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Tuesday, 28 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

Sustainability required in realizing National Sanitation Week goal

YANGON, 27 Feb— A ceremony to launch the ninth National Sanitation Week (2006) jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF was opened at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here this morning.

to control air and water pollution. According to law, the public are responsible for carrying out environmental tasks under the supervision of the health officers in the respective regions.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry

of Progress of Border Areas and National RacWes and Development Affairs are to implement the tasks for use of fly-proof latrines in villages and townships nationwide under the resolution 9 of the 20th meeting of the National

Health Committee held on 30 November 1995.

The government has laid down and is implementing the rural development project covering the task of providing clean water for the public. The people will have to systematically dispose garbage and to use only clean water. The people will be free from diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, parasite-related illness, jaundice and polio if they always keep their hands clean and prepare food in

hygienic condition.

The National Sanitation Week has been held since 1998 to accelerate the sanitation work. There will be more difficulties in implementing the project as it now covers over 80 per cent of the population. The remaining 20 per cent may be of the poor and the underprivileged. At this stage the project cannot be implemented through conventional means. The project needs more inputs and assistance and correct

management. All should give priority to ensuring sustainability in implementing the on-going project. YCDC and MCDC should issue directives to further accelerate the sanitation project, and all schools should be provided with fly-proof toilets and hygienic water.

The Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, the Myanmar Music Asiayon, the Myanmar Thabin Asiayon, and (See page 8)



*Secretary-1
Lt-Gen
Thein Sein
addresses
National
Sanitation
Week
(2006).
MNA*

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Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered a speech.

In his speech, he said clean water, systematic garbage disposal, personal hygiene and clean hands and food are related one another and they contribute towards the improvement of health and socio-economic development of the State.

The degree of improvement in water and sanitation level is indicator that shows the development of a country. This is why Myanmar has laid down the health policies



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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 28 February, 2006

Improve transport system of the nation

The government is constantly fulfilling the basic requirements for economic development and higher socio-economic status of the national people. As the transport sector plays a pivotal role in raising the socio-economic status of the people, the government is also implementing the plans for transport infrastructure development.

New motor roads and railroads are being built the length and breadth of the nation and at the same time the old ones are being upgraded. Not only that, bridges, big and small, are being constructed on the new motor roads and railroads. As a result, people in all parts of the nation can easily travel from one region to another.

Rail, road and water transports are the main modes of transport in the nation. The better and smoother the transport sector, the higher the socio-economic status of the national people. Therefore, measures are being taken sector-wise to improve the transportation of passengers and goods.

Since 1993, Myanma Shipyards of the Ministry of Transport has been building and docking vessels for inland water transport as well as for foreign companies. According to the international vessel inspection agencies, vessels built by Myanma Shipyards are of international standard. So far, Myanma Shipyards has built 22 vessels for companies in Singapore, China and Indonesia.

In addition to ship-building, Myanma Shipyards also engages in docking vessels. In the past, Myanma Shipyards could dock only 1700-ton vessels but now it can dock 12000-ton vessels. At present, the 13000-ton cargo ship of Myanma Five Star Line MV Mandalay is being docked. In January, 2005, a dry dockyard was built and in the 2005-2006 fiscal year seven vessels were docked at the dry dockyard.

In the past, vessels were docked at foreign dockyards. Now, as the local dry dockyard can handle vessels, it saves a lot of foreign currency. We would like to call on all those responsible of the Ministry of Transport to try their best to improve the entire transport system of the nation including transportation of passengers and goods.



A total of K 100,000 was donated to Hninzigon Home for the Aged in commemoration of the birthday of Daw Yin Yin Myint (Retired Editor of Myanmar Language Commission) of 41, Myenu Street, Sangyoung Township, Yangon recently.—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

Teachership course on promotion of reproductive health opens



MMCWA Vice-President Dr Tin Lin Myint addresses the opening Teachership course No 1/2006 (Central Level). — MNA



Mr Daniel B Baker. MNA

YANGON, 27 Feb — Teachership course No 1/2006 (Central Level) on promotion of reproductive health project was opened at the office of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association in South Oakkalapa Township this morning. The course is

co-organized by Health Department, MMCWA and UNFPA.

First, MMCWA Vice-President Dr Tin Lin Myint addressed the opening ceremony and UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Daniel B Baker briefed on facts

about the project.

A total of 40 members from State and Division MCWAs are attending the five-week course. On completion of the course, the trainees will conduct multiplier course to 45 trainees in their respective regions. — MNA

Myanmar PGA and MGF President Cup 2006 goes ahead for second day



YANGON, 27 Feb — Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation President Cup for 2006, organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation went ahead at Hanthawaddy Golf and Country Club in Bago Division this morning.

After an 18-hole event for the second day, Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) took the lead with total strokes 140 ahead of Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) and Aung Win (Srixon+YCDC) with total strokes 144 each, followed by Aung San Win (Srixon) with total strokes 145 in the professional level.

Htay Aung Htay led the men's amateur level with total strokes 147 ahead of Naing Naing Lin with 149, followed by Bo Bo with 152.

KBZ Bank Ltd, KM Golf Centre, Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water, Grand Royal Special Reserve, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Eden Group Co Ltd, Hanthawaddy Golf and Country Club, Taunggyi Gem-Master Enterprises Ltd took part in providing assistance with the tournament. Moreover, Han Event Management organized the tournament.

An eighteen-hole event continues at the same venue tomorrow. — MNA

Myanmar League matches continue at AS Stadium, Thuwunna

YANGON, 27 Feb — Myanmar League matches for 2005-2006 continued in Aung San Stadium and Youth Training Camp (Thuwunna) at 3.30 pm today.

YTC (Thuwunna)

F&R 1 (goal)

(Kyaw Kyaw Soe)

Transport 0

F&R took the lead in Myanmar League standings with 12 wins and one draw on 37 points while Transport remained the third place with seven wins, four draws and two losses on 25 points.

Aung San Stadium

YCDC 0

Forestry 0

YCDC was at the sixth place on Myanmar League standings with five wins, three draws and five losses on 18 points whereas Forestry stood the eight place with five wins, two draws and six losses on 17 points.

Today's Fixtures
Construction Vs Commerce
Defence Vs Sunye



Khin Maung Tun of F&R tussles fights with Tun Naung Oo of Transport for the ball. — NLM



Iran agrees in principle with Russia on enrichment offer

Moscow, 26 Feb—Russia and Iran have reached an agreement in principle on setting up a uranium enrichment joint venture, Iranian Vice President Gholamreza Aghazadeh said on Sunday, the *Interfax* news agency reported.

Aghazadeh, who is also the country's nuclear chief, told a press conference in Bushehr, Iran, that negotiations on the issue will continue.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said here on Sunday that Moscow will maintain "contacts" with Iran over the latter's nuclear plans ahead of a 6 March meeting of the board of governors of the UN's nuclear watchdog, "Contacts on this subject will continue until the meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 6 March in Vienna," Lavrov told reporters.—*Internet*

11 Iranians shot dead as family feud boils over

TEHERAN, 26 Feb— A father and two sons shot dead 11 of their relatives and wounded six more in a family feud in the southern Iranian city of Jahrom, a judiciary official said on Saturday. Alimohammad Afsaneh, in his 40s, and his two sons, aged 17 and 20, burst into a garden where their relatives were gathering on Friday afternoon and opened fire with assault rifles, said the official who declined to be named.

