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Monday, 27 February, 2006

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Industry-1 Minister inspects market festival, industries in Mandalay

YANGON, 26 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Special Market Festival of the Minister for Industry-1 was opened at Maha Nwesin sports ground at the corner of 35th and 71st Streets in Mahaangmye Township starting from 17 February.

On 24 February, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected sales of products manufactured by the Ministry of Industry-1 at the market festival.

Up to 24 February, sales of the products at the market festival fetched over K 468.636 million.

On 26 February, Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Minister U Aung Thaung arrived at Foundry Shop, Machine Shop, Forging & Heat Treatment Shop in

Pyigyidagun Township. He oversaw production process of the foundry shop.

Minister U Aung Thaung met with the chairman and members of the board of directors of Mandalay Tawwin Industrial

Division Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, USDA Secretariat Member Minister

U Aung Thaung, and Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han attended the ceremony to hand over USDA membership applications of faculty members and students of University of Foreign Languages at Innwa Hall

of Mandalay University. Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung accepted 1,157 membership applications.

The commander and the minister gave speeches.

At Mandalay Divi-

sion USDA Office, Secretariat Member Minister U Aung Thaung met with the secretary and joint secretaries of Mandalay Division USDA and executives, and discussed organizational matters and future tasks. — MNA



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung speaking at a ceremony to present USDA membership applications of faculty members and students of UFL at Mandalay University.—MNA

Co Ltd at the briefing hall. He gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

Patron of Mandalay

Railway Station of Dagon University under construction



YANGON, 26 Feb — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, accompanied by officials, arrived at the construction site of the railway station at Dagon University in Yangon East District this noon.

Managing Director U Min Swe of Myanmar Railways reported on construction of the railway station and that of the railroad from Toegyauhgale to Dagon University, arrangements for plying train and future tasks.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min oversaw greening and beautifying tasks around the railway station and nurturing of physic nut saplings.

MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects construction of new Dagon University railway station.

MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 27 February, 2006

Guard against danger of destructive elements through national unity

Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order play an important role in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Such being so, the government is taking systematic measures in order to put in place community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. In the meantime, it is making all-out efforts to bring about equitable development the length and breadth of the nation and to improve the social-economic life of the entire national people.

Nowadays, peace and stability has been brought about in different parts of the nation including border areas. All the national brethren are participating in nation-building endeavours through mutual trust and understanding for national and regional development.

In the past, armed insurgency reigned in different parts of border areas. Due to lack of peace and tranquillity, local people had to live in miserable conditions.

At present, thanks to concerted efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people under the leadership of the government, there has prevailed peace and stability across the Union. Coupled with roads and bridges, airports, dams and reservoirs, education and health establishments emerged.

It is incumbent upon the entire national people to maintain those development infrastructures already in place and to try hard through national unity for the perpetuation of sovereignty.

A glance at the prevailing developments will reveal that developing nations including Myanmar have to exert relentless efforts on self-reliant basis in order not to lose national interests as they are inferior to world powers in terms of wealth and technology.

Moreover, some internal and external destructive elements relying on alien nations are committing atrocities and spreading rumours to undermine peace and stability and to harm national interests.

At such a time, the entire national people are to be convinced of discord and dissension sown by others in striving for the nation to stand tall among nations worldwide.

Therefore, the entire national people are to guard against the danger of internal and external destructive elements through national unity, while building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.



To mark her 76th birthday, Daw Khin Thein of 14, Khamma Hsaung Road, Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, recently donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi. — H

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Two-storey building of Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery dedicated



Congregation shares merits gained for donation of K 55 million worth two-storey building by Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery. — MNA

YANGON, 26 Feb — A merit-sharing ceremony for construction of Anandagonyi two-storey building in Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery was held in

Dagon Myothit (East) Township this morning. Present were Yesaygo Sayadaw of Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery, mem-

bers of the Sangha, Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Director-General U Tun Mya Aung and wellwishers.

The Yesaygo Sayadaw was reordained and provisions were also presented to 25 members of the Sangha. The Sayadaw formally unveiled the stone plaque of the building.

The Sayadaw then delivered a sermon.

Wellwisher U Tin Sein-Daw Kyin Thein donated shares of First Private Bank worth K 1 billion to the fund of propagation of the Theravada Buddhism in commemoration of their golden jubilee wedding anniversary. Wellwishers and those present shared merits gained for donation of K 55 million worth two-storey building by U Nyi Nyi Kyaw-Daw Lwin Hnin Hnin.—MNA



The photo shows Anandagonyi two-storey building in Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery. — MNA

MPGA and MGF President's Cup Golf Tour commences



YANGON, 26 Feb — The Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation President's Cup Golf Tour was opened at Hanthawady Golf and Country Club in Bago this morning.

MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), Hanthawady Golf and Country Club Director Lt-Col Ko Lay (Retd) and Bago Division Officer of Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise U Kyaw Thaik teed off to open the golf tour.

Soe Kyaw Naing

Win (Srixon+YCDC) shot 69 and Yin Htwe (KM Golf Centre) 72.

In the amateur golfers division, Bo Bo, Naing Naing Lin, Kyaw Hlaing and Htay Aung Htey shared the first po-

sition with 74 each. Kyaw Thiha and Derek Htet Doe stood in the second position with 77 each.

The second round of the tour continues tomorrow. —MNA



MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) opens Myanmar MPGA&MGF President's Cup Golf Tour. — MNA

Venezuela says limits US airline flights

CARACAS (Venezuela), 25 Feb — Venezuela is limiting flights by US carriers Delta Air Lines, Continental Airlines and AMR Corp's American Airlines after US authorities failed to comply with aviation accords, officials and an industry group said on Friday.

The measure to reduce flights from US airlines comes just weeks after Washington and Caracas expelled diplomats in an escalation of already tense relations between United States and the world's No 5 oil exporter.

Venezuela's INAC aviation authority said in a statement the frequency of passenger and cargo flights would be reduced for some US carriers from

1 March, based "on the principles of equality, reciprocity and fair opportunities".

INAC did not name the airlines, but Roberto Pulido, president of the local Venezuelan airline association, said the measure would cancel some flight frequencies of Delta, American and Continental.

"The INAC has exhausted all conciliatory

avenues with the US aviation authorities... and has not been able to reestablish rights the bilateral accord gives to Venezuelan air carriers," the statement said.

Pulido said US airline representatives were to hold a meeting with Venezuelan authorities later on Friday to discuss the measure and its impact on their flights.

MNA/Reuters

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A girl walks on a tightrope during the Festival of Gardens in the northern Indian city of Chandigarh, on 25 Feb, 2006. The Festival, intended to encourage people to walk through the Rose Garden to enjoy the beauty of roses, includes performances of music, dance, flower shows and events for children.

INTERNET

Mars-bound craft nearing end of journey

LOS ANGELES, 26 Feb — A NASA spacecraft bound for Mars is nearing the end of its seven-month journey but still faces a white-knuckle arrival at a planet known for swallowing scientific probes, mission managers said on Friday.

The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, or MRO, is on course to enter orbit around the Red Planet on 10 March. If successful, it will spend the next two years photographing the surface and scouting for future landing sites.

The spacecraft is performing so well that engineers have cancelled two final manoeuvres to adjust its

course in the last leg of the trip, said James Graf, project manager from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

"We're right on the money right now, heading toward our encounter with Mars," Graf told a news conference at NASA headquarters in Washington.

Despite the optimism, the greatest challenge of the \$720 million mission is yet to come. Within the last 15 years, NASA has lost two spacecraft during the tricky orbit-insertion phase around Mars.

In 1993, scientists lost contact with the Mars Observer just before it was to enter orbit. The space agency was dealt another blow six years later when the Mars Climate Orbiter failed on arrival.

Engineers hope the two-ton Reconnaissance Orbiter, which has journeyed nearly 300 million miles, will not suffer the same fate.

During the 10 March rendezvous, the spacecraft will fire its thrusters to slow down so that it can be caught by Mars' gravity. At one point during the manoeuvre, the orbiter will fly behind Mars, temporarily cutting off radio contact with ground controllers.—Internet



NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter beginning its 35-million-mile (56-million-km) trip to Mars in August 2005. The craft will soon reach the red planet, ending a seven-month voyage, NASA said.—INTERNET

Company gives up hope for trapped miners

SAN JUAN DE SABINAS, 26 Feb — Toxic gas levels inside a northern Mexican coal mine are too high for any of the 65 miners trapped inside to have survived a nearly week-old explosion, the mining company said on Saturday.

The government and scientists previously said there was little hope any of those missing would be found alive.

But an analysis of underground air on Saturday showed it was too poisonous to breathe, said Xavier Garcia, president of Industrial Minera Mexico, a subsidiary of mining company Grupo Mexico

SAdeCV "From the period of rescue we have now come to recovery," Garcia said, his voice cracking.

A pre-dawn explosion 19 Feb that left the miners trapped sparked temperatures reaching 1,110-degrees Fahrenheit and released heavy amounts of methane gas and carbon monoxide that spread to every corner of the Pasta de Conchos mine, Garcia said.

"The atmosphere inside the mine changed instantly, converting to an environment of high concentrations of methane and carbon monoxide and leaving the presence of oxygen at almost nil," he said. "These conditions made survival impossible."—Internet

German secret agents involved in Iraq war

BERLIN, 25 Feb — Two German secret agents were involved in the Iraq war in 2003 by providing intelligence to the United States but they did not help the US bombing campaign, the German Government said in a report released on Thursday.

The report is given to a parliamentary panel overseeing the spies' deployment in Baghdad in 2003 after media reports said the German foreign intelligence service (BND) helped the US forces identify bombing targets during the US-led invasion of Iraq.

The report admitted the BND agents provided intelligence to the United States but said that was mostly limited to reports about civilian protected or other humanitarian sites, such as "Synagogues and Torah rolls and the possible locations of missing US pilots."

The agents also provided US agents with descriptions in isolated

cases of Iraqi military forces along with geographic coordinates, after they were convinced the Americans had the information, the report said.

