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Saturday, 25 February, 2006

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Kuwait

YANGON, 25 Feb — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait which falls on 25 February 2006. — *MNA*

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

Development facilities in Myaung Township inspected

YANGON, 24 Feb — Accompanied by departmental officials, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye arrived at the site of the river water pumping project near Pareinma Village in Myaung Township on 18 February afternoon.

Assistant Director U Kyaw Sein of District Water Resources Utilization Department reported to the commander on functions of the project. The commander gave instructions, and inspected summer paddy plantations in the project area. A total of 1,593 acres of land have been put under summer paddy against the target of 2,000 acres.

The commander oversaw functions of Twingyi river water pumping project and thriving physic nut nursery and onion plantation in the project area.

While in Myaung Township, the commander attended the ceremony to launch the paddy husk-fired power station in Magyibok Village.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented sports equipment and exercise books to the village. Village elder U Thein Htaik expressed thanks for opening the power station.

The 100-hp-capacity power station can generate 400 kilo-watt. — *MNA*

Commander looks into irrigation facilities, thriving physic nut plantations

YANGON, 24 Feb — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint on 19 February inspected construction of Banyin

Lake at Palawpakei Village of Banyin Village-tract in Hsihseng Township.

At the physic nut nursery in Banyin Village, Chairman of Hsihseng Township Peace and Development Council U Yin Htwe reported to the commander on growing of physic nut plants. The commander viewed sample plants of physic nut.

The commander went to the physic nut nursery of Banyin Central Agricultural Farm. Farm Manager U Tin Myint briefed him on growing of physic nut plants in the township. The commander gave instruction on cultivation of physic nut to meet the target.

In Naungmon Village, the commander oversaw thriving 50 acres of physic nut plantation and fulfilled the requirements.

— *MNA*

Ayadaw-2 River Water Pumping Project that supplies water from Ayeyawady River to farmlands in Ayadaw Township of Monywa District, Sagaing Division. — MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 25 February, 2006

Strive to be equipped with nationalistic fervour

Myanmar with a high culture and civilization has been standing tall among the global nations as a consolidated union for years countable by the thousand. Myanmar had to experience a tough historical trend as it was subject to the aggression and occupation of colonialists.

However, the Union was rebuilt with the united strengths of the entire national people. The entire national people are exerting concerted efforts for perpetual existence of the Union of Myanmar as an independent and sovereign nation.

Nowadays, the government is taking systematic measures for the nation to keep abreast of the world nations, while striving for the development of the national economy and for improvement of the living standard of the people.

In the meantime, the government is giving priority to peace and tranquillity of the State, national development and national consolidation.

Thanks to the active participation of the entire national people under the leadership of the government, the nation has been on the right track of development. The seven-step Road Map has been laid down and is being implemented for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Development of human resources plays an important role in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Therefore, the national education promotion programmes have been laid down and are being implemented for producing highly qualified human resources.

Thanks to the national education promotion programmes, students of different regions have been able to pursue subjects of their choice with the use of modern ICT.

To keep pace with changes and developments, the government is implementing the national education promotion plans with added momentum.

It is incumbent upon the education sector to strive for the people including the student youths to be imbued with knowledge and education of international level.

Such being so, the youths are to try their utmost to be equipped with nationalistic fervour at a time when efforts are being made for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

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

International Conference on Computer Applications 2006 opens

YANGON, 23 Feb — Ninety-eight papers of foreign and local scholars to be presented at the 4th International Conference on Computer Applications 2006 was opened at Sedona Hotel here today.

Scholars of universities from Republic of Korea, Japan, People's Republic of China, India, Pakistan, Denmark, Germany, England, the United States, Malaysia and Algeria and those of Yangon University of Computer Studies, Yangon Technological University and Mandalay Technological University are taking part the two-day conference.

The first day session began with the presentation of the paper "A survivability for wireless sensor network current issues and research directions" by Associate Professor Dr Jong Sou Park of Hankuk Aviation University of ROK.

FM sends felicitations to Kuwaiti counterpart

YANGON, 25 Feb — On the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2006, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Muhammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait. — MNA

Dr Jong's paper was followed by subject-wise separate research paper reading sessions in the respective rooms.

The opening ceremony of the conference saw Dr Ko Ko Oo, a director-general of Ministry of Science and Technology, giving an address and Rector Dr Nilar Thein of Yangon UCS, the organizer of the conference, extending greetings. — MNA



Director-General Dr Ko Ko Oo addresses opening of Fourth International Conference on Computer Applications. — MNA

Leaf and tree fossils found in Bahin region

YANGON, 21 Feb — A Myanmar-Japanese team conducted a survey to find primate fossils and carried out geological survey in Bahin region near Paukkaung, Thadut and Nyaungpinle Villages in Myaing Township, Pakokku District in Magway Division from 12 to 18 February.

The team comprised Assistant Director U Myo Nyunt Aung of Department of Archaeology, Research Officer U Aung Aung Kyaw, Lecturer Dr Maung Maung of Geology Department of Mandalay University and demonstrator U Zin Maung Maung Thein.

The Japanese of the team were Associate Professor Dr Manasaru Takai of Kyoto Primate Research Department and two scholars.

They found a No 2 lower front tooth of Pondaungia primate and pieces of teeth, jaws and

bones of original species of carnivorous animals, squirrel, rat, pig, mountain goat and rhinoceros, leaf fossils and a 100-foot tree fossil and 37 million-year old 112 pieces of fossils in Ohnpyaingtaung Kyitchaung No 4 near Nyaungpinle Village. They are kept in Archaeology Department of the Ministry of Culture.

The No 2 lower front

tooth of Pondaungia primate was found for the first time and it is the finding which contributes towards the study of evolution of Anthropoid primate.

A workshop on primate sponsored by Archaeology Department was held at the National Museum on 19 February. It was attended by Director-General of Archaeol-

ogy Department U Kyaw Win, geologists led by Dr Tin Thein, Head of Geology Department of Yangon University and officials. Kyitchaung soils are found near Pynmana Township on Yangon-Mandalay Highway. Those regions will be the new ones for survey of more fossils as tree fossils are found there. — MNA



Myanmar and Japanese palaeontologists search primate fossils in Paukkaung Kyitchaung. — CULTURE

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မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့**

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China says Iran nuclear crisis can be resolved

BEIJING, 23 Feb — There is still scope to defuse a deepening international crisis over Iran's nuclear ambitions within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing was quoted as saying. Li appealed to the international community to be calm, restrained and patient and to show flexibility for a resumption

of nuclear negotiations between Europe and Iran, the official Xinhua news agency said in an overnight report.

"The days before the 6 March meeting of the IAEA are crucial," Xinhua quoted Li as saying after meeting visiting German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Iran recently announced it was restarting enrichment work but insists it is

interested only in civilian nuclear power. The United States and the European Union suspect Iran's programme is aimed at eventually making atomic weapons.

The United States and the EU trio of Britain, France and Germany may refer Iran to the UN Security Council for sanctions after a March 6 meeting of the UN nuclear watchdog reports on Iran.

MNA/Reuters

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်



A farmer makes his way to Mayon foothills, to check on his farm crops. A volcano in the central Philippines shook with more than a hundred quakes and sprayed ash across its slopes, triggering fears of a potential eruption.—INTERNET

Philippines raises alert against Mayon Volcano

MANILA, 23 Feb — The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) on Tuesday raised the alert level of Mayon Volcano that erupted violently in the past years in Albay Province, Central Philippines.

In an interview with local TV ANC, PHIVOLCS Director Renato Solidum warned the public not to venture within the volcano's six-kilometre danger zone.

Solidum said his agency has advised the Albay provincial coordinating council to be on alert level 2. The volcano's lava dome increases in size up to now, according to PHIVOLCS' watch. Albay resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta said that a low frequency volcanic quake was registered in their latest monitoring.

The volcano last erupted in July 2004 but with little impact. The most destructive eruption of Mayon occurred on 1 February, 1814. Lava flows buried the town of Cagsawa and killed 1,200 people. In 2001, nearly 25,000 people were evacuated following its eruption. —MNA/Xinhua



A zebra gallops beside giraffes in the Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem on 22 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

UK police hunt armed gang after \$87 m heist

TONBRIDGE, 23 Feb — Detectives hunted on Thursday for an armed gang who posed as police to steal up to \$87 million in what could be Britain's biggest-ever cash robbery.

Airports and ports were put on full alert in case the gang attempted to flee the country and a two million pound reward was offered.

Six raiders snatched the manager of a security depot, took his wife and young son hostage and threatened to kill them unless he helped them get inside the compound, police said. "These men were armed, dangerous

and violently threatening," said Detective Superintendent Paul Gladstone. "They held the manager in fear of his life, and that of his wife and son, for more than six hours and threatened to kill him and his family before raiding the depot."

The Bank of England, Britain's central bank, confirmed that \$44 million of its money had been stolen. Assistant

Chief Constable Adrian Leppard told a news conference the final figure could hit \$87 million. If confirmed at \$87 million, it would eclipse the previous record theft of cash and valuables worth up to \$70 million from a safe deposit box center in Knightsbridge, central London in 1987.

Leppard said they were keeping an open mind

about the robbery and would not rule out an inside job, with someone working inside the depot to help the gang.

Internet

Iraqi soldiers inspect the scene following an explosion in Baqouba,

Iraq, on 23 Feb, 2006. INTERNET



Panama Canal expansion project to create up to 10,000 new jobs



The Panama Canal Authority christens a new drill barge (Baru) to be used in the widening of the Panama Canal in Panama City, Panama, on 15 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

PANAMA CITY, 23 Feb — The project of expanding the Panama Canal's navigation capacity could create between 8,000 and 10,000 new jobs, Manuel Benitez, deputy head of the Canal Authority, said on Wednesday.