"They killed two of (Afsaneh's) brothers, a sister of his and other members of their family. Altogether 11 people were killed," he said.—*MNA/Reuters*

Highest atmospheric pollution monitored in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 26 Feb— The highest atmospheric pollution monitoring station in the world has begun to collect data on the composition of the atmosphere over the Himalayas and the Asian plateau, Radio Nepal reported on Saturday.

The Ev-K2-CNR Committee's ABC-Pyramid station was set up in Khumbu Valley of Nepal at a height of 5,079 metres, the state-owned radio said.

"Continuous measurements are being carried out, using instruments like nephelometer, DMPS-SMPS, optical particle counter, black carbon and ozone analyzer. All meteorological parameters are also being monitored," the radio quoted the Ev-K2-CNR Committee as saying.

"Hi-volume sampling for aerosol chemical composition (inorganic, organic, mass and dust) and

steel flask sampling for the analyses of halocarbons relevant for climate issues have also begun," the radio said.

ABC-Pyramid will make up for a lack of crucial information from remote,

high altitude areas in the South Asian region on the environmental consequences of the rapid economic development of one of the most densely populated areas of the world. —*MNA/Xinhua*



Snow, an American Bulldog tries to pull a sled carrying 1020 pounds of weight in it as his owner Donnavon Shanigan encourages him during the lightweight division of the Fur Rondy World Championship Dog Weight Pull in Anchorage, Alaska, on 25 Feb, 2006. Snow won the division pulling 900 pounds. —INTERNET



A general view of the nuclear power plant in Bushehr, about 1,215 km (755 miles) south of Tehran, Iran on 26 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Bus accident kills 23 in S-W China

GUIYANG, 26 Feb— Twenty-three people were killed after a bus plunged 30 metres into a ravine in southwest China's Guizhou Province Friday morning, local police reported.

The accident, which also injured more than 20 people, occurred at about 6:30 am, when the bus ploughed through the highway's guardrail about 12 kilometres from the provincial capital

Guiyang. The Sichuan licensed bus travelling from Zhongshan City of Guangdong Province to Luzhou of Sichuan Province, was running on a highway linking Guiyang and Xinzhai Township of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Initial investigations indicate that careless driving is likely to be the cause of the tragedy, said Wang Jianwu, a local traffic police officer at

the scene.

Wang said injured passengers told him that the driver lost control when he tried to reach for something.

The injured passengers have been sent to hospitals and the bus was retrieved from the valley by two cranes, the police said.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation and the exact number of people onboard has yet to be determined.

MNA/Xinhua

Zambia harassed by bomb scare hoaxes

LUSAKA, 26 Feb— Zambia's capital Lusaka was harassed by hoaxes of bomb scares as different organizations and institutes in the city received anonymous calls of bomb scare within four days in the week.

Operations in the city's Church House came to a standstill on Friday morning for more than two hours after it received a phone call saying a bomb

had been planted in the building which houses the Council of Churches.

The bomb scare came only a day after the City Market and the Non-governmental Organization Co-ordinating Committee (NGOCC) received similar phone call and text messages on Thursday.

Marketers and workers for the NGOCC were evacuated after the bomb scares but police search proved to be fruitless as no bomb was found in neither places.

And on Tuesday, a similar bomb scare hoax derailed the trial of Zambian Former President Fredrick Chiluba which was scheduled to be held at a magistrate court in the capital. —*MNA/Xinhua*



Iraqi soldiers hold their weapons on board a vehicle as they patrol a road in Baghdad, on 26 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

2,290 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 26 Feb —As of Sunday, 26 Feb, 2006, at least 2,290 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 1,793 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is one higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 101 deaths; Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, one death each.

Internet

New fossil may rewrite history of mammal evolution

NANJING, 26 Feb— With its forelegs upright like a dog and hind legs stretching out like a lizard, experts say a newly discovered fossil may rewrite the history of mammalian evolution.

In their joint research on mammal fossils in the western part of Northeast China's Liaoning Province, two distinct bone characteristics in the fossil of a sharp-mouthed mammal were collected by Chen Piji, a Nanjing-based researcher of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

The British research journal, *Nature*, reported the unprecedented discovery, which is believed by some as holding the

potential to change the traditional theory on the evolution of mammals.

Li Gang, one of the co-authors of the paper, said existing mammals are classified into two groups — viviparous therians which have fully evolved bones, such as kangaroos and elephants; and oviparous monotremes, which have rather primitive bones, like lizards.

The newly discovered fossil, however, has the characteristics of both, a trait that was never

observed before, said the researcher with CAS Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology.

An analysis of the fossil shows the mammal, which lived some 120 million years ago in the early Cretaceous period, was about 12 centimeters long and weighed between 15 and 20 grams. It looks very much like a gecko, but with the help of a microscope, experts saw it had straight front legs like a rat or dog, while its hind legs resemble

those of a lizard, with a 90-degree angle between the thigh and calf.

Further observation also found many evolutionary discrepancies.

For example, it has the teeth of a therian but shares the lumbar ribs found only in primitive mammals.

It resembled a viviparous therian in the skull, upper limbs and shoulder bones but had the lumbar, pelvis and lower limbs of an ovipara.

Internet

ဝက်မုခွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်ပြုလွှား



A bald eagle is seen at Cabarceno nature reserve near Santander in northern Spain on 22 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET



A South Korean male railway worker bows as he guides the passengers boarding a bullet train at Seoul railway station on 26 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Chirac eats chicken at Paris agriculture trade show

PARIS, 26 Feb— French President Jacques Chirac ate some pieces of chicken at the 43rd agriculture trade show opened on Saturday in Paris to show “no danger” to consume poultry and eggs.

Chirac inaugurated the annual agriculture trade show, chomping on chicken of the Bresse region, where the first case of bird flu on a European farm has been confirmed.

“There is no danger in consuming poultry and eggs,” Chirac reiterated at the stand of the national federation of the farmers’ trade unions, adding “there is no reason to provoke panic, that is just

outrageous”.

“The virus is automatically destroyed through cooking,” Chirac noted.

European Union Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, also present at the trade show, said that while the spread of bird flu “is not yet a crisis”, it was a European problem with real economic consequences.

The French President

met briefly with Japanese Agriculture Minister Shoichi Nakagawa, who was present at the event and whose country announced on Friday a temporary ban on French imports of poultry meat, all liver products including giblets.

Nakagawa said that all that his country expected was to respect the food rules and that he was sure that his country’s precautionary ban on French poultry “will not create obstacles between France and Japan”.

France Agriculture Ministry confirmed earlier Saturday the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus in a turkey farm in southeast France, adding that the farm has been sealed off with surviving birds slaughtered.