The issue is sensitive because former chancellor Gerhard Schroeder strongly criticized the war and insisted Germany had no direct part in it. Incumbent Chancellor Angela Merkel has also ruled out sending

troops to Iraq.

German opposition politicians have rejected the government's view and demanded a full parliamentary investigation.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese man passes by a DVD and CD shop in Shanghai on 25 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Macao water supplier to grant salinity relief

MACAO, 25 Feb — Macao Water Co Ltd said Thursday that the monopoly tap water supplier will grant a salinity relief worth 10 million patacas (1.25 million US dollars) to the people in Macao. A statement issued by the company said the salinity level is expected to hike to 700 mg/l in the region next week, while the World Health Organization defines the standard level for drinking water at 250 mg/l.— MNA/Xinhua

Revellers shout for beads from floats decorated by the Krewe of Morpheus as they travel down St Charles Avenue during Mardi Gras festivities in New Orleans, Louisiana on 24 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET



Russia, China officials in Iran for nuclear talks

TEHERAN, 25 Feb—Russia and China stepped up their efforts on Friday to persuade Iran to accept a compromise proposal over its nuclear programme that may avert the threat of UN sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Sergei Kiriyenko, head of the Russian atomic energy agency Rosatom, and Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Lu Guozeng arrived in Teheran for three days of talks to try to

find a way to ease Western suspicions that Iran wants to make nuclear bombs.

Time is running out for Iran to avoid formal referral to the UN Security Council at a board meeting of the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna on 6 March. Teheran says all it wants is nuclear power stations to generate electricity.

Iran has offered UN

inspectors information about a shadowy uranium-processing project that Western intelligence has linked to warhead design, a senior diplomat in Vienna said on Thursday. The diplomat, close to the IAEA but asking not to be named, said IAEA inspectors would be in Teheran this weekend to check the information on the "Green Salt Project".

—MNA/Reuters



Belarusian tourists pull a rope to make a river crossing in a forest in a suburb of southeastern city of Gomel, some 320 km (173 miles) from Minsk, on 24 Feb, 2006. About 120 professional and amateur rescuers take part in the annual competition 'School of survival'.—INTERNET

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Dock workers unload fresh fruit at the Tioga Marine terminal in Philadelphia on 24 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Thai coastal provinces popular for film shoot

BANGKOK, 25 Feb—Three Andaman coastal provinces in Thailand have become popular destinations for foreign film shoots, bringing in considerable amount of revenue for the kingdom, according to the Tourism and Sports Ministry.

In 2005, the number of foreign film productions in Krabi, Phangnga and Phuket provinces increased to 500 from 452 in 2004, generating more than one billion baht (25 million US dollars) in revenue.

Japan made the most amount of film shoots in the provinces with about 170 productions last year,

followed by India, the United States and other countries. The productions included documentaries, music videos and films. Thanitha Maneechote, director-general of the Ministry's Office of Tourism Development, was quoted by *Bangkok Post* newspaper as saying Friday.

—MNA/Xinhua

Planet's population to hit 6.5 billion

WASHINGTON 25 Feb—A population milestone is about to be set on this jam-packed planet.

On Saturday, 25 Feb, at 7:16 pm Eastern Standard Time, the population here on this good Earth is projected to hit 6.5 billion people.

Along with this forecast, an analysis by the International Programs Center at the US Census Bureau points to another factoid, Robert Bernstein of the Bureau's Public Information Center advised LiveScience. Mark this on your calendar: Some six years from now, on 18 Oct, 2012 at 4:36 pm Eastern Daylight Time, the Earth will be home to 7 billion folks.

These are estimates, of course, but clear trends emerge from the data behind them.

A report issued by the Bureau in March 2004 noted

that world population hit the 6-billion mark in June 1999. "This figure is over 3.5 times the size of the Earth's population at the beginning of the 20th century and roughly double its size in 1960," the study explained.

Even more striking is that the time required for the global population to grow from 5 billion to 6 billion—just a dozen years—was shorter than the interval between any of the previous billions.

The population on Earth today is nearly four times the number in 1900 [graph]. Behind that phenomenal global increase is a vast gulf in birth and death rates among the world's countries. But according to population experts, this gulf is not a simple divide that perpetuates the status quo among the have and have-not nations.—*Internet*



A Shi Tsu dog is prepared for the International Dog Show Eurasia 2006 in Moscow, on 25 Feb, 2006. Over 9,200 dogs of 200 breeds were shown in Moscow at the biggest annual event.

INTERNET

Bolivia plans to add coca leaves to school meals

LIMA, 25 Feb—Bolivia is considering adding coca leaves to school breakfast menus after local legislators asked the government to study the proposal, news reports from La Paz, capital of

Bolivia said on Thursday.

Bolivian children need minerals, and coca leaves contain calcium in higher concentrations than milk and phosphorus in higher quantities than fish, Bolivia's Foreign Minister David

Choquehuanca told a Bolivian parliamentary committee, citing a Harvard University report.

"Coca is not a drug and should be used as a food," Choquehuanca said.

—MNA/Xinhua

Expert calls disputed Pollock paintings authentic

BOSTON, 25 Feb—An expert in the work of abstract artist Jackson Pollock said 32 previously unknown paintings appear to be authentic, taking issue with a recent computer analysis suggesting they are fakes.

"If evidence does turn out to indicate that Pollock did not paint these works after all, I would be inclined to judge them the most amazing fakes in modern art history," Ellen Landau, a professor of art history at the Cleveland Museum of Art/Case Western University, told a conference on Thursday in Boston. Alex Matter, a filmmaker who knew Pollock from childhood, said in May he had found the paintings four years ago among the posses-

sions of his late parents, who knew Pollock. He began showing them publicly after Landau authenticated them last year. Matter has said the paintings had been first stored in a Manhattan

boiler room and then for nearly three decades in a warehouse in East Hampton, Long Island, not far from where Pollock had his studio and was killed in car crash in 1956.—*MNA/Reuters*



Jackson Pollock's drawing 'Without title'. A scientist's assertion that Pollock's iconic drip paintings contain a unique stylistic fingerprint has raised serious doubts over the authenticity of 32 ostensible works by the artist.—INTERNET

Neighbourhood may help prevent childhood obesity

NEW YORK, 25 Feb—The neighbourhood an adolescent lives in may influence his or her development of obesity, new study findings suggest. Specifically, investigators found that adolescents from close-knit neighbourhoods were less likely to be obese.

Close-knit neighbourhoods exhibited strong collective efficacy — neighbours get along and are willing to help each other, and many adults are role models for adolescents.

"There is an obesity epidemic in this country and treatment has focused on diet and exercise with relatively little success," study author Dr Deborah A Cohen, a senior natural scientist at the Santa Monica, California-based RAND Corporation, said

in a company statement.

The current findings imply that it may be necessary to "look at the neighbourhood environment as potentially very important in controlling the obesity epidemic," she told *Reuters Health*.

"The social environment that a child lives in is

very strongly associated with how active they are, what they eat and how much they eat," she said.

Previous studies show that a neighbourhood's level of collective efficacy is predictive of crime, premature death, death from cardiovascular disease and other health

outcomes. In a survey of 684 households in 65 Los Angeles County neighbourhoods, Cohen and her team investigated whether collective efficacy may also indirectly affect factors related to obesity. The study included 807 adolescents and 3,000 adults.—*Internet*

Tobacco kills over 3,000 Dominicans a year

HAVANA, 25 Feb — The Dominican Republic

signed an agreement with several other Caribbean organizations to cut deaths caused by smoking which kills more than 3,000 people each year in the country, the Health Ministry said on Friday.

The deal aims to cut significantly the number of deaths caused by tobacco-related illnesses and it has received technical support from the Pan-American Health Organization and the World Health Organi-

zation. The deal was signed by the Health Ministry, the Dominican Pneumology and Throat Surgery Society, and Project Double T — a nongovernmental organization created to evaluate and reduce tobacco use.

The Dominican Republic is the first Latin American country to implement measures to cut tobacco consumption, according to the ministry. *MNA/Xinhua*



Hollywood actor and Grammy award winner Will Smith shows how he relieves his nervousness before facing the cameras for movie shots at the sets of a television reality show in Mumbai on 24 Feb, 2006, as Indian television personality Mini Mathur (R) looks on.—INTERNET

Green tea may protect aging brain

NEW YORK, 25 Feb—People who regularly drink green tea may have a lesser risk of mental decline as they grow older, researchers have found.

Their study, of more than 1,000 Japanese adults in their 70s and beyond, found that the more green tea men and women drank, the lower their odds of having cognitive impairment.

The findings build on evidence from lab experiments showing that certain compounds in green tea may protect brain cells from the damaging processes that mark conditions like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

But while those studies were carried out in animals and test tubes, the new research appears to be the first to find a lower risk of mental decline among green-tea drinkers, according to the study authors.

They speculate that the possible protective effects of green tea may help explain Japan's lower rate of dementia, particularly Alzheimer's disease, compared with Europe and North America.

Dr Shinichi Kuriyama and colleagues at Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine report the findings in the current issue of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

The study included 1,003 adults age 70 and older who completed detailed questionnaires on their diets over the previous month, as well as their overall physical health and lifestyle habits.

They also completed a standard test of cognitive functions such as memory, attention and language use.

The researchers found that older adults who drank two or more cups of green tea per day were about half as likely to show cognitive impairment as those who drank three cups or less each week. Men and women who averaged one cup per day fell somewhere in between.

The connection between green tea and mental function persisted when the researchers accounted for overall diet and factors such as smoking and exercise habits.

However, the findings cannot demonstrate a cause-and-effect relationship.

MNA/Reuters



A Bolivian miner holds a heart of a llama inside the Hitos mine during a traditional ceremony on the outskirts of Oruro, some 200 km (124 miles) south of La Paz, on 24 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

World's oldest ocean liner to visit Shanghai in March

SHANGHAI, 25 Feb—*Elizabeth II*, the world's oldest ocean liner still in service, is expected to visit Shanghai in March, sources with the city's

Waigaoqiao Exit and Entry Quarantine Station has said.