The construction and operation sectors would benefit most from the project, and Panamanians "have the skill to take on any challenge, but we need to play our part", he said.

About 30 different waterway widening proposals have been considered, with the canal board opting to build pools on either side of the canal, given the high social cost of building dams in areas close to the canal, he said.

The expansion project would cost more than eight billion US dollars, and Panama would need to hold a referendum on whether to launch it, Benitez added. —MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bombs kill seven US soldiers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 Feb — Seven US soldiers were killed in two separate incidents in Iraq on Wednesday when roadside bombs struck the vehicles in which they were travelling, the US military said on Thursday.

Four US soldiers were killed in the Iraqi town of Hawija while on patrol, the military said.

Three US soldiers were killed near the Iraqi town of Balad when their vehicle struck another roadside bomb. The deaths bring to 2,287 the number of US troops who have died in Iraq since the US-led war that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003. Roadside bombs are some of the most effective killers of US troops in Iraq.—Internet

Tiny, frozen Pluto adds to its moon family

LONDON, 23 Feb—The tiny, distant and frozen planet Pluto, for 30 years believed to have just one moon, has suddenly been found to have two more satellites.

Only discovered in 1930 because of its vast distance from Earth, Pluto has remained a largely enigmatic object ever since.

Some three billion miles from the Sun, Pluto, the ninth planet, is the only one not yet to have been visited by a spacecraft.

Its first known satellite Charon was not discovered until 1978. With a diameter of 1,200 kilometres, it is half that of Pluto — abnormally large for a moon in relation to its primary.

But now, using images from the Hubble Space Telescope, scientists from Johns Hopkins University, Southwest Research Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology say they have found two more tiny orbiting satellites, P1 and P2.

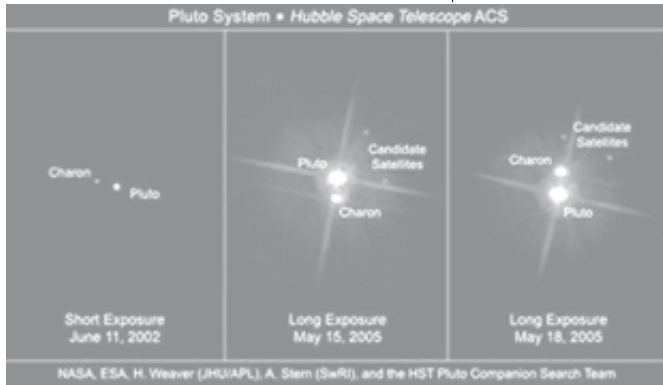
Both are travelling outside the orbit of Charon and are tiny by com-

parison, the scientists wrote in the journal *Nature*.

P1, the more distant of the two from Pluto, has a diameter of between 60 and 165 kilometres while P2 is 20 per cent smaller.

“Although definitive orbits cannot be derived, both new satellites appear to be moving in circular orbits in the same orbital plane as Charon with orbital periods of about 38 days for P1 and 25 days for P2,” they wrote.

MNA/Reuters



Hubble Space Telescope images, taken by the Advanced Camera for Surveys, show Pluto, its large moon Charon, and the planet's two new putative satellites. INTERNET

ဝက်မွှေးအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



Honda Motor Co President Takeo Fukui poses with the car-maker's new minicar 'Zest' at its unveiling in Tokyo on 23 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

56 dead in Moscow roof collapse

Moscow, 23 Feb—Rescuers paused repeatedly in hopes of hearing survivors trapped under concrete and metal beams on Thursday after a snow-laden roof collapsed on one of Moscow's biggest markets, killing at least 56 people.

Investigators blamed

the disaster on a buildup of snow after a harsh winter, design flaws or poor maintenance.

Workers used metal cutters, hydraulic lifters and pick axes to clear the rubble from the Basmany market and knelt down to shout into the wreckage in search of survivors. Dogs

helped with the search and bright searchlights illuminated the area after dark. (Watch rescuers smash wreckage in the hope of reaching survivors — 2:16) One man, a 52-year-old herb seller from Azerbaijan, said he left the market just before the concave roof gave way around 5 am (2 am GMT).

“I heard a loud noise and I fell to the ground and lost consciousness. When I came to, I was lying by the entrance,” Ukhtai Salmanov said, his clothes covered in dust. “There was smoke and people were screaming.”

Fighting back tears, he said he was unable to save his three sisters, who also worked in the huge circular building.

At least 56 people were killed and 32 injured, Emergency Situations Ministry spokeswoman Natalya Lukash said.

Internet



Emergency workers carry an injured woman on a stretcher from the scene of a collapsed indoor market in Moscow on 23 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Zoo puts giraffe on birth control

JERUSALEM, 23 Feb—Vets at the Biblical Zoo have a tall order—stopping a baby boom among giraffes.

After the giraffe population tripled to nine in recent years, outgrowing the zoo on the edge of Jerusalem, the most fertile female — Shavit — has been put on birth control.

The 5-year-old has been injected with birth control hormones, delivered by dart, after giving birth twice in four years. Zoo spokeswoman Sigalit Dzir said on Thursday that while the babies are cute and female giraffes make good mothers, there isn't enough room for more. Zoo keepers are also worried about inbreeding.—Internet

Bomb explosion kills two, injures 14 in Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 Feb—Two persons were killed and 14 others injured including a German soldier on Wednesday in Afghan northern province of Kunduz, a local official said.

“This afternoon at about 2 pm local time (1030 GMT) a bomb explosion happened in front of a currency market in Kunduz City near the German PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team), in which two persons were killed, 14 others including a German soldier were injured,” Mutalibdeg, the provincial police chief told *Xinhua*.

“The investigation is still going on, but no one has been arrested till now,” he added.

At the same time, ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) also confirmed the news and said, “One German-ISAF soldier was slightly injured and was treated in the medical facility at the PRT at Kunduz. The German convoy consisted of three vehicles. One of the military vehicles was heavily damaged by a suspected Improvised Explosive Device (IED).”

MNA/Xinhua

US terror fears, stoked by Bush, now bite him

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb—For almost five years US President George W Bush has warned Americans to fear terrorism, but now those words may come back to bite him.

The President, who has cast himself as America's protector against terrorism, has been thrown on the defensive by a bipartisan revolt over his administration's approval of a state-owned company from the United Arab Emirates assuming operation of six major US seaports.

Bush and his aides have argued that the United Arab Emirates is an anti-terrorist ally and that the company

would have no security role. But even Bush allies, like South Carolina Republican Senator Lindsay Graham, have called the deal “politically tone deaf”.

With Republican and Democratic lawmakers drafting legislation to block the port deal, Bush vowed on Tuesday to use his veto for the first time should any such law reach his desk, drawing the lines for a high-stakes political battle.—MNA/Reuters



Philippine police demonstrate how to examine a dummy during a disaster victim identification exercise with the Australian Federal Police in Camp Crame in Quezon City north of Manila on 23 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Syria backs Iran's right to peaceful nuclear technology

DAMASCUS, 23 Feb—Syrian Prime Minister Mohammed Naji Ottri on Wednesday reiterated Damascus' support for Iran's right to peaceful nuclear technology, the official SANA news agency reported.

Ottri made the remarks while addressing the opening ceremony of the three-day session of the Syrian-Iranian Higher Joint Committee, co-

chaired by visiting Iranian First Vice-President Parviz Davoudi.

"Syria refuses campaigns directed against Iran by some leverage forces that ignore the nuclear arsenal of Israel which constitutes a genuine danger and a potent threat for regional security," Ottri said.

The US has accused Iran of seeking nuclear weapons, but Teheran insists that its nuclear programme was aimed at generating electricity.

Davoudi hoped that his visit would push bilateral relations forward.

"We should pursue

practical steps to establish our joint projects which serve our mutual interest," said Davoudi on arrival in Damascus earlier Wednesday.

Officials on both sides will discuss means to enhance economic co-operation and trade.

The last session of the Higher Joint Committee was held in February 2005 in Teheran.

Iran and Syria have maintained close ties since the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War, during which Syria sided with Teheran against Iraq under the former Saddam Hussein's regime.

MNA/Xinhua



Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf (L) receives a panda cub from a staff of a research centre in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province on 23 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Austria finds H5N1 in chicken

VIENNA, 23 Feb — Austrian authorities have found the H5N1 bird flu virus in a chicken in an animal sanctuary in the southern Austrian city of Graz, a Health Ministry spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

The chicken had been kept in the same cage as a swan brought to the sanctuary from the area previously hit by the virus, violating regulations imposed after the first occurrence of the virus in Austria, the spokeswoman said.

MNA/Reuters



This photo released by the Los Angeles Zoo shows Willy, a 10-year-old, 187-pound Red River porcine, right, nuzzling his new companion Nicole, a 16-year-old bongo antelope, in their exhibit at the zoo on 13 Feb, 2006, in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

Poor artists thrive in Copacabana sands

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Feb—On Rio de Janeiro's crowded Copacabana Beach, poor artists carve out a living from Carnival tourists who pay to snap photos of their magical cities and seductive women shaped entirely of sand.

The sand sculptures that dot Rio's beaches have grown in number and sophistication over the years, perfected by artists trying to attract some of the tourist dollars that pour into the city, especially during the Carnival season.

"It opened the door to a better life," said Rogean Rodrigues, 24, who left Brazil's impoverished northeast as a boy. After several years sculpting sand, he was able to buy a house for his mother and is saving up for his own.

Copacabana, where hilltop slums rise from rich beachfront apartment complexes, lures tourists from around the world with its exotic cocktail of sun, sea and sex laced with drugs and decadence.