So far, eight EU countries — Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia — have reported cases of the H5N1 virus detected in wild birds. —MNA/Xinhua

Guinea fishing boat sinks, 29 feared dead

CONAKRY, 26 Feb— Twenty-nine people are feared to have drowned after a Guinean fishing boat illegally carrying passengers sank in the Atlantic Ocean, local government officials said on Friday.

The pirogue, a low, narrow craft often used for fishing or transport, foundered on Thursday just offshore at Kachec, in the West African country’s northern district of Kanfarande, they said. “We are still looking for bodies. This morning we found two corpses. Of the 52 people on board, there are only 23 survivors according to a provisional assessment,” Kachec rural community council leader Fautin Bangoura told Reuters by telephone.

“It was a pirogue belonging to a local fishing company which, unbeknown to the owner, had illegally taken on passengers. Only those who managed to jump onto the sand were able to escape,” he said.

Fishing boats in the area

are banned from taking passengers. Large numbers of people die every year in boating accidents on Africa’s lakes and inshore waters, many because they cannot swim. Rough waves broke up the boat and when the tide went out, local people found the badly damaged hull lying on the seabed, Bangoura said. —MNA/Reuters



Five thousand amateur singers belt it out Ludwig van Beethoven’s Symphony No 9 ‘Choral’ during the 22nd annual concert at Tokyo’s Ryogoku Kokugikan arena on 26 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Death toll reaches 64 in Moscow roof collapse

Moscow, 26 Feb— The death toll has reached 64, with 22 people still hospitalized, in a roof collapse at a Moscow market, Russian Emergency Ministry officials said early Saturday.

Rescuers have retrieved a total of 63 bodies under the deris of the market, and one more person died in hospital, the

Interfax news agency reported. The roof collapse happened at the Bauman market in eastern Moscow on Thursday, and all the victims were believed to be workers from Azerbaijan and other former Soviet republics.

Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said on Thursday night that work to clear the rubbles of the roof may

take about five days, and a special technical commission had been set up to look into the disaster.

Officials said heavy snowfall overnight, as well as design flaws, might be to blame for the collapse. Prosecutors had opened a criminal investigation on charges of negligence leading to deaths.

MNA/Xinhua

Light plane crashes in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 26 Feb— A privately owned small aircraft crashed in Indonesia’s central Java on Saturday, killing all three people on board, a local media report said.

The *Super Rebel 2500* from a flying school was on a training flight from Jakarta to the city of Semarang on the northern coast of Java Island. It went down in a field near the town of Subang, 180 kilometres east of Jakarta. El-Shinta radio station said that the two pilots had reported an engine problem just before the crash of the propeller-driven four-seater plane. —MNA/Xinhua

Iran, China pledge to enhance all-round cooperation

TEHERAN, 26 Feb—Iran and China pledged on Saturday to promote the development of bilateral relations in all fields.

During his talks with visiting Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Lu Guozeng, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad commended China's achievements in its social construction and said that bilateral relations have undergone smooth development in recent years. Iran views China as a friend and co-operation partner and hopes to strengthen its cooperation with China in all fields, Ahmadinejad said. For his part, Lu said China attaches importance to developing relations with Iran and appreciates Iran's adherence to the "one China" policy.

"China is willing to work with Iran to further enhance bilateral exchanges and cooperation in such fields as politics, economy, trade and culture," said Lu, who also discussed Iran's nuclear issue with the Iranian President.

Lu also met with Iran's Supreme Security Council secretary Ali Larijani and Deputy

Foreign Minister Mehdi Safari on Saturday and had an in-depth and candid exchange of views on bilateral ties, international and regional issues of mutual concern as well as the Iranian nuclear issue.

Lu arrived here on Friday for a working visit at the invitation of the Iranian Foreign Ministry. *MNA/Xinhua*



A plane flies over a snow-covered hill before landing at Madrid's Barajas Airport on 26 Feb, 2006. A heavy snowfall hit the Spanish capital and the centre of the country in a wave of cold weather—INTERNET

President Susilo officially inaugurates country's 9th satellite

JAKARTA, 26 Feb—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono inaugurated the country's ninth satellite, which has wider coverage, in West Java Province, a media reported here on Saturday.

"The new satellite has a wider coverage area. It can reach other countries in South-East Asia, southern Africa and Australia, as well as all the cities and villages in Indonesia," said President Susilo who was quoted by the *Jakarta Post*.

Telkom-2 is the ninth Indonesian satellite to be deployed, and replaces the previous B4 satellite, which stopped operation

last year. The new satellite was launched on a French Ariane 5 rocket last November after a number of cancellations due to technical problems.

The new satellite, operated by state-owned PT Telkom, is intended to cater to growing telecommunications needs, particularly for Internet, e-business and e-banking services.

President Susilo said that the satellite would also help enhance education and health services, and the country's defence as it would be able to provide connections to even the most isolated areas.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indonesian Red Cross official sprays disinfectant at a bird market in Jakarta during a campaign to stamp out bird flu outbreak on 26 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Croatia finds bird flu virus in another dead swan

ZAGREB, 26 Feb—Croatia said on Saturday it had found its second case this week of avian flu in dead swans on the Adriatic coast and would take all necessary measures to contain it. Mate Brstilo, who heads the veterinary service of the Agriculture Ministry, told state news agency *Hina* the H5 virus was isolated from a swan found dead near the coastal town of Trogir in the southern Adriatic.

MNA/Reuters

Zambia bans export of surplus maize

LUSAKA, 25 Feb—Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa has directed the country's Food Reserve Agency (FRA) to store enough grain before considering exporting any surplus from this year's harvest, local media reported on Saturday.

"I have directed that this year around there should be no export of surplus maize until we have kept at least maize to last us four months," the president was quoted by Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS) as saying when he was attending a traditional ceremony in the Eastern province.

Mwanawasa admitted that the Zambian government had made a mistake by blindly exporting the 2004 farming season surplus maize when the country faced a serious food shortage in the year 2005 following a partial drought.

In November 2005, the President declared the

hunger situation that part of the country was facing a "national disaster," paving the way for mobilization of international assistance.

The government said up to 1.7 million people out of the country's 11 million population were in food shortage.

Mwanawasa assured farmers in the Eastern province that the FRA would buy off their agricultural produce during this year's marketing season.

The President further projected that there would possibly be a bumper harvest judging from the current good rainfall pattern being experienced in the country.—*Internet*

Bus accident kills three in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 26 Feb—Three persons were killed and 16 others injured when a passenger bus skidded off the road in western Nepal on Friday morning, Radio Nepal reported.

The accident happened at Dulegauda of Tanah

District, some 200 kilometres west of Kathmandu, along the Prithvi Highway, the state-owned radio said.

The bus was on its way to Sunauli from Baglung. Two persons were killed on the spot while the third

Saudi forces foil two attempted car bomb attacks

CAIRO, 26 Feb—Saudi security forces foiled two attempted car bomb attacks against an oil refinery in the oil-rich kingdom's eastern province, al-Arabiya channel said on Friday.

A pipeline was damaged in the car bombing attack targeting Baqiq oil refinery, a major oil complex in eastern province, the pan-Arab TV channel reported.

The attack briefly halted the oil flow which resumed shortly afterward, said the Dubai-

based channel.