The deluxe liner, belonging to the British shipping company Cunard Line, started its maiden trip in late 1960s. It is 293.52 metres long, about 30 metres wide, and as tall as a 12-storey building. It is capable of carrying 1,791 passengers and 921 crew members.

Equipped with the biggest ship engine in the world, the liner is also dubbed the world's largest and best trans-Atlantic vessel. It has 950 rooms as well as such recreational facilities as golf course, swimming pool, library and theatre. The source said the number of luxury passenger liners to visit Shanghai this year is expected to exceed last year's 25.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Cowboys walk around the streets of New York on 24 Feb, 2006. The cowboys were in town to promote tourism in Alberta, home of the Canadian Rockies.

INTERNET

Two tremors jolt northeast India, Bhutan

NEW DELHI, 25 Feb—Two moderate earthquakes rocked northeast India and neighbouring Bhutan early Friday morning, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

The first tremor, measuring 5.7 degrees on the Richter Scale, took place around 1:35 am Friday, said an official with the seismological centre in Shillong, the capital of northeast India's Meghalaya State.

quakes was located along the border with Bhutan and the tremors were also felt the nearby states of Assam and Nagaland.

Local police said they were trying to find out whether the earthquakes had caused damage or casualties.

A 5.7 tremor had jolted the region on 14 February, killing two persons and damaging about 1,000 houses in Sikkim.

The epicentre of the

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy snow continues in N-E China province

SHENYANG, 25 Feb — A thick blanket of snow covered northeast China's Liaoning Province Saturday and a weather report said most parts of the province would still expect heavy snowfall or blizzard.

The central meteorological station in the provincial capital Shenyang sent a red alarm for snow disaster at 5:46 am, indicating the snowstorm could seriously affect local traffic and the stock raising

industry within two hours.

In China, the alarm of incidents, including disastrous weather, is shown in red, orange, yellow and blue respectively, with a red alarm standing for top urgency.

Due to a chilling front from Baikal, a rare snowstorm started to hit Liaoning Province Friday, the first heavy snowfall since February 4, the day that marks the start of spring in the Chinese lunar calendar.

The snow closed Shenyang's Taoxian International Airport and five of the province's total 10 expressways.

As it takes time to clean off the thick snow blanket on the parking apron and runways, airport authorities said the airport will probably resume operation at 12:00 p.m. Saturday, instead of 8:00 a.m. as was predicted on Friday.

On Saturday morning, the fallen snow in downtown Shenyang measured at least 15 centimetres.

MNA/Xinhua



A thick blanket of snow covered northeast China's Liaoning Province on Saturday and a weather report said most parts of the province would still expect heavy snowfall or blizzard.—INTERNET



A Kashmiri refugee stands outside a tent at the Mustafai tent camp on the outskirts of the earthquake-devastated city of Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir on 25 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Germany confirms 110 cases of bird flu among wild birds

BERLIN, 25 Feb — Germany has confirmed 110 cases of the deadly H5N1 bird flu strain among wild birds, agricultural authorities said on Thursday.

All the dead wild birds with the H5N1 virus were found in the eastern German state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Six new cases of H5N1 were confirmed among dead wild birds found Thursday on Ruegen Island. A wild duck elsewhere in the state also tested positive for the disease.

A dead duck on a

poultry farm on Ruegen was also found to have bird flu, but laboratory tests showed the bird did not have the lethal H5N1 strain.

All 106 ducks and chickens on the poultry farm were slaughtered Wednesday after routine tests raising suspicions about an infection on the farm.

In its most highly

pathogenic form, H5N1 can kill humans. While no EU farm birds have yet tested positive for the disease, experts have warned that it is only a matter of time for the virus to spread from wild birds to domestic poultry.

Germany's health authorities held a special meeting on Thursday, deciding to raise the stock of anti-bird flu drugs for both humans and poultry.

Agriculture Minister Horst Seehofer said tests were carried out by related institutions to see to what extent animals can resist the deadly H5N1 strain. "We will have to live with the virus for the foreseeable future," the minister said.

Germany's bird flu outbreak began on the Baltic Sea island of Ruegen as migrating birds started returning to the region, and officials confirmed on Monday that it has spread to the mainland.

MNA/Xinhua

Terror charge for US man found with guns in Uganda

KAMPALA, 26 Feb — Ugandan police said on Saturday a US man found with guns in his bedroom days before this week's national election had been charged with terrorism.

Peter Waldron, 59, pleaded not guilty at a preliminary court hearing this week alongside three fellow suspects from Uganda and another three from neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, police said.

Waldron, who police earlier said had been

planning to start a political party based on Christian principles, was sent back to custody after the hearing on Wednesday and ordered to appear at the High Court in two weeks.

Police declined at a news conference to give more details of a case that has blown up at the same time as Uganda held its first multi-party poll for 25 years on Thursday.

"The case was taken to court on terrorism charges," police

Inspector-General Kale Kayihura told reporters.

"On what basis did he have these guns? Then there's this association with the Congolese. The law will take its course."

MNA/Reuters

New delay for heavy-lift "Ariane-5" rocket launch

CAYENNE, 26 Feb — The launch of a heavy-lift Ariane-5 rocket carrying two satellites was postponed in French Guiana on Friday for the second time this week due to a new technical fault, space officials said.

Officials of the Arianespace rocket launch company said a new launch date would be announced in several hours. They said one of the launch customers had requested further checks of a telemetry circuit. A first launch date on Tuesday was scrubbed when a problem linking the rocket to the launch-pad was detected.

The rocket — capable of launching satellite payloads of up to 10 metric tons (22,000 pounds) -- was to have launched Spainsat, a Spanish military communications satellite and Hot Bird 7A for Paris-based telecoms operator Eutelsat from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana on the northeast coast of South America.

The maiden flight of the heavy-lift version of the Ariane-5 rocket ended in disaster in 2002 when it veered off course over the Atlantic Ocean. After modifications, the rocket was successfully launched twice in 2005. — MNA/Reuters



Iraqi police officers check a car at a checkpoint in Baghdad on 25 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Thieves steal artworks, disappear into Rio Carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), 25 Feb — Four armed men stole several famous paintings on Friday, including a Picasso and a Monet, from a Rio de Janeiro museum and then slipped away in a crowd of Carnival revellers.

Officials of the Chacara do Ceu museum in downtown Rio de Janeiro said among the stolen paintings were Pablo Picasso's "Dance", Claude Monet's "Marine", Henri Matisse's "Luxemburg Garden", and Salvador Dali's "Two Balconies".

The men, who were suspected of carrying a grenade, forced the guards to turn off the internal television circuit. One of the guards was manhandled.

"They took advantage of a Carnival parade passing by the museum and disappeared into the crowd," said Vera de Alencar, director of the museum, which is administered by the federal government.

Museum officials did not say how many paintings were stolen or place a value on them.

The thieves also walked away with the belongings of several visitors, including three foreign tourists.

The Federal Police are investigating the case and taking measures to prevent the paintings from leaving the country.

MNA/Reuters

Take fire prevention measures

Myingyan Kyaw Aung

Fire is used in cooking food, lighting, heating, and operating large and small industries. Fire is useful to human beings, but it is to be used systematically. Otherwise, it can make troubles to the users.

A female wage earner once said to me, "We are now poverty-stricken because my home was destroyed in the fire two times while we lived in the village". Before their home was not destroyed in the fire, they had cows and house with compound. Now, they are not in a state of standing on their feet and thus have to live in others' home.

The causes of fire I have observed are:

- fire starting and spreading from lights offered to Buddha images in shrines,
- fire spreading from open fire of dry leaves and rubbish,
- fire spreading from sites of cooking food and cottage industries,
- fire due to failure to turn off electric light switch,
- fire spreading from charcoal stove for heating and candle lights.

Fire starting and spreading from lights offered to Buddha images in shrines

A light in a Buddha shrine must be on a tray made of non-flammable material such as glazed earth or iron. There must be at least a household member while a light is offered to the Buddha image. If there is no household members at home, such lights must be put out. Inflammable materials must be kept away from the lights offered to the Buddha image.

Fire spreading from open fire of dry leaves and rubbish

The burning of piles of dry leaves and rubbish causes air pollution, and if there is a strong wind at that time, the fire can spread to other buildings. So, dry leaves and garbage should be thrown off in a hole on the ground.

Fire spreading from sites of cooking food and cottage industries

The major cause of fire is negligence. So, a stove must not be close to the walls and the roof of the house. The flames in the stove must not be very high. The stove should be laid in a hole on the ground. While

something is being cooked, the cook must not fall asleep nor be at a site distant from the stove. Inflammable materials must be away from the stove. While something is being fried, the hot oil vapour can catch fire from the flames of the stove. So, a cook should take care at such times.

Now, more and more households are using generators. So, petrol or diesel is to be put into the generators before it is dark. Use a torch light if petrol is put into the generator or the generator is repaired when it is dark. Fuel such as petrol and diesel must be away from the stove. Gas lighters must not be struck near diesel and petrol.

Fire due to failure to turn off electric light switch

People especially urban folks use electricity for lighting, cooking, ironing, operating TV and karaoke sets and welding. The users should notice that after doing work or when electricity is out, electric light switch is to be turned off.

Fire spreading from charcoal stove for heating and candle lights

Those who live in apartments should go to bed only after putting out candle lights, oil lamps and lanterns. There should be adequate ventilation in the bedrooms. Candles and lamps must be lit on a large iron sheet. Candles and oil lamps are not to be lit in the sites close to walls, beds, mattress and mosquito nets or on wood frames.

Now, the cold season has been over and it is the beginning of the hot season. The people are therefore urged to take all possible measures to prevent outbreak of fires.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 26-2-2006

Now, more and more households are using generators. So, petrol or diesel is to be put into the generators before it is dark. Use a torch light if petrol is put into the generator or the generator is repaired when it is dark. Fuel such as petrol and diesel must be away from the stove. Gas lighters must not be struck near diesel and petrol.

