one of the physios is staying in Portugal with the player until he is able to return to England."

MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's Dietmar Hamann, right, from Germany clashes with Benfica's Greek player Giorgios Karagounis at the Luz Stadium during their Champions League first knockout round, first leg soccer match, on 21 Feb, 2006 in Lisbon, Portugal. Benfica won 1-0.—INTERNET

## Beckham dismayed by lacklustre Real Madrid

MADRID, 22 Feb — Real Madrid midfielder David Beckham was dismayed by his team's lacklustre performance in their 1-0 Champions league defeat by Arsenal on Tuesday.

It was the first time the England captain has faced Premier League opposition since moving to Spain in 2003.

"I said before that if we didn't perform we wouldn't win the game and we didn't perform," he told reporters. "Arsenal played well but we didn't play like we have done for the last two months. I don't know what happened. They got the space to enjoy themselves and they did well."

"Tonight was a really bad performance from the whole team. The players were not working for each other and were not getting in the box."

Arsenal threw off their poor domestic form as they made an electric start at the Bernabeu, slicing through the Real defence on several occasions in the opening minutes.

"From the first five minutes you could see we weren't playing with the confidence we've been showing," said Beckham. "I knew Arsenal wouldn't come here and defend."

"I can't put my finger on it. We've got to stay upbeat

but it's hard. To perform like that is disappointing. It's difficult now, but we have the players to go there and win".

The second leg of the first knockout round tie is at Highbury on 8 March. — MNA/Xinhua



Real Madrid's David Beckham (R) is challenged by Arsenal's goalkeeper Jens Lehmann during their first knockout round, first leg Champions League soccer match at the Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid on 21 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET



Sacramento Kings guard Jason Hart, left, is fouled as he goes up for the shot by Golden State Warriors guard Derek Fisher during the fourth quarter of NBA basketball action in Sacramento, California, on 21 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

## Woodgate faces month out with suspected thigh muscle tear

MADRID, 22 Feb — Real Madrid defender Jonathan Woodgate faces a month on the sidelines after suffering a suspected muscle tear in his left thigh during his side's 1-0 defeat at home to Arsenal on Tuesday.

The English centre-back sustained the injury in the opening exchanges of the game at the Bernabeu as he tried to chase down the Arsenal forwards and was forced to leave the pitch after just nine minutes.

Woodgate has been plagued by muscular injuries ever since recovering from a serious thigh problem that kept him on the sidelines for 18 months and the latest setback will jeopardise his chances of winning an international return ahead of this year's World Cup.

"It's devastating for him, but I don't think it's a major strain, I think it's his hamstring again," said team mate and England captain David Beckham.

"It must be terrible for him personally."

Woodgate started the match as one of the two English players in the Real team along with England skipper David Beckham. None of the 14 players who appeared for Arsenal on the night — the 11 starters and the three substitutes who came on, were English.

MNA/Reuters

## Henry magic gives Arsenal 1-0 win over Real

MADRID, 22 Feb — Arsenal made a sensational return to form when a virtuoso solo goal from Thierry Henry earned them a 1-0 win over Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League knockout tie at the Bernabeu on Tuesday.

The French striker brushed off three challenges as he weaved his way into the area from close to the halfway line and steered a shot low past Iker Casillas two minutes after halftime to give Arsenal victory in the first ever European

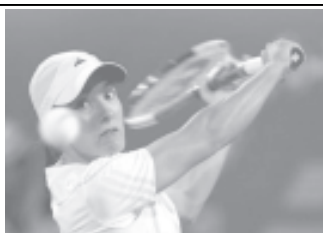
meeting between the two sides.

The goal was just reward for the way a largely depleted Arsenal side carried the game to Real in the first half, when they created three scoring chances in the opening 15 minutes, and then defended superbly against an uninspired Real strike force.

It was Real's first home defeat in the competition since they lost 1-0 to AS Roma in the group stage in October 2002 and the first time in 19 home European games that they have not managed to find the back of the net.

For Arsenal the victory made them the first ever English side to win at the Bernabeu and was their fourth successive away win in the competition, and their fifth without conceding a goal home or away. More importantly perhaps it left them on the verge of booking their place in the quarterfinals in the second leg at Highbury in two weeks time.

MNA/Reuters



Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium eyes the ball before returning a shot to Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine during their Dubai Open tennis tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 22 Feb, 2006. Henin-Hardenne won the match 6-4, 7-5.

INTERNET



## Commander oversees development of Phakant Township

YANGON, 23 Feb — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññasami of Thiri Yadanasein Dhamma Yeiktha in Phakant on 11 February.