Two explosive-laden vehicles exploded after security forces fired upon them as the suicide drivers were attempting to ram the cars into the refinery's gates, according to a Saudi security official.

Two attackers in one of the vehicles were killed in the explosions, said the official.

Al-Arabiya said earlier that gunshots and explosions were heard in the refinery area, some 70 kilometres southwest of Dammam, a port city in northeastern Saudi Arabia on the Gulf coast.

Baqiq is a huge oil processing centre which manages two-thirds of the kingdom's oil output.

Saudi Arabia sits on top of the world's oil production, with a daily output of about 9.5 million barrels.—*MNA/Xinhua*



A police forensic officer inspects money cages that were used to store banknotes stolen from the Securitas Depot in Tonbridge, southern England, on 25 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Indonesia launches fourth polio campaign

JAKARTA, 27 Feb—Indonesia launched the fourth massive nationwide polio vaccination on Monday to free the country from the crippling disease, that has hit more than 300 youngsters since March last year, Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare and Poverty Alleviation Aburizal Bakrie said.

First Lady Kriatiani Yudhoyono sprinkled a child in a post in East Jakarta District, marking the beginning of the campaign.

Minister Bakrie said that the fourth move targeted to more than 23 millions children.

"We expect to achieve at least 98 per cent of the target," he said in a post in

Central Jakarta.

Director of Disease Control and Environmental Health of the Health Ministry I Nyoman Kandun told *Xinhua* in telephone that the move was aimed to totally stop the development of the virus, especially in the areas which could not be reached during the three previous rounds, in

August, September and November last year.

The latest case of polio was found in 15 January. "(The vaccination) is still necessary, because the virus transmissions still occur, based on the advise of the World Health Organization's experts, Indonesia still needs to conduct it," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Villagers rescue their car after being hit by flash floods caused by heavy rain in the west of Kuala Lumpur, on 26 Feb 2006. Scores of Malaysians were evacuated and others were trapped in their homes after heavy overnight rain triggered flash floods, a disaster response official said. —INTERNET

Thousands protest against possible US military base transfer to S Japan

TOKYO, 27 Feb — Several thousands of residents in Kanoya, Japan's southern prefecture of Kagoshima, protested on Sunday against a possible military transfer plan, under which a US air tanker fleet may move to the city, *Kyodo News* reported.

Under the US military realignment plan, the air tanker fleet from the US Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Okinawa may transfer to a Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (MSDF) base in Kanoya.

Noise from the MSDF base, which is in the centre of the city, has already reached "an intolerable level", *Kyodo* quoted Kanoya Mayor, Sakae Yamashita as saying.

Organizers estimated around 8,200 people joined the protest held in an athletic field. A resolution was adopted which called on the Japanese Government to urge the United States to review the realignment plan.

MNA/Xinhua



Mexican Red Cross members help a relative of a missing miner outside a mine complex near San Juan de Sabinas in northern Mexico on 25 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Three US soldiers killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 27 Feb— Two US soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in western Baghdad on Sunday, and a third was shot dead in the Iraqi capital. The deaths bring the number of US personnel killed since the invasion in March 2003 to at least 2,291.

One soldier was killed immediately by the bomb, according to the US military, while the second died from wounds after being evacuated to a military hospital. In a separate attack, a US soldier was killed by small arms fire on Sunday evening in central Baghdad, the US military said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Bomb blast at French bank in Athens, no injuries

ATHENS, 27 Feb — A small, homemade bomb exploded outside a French bank in northern Athens early on Saturday, causing minor damage but no injuries, a police official said. "An anonymous call was made to two local TV stations warning of a time bomb placed at the BNP Paribas branch (in the northern Athens suburb) of Maroussi," the official said. Police cordoned off the area after the call. The caller did not say who was responsible for the attacks.—MNA/Reuters

Fire destroys 70 shops in Dhaka

DHAKA, 27 Feb — A fire broke out at a market in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka early Sunday, destroying 70 shops, private news agency *UNB* reported.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit in a shop at New Society Market at 2 a.m. (20:00 GMT Saturday) and soon spread, burning down adjoining shops.

The shops that were burnt in the fire included 20 groceries, 20 meat shops and 10 shops of edible oil and 10 of spices. On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and doused the fire after one hour of frantic efforts. Affected shop owners claimed that the extent of loss could go up to ten million taka. —MNA/Xinhua

Bus accident kills four, injures 26 in N-W China

XI'AN, 27 Feb — Four people were killed and 26 others injured on Saturday when a bus turned over in Xianyang, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, local police said. The accident took place at 1:50 pm Saturday in Qindu District of Xianyang City. The four died on the spot, while two of the 26 injured were in critical condition.

The bus with 33 on board was heading for Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi, from Qingyang of neighbouring Gansu Province, the police said.—MNA/Xinhua

Indian Ocean virus infections climb in Mauritius

PORT LOUIS, 27 Feb — The number of people in Mauritius infected with a mosquito-borne disease which is ravaging through the Indian Ocean region has risen to 962 from 341 the previous week, the government said.

Chikungunya" fever, for which there is no known cure or vaccine, has been spreading through islands off the southeast coast of Africa since January, affecting more than 150,000 people in Reunion, Seychelles and

Mauritius.

"Cabinet has taken note that 962 cases of Chikungunya have been reported as at 23 February 2006," the Cabinet said in a statement after its weekly meeting late on Friday.

The disease, first

recognized in Tanzania, is marked by high fever and severe rashes, and while most people recover, it is extremely painful.

The World Health Organization says it does not believe the tropical virus is fatal, but health

experts say it can weaken the immune system, allowing other deadly diseases to set in. The Mauritius Government says the situation is under control and is telling the island's 1.2 million people not to panic.

Authorities blame the spread of the disease on heavy rains in recent months and have launched a country-wide public awareness campaign. Police have also been mobilized to help spray insecticides in areas where cases of the viral infection have been found, and screening is being conducted at the airport. The island, which is heavily reliant on tourism, has also launched an international campaign to provide information to prospective tourists who may be concerned about the epidemic.

MNA/Reuters



French gendarmes man a 'Chikungunya' crisis headquarter at La Reunion island, on 26 Feb, 2006. 'Chikungunya' fever, a mosquito-borne disease has directly or indirectly killed 77 people on France's Indian Ocean island of La Reunion and had affected some 130,000 people on the island off the southeast coast of Africa. —INTERNET

Enjoy better life through healthy living

Dr Kin Maung Lwin

The activities on National Sanitation Week that started in 1998 have now turned nine years. Myanmar was the first ever to launch the nationwide activities and is meeting with success in this regard.

The salient points of the project are as follows:

1. The nation has been able to make progress most in the coverage of fly-proof latrines in terms of the number and time frame.
2. The entire national people have been able to materialize the policy laid down by the State.
3. They have been able to materialize it on self-reliant basis.
4. They have materialized it along with other sanitation measures such as ensuring supply of clean water, personal hygiene and wholesome food.