France announces merger plan for Suez, GDF

PARIS, 26 Feb— French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin on Saturday announced plans for a merger between energy and utilities company Suez SA and Gaz de France (GDF). Villepin said that Suez and GDF had been discussing a deal for months to bring their "close and complementary" activities together in power production and distribution.

"Given the strategic importance of energy, the fusion of Gaz de France and Suez seems today to be the most appropriate path," the Prime Minister said. He gave no details on which entity would absorb which to form the

new company, and did not mention the sensitive issue of privatization.

The Prime Minister said the Parliament would be called upon to make the necessary legislative

changes.

The merger will give France a second important utility company next to Electricite de France, Villepin said.

MNA/Xinhua

OIE warns of spread of bird flu around world

Paris, 26 Feb — Bird flu is now capable of spreading to every corner of the globe, Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Bernard Vallat warned on Friday. "The epidemic of avian flu can now spread on a global scale," Vallat said in an interview with the French daily *Le Monde*.

"We are witnessing a

rapid change in the situation, characterized by the remarkable change from an epidemic to a pandemic" of the animal virus, he added. "Except for Australia and New Zealand, which do not appear to be concerned by the migration of waterfowl from infected zones, the rest of the world is directly exposed," he said.—MNA/Xinhua



Official environment worker releases a male bird after a veterinarian inspection in S Jacinto Natural Park in northern Portugal on 25 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Spain seizes 3 tons of cocaine on "Africa route"

MADRID, 26 Feb — Spanish police said on Saturday they had seized three tons of cocaine on a boat between the Canary Islands and Africa,

matching a similar-sized seizure on Tuesday.

Following the operations, police said Africa had grown in importance as a stopping

point for Colombian drug traffickers wanting to smuggle their cargo to Spain and on to Europe.

MNA/Reuter

New Hsenwi Bridge put into service in Hsenwi

YANGON, 26 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, new Hsenwi Bridge was inaugurated in Hsenwi on 22 February morning.

Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, Brig-Gen Soe Oo of Hsenwi Station, Chief Engineer U Kyaw Tin of Public Works and Project Director U Maung Kyay of Asia World Co Ltd cut the ribbon to open the bridge.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing unveiled the stone plaque and sprinkled scented water on it.

Hsenwi Bridge, 180 feet long, is located on Lashio-Muse Road in Hsenwi Township. Motor way of the bridge is 28 feet wide. It can withstand 60-ton loads.

At the briefing hall near 100-acre summer paddy plantation, the commander instructed officials to extend cultivation summer paddy and physic nut plants in the township.

Chairperson of Shan State (North) Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thant Zin presented 18,000 ballpoint pens to Chairperson of Hsenwi Station MCWA Daw Tin Tin Myo.

The commander and party viewed thriving summer paddy plantations and 120,000 saplings of physic nuts.

At Yantaingaug Pagoda, the cash donation ceremony was held. Brig-Gen Soe Oo accepted K 1 million donated by North-East Command by the commander and K 1.5 million by Asia World Co Ltd by the project director.

The commander inspected thriving mix-cropping of sugarcane, pineapple and physic nut plants at Manmaw region.

Later, the commander oversaw construction of the gymnasium of North-East Command being undertaken by Asia World Co Ltd and attended to the needs. — MNA

Commander inspects Padonma Soap Factory in Paung

YANGON, 26 Feb — Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials arrived at Padonma Soap Factory in Paung Township on 22 February. At the factory, Project Director U Toe Aung reported on production and running of the factory to the commander. After hearing the report, the commander attended the needs.

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing attended the ceremony of growing physic nut at the factory and planted physic nut together with those present. He also encouraged the staff sowing physic nut and explained the purpose of cultivating it.

A total of 12,000 saplings and 500 grafts are being grown at the factory. The commander inspected soft soaps and bars of soap developed at the factory and left instructions to the officials.

MNA

Students of Cetana night school honoured

YANGON, 26 Feb — A ceremony to honour teachers from Cetana night school in conjunction with the ceremony to provide assistance to students who will sit the matriculation exam was held at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters, here, this afternoon.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai presented gifts and certificates of honour to teachers who taught the students at Cetana night school opened by Yangon Division MCWA.



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presents gift to a teacher.—MNA

Chairperson Daw Swe Swe Oo of Yangon Command MCWA presented certificates of honour to wellwishers who donated subject-wise guidebooks to the students, and provided assistance to the students who will sit the matriculation exam. — MNA

Sales of goods at tax-free markets inspected

YANGON, 26 Feb — Township, Tamway Tax-free Market in Tamway Township, Pantaya Tax-free Market in Dagon Township, Hanthawady Tax-free Market in Kamayut Township.

The vice-mayor oversaw sales of vegetables, fish and meat, and personal goods at Konmyinthath Tax-free Market in Mayangon Township, Yankin Tax-free Market in Yankin

At Hanthawady Tax-free Market, the vice-mayor instructed officials of Market Department of YCDC to manage sales of goods at the tax-free markets.

MNA

Dry day inspection teams check departmental, Tatmadaw vehicles

YANGON, 26 Feb — Vice-Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Col Win Naung of Mingaladon Station, together with Supervisory Committee members and departmental heads, supervised functions of dry day inspection teams at the main points of Yangon City today.

From 7 am to 5 pm today, dry day inspection teams checked Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles for dry day pass, driver licence, wheel tax bill, wearing of departmental and Tatmadaw uniforms, and breaking of traffic rules. — MNA

Mayor oversees preparations for supply of water to city dwellers

YANGON, 26 Feb — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning arrived at the Water Treatment Plant of Yangon City Water Supply Project in Hmawby Township.

YCDC Secretary U Tin Soe, Committee member U Kyaw Soe and officials reported on tasks being carried out for supply of water to the city dwellers.

The mayor inspected land preparations for growing of 300 acres of physic nut plants, nurturing of 270,000 physic nut saplings and land preparations at 248 acres.

YCDC member U Nyi Nyi and officials conducted the mayor round the nursery.

Later, the mayor gave instructions on physic nut seeds and cuttings to be nurtured before rainy season. — MNA

Mandalay Division WAO give provisions to fire victims

YANGON, 26 Feb — Department gave talks covering many subjects on health.—MNA

Patron of Mandalay Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Pyone Win and party gave provisions worth K 566,000 to fire victims of Myothit (5) ward in Chanmyathazi Township at the township on 20 February.

Later, the patron of Mandalay Division WAO attended the ceremony of health educative training (2/2006) organized by Division WAO and MCWSC. Patron of Daw Khin Pyone Win made a speech on the occasion.

The health professionals of Division Health



Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thuang Htaik presents champion trophy to the Finance & Revenue Youth team.—NLM (News reported)

Commander tours Gwa, Kyeintali

YANGON, 26 Feb — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint attended the demonstration on running of machines with physic nut oil and nurturing of physic nut saplings at Forest Department in Gwa Township on 20 February.

At the nursery of Myanmar Perennial Crops

Enterprise, the commander participated in the physic nut plant growing ceremony.

Next, the commander met with Tatmadawmen and family members at the hall of the local battalion in Gwa. Similarly, he called on departmental personnel at the town hall.

In the afternoon, the commander inspected Ywathitgon rubber farm of Myanmar General and

Maintenance Industries, and Kanthaya Hotel. Afterwards, he attended the nurturing of physic nut saplings and the demonstration on running of machines with physic nut oil at the Yeiktha of Public Works in Kyeintali Township.

At the hall in Kyeintali Township, the commander met with departmental personnel and heard reports on regional development. — MNA

Cultivation of physic nut beneficial for growers in the long run

YANGON, 26 Feb — "Wider cultivation of physic nut contributes towards fuel requirement of the State and there are better prospects for growers in the long run," said Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win at the physic nut cultivation held in the compound of No 7 Basic Education Middle School near Padan Village in Hlinethaya Township this morning.

He called for cultivation of 500,000 acres of physic nut in Yangon Division.

Chairman of District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myat Min reported on cultivation of 138.07 acres of physic nut and targets for 2006 and Manager of Yangon Division Myanmar Agriculture Service U Aung Hsan on cultivation methods.

The commander pre-

sented physic nut seeds for cultivation in townships and industrial zones. The commander and party observed treated physic nut and documentary photos of physic nut oil, seeds and saplings. They inspected the physic nut farm, planted saplings in the nursery of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone Management Committee and participated in the cultivation together with members of social organizations and local people.

The commander and party inspected operation of vehicles assembled in the industrial zone with the use of physic nut oil and pumping of water to 150 acres of farmland in Htantabin Township.

They also inspected arrangements for prevention of erosion along the river bank.

The commander explained fulfillments for improvement of education, health and transport in the township, eco-

nomie progress of the people and implementation of the tasks for stability, prevalence of law and order and regional development to officials at the Township Peace and Development Council Office.—MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win grows Physic nut plant in Hlinethaya Township.

MNA

Upgrading of roads, sanitation tasks inspected in Mandalay

YANGON, 26 Feb — Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han supervised repaving of Moethaukpan Street and other roads in Chanayethazan and Chanmyathazi Townships and honey orange plantation of MCDC near Yedaguntaung Golf Course in Mandalay on 13 February.

On 15 February, the mayor inspected construction of the checkpoint and shops at 16th mile on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road in Patheingyi Township, progress of Mytinge-Htonbo shortcut (dual lane) being constructed by Asia World Co Ltd, maintenance of the Taungthaman circular road in Amarapura Township, and sanitation and dredging of Shwetachaung Canal near Mandalay Kandawgyi Lake.

On 16 February, Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han looked into beautifying and development tasks of the city.

On 17 February, the mayor oversaw construction of tar road on 29th Street in Chanayethazan

Township. On 19 February, he inspected repaving of Taungthaman circular road and renovation of Çandamuni Pagoda near Mandalay Hill. — MNA



MCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han inspects sanitation work near Mandalay Kandawgyi. —MNA

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(National Seminar on the Anti Trafficking in Persons Law)
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Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspects growing of physic nut plants

YANGON, 26 Feb — Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint met with departmental personnel at Kachin State PDC Office in Myitkyina on 17 February and gave instructions on taking part in regional development tasks and growing physic nut plants. Next, the secretary of Kachin

State PDC presented a VCR for MRTV retransmission station on behalf of the commander.