Next, the commander and wife donated K 500,000, Brig-Gen Myint Hein of Mogaung Station K 100,000, Tactical Operations Commander Col Hsan Nyunt Oo K 200,000, Secretary of Kachin State PDC Lt-Col Maung Myo K 200,000, Phakant Station, Myitkyina Station, Mohnyin District General Administration Department, senior military officers and the Phakant Township PDC Chairman K 100,000 each to the fund of the pagoda being built in the precinct of the monastery.

Next, the commander and party participated in the construction of the pagoda.

The commander visited the traditional food festival at the 59th Anniversary Union Day exhibition at the independence monument ground in Mawwan Ward. Local people reported on regional development and gems mining works. The commander explained better transport, local food sufficiency and five rural development tasks.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspected Phakant Development Market and cordially conversed with shopkeepers.

In the afternoon, the commander viewed free treatment of specialists at Phakant Township Hospital. Chairperson of Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Nu Nu Swe donated medicines and pairs of glass for the eye patients to officials.

Head of Kachin State Health Department Dr Maung Maung Myint and specialists accepted K 2 million to the medical trust-fund of the hospital donated by U In Ban La of Kachin State Special Region-2; K 500,000 by U Yup Zaw Khaung-Daw Sha Dong Khong Taung and family of Jade Land Co; and K 500,000 by entrepreneur U Thein Lwin-Daw Ar Li and family.

As a gesture of honouring the 59th Anniversary Union Day, the new Lonkhin Market tarred road was put into service. Executive Officer of Phakant Township Development Affairs Committee Deputy Director U Min Han reported on construction of the new repaved road. The commander gave a speech. Tactical Operations Commander Col Hsan Nyunt Oo, Phakant Township PDC Chairman U Kyaw Htwe and Deputy Director U Min Han formally opened the road. Next, the commander and party inspected the road. The repaved road measuring 1,300 feet by 12 feet was built at a cost of K 3.9 million.

Next, the commander inspected Lonkhin BEHS (Branch), and attended to the needs.

In the evening, the commander looked into thriving physic nut plantations being nurtured by Lonkhin Village PDC. The commander oversaw Myitkyina-Phakant Road and bridges.

On 12 February, the commander attended the Myanmar traditional Htamane making contest organized by Kachin State PDC, and presented prizes to the respective winners. — 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

## Plans under way to grow 120,000 acres of physic nut plants within three years in Pathein District

YANGON, 23 Feb — Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and departmental officials inspected roads and bridges in Shwethaungyan in Pathein District and met locals in Polaung village on 16 February.

On arrival at Watthay village, the commander met with local people, explained five rural development tasks and presented publications to the village library. He also inspected thriving physic nut plantations in the village.

The commander proceeded to the prawn breeding farm of Ayeyawady Fishery Development Ltd in Ohnchaung village and heard reports on the farm. Chairman of Pathein District PDC Lt-Col Hla Thwin made a supplementary report. There are 26 prawn breeding ponds in the farm.

He went to Ngwe Hsaung and attended a nurturing ceremony of physic nut saplings at the township office. Officials explained growing of the physic nut and its usefulness to the farmers. The commander took part in sowing physic nut saplings.

Local farmers at the ceremony observed run-

ning of power-tillers and generators with the use of physic nut oil.

Plans are being implemented to grow 120,000 acres of physic nut plants within three years in Pathein District.

The commander viewed round roads and bridges in Shwethaungyan, construction of Township USDA Office and Township Hospital, and attended to the needs. While in Shwethaungyan, he also inspected BEHS (Branch) and fulfilled the requirements. Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung oversaw 9-mile long Shwethaungyan-Chaungtha road, construction of Grand Hill Villa hotel near Kyauk Maungnham village, measures for beautifying Chaungtha village and left instructions.

MNA

### Practice of Solidarity Forever

- \* No matter who divides, we're undivided  
Ever in solidarity, this practice  
Held to bosom, in our nation  
We are applying it currently.
- \* No matter who divides, we're undivided  
Ever in solidarity, this practice  
Held to bosom, our neighbours  
Are applying it currently.
- \* No matter who divides, we're undivided  
Held to bosom, in the region.  
One to another, in the ASEAN  
We are applying it normally.
- \* This practice throughout Myanmar  
Will let peace prevail forever.
- \* This practice  
In Myanmar's environment with friends around  
Will ensure lasting peace.
- \* This practice  
In the domain of ASEAN  
Will forever find peace.

Po Wa (Trs)

### Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Putao     | (0.87) inch |
| Machanbaw | (0.63) inch |
| Myeik     | (0.23) inch |

## INSIDE

*The government has been taking necessary measures for sustainable progress of all states and divisions including border areas and urban and rural areas. Now, rural areas are enjoying fruitful results of development in parallel with urban areas.*