There was 40 per cent coverage of fly-proof latrines in the nation before the project. At present, there is over 80 per cent coverage. The coverage of fly-proof latrines has doubled during the nine-year period. When compared with the coverage in developing countries, Myanmar has made progress most in the use of fly-proof latrines. Research organizations at home and abroad have confirmed that data and figures on the activities compiled by the Ministry of Health were correct after conducting field surveys.

Although there is over 80 per cent coverage of fly-proof latrines, the actual coverage is about 70 per cent only as some of them have fallen into ruin due to various reasons. In this regard, the necessary measures had been taken since the 6th National Sanitation Week and this led to renovation and upgrading of the remaining fly-proof latrines. The conveniences have now improved quantitatively and qualitatively.

The 7th National Sanitation Week activities launched in 2004 adopted a motto "Use hygienic latrines to enjoy a healthy life" with a view to upgrading fly-proof latrines into better ones.

Confidence, priority and investment are re-

quired for a family in putting in place hygienic latrines. In setting up a hygienic one, more care should be taken to be in conformity with its basic requirements. It is required to change the habits in the use of latrine with emphasis on health consciousness. At the same time, parents must play an exemplary role for the children to follow in the use of toilet.

It is not easy to introduce a fly-proof latrine. It is more difficult to maintain it as a hygienic one. However, thanks to concerted efforts of the entire national people, the project laid down by the State was successfully implemented in Myanmar.

This is a motto "From Policy to Action". Every country has policies. But, it is not easy for them to put the policies into action. Myanmar managed to build about one million fly-proof latrines during the 1st National Sanitation Week activities. This accomplishment drew the attention of the international community.

Fly-proof latrines are indispensable in improving the health standard of rural areas. The establishment of a healthy environment also contributes much to urban development. The project has secured the active participation of the entire national people, because has covered over 60,000 villages. The average cost of one fly-proof latrine is K 10,000. The construction of four million fly-proof latrines cost K 40 billion. Myanmar people have spent such a lot of money on this project.

The active participation of the entire national people is also a contributing factor for the success of the project. As fly-proof latrines are a must for rural regions, wards and villages made concerted efforts in the use of toilets.

At first, people found it difficult to build and use fly-proof latrines. But when they are getting used to it, they come to put a high value on the use of such latrines. They organize others to build more and more. In a village near Pyu, for example, the project of building fly-proof latrines faced difficulties at first. Although a latrine pit is said to last five years, it sometimes falls into ruin in a week because of rodents. However, the villagers remained undaunted and tried

to build the latrines with better looks. Now, almost all of the households in the village are using fly-proof toilets with septic tanks.

The whole world has recognized that the building of a fly-proof latrine is the most difficult task. The project has not met its success although enough materials and loans and in some cases, free services plus the overall cost are provided for building them. Therefore, it has been targeted in the millennium goal that the number of households across the globe without the toilets is to be reduced by half in 2015. With the 80 per cent coverage of fly-proof latrines in Myanmar, building 10 per cent out of the remaining 20 per cent will cover 90 per cent of the whole country.

In the 1980s, the world had been investing billions of dollars in clean water supply projects. But it could not achieve success to a satisfied degree. The health standard of people will not improve if the investment does not go together with environmental sanitation, especially with the use of fly-proof latrines. Diarrhea outbreaks will remain if the latrines are built without proper use of clean water.

Myanmar has given priority to supply of clean water since its establishment of National Sanitation Week. Personal hygiene is also highlighted. It is important to ensure that latrines cannot cause water pollution. Viruses from human excrement can get into the mouths of people through their hands or meals. As a result, people can suffer from bowel disorders, hepatitis and typhoid. Such kinds of diseases can inflict individually or they can break out in the form of epidemic. Hence, preventive measures should be taken first.

Human waste and excrement must not spread into the water and environments. Building fly-proof latrines can not only prevent diseases but also produce numerous benefits. Each and every family should have health consciousness and knowledge to see that water is free from bacteria, viruses and chemicals. One of the facts about personal hygiene is that people are to cultivate the habit of washing their hands with soap. This habit alone can prevent many kinds of diseases. Another fact is that food must be cooked, kept and eaten in a hygienic way. For the people to be fit and healthy, they are to ensure cleanliness of toilets or latrines, water and food plus personal hygiene.

In conclusion, in the activities of the 9th National Sanitation Week, the people are urged to consider the following facts if they want to live in a healthy lifestyle. Fly-proof latrines are to be built for those who have not owned one. Existing ones are to be repaired and upgraded if they are not in good condition. Water supply tasks are to be carried out in the areas where water is scarce. Measures are to be taken to ensure supply of clean water. Emphasis is to be placed on personal hygiene and cleanliness of food.

Human waste and excrement must not spread into the water and environments. Building fly-proof latrines can not only prevent diseases but also produce numerous benefits. Each and every family should have health consciousness and knowledge to see that water is free from bacteria, viruses and chemicals. One of the facts about personal hygiene is that people are to cultivate the habit of washing their hands with soap. This habit alone can prevent many kinds of diseases. Another fact is that food must be cooked, kept and eaten in a hygienic way. For the people to be fit and healthy, they are to ensure cleanliness of toilets or latrines, water and food plus personal hygiene.

(Translation: TS+ST)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party visit the exhibition displaying documentaries of the National Sanitation Week. — MNA

Sustainability required in realizing ...

(from page 1)

Myanmar Radio and TV should help promote the health and sanitation project.

Health staff, related departments, and internal and external social organizations should also render more assistance to the project.

UNICEF Resident Representative Ms Carroll C Long also gave a speech.

The Secretary-1 cordially conversed with diplomats and other guests who attended the ceremony. The Secretary-1 and party visited the exhibition displaying documentaries of the week.

Present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the deputy ministers, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members, ambassadors, Charge d' Affaires ai of embassies, resident representatives of UN Agencies, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, rectors, medical superintendents and guests.

MNA

Minister inspects factories in Aungmyaythazan Township



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang inspects a soft drink factory in Mandalay. — MNA

YANGON, 27 Feb — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang yesterday inspected the soft drink factory, the match factory and the soap factory No 3 in Aungmyaythazan Township in Mandalay.

At the soft drink factory under Myanma Foodstuff Industries, the minister met with officials of the factory and gave instructions on future tasks.

At the match factory under Myanmar Papers

and Chemical Industries, the minister called for minimizing loss and wastage of the factory and urged the officials of the factory to carry out fire preventive measures.

During his inspection tour, Minister U Aung Thuang also inspected the production process of the soap factory under Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries. — MNA

UNICEF Resident Representative Ms Carroll C Long gives a speech.

MNA



Dokyeiwa Journal in circulation

YANGON, 27 Feb—With a view to enabling rural people to widen their scope of knowledge, Volume 3, Number 5 of Dokyeiwa Journal has been in circulation.

The journal carries various pieces of works such as articles, stories, tales, humour, cartoons, poems and news. They are informative and entertaining.

The journal is available at the offices of Information and Public Relations Department across the nation.

For manuscripts and advertisements, contact No 30-32, 10th Street, Lanmadaw Township (Tel 371340 or 371342).