On the beach, multiple turrets rise from shoulder-high sandcastles whose windows are illuminated by candles at night. Shapes of women in brightly coloured "dental floss" bikinis and dark sunglasses stretch on their stomachs in the sand, staring out to sea.—Internet



Sand sculptor Alonso Dias of Colombia creates a sand castle on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, on 21 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Powerful quake jolts central southern Mozambique

BEIJING, 23 Feb—An earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter Scale was recorded in the central southern part of Mozambique at 6:19 am Thursday (Beijing Time), China's National Seismological Network reported.

The epicentre, about 550 kilometres north of the capital city Maputo, was located at 21.1 degrees South Latitude and 33.2 degrees East Longitude, according to the seismological network of China.

MNA/Xinhua

Shaft-roof collapse leaves five dead in N-E China colliery

CHANGCHUN, 23 Feb—Five people were confirmed dead at a roof cave-in accident that occurred on Wednesday evening at a coal mine in Jingyu County, Northeast China's Jilin Province, the provincial coal industry administration said Thursday. At around 19:30 on Wednesday, the roof of a shaft of Longma Coal Mine collapsed suddenly, when five miners were working underground.

The accident killed all the five at the accident site. By 7:00 am on Thursday, remains of all the five victims had been retrieved, the administration said. Cause of the accident is being investigated.

MNA/Xinhua

Panamanian freighter stern discovered off E China coast

SHANGHAI, 23 Feb—Searchers have discovered Wednesday morning the stern of a Panamanian freighter that sank last week in the sea area off East China's Fujian Province, according to The East China Sea Salvage Bureau under the Ministry of Communications.

Two sailors were rescued and nine bodies have been found so far among the 37-member crew of the *Hengda 1*, which went down off the rocky coast of Fujian Province on 16 February.

The remaining 26 people are still missing and their survival chances are slim, said rescuers.

Divers found the ship stern at 10:45 am with the help of five rescue ships and one helicopter. Rescuers said that some of the missing sailors might be in the cabin at the stern.

The rescue operation has been extended to a wider area of sea, including areas near local islands, as it entered the sixth day on Wednesday, local salvage department

sources said.

The accident occurred at 11:23 pm last Thursday when the ship hit a reef. All 37 crew members aboard fell into the water.

The East China Sea Salvage Bureau dispatched a 14-member rescue team, including 10 divers and engineers, to join the rescue efforts on Sunday.

Rescue work is still going on though strong wind and high waves have hampered the rescue operation.

MNA/Xinhua

Hu Jintao vows to promote Sino-German relations

BEIJING, 24 Feb— Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday told German Foreign Minister that China will work with Germany to enhance bilateral ties within the framework of Sino-EU strategic partnerships.

Hu spoke highly of Sino-German relations while meeting with visiting German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Hu said he appreciates German new government's adherence to the one-China policy and the high priority it gives to relations with China.

Sino-German relations are based on a firm political foundation, Hu said.

Steinmeier said that friendly relations with China are important to Germany and his government will maintain

continuity in his country's long-held China policy.

Germany wants to further promote existing close and wide-ranged cooperation with China, as they share a fast growing and vigorous economy, he said.

The two sides also exchanged views on major international issues.

Steinmeier arrived here on Wednesday for a two-day official visit to China as guest of his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing.

MNA/Xinhua



A turtledove flies over a pond at the Los Principes Park in Seville, southern Spain on 23 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

S China region to promote tourism in next five years

NANNING, 24 Feb — South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region is now aiming to build itself into a strong tourism destination during the 11th Five-Year Programme (2006-2010) for National Economic and Social Development.

According to a work conference of the autonomous regional government on tourism promotion, Guangxi has mapped out a five-year blueprint to attract 2.8 million overseas tourists and 95.5 million domestic tourists per year during the period.

The region aims to make 60 billion yuan (7.5 billion US dollars) in annual tourism revenue by 2010, with 650 million US dollars from overseas tourists and 55 billion yuan (6.9 billion US dollars) from domestic tourists.

In addition, the booming tourism industry will be able to provide employment vacancies for 3.5 million local people in the next five years.

During the 10th Five-Year Plan period (2001-2005), the region invested a total of 24 billion yuan (three billion US dollars) in the construction of tourism infrastructure facilities and development of tourism promotion projects.

In 2006 alone, Guangxi aims to attract 1.67 million overseas tourists and 70 million domestic tourists per year, up 13.6 per cent and 8 per cent year-on-year, respectively.

MNA/Xinhua

British Deputy PM interested in Beijing's city planning

BEIJING, 24 Feb— Visiting British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott showed great interest in Beijing's city planning and its great changes over the time when he toured a city planning exhibition hall here Wednesday.

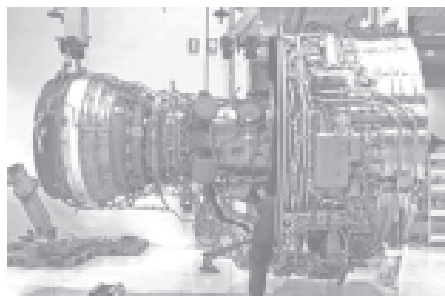
Prescott started his eight-day China tour on February 19 at the invitation of the Chinese Government. The exhibition displays the

achievements of modern urban development with more than 1,200 pictures and 20 movies. It also exhibits the future layout of Beijing's urban development.

After watching a 3-D film featuring Beijing's future development, Prescott told Zhao Li, vice-curator of the exhibition hall, that Beijing has done a great job in reconstructing the old city.

He believes the city can achieve more in its future development.

MNA/Xinhua



A technician crawls in a fan casing on a Trent 500 aeroplane engine at the Singapore Aero Engine Services Ltd.(SAESL) overhaul facility, on 23 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Australian scientists create "man-made" human prostate

CANBERRA, 24 Feb— A group of Australian scientists have made a breakthrough in research into prostate cancer, achieving a world first by using mouse tissue to grow a human prostate.

The team at the Monash Institute of Medical Research, located

in Melbourne, Australia's second largest city, made the discovery after combining human embryonic stem cells with mouse prostate cells and implanting them in mice.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Thursday quoted Renea Taylor, who was involved

in the study, as saying scientists previously had no way to look at healthy prostates.

She said the groundbreaking research will help scientists better understand how prostate diseases develop.

MNA/Xinhua



Miners arrive at a mine complex near San Juan de Sabinas in northern Mexico on 22 Feb, 2006. Mexican rescuers dug for a fourth day on Wednesday to reach 65 miners trapped in deep, unstable coal shafts and asked victims' families not to lose hope, despite making little progress.—INTERNET

Government official shot dead in south Afghanistan

KABUL, 24 Feb— A local official was shot dead by unknown armed men Thursday morning in the troubled southern province of Helmand in Afghanistan, local official said.

"Armed men gunned down Mohammad Zarin, the administrative chief of Nad Ali District, at 8 am (3:30 am GMT) this morning on his way to office," district police chief Abdul Rahman told Xinhua.

He blamed no group or individual for the attack and Taleban has yet to make any comment.

Over 1,500 people had been killed in Taleban-led militancy in 2005 and some 100 people have died in militias attacks so far this year. —MNA/Xinhua

Police say 47 Iraqis killed in past 24 hours

BAGHDAD, 24 Feb— Iraqi police said on Thursday 47 people had been killed in the preceding 24 hours in Baghdad.

"We have found 47 bodies in different places," a police official told Reuters. Militiamen have been roaming tense Baghdad streets since Wednesday. Police have stepped up security. — MNA/Reuters

Bus overturn kills five in Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 24 Feb— A bus travelling from Dar-es-Salaam to Dodoma overturned on Wednesday, killing five passengers and injuring 35 others.

The overturn was caused by the burst of one of the bus' front tyres, according to reports reaching here.

Coast Regional Police Commander Ali Mbilikira told local media that the dead — a child, a woman and three men — had not been identified and the bodies had been transferred to a local hospital mortuary. — MNA/Xinhua

Bomb explodes in northern Spain, no injuries

MADRID, 24 Feb— A bomb exploded Wednesday outside a factory in the Spanish city of Bilbao, after a warning from Basque separatist group ETA, causing damages but no injuries, police said.

Authorities evacuated the factory and cordoned off part of the Santana industrial zone in Bolueta, near the Basque city of Bilbao, after the Basque newspaper Gara received a telephone warning from someone who claimed to speak for ETA, saying that a bomb had been planted there. The bomb was found in a backpack placed at the entrance of a cannery, with a large sign on it reading "Danger! Bomb!", the Basque regional police said. The bomb was estimated to contain between 5 and 7 kilogrammes of explosive, a police spokeswoman said. It was the third bombing in a week linked to ETA and undermined hopes that the armed group was on the verge of declaring a truce. — MNA/Xinhua

Mutual help between people and police

Htet Khaung

“Good morning, Sir. These days, you police are doing a good job”.

While Ko Bay Dar, a governmental staff member was reading at home one morning, a friend of his paid a call on him.

“You said out of context. On which the police are doing a good job?”

“I don’t think you have read newspapers and journals and kept an ear to the ground these days. Most of the criminal cases were exposed within a few days. What is your opinion in this regard?”

“I notice that the crime rate has been on the sharp decrease in recent years. In the past, the people heard the news about crimes second-hand. So, the people lacked knowledge of what crimes occurred, how the cases were exposed, how the culprits were arrested and to what penalties the culprits were sentenced. But, nowadays, the crimes are fully reported in the newspapers, journals and magazines. And the police force is variously disseminating knowledge of crimes to the people through media. That means the people and the police have become harmonious in investigating and exposing criminal cases. That’s why the police have done a good job as you said”.

“Oh, it is interesting. Go on, please”.