On 18 February, the commander and officials inspected the growing of 1,200 physic nut plants and the nurture of 12,000 physic nut saplings, thriving of pepper and fish and pig breeding task on a manageable scale of Myitkyina No 2 Police Station families.

Afterwards, the commander inspected the nurture of djenkol bean, rubber and pepper including 13,400 physic nut saplings.

Later, the commander inspected construction of road section between Boatmaw Ward and Ayemya Thaya Ward, growing physic nut plants of local battalion and construction of creek bridge. — MNA

Energy Minister inspects progress of Thagyitaung/Sabei oil field

YANGON, 26 Feb — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi made an inspection tour of Thagyitaung oil field of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise in Pauk Township yesterday afternoon.

General Manager of the oil field U Mya Sein briefed the minister on production of oil and natural gas in the oil field, Chief Engineer (Drilling) U Kyaw Swe on successful drilling of well No 43 and its production, and Managing Director U San Lwin of MOGE on prospects of oil and gas production in Thagyitaung/Sabei region.

The minister presented cash rewards to the employees who participated in the drilling tasks, and inspected the well No 43. The well No 43 produces 2.5 million cubic-feet of natural gas daily.

On arrival at Sabei oil field, officials reported on target and production of the oil field, and successful drilling of Sabei well No 18. The minister gave instructions on boosting production of oil and gas from Thagyitaung/Sabei region, fire prevention, greening tasks and growing of physic nut plants.

Next, the minister presented cash reward to the workers who participated in the drilling tasks. Sabei well No 18 produces 1.5 million cubic-feet of natural gas daily.

At present, Thagyitaung/Sabei oil field produces 420 barrels of crude oil and 20 million cubic-feet of natural gas daily. — MNA

Families hope for miracle in Mexico mine disaster

SAN JUAN DE SABINAS (Mexico), 26 Feb— A six-day search for 65 workers trapped in a Mexican coal mine has been suspended but dozens of relatives refused to leave the mine entrance on Saturday, hoping for a miracle.

Officials suspended the search for two or three days on Friday night because high levels of methane gas threatened to spark a new explosion like the one that ripped through the mine last Sunday morning.

Rescuers say at least half of the men are almost certainly dead because there is not enough oxygen to sustain life in the sections of the mine they were working in at the time of the explosion.

Many of the hundreds of relatives who had stayed at the mine entrance have gone home. But about 40 were still there on Saturday, refusing to

give up hope.

"The probabilities are fading but, until they come out with the people, you keep the hope that they find them alive," said Agustin Botello, 30, whose father was among those in the deepest section of the mine at the time of the explosion.

Since then, there has been no contact with any of the 65 missing men and their chances of survival slip with every hour that passes. Their only chance would now be if they were close to a large pocket of clean air or if ventilator shafts were pushing enough clean air into their

area of the mine.

"The main thing is to have faith and hope. But with the conditions down there, you begin to doubt," said Jorge Uribe, whose uncle is among the trapped men. "It can't continue like this. They are not animals to be left down there."

Relatives exploded in anger and roughed up Labour Minister Francisco Salazar after they were told the search was being postponed on Friday. Some complain rescuers were not given sophisticated heat-seeking equipment to locate the miners.

MNA/Reuters

Survey shows London bankers plan to take money and run

LONDON, 26 Feb — More than half of the people working in the City of London financial services industry plan to look for a new job once they have banked their bonus for 2005, a survey showed on Friday.

A survey, entitled "Take the money and run", found that 57 per cent of respondents said they were either "certain" or "very likely" to change jobs. Less than one in three said they were "unlikely" to change or would definitely not change.

The research by recruitment consultancy The Blomfield Group also showed that those looking to move would have

plenty of choice.

Banks and financial institutions typically pay staff their annual bonuses between December and the end of February, so once bonus cheques are banked, those who want to move start looking at what other jobs are on offer.

The City job market is benefitting from a surge in mergers and acquisitions activity not seen since the technology boom in 2000. This is driving demand for skilled staff in a wide range of areas at investment banks and other financial service companies.

Blomfield said the financial services job market is currently very much candidate-driven, with fi-

nancial services firms frequently struggling to find enough good calibre people to fill the vacancies they have available.

"On average, there are only eight candidate applications for every 10 jobs available," said Tara Ricks of Blomfield's recruitment arm. "There are particular candidate shortages in banking operations, insurance, life and pensions and in investment banking, sales and trading."

MNA/Reuters

N China port city seizes over 16 kilos of drugs in 2005

TIANJIN, 26 Feb— North China's port city of Tianjin cracked 1,066 drug-related criminal cases last year and seized 16.65 kilos of drugs, official statistics show. A total of 1,102 suspects were captured and 12 drug rings were cracked, according to the statistics from the Tianjin Municipal Narcotics Control Commission.

In addition, local narcotic control authorities seized more than two million yuan (about 250,000 US dollars) of illicit money, and confiscated 28 guns, 655 rounds of bullets and nine cars.

MNA/Xinhua



Army soldiers remove the debris of the garment factory that collapsed in Dhaka on 25 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Bangladesh factory collapse kills 16

DHAKA, 26 Feb — At least 16 people were killed and 50 injured when a four-storey textiles factory collapsed in the Bangladesh capital on Saturday, witnesses and hospital officials said.

The Phoenix mill, in Dhaka's Mahakhali area, came down at around 11 am (0500 GMT) with some 150 workers inside. Army, police and fire brigade rescuers trying to find survivors said many could still be trapped under tons of concrete. Some of the injured were in a critical condition. "It may take several days to clear all the debris," one rescuer told Reuters on Saturday evening.

Hundreds of mourning relatives and onlookers crowding the site made the job even more difficult, he added.—MNA/Reuters

Bank branch, diplomatic cars torched in northern Greece

ATHENS, 26 Feb— Suspected arsonists set a bank and a diplomat's cars on fire in the northern city of Thessaloniki overnight Friday, with one bank branch in central Athens nearly destroyed, local media reported.

Three vehicles, the National Bank branch and a local office of the ruling New Democracy were the target of fire-bombs in Thessaloniki. Two out of the

three vehicles were carrying diplomatic plates.

The cars belonged to a Swedish national employed at the Thessaloniki-based European Union agency for Balkan reconstruction, Athens News Agency reported.

The attacks were believed to be the work of anarchists and anti-state militants, police said.—MNA/Xinhua

Turkey seizes large amount of drug in 2005

ANKARA, 26 Feb— Turkish Security Department spokesman Ismail Caliskan said on Friday that Turkey seized a large amount of drug in 2005, a considerable increase from 2004.

During 2005, 6,000 kilos of hashish, 6,664 kilos of heroin, 141 kilos of base morphine, 34 kilos

of opium, 40 kilos of cocaine, 1.28 million ecstasy pills, 5.76 million captagon pills and 15,123 other synthetic pills were seized in these operations. The amount of seized hashish increased 38.6

per cent, heroin 2.3 per cent, synthetic drugs 30.4 per cent, opium 34.4 per cent and cocaine 67.8 per cent in 2005, as compared to 2004, the official said.

Turkey is a key transit route for drug smuggling from Asia and the Middle East to western Europe.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese grape wine lands in world leading duty-free stores

BEIJING, 26 Feb— Bottles of Chinese grape wine will for the first time land in duty-free stores in the world's major airports.

Cognac giant Camus, the world's leading duty-free shop operator, signed an agreement with Chinese winemaker Dragon Seal over the weekend in Beijing, vowing to sell the wine in its duty-free outlets distributed at the world's major airports.

Dragon Seal and Osmanthus King, another Chinese wine, will be the only

kind on the shelves of Camus' top-grand Chinese wine special area in its globally shops. Liu Chunmei, general manager of Beijing Dragon Seal Winery, said the cooperation with the high-threshold Camus will help make Dragon Seal wine well-known to the world.

According to Liu, the sales revenue of global duty-free stores at the world's major airports exceeds 20 billion US dollars every year, growing into an important channel for the sale of luxury commodities. —MNA/Xinhua



One player from Home Affairs and one from Army (A) fight a ball during their Myanmar League match on 26-2-2006.—NLM

Japanese men do more housework, but not enough

TOKYO, 26 Feb—Japanese men are doing more housework than before but their participation in domestic chores is still far less than that of the Japanese women, a recent survey showed.

Japanese men spent an average of 46 minutes a day on work around the house in 2005, up from 36 minutes in the previous year, a survey conducted by NHK's research institute said.

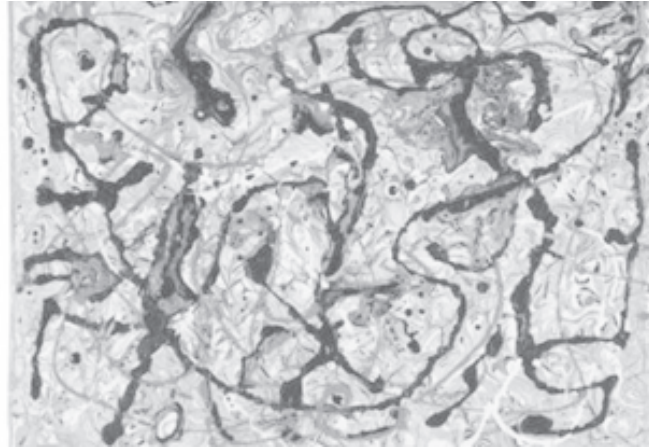
However, the poll demonstrated that the average

Japanese woman, either professional or housewife, spent around four hours on housework each weekday and even more on weekends.

The survey, published recently, received over 7,000 responses over two weeks in October.

A Cabinet Office report on gender equality said last year that Japanese women still spent more time on household chores than Japanese men or women from other countries.