MNA

Dealers' Night 2006 held to honour sale agents

YANGON, 27 Feb—Dealers' Night 2006 took

Hole-in-One

YANGON, 27 Feb—Golfer U Myat Khine scored an ace from 154 yards at Nine-Mile Myanmar Golf Course on 19 January. His partners were U Mya Swe (Myanyinaung Plastic), U Aung Win Than, U Aye Ngwe and U Khin Maung Cho.

MNA

place at Traders Hotel, here, yesterday evening to honour agents who put the sale of goods produced by Nibban Electric and Electronics top on their lists of priorities.

Entrepreneurs U Thein Kyi of Nibban Electric and Electronics extended greetings followed by introducing of new items such as Nibban Auto and Manual Voltage Regulator, Nibban Auto Voltage Regulator and Safeguard, Nibban Auto Inverter and Nibban

Digital AVR by General Manager Dr Aung Thein who also replied to queries raised by agents.

The best sale agent awards for 2005 were also presented at the ceremony.

Nibban Electric and Electronics holds the certificate of ISO 9001:2000 and is manufacturing and distributing high quality Nibban TV Antenna and Boosters, Nibban Protection Devices and others.

MNA



General Manager Dr Aung Thein speaks at Dealers' Night 2006. — MNA

C-in-C (Air) Office wins Defence Services...

(from page 16)
nearest pin awards to the winners.

Afterwards, on behalf

ing the office of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) took the gold in scratch event with 650 strokes,

with 127 strokes, Maj Zaw Win of the South-East Command took the silver with 128 strokes and Capt



C-in-C (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, members and winning team of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Office pose for documentary photo after the handicap golf tournament. —MNA

of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein presented championship trophies to the team representing Office of Commander-in-Chief (Air) who stood first in the handicap event and team representing the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) who took first in the scratch event.

After the prize presentation ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party posed for a documentary photo together with golfers.

In the scratch team event, the team represent-

Yangon Command Team took the silver with 693 strokes and the Eastern Command took bronze with 709 strokes.

In handicap event, the team representing the office of Commander-in-Chief (Air) won the first prize with 535 strokes, South-East Command won the second prize with 563 strokes and the Central Command took the third prize with 566 strokes.

In handicap individual event, Capt Khant Nay Thway of the office of C-in-C (Air) took the gold



Lt-Gen Myat Hein presents the trophy to C-in-C (Navy) office team. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint tees off with tracer ball to open Defence Services C-in-C's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air Force) golf championship. — MNA

Zaw Win Htaik of the office of C-in-C (Navy) took the bronze with 132 strokes.

In scratch individual event, Maj Nyan Ko of the Yangon Command won the first prize with 155



Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein tees off with tracer ball. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myat Hein presents the trophy to C-in-C (Air) team which wins the championship in handicap play. — MNA

strokes; Capt Zaw Min of the office of the C-in-C (Navy) with 155 strokes the second and Maj Zaw Win of the South-East Command the third with 161 strokes.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myat Hein and party pose together with C-in-C (Air) team which won the championship. — MNA



Energy Minister goes on inspection tour of Nyaungdon oil and gas field

YANGON, 27 Feb — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected Nyaungdon oil and gas field in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division yesterday afternoon.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports presented by officials concerned on drilling of new No 32 well and current

production and oil and gas deposits in Nyaungdon and Maubin regions.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave instruction on continued drilling of new wells in Nyaungdon region, exploration of new oil and gas deposits in Maubin and Yaylekalay regions and timely completion of sur-

vey works.

Next, the minister presented cash awards to staff who successfully carried out drilling tasks and inspected dirling of new No 32 well. The new well produces 3.5 million cubic feet of gas and 20 barrels of condensate daily.

MNA

USDA CEC member meets Shwepyitha, Hlegu Townships USDA members

YANGON, 27 Feb — Member of Central Executive Committee of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint met with the Secretary and members of Shwepyitha Township USDA at its office on 24 February.

The CEC member instructed the officials to

implement tasks and observe policies and rules and regulations of USDA. He also urged them to take part in successful implementation of seven-step Road Map.

CEC member Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint proceeded to Hlegu Township USDA office and met with the secretary and members of USDA. He encouraged

members of USDA to participate in regional developments together with local authorities. The CEC member inspected a bridge in Kalihtaw village and an earth road that links Kyakan village and Magyikan village. He asked the officials to grow physic nut plants on each side of the earth road.

MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects dam projects...

(from page 16)
gravel on DaikU-Myintkyo-Nyaungkhashe earth road and building of a bridge. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than proceeded to the bridge across Bago-Sittoung Canal.

He instructed officials to take measures for maintenance of the bridge and viewed construction of a new railroad. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also visited Nagapauk Bridge across Nagapauk Creek in Myitkyo village in Waw township and left necessary instructions.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party visited Ye Nwe

multi-purpose dam project site in Kyaukdaga township. Responsible officials reported on construction tasks being carried out and future work and construction of other facilities such as sluice gate and power plant.

The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called on the officials to complete the project as scheduled and inspected construction work. On completion of Ye Nwe Hydro-electric power project, 118500 acres of land will be benefited and 25 megrewatt of electricity will be generated.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than visited Khabaung multi-purpose dam project site in Oktwin township.

After hearing reports on construction tasks, he called for the timely completion of the project. After hearing reports on construction tasks, he called for the timely completion of the project. On completion of the project, 100,000 acres of land will be benefited and 30 megrewatt of electricity will be generated. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended a ceremony to grow physic nut plants in Oktwin Station. Afterwards, he proceeded to the briefing hall of Public Works at Khabaung



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects summer paddy fields in Pauktaw village in Bago Township. — MNA

Bridge in Taungoo township. Officials reported on cultivation of onions near of Khabaung Creek. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the onion plantations.

MNA

Patron of Yangon Division WAO meets members of Yangon South District WAO

YANGON, 27 Feb — Patron of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Mar Mar Wai met with members of Yangon South District WAO and Township WAOs at the office of District Peace and Development Council yesterday.

The patron of Yangon South District WAO and the chairpersons of Township WAOs reported on township-wise measures and future tasks.

The patron of Yangon Division WAO held talks with members of Yangon District WAO.

Patron of District WAO Daw Khin Mya Mu and Chairperson Daw Khin Win Myint accepted K 25,000 provided by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation. — MNA



Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai presents K 25,000 to Yangon South District WAO. — IPRD

Information Minister receives Korean Ambassador



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives ROK Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-Heum. — MNA

YANGON, 27 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan this afternoon received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Union of Myanmar Mr Lee Ju-Heum at Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road, here.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Counselor of the Korean Embassy in Myanmar Mr Jongmoon Choi, heads of departments under the ministry and officials.

MNA

IPRD Director-General to participate in ASEAN+3 Copyright Seminar



Director-General U Chit Naing seen at airport prior to departure for Tokyo. — MNA

YANGON, 27 Feb — Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing left for Japan

today to participate in ASEAN+3 Copyright Seminar.

The three-day seminar will start on 1 March

in Tokyo.