“Every criminal case has its cause. So, there will be no crimes if the main causes of crimes are prevented. The police force carried out a research on the crimes that had taken place to find out the causes. Based on the common causes, the police force is giving educative talks on crime prevention to the people. Crimes can occur in any societies. The occurrence of crimes does not depend on wealth, poverty, dignity and indignity. For instance, the crime rate of the western countries is much higher than that in the eastern countries. In carrying out the tasks for prevalence of law and order, the Myanmar Police Force has four functions, to take crime prevention measures, to expose the crimes that have recently occurred, to send the criminal cases to court, and to help hand down punitive penalties. In this regard, it is required to take effective measures at the first stage. If the people extend a helpful hand with duty conscientiousness, there is no chance for evil people to commit crimes”.

“What a good idea! It means the people should participate in the police services”.

“Of course, now educative talks are being held to persuade the people to take part in the crime prevention services according to the motto “Success through public participation”. For example, Singapore practises Neighbourhood Watch Policing, Japan practises Coban and Chuzaisho Community Policing, and Myanmar practises Community Policing. To be brief, the entire peo-

ple should participate in the police services. The motto of the Myanmar Police Force is “May we help you?” It means the police are always ready to help the people. According to the Community Policing system, the police have to accept the reliable help of the people.

“If the people extend a helpful hand to the police, it means the people extend a helpful hand to the people”.

“I see. I’ve never thought like you do. In form, the police force is an organization, but in essence, the police are the people, and the people are the police”.

“You’re right. As a matter of fact, the police are born of the people, aren’t they? And the police force is an organization that has to discharge specific duties, not a class of privilege. So, the duties of the police forces of all the nations are the same in essence: to protect and to serve the people”.

“That’s why the Head of State in his guidance told police members to ensure security till the people can sleep at night without closing their doors. At present efforts are being made to realize the guidance. But there are still some black sheep.”

“By the way, what do you mean by saying “crime free week.”

“The motto began in December 2005. Every month there must be three or four crime-free days or a week. Mostly police concentrate their efforts on securing the densely populated areas of possible places. The motto has been launched with the belief that crime rate will fall drastically one day.”

“Please tell me about the activity.”

“More police patrols are conducted, and guests registers are checked routinely. Police also hold public educative talks and distribute flyers to prevent occurrence of crimes. The police also organize the public to give information on any suspicious looking activities, persons and places, and give them telephone numbers, addresses and persons to contact. The number of police patrols and checkpoints are being increased at important places and busy centres. Members of Fire Brigades, Red Cross and Ward Peace and Develop-

ment Councils are also rendering assistance to the police. Thanks to the efforts, we have seen significant fall in the crime rate. Police always inform the public about the crimes, and are making efforts to arrest the culprits. Thanks to the public assistance we managed to dispose many crimes, including a case in which three people were killed and seize a number of criminals. Similarly, we managed to capture the criminals of the crimes including a case in which over K 35 million was stolen in Kyauktada Township, a gang of bicycle thieves together with 47 stolen bicycles in Yangon, another gang that was stealing Buddha images for illegal trade in Magway, thieves who stole over K 7.5 million worth of gold wearings from a jewellery shop in Meiktila, criminals of a burglary case in Aungmyethazan Township in which over K 32.5 million were stolen and another burglary case in which gold and cash totalling 56.2 million were stolen, and motorcycle thieves together with 27 stolen motorcycles and bicycles thieves together with 17 stolen bicycles. If people live in awareness and always help the police, there will be no place for criminals in our nation.”

“Yes, success will be achieved in reducing crime rate only with the participation of the people. People are helping ensure public security.”

“In accord with the arrangements and permission of officials, stolen property after making documentation as necessary for evidence are being handed over to the owners in a short time. The programme has eased the police burden of keeping stolen property for a long time and in the long-run it will help enhance public trust in and reliance on the police.”

“We will have to thank the respective officials and judicial personnel for the programme. All in all the task of reducing crime rate and implementing the programme can be called a good deed and is good news for the people. And I am going to distribute the good news to the public.”

Translation: MS+TMT

Kyemon: 24-2-2006

The motto of the Myanmar Police Force is “May we help you?” It means the police are always ready to help the people. According to the Community Policing system, the police have to accept the reliable help of the people.

Tasks carried out for upgrading of Mandalay City

YANGON, 24 Feb—Chairman of the Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han inspected tasks for sprucing up Mandalay City on 16 February.

He inspected the dredging of the drain in front of the general hospital on 74th Street (between 29th and 30th Streets).

Next, he viewed the unblocking of the drain on Myawady Street near Mandalay-PyinOoLwin railroad in Kyese Dam Ward in Pyikyidagun Township and gave instructions on the project.

On arrival at tube-well No 25 near the match factory in Thiri Marlar West Ward, Aungmye Thazan Township, he looked into

the digging of the main drain to link the water pipelines.

The mayor also inspected road repairing tasks, and the digging of drains on both sides of 23rd Street (between 80th and 86th Street) in Aungmye Thazan Township, and gave instructions on meeting the standards.

MNA

Workshop on the Capacity Enhancement: Conference Planning and Management for Mid-level Diplomats concludes

YANGON, 24 Feb—The Workshop on the Capacity Enhancement: Conference Planning and Management for Mid-level Diplomats, organized by Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with Sasakawa Peace Foundation, continued for the second day at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel, here, today.

Ambassador U

Wunna Maung Lwin and Ambassador U Soe Nwe presided over the workshop.

On the first-day session of the workshop held yesterday, Dr Azmi Mat Akhir and Ms Serena Wong of ASEAN Secretariat presented papers on Conference Planning and Protocol Arrangements for ASEAN Meeting, and Preparing Speeches and Talking Points. After the presentations, participants actively took part in the

discussions on respective papers.

On the second day today, Director-General U Than Tun presided over the workshop. Mr Tan Tai Hiong from ASEAN Secretariat submitted a paper on Drafting Meeting Reports, Preparation of Chairman's and Press Statements to the workshop.

In the evening, Deputy Director-General U Paw Lwin Sein of the Ministry of Foreign Af-

Information Minister receives Nepalese Ambassador, Malaysian guests



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Ambassador of Nepal HE Lt-Gen Victory SJB Rana (Retd). — MNA

YANGON, 24 Feb—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Nepalese Ambassador Lt-Gen (Rtd) Victory SJB Rana at his office at noon on 22

February, and Chief Executive Officer Mr Ng Cheong Eng and party of Malaysia-based Addaudio Ex Sdn Bhd at 1 pm on the same day.

Also present at the call were departmental heads and officials of the Ministry of Information.

MNA

Progress of mining work in Shan State inspected

YANGON, 24 Feb—Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, delivered an address at the closing ceremony of the Basic Mining Course No 16 opened by No 1 Mining Enterprise in Namtu on 22 February.

While in Namtu, Deputy Minister U Myint Thein viewed production process of Zinc Smelting Plant. The Deputy Minister heard reports on accomplishments of tasks within third-four monthly period in 2005 and undertakings in the first-four monthly period in 2006 by the General Manager of No 1 Mining Enterprise.

In the afternoon, the Deputy Minister oversaw functions of Konnyaung, and Manhsan Yaykya hydel power plants.

Yesterday, Deputy Minister U Myint Thein proceeded to Gypsum Mines in Hsipaw. He instructed officials to try to exceed production target of gypsum.

On arrival at No 1 Iron and Steel Plant in PyinOoLwin, the Deputy Minister heard reports on production process of the plant presented by the general manager, and gave necessary instructions.

MNA



Workshop on the Capacity Enhancement: Conference Planning and Management for Mid-level Diplomats in progress. — MNA

Identity cards for matriculation students

YANGON, 24 Feb—The students who will sit for the matriculation examination to be held from 14 to 23 March 2006 can take out their identity cards from the supervisors of respective examination centres all over the country beginning 6 March.

Lists of roll numbers and examination centres for the students in Yangon municipal area will be announced at the offices of respective township education officers starting 7 March.

The students of basic education high schools and affiliated BEHSs in Yangon municipal area can get their identity cards from respective principals and external candidates, from the supervisors of respective examination centres beginning 9 March.

MNA

Physic nut cultivation course opens

YANGON, 24 Feb—Over 100 trainees are now attending a course to know more about cultivation of physic nut, a crop that produces biodiesel for running machines with an alternative fuel.

As biodiesel derived from physic nut will become a reliable fuel for the nation in the very near future, people in many sectors are turning to the business of growing the

plant on commercial scale.

Forty trainees from four industrial zones are attending the course together with other 80 from eight townships.

The course opened today in Hlinethaya was addressed by Lt-Col Myat Min, chairman of the Yangon North District Peace and Development Council, the sponsor of the course.

MNA

Donate blood



General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee U Thauing Htaik presents a trophy to Mandalay Division Team who won the first in December Sports Activities for 2005. — MNA

Capitals presented for tasks of promoting family income

YANGON, 24 Feb — Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai awarded prizes to Township MCWAs that won first, second and third in the horticultural show and Myanmar traditional food contest together with the ceremony at No 2 BEHS in Latha Township this morning.

Before presenting prizes, the chairperson of Yangon Division MCWASC made a speech on tasks of promoting family income for higher living standard of maternal and child in accord with the future plan of the association.

Next, Secretary of Yangon Division MCWSC Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint and Chairperson of Yangon North District MCWSC Daw Ni Ni Sein presented K 50,000 each as capital for 13 townships in the district through chairpersons of Township MCWAs to carry out the tasks for promoting family income and member of Bahan Township MCWA Daw Khine Khine Win expressed thanks.

Later, the chairperson of Yangon division MCWASC and guests viewed round the horticultural show and Myanmar traditional food contest. — MNA



Yangon Division MCWSC Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai presents prize to an outstanding township MCWA. — MNA

UMFCCI, ITOCHU Corporation, hold talks

YANGON, 23 Feb — Mr Takayuki Yamada of ITOCHU Corporation of Japan and officials of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry this afternoon discussed matters related to the investment in the greater Mekong region.

At the meeting, the two sides frankly exchanged views on opportunities for investment in the nations in the greater Mekong region.