MNA/Xinhua



A computer analysis of paintings unveiled last year as previously undiscovered works by abstract artist Jackson Pollock, one of which is seen here in this handout photo, suggests the 32 works are fakes, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation said on 9 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Minor earthquake rocks Ottawa

OTTAWA, 26 Feb—A minor earthquake hit Canada's capital of Ottawa on Friday evening. There have been no reports of any injuries or damages.

The earthquake took place around 8:50 pm local time and lasted for about 5 seconds. Apparent tremor was felt in the south-eastern Alta Vista residential area where Xinhua office is located.

An operator at Ottawa Police Service Centre told Xinhua that many people have been calling them for enquiries. She confirmed that the whole city felt the tremor, but there was no reports of casualties so far.

Canadian Television Network said the location of the epicentre remains unknown.—MNA/Xinhua

Nepal's foreign trade up 12.5%

KATHMANDU, 26 Feb—Nepal's foreign trade recorded a growth of 12.5 per cent during the first five months of the current Nepali fiscal year (16 July, 2005-15 July, 2006), Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) said here Saturday.

"Nepal's foreign trade totalled 92.61 billion Nepali rupees (1.323 billion US dollars) during the first five months of current Nepali fiscal year," NRB, the central bank of the country, said in a Press statement.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientist says enzyme computer could live in human body

LONDON, 26 Feb—A molecular computer using enzymes to perform calculations has been made by Israeli researchers, according to a report carried on the NewScientist website Thursday.

Itamar Willner, who has built the computer with colleagues at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel, expressed his belief that the enzyme-powered computers could eventually be implanted into human body and used to monitor the release of drugs to a specific person's metabolism.

The researchers used two enzymes — glucose dehydrogenase (GDH) and horseradish peroxidase (HRP) — to trigger two interconnected chemical reactions, the report said.

Two chemical components — hydrogen peroxide and glucose — were used to represent input values (A and B), it explained. The chemical result of the enzyme-powered reaction was determined optically, it added.

Enzymes are already widely used to assist calculations using specially encoded DNA, according to the

report.

The DNA computers have the potential to surpass the speed and power of existing silicon computers because they can perform many calculations in parallel and pack a vast number of components into a tiny space.—MNA/Xinhua



Sri Lankan students from a rural village enjoy a day on the beach in the capital Colombo on 24 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Two injured in military plane's emergency landing in Ankara

ANKARA, 26 Feb—Two persons aboard a military training plane were slightly injured on Friday when the aircraft made an emergency landing in Turkey's capital Ankara, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

One of the plane's engines broke down, which caused the emergency

landing in an empty field in the Cayyolu District of Ankara, said the report.

The plane took off from the Turkish Land-Aviation Military School and Training Centre in Guvercinlik on Friday afternoon and an investigation into the incident was underway, according to the report.—MNA/Xinhua

Democrats hit Bush on security, seek ports review

WASHINGTON, 26 Feb—Democrats on Saturday accused US President George W Bush of being casual with US security as they warned of risks from a deal in which an Arab, state-owned company would gain control of six key US ports.

New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, in the Democratic weekly radio address, urged Bush to pose tough questions during a delay of Dubai Ports World's 6.8-billion-US-dollar acquisition of P&O, even as a top White House official said there was no need to reopen the government's review.

"We cannot afford to let this administration be stubborn in their mistakes and casual about our security," Corzine said. "Every homeland security expert identifies protecting our nation's ports as one of our greatest unmet security challenges."

DP World said this week it would proceed with the takeover of the British P&O company — making it the world's third largest port operator — but not the management of the US ports while it discusses security concerns.

"But what we need is not a token

delay, but a serious review," Corzine said. Already lawsuits have been filed to block the deal, including by the state of New Jersey which is concerned about its Port Newark terminal.

Democrats and some members of Bush's own Republican Party have hammered the administration for approving the transaction, citing evidence that two of the 11 September hijackers came from the United Arab Emirates, of which Dubai is a part, and that al-Qaeda funding went via UAE banks.

The White House bristled at any suggestion that Bush was lax on national security.

"This President's highest priority is protecting the homeland. He has done so and will continue to do so, and anyone who suggests otherwise is at best ill-informed," said White House spokesman Ken Lisaius.—MNA/Reuters



Graffiti litters the sides of a barge that floated into the Lower Ninth Ward during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Louisiana on 24 Feb, 2006. The barge is scheduled to be removed by using large inflatable bags and cutting pieces off the vessel.—INTERNET

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 Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box 956
 Yangon. 27 February 2006

Bank Holiday
 All Banks will be
 closed on 2nd March
 (Thursday), Peasant Day
 2006, being public
 holiday under the
 Negotiable Instruments
 Act.
 Central Bank of Myanmar

Bangladeshi PM orders to probe textile mill fire

DHAKA, 25 Feb—
 Bangladeshi Prime
 Minister Khaleda Zia on
 Friday ordered formation
 of a 5-member inquiry
 committee to probe the
 cause of a fire in a factory
 in southeastern Chittagong
 and identify the persons
 who dead in the fire,
 according to local media
 reports.

The directive came as
 she visited the KTS
 Composite Textiles Mills
 in southeastern port city
 Chittagong, the scene of
 Thursday's deadly fire,
 the reports said, adding
 that the Prime Minister
 also asked the concerned
 authorities to rehabilitate
 the fire victims.

MNA/Xinhua

Ground movement causes building collapse in Manila

MANILA, 25 Feb—
 A building still under
 construction in Manila
 collapsed on Thursday
 following ground movement
 along Adriatico Street
 in this capital of the
 Philippines.

The ground movement
 cracked the street causing
 two parked vehicles to
 cave in. However, no one
 was reported hurt. Initial
 reports from local ABS-
 CBN TV said the metal
 beams supporting the
 Adriatico Towers near
 Robinson's Place Manila,
 a large shopping mall,
 gave way after a tremor
 shook the area.

The construction site
 is being managed by local
 company DM Consunji
 Inc. A witness said the
 metal beams of the
 building gave way after
 the street collapse.

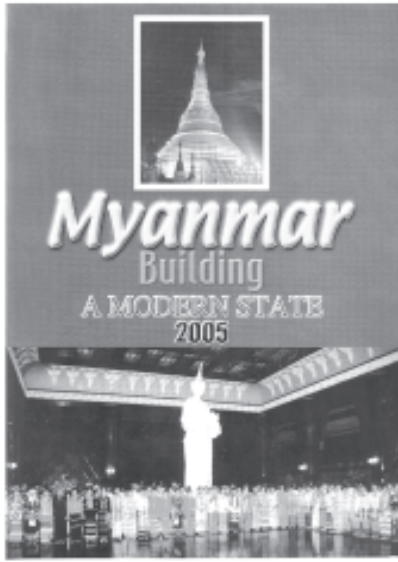
MNA/Xinhua

Singapore opposes any unilateral move to change status quo

SINGAPORE, 25 Feb—
 A spokesman from
 Singapore's Ministry of
 Foreign Affairs said Friday
 in a statement that
 Singapore is against any
 unilateral move to change
 the status quo across the
 Taiwan Straits.

"Singapore has a One-
 China policy and is
 opposed to any unilateral
 move to change the status
 quo," the statement said.

It added that the
 proposal to abolish the
 "National Unification
 Council" and the
 "National Unification
 Guidelines" in Taiwan
 would be unhelpful to



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All flights postponed due to heavy fog in Ankara Airport

ANKARA, 25 Feb—
 All flights were postponed
 due to heavy fog in Ankara
 Esenboga Airport on
 Thursday, Turkish official
 sources told Xinhua.

The sources said no
 flights were cancelled but
 all arrivals and departures
 were suspended for
 now.—MNA/Xinhua

Brazil ready for Rio Carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 Feb—
 Samba will return to its
 place as queen of Brazil's
 carnival after rock music
 has shaken Brazil's
 biggest cities — with the
 Rolling Stones playing in
 Rio de Janeiro and U2
 rocking Sao Paulo, said
 the reports from the
 Carnival Organizing
 Committee on Thursday.

Parties had already begun
 prior to the traditional
 international festivities
 to be held in Rio de
 Janeiro on 26 February
 as samba schools start
 into several days of
 rehearsal, parading along

the streets.

Rio becomes the capital
 of Brazil again during
 carnival, attracting some
 600,000 revellers to take
 part in the samba school
 parade on Sunday and
 Monday. A total of 14
 top schools will perform
 in the parade, which is
 the climax of the
 carnival.

However, only lucky
 tourists will get to see
 it at its best: tickets to
 the 60,000-seat Sambadrome
 were sold out days ago.
 Each school has 75
 minutes to perform in
 the 750 metre Sambadrome,
 striving to get a good
 score and maintain
 itself among the elite.

The 40 judges of the
 Liesa, the samba schools
 union, relegate the two
 worst schools to the
 second division each
 year.

The categories for
 evaluation include
 costume, percussion,
 subject, allegorical
 floats and the samba
 song itself. The Liesa
 judges will give their
 verdicts on Wednesday.
 —MNA/Xinhua



Three Brazilian revellers in costumes dance during a party organized by the Bola Preta Carnival club at the Branco Avenue in Rio de Janeiro on 25 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Malaysia launches first homegrown mobile phones

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Feb—
 Malaysia's first homegrown
 cellular phone, M Mobile,
 which was designed and
 developed in this country,
 made its debut on Friday.

Named M 10, this newly
 launched model not only
 has those standard
 features common in this
 industry but offers Muslim
 users fresh alternatives,
 said M Mobile's Chief
 Executive Officer Zainudin
 Mohd Salleh.

"We hope in our own
 small way, we are able to
 contribute towards the
 government's effort in
 transforming our country
 into a nation of multi-
 skilled, multi-talented
 knowledge workers of
 world standards," said
 Zainudin.

MNA/Xinhua

Tsunami victims in Sri Lanka's east demand homes

COLOMBO, 25 Feb—
 A group of tsunami
 survivors in Sri Lanka's
 eastern coast have staged
 a protest demonstration
 demanding early action
 to provide them with
 homes, police said on
 Saturday.

The police at Kalmunai,
 one of the badly
 devastated towns in the
 country's east coast by
 the 26 December, 2004
 tsunamis, said the group
 numbering around 150
 people have been
 protesting for early
 action.