Officials of IPRD saw off the director-general at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

France frees suspect in Hariri case, no extradition

PARIS/BEIRUT, 27 Feb — France has freed from jail a Syrian accused by Beirut of having an indirect role in the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik al-Hariri, judicial officials said on Sunday.

The officials in France and Lebanon said French magistrates had rejected Beirut's request to extradite Mohammed Zuhair al-Siddiq because they had received no guarantees that he would not face the death penalty.

Siddiq was arrested in a Paris suburb last October after an international arrest warrant was issued for him.

Lebanon's prosecutors had charged him with murder that month because they believed he had an indirect role in the Feb-

ruary 14, 2005 killing of Hariri and 22 others near Beirut's seafont.

"France has rejected Lebanon's request to extradite him because Lebanon applies the death penalty. They (French authorities) asked for guarantees we would not apply the death penalty on Siddiq," a Justice Ministry official in Lebanon said. "We said we cannot provide any guarantees because abolishing the death sentence requires a decision by the Parliament. Then they informed Leba-

non they would release him," he said.

An interim UN report in October said Siddiq had signed a confession implicating himself in the murder "which adds to his credibility". Siddiq told investigators he had attended several meetings at a Beirut suburb to plan the truck bombing. A UN report in December, however, said DNA samples taken from Siddiq did not match evidence gathered from that location or the crime scene.

MNA/Reuters

Bird flu hits 6 Russian regions

MOSCOW, 27 Feb — Bird flu has been registered in wild fowl in six regions of southern Russia and in domestic fowl in four of these regions, the country's Agriculture Ministry said on Sunday.

"Pockets of infection in wild fowl have been registered in Kabardino-Balkaria, Dagestan, Chechnya, Kalmykia, Krasnodar and Stavropol regions," the ministry said in a statement.

It added the virus had been registered in domestic fowl in Dagestan, Kalmykia, Krasnodar and Stavropol and that, in the Krasnodar Region, bird flu is suspected to have hit a large poultry farm.

It did not specify the strain of the virus.

More than half a million chickens were culled in Russia this year after new cases of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain were discovered in domestic fowl in Dagestan.

MNA/Reuters



Chinese locals view the return module of the Shenzhou VI, China's second manned spacecraft, at an exhibition related to Shenzhou VI in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, on 26 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Singer George Michael arrested in drugs probe

LONDON, 27 Feb — British singer George Michael was arrested on Sunday on suspicion of possessing drugs after he was found slumped in a car in central London, a police source said.

Michael, 42, who has sold more than 80 million records worldwide during a 25-year career, was arrested in the Hyde Park area of the capital early on Sunday, the source said.

A London police spokesman issued a statement saying a 42-year-old man had been held on suspicion of possessing Class C drugs, a group in British law that includes cannabis, tranquilizers and some painkillers. "We were called by a member of the public to a man seen slumped over the steering wheel of a car," the statement said.

MNA/Reuters

Asian Aerospace Exhibition closes, deals of record volume signed

SINGAPORE, 27 Feb — The 13th Asian Aerospace Exhibition closed at Singapore's Changi Exhibition Centre Sunday with dozens of deals worth 15.2 billion US dollars being concluded, more than four times the amount achieved in last show two years ago.

This result came beyond the organizers' expectations. President of Asian Aerospace 2006 Ed Ng said in a statement on Friday after four days of trade show ended that day.

Most of the contracts signed this year are commercial in nature and the contents range from diverse products such as aircraft, engines, components and aerospace electronic equipment, to repair and maintenance services.

Indian companies proved to be one of the big buyers this year to feed the growing market back home as the air passenger traffic is said to have been increasing by 25 per cent to 30 per cent annually in recent years.

Air India placed an order worth over 2.2 billion US dollars with the American engine maker General Electric to buy engines for its new Boeing 777 and 787 fleet, which the airlines had ordered earlier this year. As the Asia-Pacific Region is expected to lead the growth in air passenger traffic over the next two decades, participants in Asian Aerospace 2006 showed their interest as well as confidence in the region, especially in China and India. — MNA/Xinhua

Russian market disaster death toll rises to 65

MOSCOW, 27 Feb — Russian emergency services said on Saturday they had found more bodies in the rubble of a Moscow market that collapsed two days ago, bringing the death toll to at least 65.

An Emergency Ministry spokesman said that seven of the dead had still not been identified. Another 24 people were still in hospital.

"The latest figure is 65 dead," the spokesman said.

The roof of the Basmany market in eastern Moscow collapsed in the early hours of Thursday trapping market vendors and barrow boys under tons of twisted metal and concrete. — MNA/Reuters

Iran urges IAEA to avoid political decision

TEHERAN, 27 Feb — Iran on Sunday warned the UN nuclear watchdog to avoid political decision at its upcoming board of governors' meeting, reiterating rejection of returning to a moratorium on its sensitive nuclear activities.

"We hope that the International Atomic

Energy Agency's (IAEA) upcoming meeting will not be politicized, and harsh decisions will just run counteractive to their benefits," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi told a weekly news briefing.

Asefi said Iran would not re-suspend activities related to uranium enrichment,

stressing that mounting pressure would just make the country stand more firmly. The spokesman noted that the sensitive nuclear activities that Iran had resumed since January were just research-oriented and should not be viewed as actual uranium enrichment.

MNA/Xinhua



Kashmiri earthquake survivor and her one year-old baby, Kirnat, keep warm in a blanket at the Mustafai tent camp on the outskirts of the earthquake-devastated city of Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir on 25 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

US holds hundreds of terror suspects in Afghanistan indefinitely

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb — The US military holds some 500 terror suspects at a prison in Bagram, Afghanistan, indefinitely and without charges, *The New York Times* reported on Sunday.

The military has quietly expanded the less-visible prison, where terror suspects are held in more primitive conditions, compared with the detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which has sparked an international debate over its future, the report said.

Some of the detainees have been held at Bagram,

some 60 kilometres north of the Afghan capital of Kabul, for as long as two or three years, and unlike those at Guantanamo, they have no access to lawyers, no right to hear the allegations against them and only rudimentary reviews of their status as "enemy combatants", military officials were quoted as saying.

The report said Pentagon officials have often described the detention centre at an American air base at Bagram as a screening centre, and that they said most of the detainees were Afghans who

might eventually be released under an amnesty programme or transferred to an Afghan prison that is to be built with American aid.

While Guantanamo offers carefully scripted tours for members of Congress and journalists, Bagram has operated in rigorous secrecy since it opened in 2002. It bars outside visitors except for the International Red Cross and refuses to make public the names of those held there. The prison may not be photographed, even from a distance, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua

Iran Foreign Minister in Japan for nuclear talks

TOKYO, 27 Feb — Japan is set to urge Iran to ease international concerns over its nuclear ambitions in order to avert United Nations sanctions during a three-day visit to Tokyo by Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki.

Mottaki arrived in Tokyo early on Monday and is set to meet Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso later in the day.