At the meeting, UMFCCI was led by Vice-Presidents of

UMFCCI U Win Aung and U Zaw Min Win. — MNA



UMFCCI officials meet with Japanese guests. — UMFCCI

Road upgrading, tax free markets inspected

Commander
Brig-Gen
Hla Htay
Win inspects
Hanthawady
Tax-free
Market in
Kamayut
Township.
MNA



YANGON, 24 Feb — Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Commander of Yangon Command, and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice Mayor Col Maung Pa inspected tasks for proper drainage, road upgrading and tax free markets this morning.

First, they inspected tarmacking of Bogyoke Aung San Street in front of No 2 BEHS in Latha

township. Next they inspected upgrading of Shwebontha Street between Mahabandoola Street and Merchant Street in Pabedan Township, Tarmacking of Anawrahta Street in Lanmadaw Township and Strand Road in Kyimyindine Township and sanitation work being carried out by social organizations and the public. Later, the commander and party visited tax-markets in Kamayut township, Yankin township and Mayangon township and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Workshop on research & report writing concludes



Associate Consultant Mr Kwa Chong Guan of Information and Research Centre of Singapore speaking at Workshop on research and report writing. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Feb — Workshop on research and report writing concluded today and Associate Consultant Mr Kwa Chong presented certificates to the trainees.

A total of 21 trainees from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Revenue, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Civil Service Selection and Training Board participated in the workshop.

The workshop was organized by the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Sasakawa Peace Foundation of Japan and the information and research centre of Singapore. — MNA

Myanmar's U Tun Hla Aung to act as Match Commissioner

YANGON, 24 Feb — U Tun Hla Aung of Myanmar Football Federation (Hydro-electric Power Department of the Ministry of Electric Power) will act as Match Commissioner in the match-3 of Group-F of 2007 Asian Cup Qualifier in which host Bangladesh will play against Hong Kong on 1 March.

In the match, Bhutan will act as match supervisor, U Tun Hla Aung of Myanmar as Match Commissioner and India as referee, assistant referees and reserve referee.

The group-F comprises Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Uzbekistan and Qatar and football matches will be held in home-and-away system. — MNA



U Tun Hla Aung of Myanmar Football Federation. — NLM

First aid kits for Social Welfare Dept



Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thuang presents a certificate of honour to wellwishers who donate kits. — MNA

YANGON, 24 Feb — Latter Day Saint Charities (LDSC) presented first aid kits to schools of Social Welfare Department today. After a talk given by Resident Representative of LDSC Mr Kelvyn Cullimore about the

charity at the department, Chairman Dr Khin Maung Win of an organization launching social development work in cooperation with Mr and Mrs Cullimore and Mr and Mrs Wheldon, presented the kits.

Brig-Gen Thura

Sein Thuang, an officer on special duty, on behalf of the Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, accepted the equipment and presented the donors a certificate of honour.

MNA

Urbanization is reducing China's rural population

BELING, 23 Feb — Urbanization has been reducing the number of Chinese farmers and the trend is set to continue as China moves to build a "new socialist countryside", a senior economic official said on Wednesday.

Chen Xiwen, deputy director of the Office of the Central Financial Work Leading Group, said that although permanent residence registrations show that China's rural population stands at 940 million, the total of actual rural dwellers is just 750 million as about 200 million people have migrated to work in cities and towns. "The trend will continue in the future," said Chen.

The development of a "new socialist countryside" is a sweeping campaign largely aimed at improving the living conditions of farmers, who were left behind amid the initial opening-up and reform drive.

Chen also pointed out that not all farmers desire to live in big cities due to limited urban infrastructure and lack of job opportunities. The Chinese Government en-

courages farmers to work in adjacent towns and small cities and other non-agricultural sectors.

Chen acknowledged China's rural population would remain large even when urbanization accelerates. Rural dwellers will still be 600 million even if only 40 per cent of the Chinese people live in the countryside in 2030, when the total population is expected to rise to 1.5 billion.

"To increase the living standard of these farmers, China should spare no efforts to build the new socialist countryside," Chen said.

MNA/Xinhua



Dr Sein Linn and Daw Than Than Myint of No 212, 31st Street, Pabedan Township, lately donated K 100,000 to Hinzigon Home for the Aged recently to mark the 45th birthday of Dr Sein Linn. Joint Treasurer of the Home for the Aged U Maung Maung Gyi accepted the donation. — H

Deputy FM signs Book of Condolences for demise of former Singaporean Prime Minister

YANGON, 24 Feb — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, signed the Book of Condolences being opened for the demise of Mr S Rajanatham, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, at the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore at No 238, Dhammzedi Road, at 11 am today.

MNA



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu signs the Book of Condolences at Embassy of Singapore. — MNA

Myanmar, Korean entrepreneurs meet

YANGON, 24 Feb — The entrepreneurs of the Republic of Korea, and those of Myanmar held a discussion at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road,

here, this morning.

It was attended by ROK Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-Heum, entrepreneurs from eight companies of Korea and 50 Myanmar

entrepreneurs.

They discussed economic and commercial matters between the two countries.

MNA



Myanmar and Korean entrepreneurs hold discussion on matters on business. — MNA

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Pakistan, Afghanistan sign bus service agreement

ISLAMABAD, 24 Feb — Pakistan and Afghanistan on Thursday signed an agreement to launch two bus services, one of them to start next month, officials said.

Trial runs for the bus service between the Pakistani northern city of Peshawar and the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad will be held on March 15 and 17, said Firdaus Alam, head of the Pakistani delegation who signed the agreement.

Muhammad Hashim Waez Zada, Afghanistan's deputy minister of transport, headed a six-member delegation in the two-day talks and signed the agreement. The regular bus service on the route would commence within the month of trial run from both

sides, a joint statement said.

The two sides also agreed to start bus service on the route between the Pakistani southwestern city of Quetta and Afghanistan's southern Kandahar.

This service will commence two months after the start of bus service on Peshawar-Jalalabad route.

Afghan Minister Muhammad Hashim Waez Zada said that with the start of the service, friendly relations between the two countries will further strengthen.

MNA/Xinhua

Australian frog smells repel mosquitoes

CANBERRA, 24 Feb— Australian researchers have discovered a natural mosquito repellent in the smelly secretions of green tree frogs.

Researchers at James Cook University in the tropical northern Queensland State and at the University of Adelaide found that chemicals released through the skin of the frogs produces a pungent smell that wards off mosquitoes.

"The smell is just not very good. Some smell of rotting flesh, some of nuts, some of thyme leaves," researcher Craig Williams told the Australian Broadcasting Corp on Thursday.

The research, published in the online journal *Biology Letters*, said green tree frogs were the first known back-boned animals to have a natural trick to protect them from mosquitoes.

The frog secretions were tested on mice, and were found to give up to one-hour's protection from aggressive mosquitoes.

But Williams said he did not expect the findings would lead to a new frog-based mosquito repellent for humans.

"In the concentrations you would need, it would not smell good enough," he said.—MNA/Reuters



An Australian green tree frog uses its suction-cup toes to climb up a glass window at the Taronga Zoo in Sydney in this 23 Nov, 2004 file photo. Researchers at James Cook University in the tropical northern Queensland state and at the University of Adelaide have discovered a natural mosquito repellent in the smelly secretions of green tree frogs.—INTERNET

Indian industries should become partner in nano science

NEW DELHI, 24 Feb—Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam on Wednesday said that Indian industries should take the lead and become a partner in the nano science and technology ventures to capture the international market as nano technology would play the most important role in the global business environment in the next ten years.

"Next ten years will see nano technology playing the most dominant role in the global business environment and is expected to go beyond the billion dollar estimates and cross the figure of one trillion dollar mark," Kalam said inaugurating an Indo-US nanotechnology conclave here.

The market share of the nano technology products such as nano materials would be about 340 billion US dollars, electronics and semi conductors would be 300 billion US dollars, pharmaceutical, around 180 billion dollars and

aerospace and chemical plants and tools, around 200 billion US dollars, he said.

Thus, the country must have focussed mission to capture at least 5-per-cent (50-billion-dollar) market share within ten years' time from now, using its core competence with international partnership, he said.

Kalam said Indian nano technology initiatives were maturing into marketable products for worldwide applications.

"Indian industries now should take the lead and become a partner in the nano science and technology

ventures to capture the international market," he said.

Suggesting that scientists from India and the US, working in area of nanotechnology, should embark upon goal-oriented research, development and commercialization missions for societal applications, Kalam said scientists should not get into soft research in the international cooperation.

"You must go for applied research. Nations should work towards a win-win situation in product development and international marketing," he said.—MNA/PTI

World Pharmaceutical Conf to be held in China in April

BEIJING, 23 Feb—The World Pharmaceutical Conference will be held on 26-27 April, 2006 at Taizhou City, eastern Jiangsu Province, according to a joint announcement by the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) and Jiangsu provincial government on Wednesday.

Over 400 delegates from governments, international organizations, leading pharmaceutical companies and associations, the academia and the media will be attending the conference, said BFA Secretary-General Long Yongtu.

Under the theme of "For a Harmonious Future: Health and Prosperity", the conference will explore possibilities to build up and integrate the pharmaceutical industry through discussion on de-

velopment of the global pharmaceutical industry, world pharmaceutical research and development, industrial innovation, financing and venture capital management.

"All these topics affect, directly or indirectly, the development of the pharmaceutical industry, and appear to be even more significant to the Chinese pharmaceutical industry, which is in the process of transition and reform," Long said.

MNA/Xinhua

Peruvian boat accident kills nine, leaves 11 more missing

LIMA, 24 Feb— Nine people have died and a further 11 been reportedly missing after a motorboat ran aground on the Mantaro River, close to where the Ayacucho and Cusco departments meet, Peru's National Police told local media on Thursday.