They have set up a
 camp in the divisional
 secretary's office, a
 government civil
 administration office in
 Kalmunai, police said.

"They have been here
 for the last four days.
 Our talks with them to
 persuade them to move
 out has been failure," a
 policeman said on
 condition of anonymity.
 Police say they urged
 the protesters to vacate
 the secretary's office
 and thereafter have
 talks with the divisional
 secretary but they
 would not oblige.
 —MNA/Xinhua



Visitors to the Hilario Galguera gallery in Mexico City contemplate a piece by British artist Damien Hirst titled "The wrath of God" consisting of a shark in formaldehyde on 23 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Vietnam to build large deepwater seaport

HANOI, 25 Feb— An investment report on building a deepwater seaport in northern Hai Phong City to facilitate domestic and international cargo transport will be submitted to the Vietnamese Government for approval this year, according to local media Friday.

Construction of the seaport, capable of receiving big ships with container capacity of up to 6,000 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) or 50,000 DWT (dead-weight ton), is expected to kick off before 2010 to meet increasing transport demand in Vietnam's northern key economic zone and China's southern localities, newspaper *Pioneer* said.

The Maritime Administration (Vinamarine) under the Vietnamese Transport Ministry is the investor of the project to develop the seaport named Lach Huyen. Vinamarine said in a recent national investment conference that it would call for foreign investment in 3 international ports between 2006 and 2010. The three ports are the Lach Huyen Seaport with an annual handling

capacity of 30 million tons of cargo with investment capital of 3,400 billion Vietnamese dong (VND) (213.8 million US dollars), the Lien Chieu Seaport in central Da Nang city with capacity of 1.9 million tons and investment of 1,850 billion VND (nearly 116.4 million dollars), and the Van Phong transshipment port in central Khanh Hoa Province with investment of 3,150 billion VND (198.1 million dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam signs contracts to export 2.4 mln tons of rice

HANOI, 25 Feb — Vietnamese enterprises have inked contracts on exporting 2.4 million tons of rice due for shipment in the second quarter of this year, local media reported on Friday. A large part of the rice volume will be shipped to

the Philippines, Malaysia and Africa, newspaper *Vietnam News* quoted the Vietnam Food Association as saying.

Vietnam has set targets of producing 38-39 million tons of paddy rice and selling overseas 4-4.2 million tons this year. Prices for Vietnamese rice for export are low mainly because the local products bear no well-known trade names, said the association.

Vietnam exported more than 5.2 million tons of rice worth nearly 1.4 billion US dollars in 2005, up 27.3 per cent and 47.3 per cent, respectively, against 2004, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese firm builds power plant in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 25 Feb— The Chengda Engineering Corporation of China (CECC) has completed a power plant project worth 510 million US dollars that began to pass a test Friday in the Indonesian province of Central Java. Started in April 2004, the project in the town of Cilacap was completed three months earlier than schedule, executives with the company said.

The 600-megawatt power plant is expected to help supply electricity to densely populated islands of Java, Bali and Madura. — MNA/Xinhua

the Philippines, Malaysia and Africa, newspaper *Vietnam News* quoted the Vietnam Food Association as saying.

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MNA/Xinhua

Iran to build oil refinery in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 25 Feb— Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono asked his Minister of Energy to follow up Iran's commitment to jointly build an oil refinery in Indonesia, Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda said here Thursday.

Wirajuda made the statement after accompanying President Susilo to meet with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki at the State Palace here.

"The discussion was about Iranian intention to invest in building an oil refinery in Indonesia. The President has instructed the Minister of Energy to follow up the plan," Wirajuda told a joint Press conference here.

Indonesian Minister

for Mines and Energy Purnomo Yusgiantoro is encouraged to visit Iran.

According to the Iranian Foreign Minister, Iran would invest 1.5 to 2 billion US dollars in the field of energy in Indonesia.

The refinery was first initiated by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad when he met President Susilo in the United Nations' summit in New York.

MNA/Xinhua



Actor Richard Gere points at the audience while being honoured as Hasty Pudding Theatricals Man of the Year at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 24 Feb, 2006. Hasty Pudding Theatricals honours an actor and actress each year with a humorous roast and a pudding pot.—INTERNET



Chinese students use the Internet during a computer class at a middle school in Maogong, in China's rural Liping county, Guizhou Province on 25 Feb, 2006. INTERNET

Thailand to buy up to 12 planes from Indonesia

JAKARTA, 25 Feb— The Indonesian Government claimed Friday neighbouring Thailand had agreed to buy 10-12 propeller planes manufactured by PT Dirgantara Indonesia for 2 trillion rupiah (about 215 million US dollars).

Minister of State-Owned Enterprises Sugiharto said the agreement was reached during a meeting Thursday involving Thai and Indonesian defence officials, Dirgantara executives and himself.

Sugiharto said the CN-235 planes will be delivered to the Thai military and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The minister said the planes will be paid cash, setting aside allegations that Thailand might pay

with rice or sticky rice as it did in the previous purchase. "They (Thailand) pushed for the delivery of a plane in March and we luckily have one in stocks," Sugiharto was quoted by the *Antara* news agency as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

Three Gorges Dam to see doubled number of tourists

YICHANG (Hubei Province), 25 Feb — The annual number of tourists to the Three Gorges Dam is expected to double that of 2005 in the next few years, said Chen Mengjiong, head of the Three Gorges Tourism Development Co Ltd.

According to Chen, who ascribed the robust growth to the corporate management of the tourism industry, the Three Gorges Dam is expected to accommodate from 1.5 to two million tourists annually during the 11th five-year

programme (2006-2010) period.

In 2005, about 1.05 million people visited the world's biggest hydropower project and the cooperation realized revenue of 184 million yuan (22.7 million US dollars).

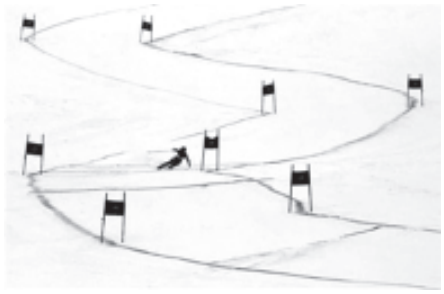
Chen said a range of recreational facilities, including a memorial garden for the Three Gorges Project, an aquarium and a botanical garden will be built in the dam area in the years to come.

MNA/Xinhua



A Kenyan worker prepares coffee beans before storage at the Kiamariga coffee factory in Karatina, Nyeri, 100km northwest of the Kenyan capital Nairobi, on 24 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

SPORTS



Anja Paerson of Sweden skis down the course during the women's Alpine skiing giant slalom race at the Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Sestriere, Italy, on 24 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Atletico make it six in a row with 5-0 win over Malaga

MADRID, 26 Feb— Atletico Madrid continued their impressive form under new coach Pepe Murcia when they stretched their winning run to six matches with the 5-0 demolition of Primera Liga basement side Malaga on Saturday.

Atletico roared into a 2-0 lead at the Calderon inside the first 10 minutes thanks to an opportunist double from leading striker Fernando Torres.

The Spain forward grabbed his first when he poked home from close range, after Malaga keeper Inaki Goitia spilled a powerful half-volley from Argentine forward Maxi Rodriguez, and added a second when he fired in on the turn from just inside the area.

Malaga, who had won just one of their previous 12 matches, were 3-0 down five minutes before halftime, Maxi ghosting in at the far post after Mateja Kezman headed the ball into his path following a free kick.

Kezman spurned the chance to add another be-

fore halftime when he fired a penalty straight at Goitia after the Malaga keeper had felled Maxi in the area.—MNA/Reuters



Nantes' midfielder Jeremy Toulalan, left, controls the ball ahead of Paris Saint Germain midfielder Edouard Cisse during their French League One soccer match, on 25 Feb, 2006 in Nantes, western France.—INTERNET

Sporting narrow gap on Porto with win over Academica

LISBON, 26 Feb— Sporting cruised to a 3-0 win at Academica to move within two points of leaders Porto in the Portuguese Premier

Ballack double helps Bayern crush Frankfurt

BERLIN, 26 Feb 26— Bayern Munich put the frustration of their mid-week Champions League draw against AC Milan behind them by thrashing Eintracht Frankfurt 5-2 on Saturday.

Germany midfielder Michael Ballack and Paolo Guerrero scored two each and Claudio Pizarro added a fifth to hand Bayern their 11th victory in 11 matches at home in the Bundesliga this season.

Bayern lead the standings with 58 points from 23 matches. Werder Bremen moved into second, nine points behind Bayern, after a 2-0 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach.

MNA/Reuters

Lampard strikes for Chelsea, Arsenal lose again

LONDON, 26 Feb— Frank Lampard steered Chelsea to a 2-0 win over Portsmouth while Arsenal's Champions League hopes for next season suffered a bodyblow with a 1-0 defeat at Blackburn Rovers on Saturday.

England midfielder Lampard slotted home the breakthrough goal for the champions at Stamford Bridge after 65 minutes and Dutch winger Arjen Robben made sure of the points with their second on 78 minutes.

The laboured victory on a heavy pitch, just three days after their Champions League loss there to Barcelona, extended Chelsea's lead at the top over Manchester United to 15 points.

Arsenal, who beat Real Madrid 1-0 away on Tuesday, failed to close the five-point gap on north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur in the race for next season's Champions League after Norway's Morten Gamst Pedersen got the only goal at Ewood Park.

Birmingham City beat Sunderland 1-0 in their relegation scrap with an Emile Heskey goal and Charlton Athletic were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Aston Villa.

Chelsea looked jaded after their 2-1 defeat by Barcelona and took their time warming up against Harry Redknapp's side, who now look firm candidates for the drop. Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba lined up the precious opener for Lampard, with the England midfielder making up for what had been a disap-



Chelsea's Robert Huth, top, climbs above Portsmouth's Lomana Tresor Lua Lua for the ball during their English Premiership League soccer match at Stamford Bridge, London, on 25 Feb, 2006. Chelsea won the match 2-0.—INTERNET

pointing performance with a fine finish. Robben did the same after being set up by a superb ball over the top of Portsmouth's defence by Icelandic striker-cum-midfielder Eidur Gudjohnsen.