The crash took place on Sunday night, some 30 kilometres south of Canaire, as the boat was carrying 25 passengers to Ayacucho from San Martin de Pangoa. The police said that the boat appeared to have crashed because of floodwaters, due to recent torrential rain in the region, but it was also

overloaded with both passengers and cargo, including several cylinders of fuel, needed because the journey lasts several days. The Cusco-Ayacucho area is jungle and people can only travel by boat in many regions. Because the area is so remote, police only heard about the disaster on Wednesday. Last month saw two similar accidents: two people drowned and five more were reported missing when a motorboat sank on the Ucayali River, and eight people were reported missing on the River Punquiri, after a boat sank there.—MNA/Xinhua

Drought-hit Britain may face water rationing

LONDON, 24 Feb—Britons must use less water or face rationing as the country suffers its worst drought in a century, the head of the country's Environment Agency said on Friday.

In some parts of the southeast, reservoirs are at less than half their capacity at a time when they should be at or near full as the country emerges from the winter.

"We are in a serious situation now, where both the environment and our water supplies are at risk," agency chief Barbara Young said. "Groundwater levels in some areas are the lowest on record."

She called for water companies to bring in hosepipe bans by April at the latest and for non-essential water use such as washing cars and windows to be outlawed.

"If water companies delay introducing hosepipe

bans now, extreme steps to manage water supplies over summer may be needed, such as standpipes and rota cuts," she added.

Rainfall over the winter months has been the lowest since the major drought of 1920/21, and Young warned that even if it returned to normal over coming months there would still be serious problems in some areas.

The country has suffered seven major droughts in the last century, with the most recent taking place 10 years ago.

Britons use on average 150 litres of water a day, and Young said if everyone managed to cut down consumption by just four litres

a day—say by turning taps off while brushing their teeth—it would be enough to supply 600,000 homes.

MNA/Reuters

Brazil bans poultry imports from countries with bird flu

BRASILIA, 24 Feb—The Brazilian Government has banned all imports of poultry products from countries which have reported cases of bird flu.

The measure, which comes into force Thurs-

day, covers all bird products, from carcasses and meat cuts to eggs and feathers, according to a government hygiene agency statement.

Any new country, if officially confirmed by the

World Organization for Animal Health as having the virus, will be added to the ban list, it said. Any transport firms which help distribute banned products will be prosecuted, it added. The deadly virus, which had largely been confined to Asia since its first outbreak in the region in mid-2003, has recently spread as far as Egypt, Nigeria, Austria, Germany, Italy and France.

Its rapid spread has led to rising fears of the virus mutating, possibly causing a human pandemic, although at the current stage, it only infects those who have had close contact with infected birds.

So far, the H5N1 virus, a fatal strain of the disease, has claimed at least 91 human lives.—MNA/Xinhua



Vietnamese women choose shoes at a shop in Hanoi on 23 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

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ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
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ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၊ ထုတ်လုပ်ရေးဌာန၊ အစာစိစက်ရုံအတွက် လိုအပ်သော တိရစ္ဆာန်အစာ ကုန်ကြမ်းနှင့် မြည့်စွက် ဆေးဝါးများကို ဌာနအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာ များ စိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်။

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၁၅-၃-၂၀၀၆ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီ ဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံတစ်ရပ်လျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့် ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၃၈၀၉၂၂ သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

၉၇၇၄
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MILLENNIUM VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MILLENNIUM VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived 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.

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 K.M INTER TRANS CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RATU VOY NO (225)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATU VOY NO (225) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

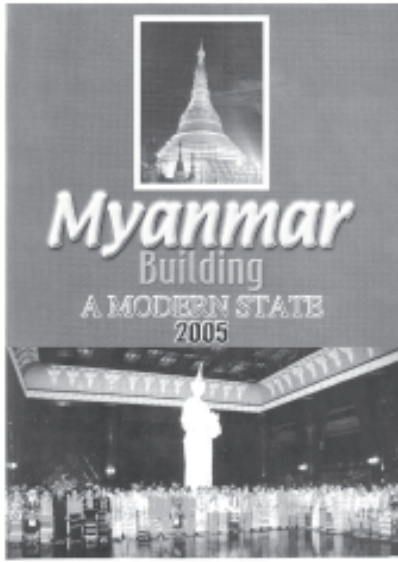
MV GATI SUVIDHA VOY NO (73006)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI SUVIDHA VOY NO (73006) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.2.2006 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 GATI COAST TO COAST
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797**



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Mahathir denies paying Abramoff

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Feb— Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said lobbyists may have paid to arrange his 2002 meeting with President George W Bush, but denied any money came from his government, Bernama news agency reported.

Mahathir said his White House meeting with Bush in May 2002 was arranged by a US think-tank, the Heritage Foundation, to discuss foreign policy issues, the agency said late on Monday.

"I understood some people paid a sum of money to lobbyists in America but I do not know who these people were and it was not the Malaysian Government," Mahathir, who retired in late 2003, told reporters on Monday in the northern state of Penang.

Mahathir said it was the practice of the US Government to ask people who wanted to meet the president to use the services of lobbyists and this was not viewed as a form of corruption, Bernama added.

Bush welcomed Mahathir to the Oval Office as an ally in the US-led war on terrorism following the 11 September suicide airliner attacks, despite the outspoken premier's frequent criticism of Washington and the West.

The Los Angeles Times reported on 15 February that Malaysia had sought the help of Abramoff, a major fund-raiser for Bush's 2004 re-election campaign, to arrange the Mahathir-Bush meeting.

The newspaper reported that Abramoff may have helped arrange the meeting and received 1.2 million US dollars for his efforts. Abramoff pleaded guilty in January to fraud charges and agreed to help prosecutors in a corruption probe that has generated bipartisan calls in the US Congress for tighter lobbying laws.

Mahathir had rocky ties with the administration of former president Bill Clinton, which harshly criticized the 1998 jailing of former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim.

Abramoff or his clients contributed campaign



Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad

money to both Republicans and Democrats, but most of the money went to Republicans and Abramoff himself was a major fund-raiser for Bush's 2004 re-election campaign.—MNA/Reuters

Austrian co to produce biological diesel oil in E China city

JINAN, 23 Feb— The Biolux company from Austria will build a wholly-owned project in March to produce biological diesel oil in Weihai City, East China's Shandong Province.

Officials with the municipal foreign trade and economic trade bureau said the project would take a total investment of 29.14 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia arrests two agents working for Britain

Moscow, 23 Feb — Russia has arrested two spies for Britain who were trying to steal military secrets, the head of the FSB state security service was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

It was not clear whether the two were connected to the "fake rock" affair, which saw Russia last month accuse British diplomats of running a James Bond style spying operation.

FSB gave no details on when they were arrested or what nationality they were.

"The FSB has reliable documented evidence of active attempts by British intelligence to learn Russian military secrets," Nikolai Patrushev, a close ally of ex-spy President Vladimir Putin, told Interfax news agency in an interview.

"The arrest of two special agents exposed by military counter-intelligence proves this," he added. Patrushev's remarks appeared to confirm a claim

by former FSB head Nikolai Kovalyov, in an interview with Russian television last month, that two spies working for Britain were under arrest and were talking. Kovalyov gave no details.

Patrushev added that the FSB, the main successor of the Soviet-era KGB, knew about other British intelligence activities but said it was too early to say more.

MNA/Reuters

DRIVE WITH CARE

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်သစ်ပညာရေးတိုးတက်ရေး နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖွဲ့

Japan launches satellite, second success in a week

TOKYO, 23 Feb—Japan launched a research satellite into space on Wednesday, its second successful launch in less than a week and an additional boost to a space programme plagued by a string of mishaps in recent years.

The launch of the M-5

rocket and infrared astronomical satellite, delayed by a day due to rain, followed Saturday's successful launch of a larger H-2A rocket carrying a multipurpose satellite to be used for controlling air traffic and gathering meteorological data.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said the latest satellite, to be used to detect new objects in space, successfully entered orbit shortly after liftoff.

In January, Japan successfully put a land-observation satellite into orbit with an H-2A rocket after a lapse of nearly a year.

The consecutive launches will likely bolster Japan's plans to enter the commercial satellite business and lift confidence among the country's space community, which came under fire in the 1990s after two unsuccessful launches of H-2 rockets, the H-2A's predecessor.

MNA/Reuters



Seagulls stand in line at Paloma Park in Benalmadena, southern Spain on 23 Feb, 2006. INTERNET

Space Station orbit lifted to receive Russian vessel

Moscow, 23 Feb — The orbit of the International Space Station (ISS) was lifted by approximately three kilometres on Wednesday to prepare for the arrival of a Russian spaceship, the Mission Control said.

"Four engines of the Progress M-54 cargo ship were used for the ISS orbit adjustment. They were automatically started at 8:50 pm (1750 GMT) and operated for about 16 minutes," a Mission Control spokesman was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

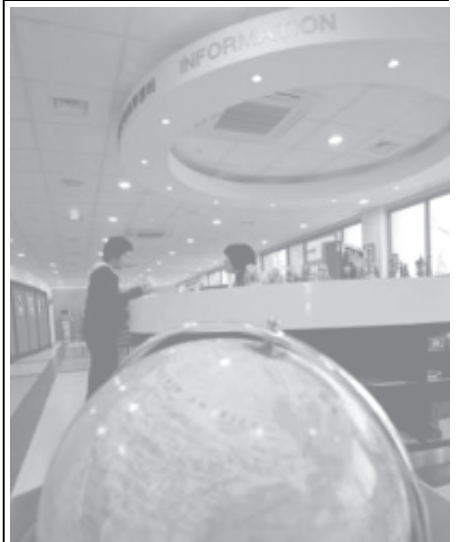
The manoeuvre was part of the preparations for the next manned Russian spaceship, the Soyuz TMA-8, which is scheduled to blast off on March 30.