Henin-Hardenne beats Sharapova for Dubai title

DUBAI, 26 Feb— Justine Henin-Hardenne won her 25th career title on Saturday when she defeated Maria Sharapova 7-5, 6-2 in the final of the Dubai Open.

It was the fourth-seeded Belgian's third Dubai title and her second tournament victory of the year after winning in Sydney and finishing as runner-up at the Australian Open in Melbourne.

She also remains unbeaten in her 12 matches in Dubai. Third seed Sharapova was denied her 11th career title in her first final since she won on grass in Birmingham in June. Since that victory, the 18-year-old Russian had lost six straight semifinals, including those of Wimbledon, the US Open and the Australian Open, until her win over Lindsay Davenport on Friday. —MNA/Reuters

Stepanek upsets Davydenko to reach Rotterdam final

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 26 Feb— Radek Stepanek will get a fourth chance to bag a maiden career title after beating Nikolay Davydenko 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 to reach final of the World Tournament on Saturday.

The Czech, who has lost his three previous ATP finals, rallied from 3-1 down in the decider, reeling off five straight games against the second-seeded Russian.

"I knew what I had to do but I felt a bit tired in the first set after a late quarterfinal on Friday," the 27-year-old Stepanek told a news conference.

"Against a player like Davydenko you are not allowed to make any mistakes at all. "I turned the match in the second set and even when I was 3-1 down in the third I had the feeling I was in control.

"When you are able to change your game plan during the match it can make the difference. That is my strongest weapon." —MNA/Reuters



Italy's Flavia Pennetta, celebrates her victory after beating Maria Sanchez Lorenzo from Spain at the Colsanitas Cup WTA Tennis Tournament in Bogota, Colombia, on 25 Feb, 2006. Pennetta won the match 6-1, 6-4.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

S	R	C	T	D	P										
W	E	I	G	H	T	A	W	H	I	L	E				
E	N	E	A	I	N	T									
A	U	G	M	E	N	T	N	I	G	H	T				
T	L	K	T	K	Y	Y									
E	V	E	N	D	E	A	L	T							
R	T	S	N	E	C	D									
S	S	A	N	O	D	E	M	O	O	R					
S	H	A	A	C	L	E									
C	H	A	F	F	N	E	R	V	O	U	S				
A	P	F	T	Y	U	S									
R	I	P	P	L	E	S	P	A	R	S	E				
F	Y	E					T	S			R				

Cyprus hit by severe sandstorm, flights cancelled

NICOSIA, 26 Feb— Cyprus was engulfed in an unusually severe sandstorm on Saturday, sending people to hospital with breathing problems and cancelling flights from the Mediterranean holiday island.

A thick blanket of gritty dust settled over the capital Nicosia, blotting out the sun and giving the capital a beige tinge from sand brought in gusts from the African Sahara.

By midday Saturday three departing flights were cancelled from the western region of Paphos because of the storm and

several people were hospitalized with respiratory problems.

The meteorological office said the dust was expected to start clearing by Sunday.

Cyprus, in the north-east Mediterranean, occasionally gets the tail-end of sandstorms afflicting countries like Egypt or Lebanon in February and March, but they are not usually severe.

Fog and dust also blanketed Cairo on Saturday, delaying at least 25 flights from the international airport, airport sources said.

Egypt's meteorological authority said the weather was normal for the time of year with the change in air pressure as winter ended and would improve by Sunday.

MNA/Reuters



Tiger Woods of the US reacts to missing a putt on the 16th green during his match against Chad Campbell also of the US at the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship golf tournament in Carlsbad, California, on 24 Feb 2006. Campbell won the match one up.—INTERNET



WEATHER

Sunday, 26 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Kayin State and Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Pinlaung (7°C).

Maximum temperature on 25-2-2006 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 26-2-2006 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 26-2-2006 was (79%). Total sunshine hours on 25-2-2006 was (7.7) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 26-2-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northwest at (15:00) hours MST on 25-2-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27-2-2006: Isolated rain are likely in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon and Kayin 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: Continuation of likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-2-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-2-2006: Fair weather.

Asleep in Jesus Daw Kolandai Therese Anthony, Age 66

Former teacher at State High School No 3, Mingalataungnyunt, beloved wife of the late (Mr. Anthony), loving mother of Rev Sister Salette Mary OSM BSc (Yangon), M.Ed (England) Provincial Superior of Servite Sisters of Myanmar, Martina Mary Santiago, Miss Angela Selvi, BA (Hons) I.R., Secretary at Wan Lwin Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Juliana Mary, BA History Joseph and Francina Mary, BSc Physics(Q) Inthukayam and loving sister of Susila Mary, Mr. Arul Sebast, Mrs Arual Mary Santiago, Mr. Joseph, Mr Pakia Dass Susai Mary and Rev Sister Arokiam Mary OSM, Servite Sister and grandmother of 10, passed away peacefully at 9:00 am on (26-2-2006).

Funeral mass at 1:00 pm at St Anthony's Church and thence to Ye-Way cemetery for burial.

Beloved Family



Monday, 27 February
View on today

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Oattamathara

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. Song of national races

8:05 am

6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

7. Cute little dancers

8:20 am

8. နတ်သားတော်ရေးသောပုံစံ

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Grammar Made Easy

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Demonstration Exercises for Correct Pronunciation

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့ပညာရေးရရှိခြင်းကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ရှုထောင့်၊ သတ္တဗော အထူးပြုများ) (ရက္ခဗော)

5:15 am

6. Dance variety

5:25 pm

7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:30 pm

8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:40 pm

9. Song and dance of national races

5:50 pm

10. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

6:00 pm

11. Evening news

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရယ်ရယ်ဆော့ဗြဲ" ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်ဆိတ်လေး" (အပိုင်း-၆၇)

6:50 pm

14. Industrial achievement

7:10 pm

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်ဆွေကားထစ်" (အပိုင်း-၄၂) (ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ရင်ဖွယ်နေ့ကလေးများ" (အပိုင်း-၁၃)

20. The next day's programme



Monday, 27 February
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music: -On top of the world

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music: -I'll find you

8:50 am National news / Slogan

9:00 am Music:

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music -Hello

1:30 pm News / Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music

-Wonderful life

-Yes you do

9:00 pm Spotlight on the star

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Drugs Elimination

9:30 pm Local Gems, Golden Land melody

9:45 pm News

10:00 pm PEL

Progress of railroad section at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) inspected

YANGON, 26 Feb — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun made an inspection tour of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) Construction Project in Mawlamyine yesterday.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on construction of the approach railroad on Mottama bank by Senior Engineer U Myo Win. The minister instructed officials to minimize loss and wastage and take measures for worksite safety.

At the construction site, the minister oversaw production of pre-stressed reinforced concrete beams and operating of bored-pile machines.

The minister and party inspected progress in construction of the approach railroad on Mottama bank.

On arrival at Mawlamyine bank, Senior Engineer U Tint Lwin submitted reports on progress of the

bridge construction. After hearing the reports, the minister fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister inspected construction tasks on Mawlamyine bank with the use of heavy machinery.

Approach railroad will be 6,481 feet on Mawlamyine bank and 7,498 feet on Mottama bank. The main railroad bridge will be 7,699 feet long. The railroad bridge will be 16 feet wide including pedestrian ways and it can withstand IRS 17-ton loads.

Public Works had built 645 out of 648 foundation bored piles at the approach railroads. Likewise, 162 out of 169 piling caps and piles had been constructed. In addition, 113 bridge spans out of 169 had been placed with floor tiles. The remaining sections of the railroad are under construction.

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

Matters coordinated to hold 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium

YANGON, 26 Feb — The meeting to review sale of gems and jades at the Mid-Myanmar Gems Emporium held in October 2005 was held in conjunction with the meeting of the Central Committee for Organizing the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium which will be held in March this year at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion were Patron of Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Committee Chairman Deputy



Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint addresses meeting on review of sale of gems and jades at the Mid-Myanmar Gems Emporium.—MNA

Minister U Myint Thein, Secretary Myanmar Gems Enterprise Managing Director U Thein Swe and

members, chairmen and secretaries of respective subcommittees. First, sale of gems

and jades at the Mid-Myanmar Gems Emporium held in October 2005 and arrangements for

putting lots of gems and jades on sale at the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium were discussed by the subcommittees. Next, the management, security and information subcommittees also dealt with their respective tasks.

Next the meeting approved the holding of the 43rd Myanmar Gems

Emporium from 15 to 24 March. Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, Managing Director U Thein Swe and members of the Central Committee discussed matters on the boosting of foreign exchange through sale of gems and jades at the emporium. Later, the minister gave the concluding remarks.—MNA

Myanmar League soccer matches go ahead in Aung San Stadium, Thuwunna

YANGON, 26 Feb— Myanmar League soccer matches went ahead in Aung San Stadium and Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) at 3.30 pm today.

Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna)
Kanbawza (4) goals

Yaza Soe (2) goals and Tun Min Oo (2) goals
A&I (0) goals

Kanbawza remained eight place on Myanmar League standings with five wins, two draws and five losses on 17 points while A&I stood 13th place with three wins, one draw and eight losses on 10 points.

Aung San Stadium
Home Affairs (2) goals
Army (A) (0) goals

Home Affairs was at sixth place on Myanmar League standings with five wins, three draws, four losses on 18 points whereas Army (A) reached the bottom line of relegation zone without wins.

Present Fixtures
YTC (Thuwunna)
F&R Vs Transport

Aung San Stadium
YCDC Vs Forestry



A&I defender Ohn Sein and Tun Tun Naung of Kanbawza fight for the ball in Myanmar League.

NLM

INSIDE

People especially urban folks use electricity for lighting, cooking, ironing, operating TV and karaoke sets and welding. The users should notice that after doing work or when electricity is out, electric light switch is to be turned off.