The Soyuz TMA-8 is to deliver to ISS Russian cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov, US

astronaut Jeffrey Williams and Brazilian astronaut Marko Poncez, who will briefly visit the orbiting lab. Vinogradov and Williams will replace

Russian cosmonaut Valery Tokarev and US astronaut William McArthur, who have been working on the station since October.

MNA/Xinhua



A South Korean student (L) uses an information centre at the International Seoul Youth Hostel in Seoul, 23 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Greece finds seven more cases of H5N1 bird flu

ATHENS, 23 Feb—Seven new bird flu cases have been detected in dead wild swans in northern Greece, while the sample taken from a dead swan from Halkidiki and sent to London on Sunday was checked positive for the lethal H5N1 virus.

According to an announcement released

on Tuesday, the seven new cases come from regions in the northern prefectures of Halki-diki, Thess-aloniki, Pella and Pieria.

All the relevant European Union services have been briefed on the issue, while services involved in the issue have already been instructed to take all

necessary measures, both national and EU, in these regions.

So far, one wild goose and five swans with the H5N1 strain of the disease that has killed 92 people worldwide have been found in Greece and officials are scrambling to enforce measures to prevent a spread to domestic poultry.

Bird hunting has

been banned, and owners of poultry in the areas in question have been ordered to shut their flocks indoors.

Greece's nationwide action plan — called Perseus after the mythological hero that cut off Medusa's head — has been in force since the first suspect case appeared in October.

MNA/Xinhua

Lockheed picks Florida in NASA rocket bid

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 23 Feb — Aerospace giant Lockheed Martin, in a heated competition to design and build NASA's next manned ships and cargo carriers, wants to assemble and test the rockets in Florida, the company said on Wednesday.

The deal depends on Florida legislators approving a 45.5-million-US-dollar incentives package and on Lockheed Martin winning NASA's approval for its proposed Crew Exploration Vehicle. A partnership of

Northrop Grumman and Boeing Co is competing for the work as well. Proposals are due in March and NASA is expected to select a team this summer.

The United States is retiring its fleet of space shuttles, which have operated since 1981.

Decommissioning is expected to begin in 2008 and be complete by the end of 2010. President George W. Bush has called for a replacement vehicle to be flying by 2014, though NASA plans to start using the new launcher as early as 2012.

John Karas, Lockheed's vice-president of space exploration, said the incentives package proposed by Florida Governor Jeb Bush, the President's brother, was key to Lockheed's decision to locate vehicle assembly, systems integration and testing at the Kennedy Space Centre.

MNA/Xinhua

22 new bird flu cases confirmed in Germany

BERLIN, 23 Feb— Another 22 cases of bird flu have been confirmed on an island in north Germany, a lab reported on Tuesday.

The new cases were found on the island of Ruegen, said a report released by the Friedrich-Loeffler institute.

So far, a total of 103 cases of the deadly H5N1 virus have been found in wild birds in the country and most of them were reported on the island.

Bird flu was first confirmed on the island last week and later it was also found on the mainland.

No domestic birds or humans have been diagnosed with the virus in Germany. The public has been warned not to touch any dead animals or birds.

A mass culling of poultry on Ruegen was underway to prevent the virus from infecting domestic birds. The sale and transport of poultry is banned for 21 days on the island, which has emerged as a major tourist destination in recent years.

MNA/Xinhua



A pet bird is held by a health worker before being culled for fear of a bird flu outbreak at Taman Sang Kancil in Kuala Lumpur on 23 Feb, 2006. India and Malaysia said on Wednesday 12 people treated for suspected bird flu had been cleared of having the virus, easing fears it had spread to humans in more Asian countries. —INTERNET

SPORTS



Ajax Amsterdam's Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (L) fights for the ball with Inter Milan's Walter Samuel during their Champions League first knockout round first leg soccer match in the Amsterdam Arena, the Netherlands on 22 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Inter storm back to draw 2-2 with Ajax

AMSTERDAM, 23 Feb — Inter Milan staged a fierce second-half fightback to draw 2-2 at Ajax Amsterdam in their Champions League first knockout round tie on Wednesday.

Ajax, without their entire first choice midfield because of injury, made a dream start with two goals in the opening 20 minutes, but Inter hit back through Dejan Stankovic and a late Julio Cruz equalizer.

"The 2-2 draw is a justified result but it is bitter after a two-goal lead," Ajax coach Danny Blind told reporters. "Their early goal in the second was a big disappointment."

Inter were dazed early on as Ajax produced some lively attacking football. Goalkeeper Francesco Toldo did well to keep out a 13th-minute shot from Mauro Rosales, but he had no chance four minutes later with the opener from Klaas-Jan Huntelaar.

Rosales controlled a ball on his chest and then floated in an inviting cross which young striker Huntelaar met with a thumping header.

MNA/Reuters

Roma beat Bruges 2-1 to reach UEFA Cup last 16

ROME, 24 Feb — AS Roma cruised into the last 16 of the UEFA Cup when they beat Club Bruges 2-1 to seal a 4-2 win on aggregate on Thursday.

Roma, without injured captain Francesco Totti, looked toothless in attack in a quiet first half and almost went behind when midfielder Sven Vermant hit the bar with a shot from outside the area just before the interval.

Roma came out with more determination after the break and went ahead in the 55th minute, Houssine Kharja catching Birger Maertens in possession on the edge of the area before slipping a low ball across the area for Damiano Tommasi.—MNA/Reuters

Sevilla extend home record to advance in UEFA Cup

SEVILLE (Spain), 24 Feb — Sevilla extended their unbeaten home record in Europe to 25 games with a 2-0 win over Lokomotiv Moscow on Thursday, sealing a last 16 place in the UEFA Cup.

Italian midfielder Enzo Maresca broke the deadlock with a superb 20-metre shot into the top corner after 33 minutes as the Russians struggled to find a way through the home side's well-organized defence.

In the final minute midfielder Antonio Puerta headed the second from a Jesus Navas corner.

Midfielder Jordi Lopez had scored the only goal of the game for Sevilla in the first leg last week.

MNA/Reuters

Real to name reserve stadium after honorary president Di Stefano

MADRID, 24 Feb — Real Madrid are to name their new reserve team stadium after former player and honorary president Alfredo Di Stefano who had been on duty for 11 seasons with the Spanish Primera Liga club.

"I can't find enough words to express my thanks," Di Stefano, who was made Real's honorary president in 2000, told the Real Madrid website on Wednesday.

"When I was told of the news it brought me enormous satisfaction.

The stadium, being built as part of the club's new training complex in the Madrid suburb of Valdebebas and soon to be inaugurated, will be home to reserve team Castilla who play in the Spanish Second Division.

Di Stefano, 79, spent three weeks in hospital at the start of the year after undergoing quadruple bypass surgery following a severe heart attack on December 24.

Widely regarded as one of the greatest players in the history of the game, the Argentine led Real to five consecutive European Cup triumphs between 1956 and 1960 and was named European Footballer of the Year in 1957 and 1959.—MNA/Xinhua



Barcelona goalkeeper Victor Valdes (L) lands on Chelsea's Didier Drogba during a Champions League game against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in London on 22 Feb, 2006. Barcelona won the game 2-1.—INTERNET

Sweden worried about prostitution at World Cup

BRUSSELS, 23 Feb — Sweden asked Germany to take tough measures against the trafficking of women during the football World Cup which will kick off on 9 June, a Swedish diplomat said on Tuesday.

The Swedish Justice Minister Thomas Bodstrom, a Premier League football player in the late 80s, "is concerned that when you have a large gathering of people far away from home you tend to have a rise in prostitution and hence in trafficking", the Swedish diplomat said.—MNA/Reuters

Inter striker Adriano banned for hitting opponent

ROME, 23 Feb — Inter Milan's fading bid to win the Serie A title suffered another blow on Tuesday when striker Adriano was banned for two matches after hitting an opponent.

The Brazilian international, Inter's top scorer this season with 12 goals in 25 league games, slapped defender Alessandro Grandoni in the face during Saturday's 0-0 draw at Livorno.

The ban handed down by the disciplinary committee of the Italian Football League caps a miserable period for Adriano, who has failed to score in his last nine matches.

He will miss the games with Udinese and AS Roma before returning for the home fixture against Sampdoria on 11 March.—MNA/Reuters

Van Buyten double sees Hamburg through against Thun

FRANKFURT, 24 Feb — A first-half double from captain Daniel van Buyten put Hamburg SV through to the last 16 of the UEFA Cup with a 2-1 aggregate win over Swiss side Thun on Thursday. Hamburg, beaten 1-0 in the first leg, levelled the tie inside two minutes of the return when van Buyten converted Piotr Trochowski's cross.

The combination worked again for the Bundesliga side in the 33rd minute, with Belgian defender van Buyten heading in a Trochowski corner from the right.

Hamburg had David Jarolim sent off in the 82nd minute when a handball earned him a second booking but Thomas Doll's side held on comfortably enough.

Home fans had further reason to celebrate, with Dutch international Rafael van der Vaart coming on with 20 minutes to go for his first appearance since suffering a foot injury in early December.

MNA/Reuters



Russia's gold medalists Svetlana Ishmouratova, Albina Akhatova, Olga Zaitseva and Anna Bogaluy (L-R) celebrate after the women's 4x6 km biathlon relay event at the Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games in San Suario, Italy, on 23 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Marseille overcome Barthez error to sink Bolton

PARIS, 24 Feb — Olympique Marseille fought back to beat English Premier League side Bolton Wanderers 2-1 and qualify for the last 16 of the UEFA Cup on Thursday.

After a goalless draw in the first leg it was Bolton who drew first blood in the return, Greek Stelios Giannakopoulos seizing on a blunder by goalkeeper Fabien Barthez to net from close-range in the 24th minute. Playmaker Franck Ribery levelled after heading home a fine cross from young striker Samir Nasri in first-half injury time.

MNA/Reuters

FIFA gives Kenya \$400,000 for Goal Project

NAIROBI, 24 Feb — The world football governing body FIFA has finally approved the disbursement of 400,000 US dollars to the Kenya Football Federation (KFF) as part of its Goal Project, local newspaper *Daily Nation* reported Thursday.

The money will be used to construct a technical centre and KFF headquarters at Moi International Sports Centre in Kasarani, FIFA's development officer Ishmael Taha said on Wednesday.

The construction work will start in May this year.

MNA/Xinhua



Hamburg SV's Dutch Nigel de Jong struggles for the ball with FC Thun's Silvan Aegerter (top) during their UEFA Cup soccer match in Hamburg, northern Germany, on 23 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Kenya's flower firms relocate to Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, 24 Feb—High production costs and insecurity are forcing firms in Kenya's flower sector to relocate to neighbouring Ethiopia, Nairobi-based *The East African* newspaper reported on Wednesday.

According to a report posted on the paper's website, already, five investors have acquired farms and started the groundwork to set up operations in Ethiopia.

Erastus Mureithi, chairman of Kenya Flower Council, was quoted as saying that flower exporters have complained for too long about rising production costs, which are at an all time high now because of spiralling fuel costs, a strong shilling and insecurity.

Ethiopia has become a favourite with the investors, with at least five Kenyan flower firms, who

asked not to be named, having acquired large farms there.

Flower firms are worried that without government intervention to harvest, store and regenerate water, Kenya will not have any farming water in five years' time.

There are growing concerns that the success of Kenya's flower industry, whose earnings are estimated at 350 million US dollars, has blinded the authorities to the reality of the competition, to break the country's domination of the world's largest market, the European Union.

Kenya has commanded a 25-per-cent market share since 2000 after edging out Columbia and Israel and, last year, its share increased to 31 per cent.

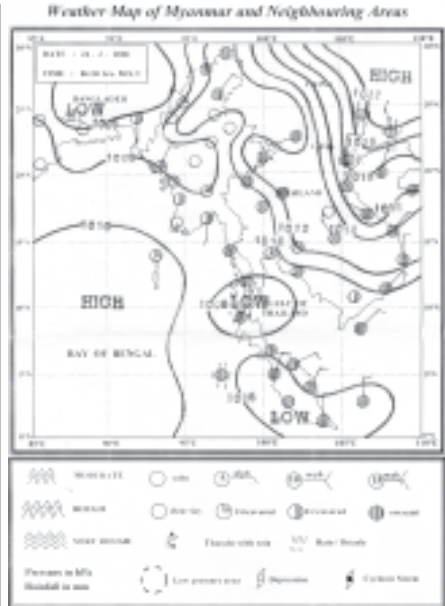
But now, emerging suppliers such as Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda have designed intensive marketing programmes to promote their countries as friendly for foreign flower investors.—MNA/Xinhua



Switzerland's gold medal winner Daniela Meuli, left, United States bronze medal winner Rosey Fletcher and Germany's silver medal winner Amelie Kober, right, pose after the Women's Snowboard Parallel Giant Slalom at the Turin 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Bardonecchia, Italy, on 23 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

WFP approves new aid programme for Angola

LUANDA, 24 Feb—The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has approved a rescue operation with over 87.6 million US dollars to buy 109,952 tons of foodstuff for Angolans in the areas affected by the war, according to Angolan Press Angop on Wednesday. The decision was made on Tuesday at the first meeting of the WFP's administration council. The aid is designed for 711,000 people and is to last three years. The UN refugee agency UNHCR also said earlier it had wound up a three-year programme that returned more than 123,000 Angolans to the homeland they fled during nearly three decades of civil war. In total, about half a million Angolans are estimated to have repatriated, with or without UNHCR assistance, since the April 2002 ceasefire that brought to an end the country's civil war.—MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Friday, 24 February, 2006
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been scattered in Taninthayi Division and isolated in Kachin State and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan and Rakhine States, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Upper Sagaing Division, Kachin and Mon States and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Haka (5°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.24) inch. Maximum temperature on 23-2-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 24-2-2006 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 24-2-2006 was (77%). Total sunshine hours on 23-2-2006 was (7.7) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 24-2-2006 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 (4) mph from Southwest at (8:30) hours MST on 23-2-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 25-2-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon, Kayin, Kayah States and Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-2-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-2-2006: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for first weekend of March 2006: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Division and fine in Mandalay Division.



Saturday, 25 February
Tune in today

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music:
 -Whatever it takes (OTT)
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music:
 - Got the feeling (Five)
8.50 am National news / Slogan
9:00 am Music:
 -Ladidi Ladida (S.O.A.P)
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music:
 -Because of you (98)
1:30 pm News / Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music
 -Alone Again (Dokken)
 -Another Day (Dream Theater)
 -Home sweet home
9:00 pm ASEAN Review
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Myanmar Culture
9:30 pm Souvenirs
 -Do I love you (Englebert Humperdink)
 -Jambalaya (The Carpenter)
 -Happy together (Jraney Huang)
9.45 pm News
10.00 pm PEL



Saturday, 25 February
View on today

7:00 am
 1. နေ့စဉ်အချက်အလက်ဆန်းစစ်ချက်
 2. မတော်တရားမှုများကို ဖော်ပြသော အစီအစဉ်
 3. မတော်တရားမှုများကို ဖော်ပြသော အစီအစဉ်
7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
 3. Morning news
7:40 am
 4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
 5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:10 am
 6. ဘိုးဘေးအား ရေးသော ဝမ်းသာစရာ
8:20 am
 7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:30 am
 8. International news
8:45 am
 9. Grammar made easy
11:00 am
 1. Martial song

11:15 am
 2. Musical Programme
11:30 am
 3. Games for children
11:55 pm
 4. Round up of the week's TV local news
12:05 pm
 5. နိုင်ငံခြားတက္ကသိုလ်များမှ အထွေထွေသတင်းများ
12:30 pm
 6. ကြားဖြတ်သုံးပြုသည့် ဝေဖန်ချက်
1:40 pm
 7. "ဗားရှင်းတစ်ခု" ဝမ်းသာစရာ
1:45 pm
 8. Dance of national races
2:10 pm
 9. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
2:25 pm
 10. "ချစ်သောမြေ ချစ်သောရေ" ဝမ်းသာစရာ
2:30 pm
 11. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
2:35 pm
 12. ရွှေလီတံတား
2:35 pm
 13. International news
4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
4:15 pm
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
 3. Musical Programme
4:45 pm
 4. အထွေထွေသတင်းများ
5:00 pm
 5. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတအဖွဲ့
5:15 pm
 6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတေး
5:20 pm
 7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
5:35 pm
 8. Musical Programme
5:45 pm
 9. Games for Children
6:00 pm
 10. Evening News
6:30 pm
 11. Weather report
6:35 pm
 12. Musical Programme
6:35 pm
 13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ
8:00 pm
 14. News
 15. International news
 16. Weather report
 17. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ
 18. The next day's programme

Prime Minister General Soe Win sends felicitations to Kuwait

YANGON, 25 Feb — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the National Day of State of Kuwait which falls on 25 February 2006. — MNA

Western Command Commander participates in physic nut cultivation in An

YANGON, 24 Feb — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint on 16 February participated in physic nut plantation ceremony at Tattaung Village in An Township and viewed the test run of vehicles and engines using physic nut oil as fuel.

Before the demonstration of the bio-diesel vehicles, Manager of An Township Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise Daw Tin Tin Aye briefed on usefulness of physic nut seeds, and the commander distributed physic nut grafts and seeds to departmental

officials and members of the social organizations. At the ceremony, the commander planted the physic nut grafts and sow the seeds in bags.

During his tour, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected summer paddy fields of local residents and onion plantation of An Township Police Force at Galaung Village in An.

He also inspected the station hospital and Basic Education High School in Tattaung Village.

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

Ceremony of sowing physic nut seeds held in Myeik District

YANGON, 24 Feb — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe together with departmental officials arrived at Shwe Du rubber farm in Myeik on 18 February. The commander and party attended a nurturing ceremony of physic nut at the farm.

First, Division Manager of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise U Khun Shwe Thin reported on matters related to growing of physic nut plants in the Division.

Later, the commander instructed them to cultivate physic nut plants to meet the target and fulfilled the requirements.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe

encouraged the social organizations taking part in sowing of 30,000 physic

nut seeds to be planted in departments concerned in Myeik District and he

also grew physic nut plants together with those present. — MNA



Thriving physic nut plants. — NLM

Energy, MAPT take wins over opponents

YANGON, 24 Feb — The Myanmar League Football Tournament continued at Youth Training Centre and Aung San Stadium this afternoon.

Thuwunna Sports Ground

Energy shaded Rail Transportation 4-2. Myo Zaw Oo scored two goals for Energy. Another one goal each of Energy came through Naing Win and Yan Naing Soe. Rail Transportation equalized twice. Soe Ko Ko Tun and Ye Win Htaik of Rail Transportation shot one goal each to the net of Energy.

Energy stood in the fourth position with 24 points, and Rail

Transportation in the 14th position with 10 points.

Aung San Stadium

Sunye in the mid-point of the league standings lost to its brother team MAPT by 2-3. MAPT stood in the 15th position with nine points, and Sunye in the 11th position with 13 points.

The final match of the U-20 Youth Closing Cup Football Tournament will take place at Aung San Stadium at 3 pm tomorrow.

Finance & Revenue Youth, and Sports Ministry Youth will meet in the final.

NLM



Myo Zaw Oo of Energy Team kicks the ball into the net of Transport Team. — NLM

INSIDE

The motto of the Myanmar Police Force is "May we help you?". It means the police are always ready to help the people. According to the Community Policing system, the police have to accept the reliable help of the people.