MNA/Reuters



Dancers of "Los Negritos de Pagador" group perform during the traditional parade of Oruro's Carnival, on 25 Feb, 2006. Ten of thousands of people participated in the colourful carnival of Oruro some 200 kilometres (124 miles) south of La Paz. —INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENTS

ENGAGEMENT

Richard Thant Zin & Shwe Zin Win
The engagement is announced between

Shwe Zin Win
B.Sc (Botany)

Public Relations Officer
SSi Computer Training Centre

Daughter of U Tin Nyunt (Lecturer; Retd; Institute of Economics) & (Daw Ye)

Building 19, Room 1, West Gyogone Yeiktha,
Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar
and

Richard Thant Zin

B.Com (YIE), D.E.P (YIE), A.D.A (SIT), M.B.A (UNE)

Group Accountant

Christie Corporate, Sydney, Australia
Son of (U Chit Sein) & (Daw Ohn Kyi)

37 Blend Place, Woodcroft NSW 2767, Australia.
Engagement Ceremony held at Sedona Hotel
on 11-Feb-06 in presence of parents from both
sides, relatives and friends.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed Tenders are invited for the supply of Road Bitumen 80/100 Grade to Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Ministry of Energy. Tenders are to be submitted under the following terms and conditions:-

- Quantity - 20,000 ± 10% MT
- Price (in bulk) - USD/MT CIF Exship Thanlyin
- Price (in drum) - USD/MT CIF (LO) Yangon
- Payment - LC at sight
- Country of Origin- Thailand
- Closing Date - 9.3.2006 12:00 HRS

Tender Documents are available at Finance Department, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min-Ye-Kyawswa Road, Yangon starting from (27.2.2006) on payment of one hundred (100) FEC. Only tender bid purchased officially will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (647)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (647) are hereby notified that the vessel arrives on 28.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

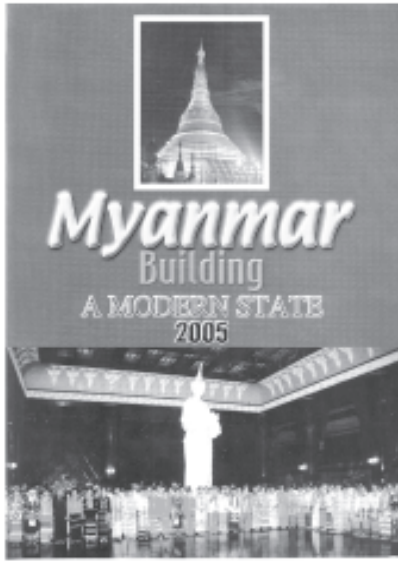
Ethiopia-Italy trade, investment ties strengthening

ADDIS ABABA, 26 Feb— Trade and investment relations between Ethiopia and Italy have been strengthening, said a statement issued on Friday from the Italian Embassy in Addis Ababa.

According to the statement, Ethiopia has exported to Italy goods amounting to a total of 33 million US dollars last year. Italy's export to Ethiopia during the same period amounted to almost 190 million dollars, indicating a huge trade imbalance between the two countries, the statement said.

The goods Italy exports to Ethiopia include, among others, spare parts, food stuff, chemicals, materials for leather industry and building materials, while Ethiopia exports to Italy coffee, horticultural products, hides and skins and textiles.

The volume of Italian investment to Ethiopia has reached 315 million birr (about 36.29 million US dollars) only during the last fiscal year (July 2004-July 2005). "The historical linkages between the two countries have traditionally facilitated contacts and collaborations between Ethiopian and Italian companies in textile and garments, leather and leather products, and agriculture," the statement said.— *MNA/Xinhua*



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China to provide rail carriages to Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 26 Feb— China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC) on Friday signed an agreement with the Sri Lankan Railway Department to provide 100 rail carriages to Sri Lanka.

Zhao Jun, General Manager of Railway Business Division of CMC, and K.A. Premasiri, General Manager of Sri Lanka Railways Department signed the agreement at the department.

According to the agreement, each carriage is capable of carrying over 1,000 people and is expected to be brought to Sri Lanka within a year.

"There is a severe shortage of train coaches

at the moment in the Sri Lankan railway, the carriages were needed to provide a satisfactory train service to commuters," Premasiri said after the signing ceremony.

CMC donated machinery and equipment worth 200,000 US dollars to Sri Lanka for the tsunami-hit country to repair its railway tracks on 25 January, 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan inducts two fast Attack Missile Crafts in Navy

ISLAMABAD, 26 Feb— Pakistan on Friday inducted, in its naval fleet, two indigenously built fast Attack Missile Crafts, the country's Naval Chief said.

Addressing at a ceremony held in Karachi Shipyard, Naval Chief Admiral Muhammad Afzal Tahir said that commissioning of these missile boats heralded a new era for Pakistan Navy in missile craft construction. "This significant achievement had laid the foundation of a viable shipbuilding industry which Pakistan Navy would continue to further capitalize upon," the Naval Chief said, adding "in the

changed maritime scenario, Navy undertakings had increased manifold and warranted development of a balanced Navy capable of safeguarding our legitimate maritime interests".

"To this end, our Frigate Project has already been materialized which will commence soon with the collaboration of some other countries in our region. Induction of these Fast Attack Missile Crafts in Pakistan Navy Fleet will certainly enhance its offensive punch," he added, noting that the third submarine will be launched by the last quarter of this year.

He said the launching of submarine *HAMZA* would be followed by its sea drive and phase-wise acceptance. With the effort of Pakistan Navy and the cooperation and support assured by the government, the programme of building of these submarines would continue in future as well.

MNA/Xinhua

Bird flu found in 4th German state, near Poland

BERLIN, 26 Feb— A wild duck and a swan found dead near the Polish border have tested positive for bird flu, marking the apparent spread of the H5N1 virus into a fourth state in Europe's biggest economy, officials said on Saturday.

The dead birds were found on the edge of Schwedt, a city near the board of Poland, a spokesman for the Agriculture Ministry in the eastern state

Brandenburg said.

He said the ministry did not have confirmation yet that the birds had the deadliest Asian strain of the H5N1 flu virus.

"The probability that it is, however, is high," the spokesman said.

On Friday, two dead

ducks were found to carry the dangerous strain of avian flu in the northwestern state of Schleswig-Holstein, while another one tested positive in the southwestern state of Baden Wuerttemberg.

MNA/Reuters

India, Saudi Arabia discuss employment conditions of Indian workers

NEW DELHI, 26 Feb— India and Saudi Arabia discussed providing better employment conditions to Indian workers in Saudi Arabia and ways to check various fraudulent practices that will create problems in Saudi Arabia, the Indian Ministry of Overseas Affairs said here Friday.

A seven-member delegation of the Saudi Arabian National Recruitment Committee met with Indian Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi here. The

Saudi delegation apprised Ravi of the various steps taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to provide better conditions to the workers in Saudi Arabia. The delegation called

for closer cooperation from Indian recruiting agencies so as to prevent and take care of various problems that Indian workers face in Saudi Arabia. — *MNA/Xinhua*

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်သစ်ပညာရေးတိုးတက်ရေး နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေး

China to tackle dropping rate of premarital tests

BEIJING, 25 Feb—China is going to tackle the falling percentage of couples getting premarital medical check-ups and rising number of hereditary and infectious diseases among infants.

The State Council will issue a document focusing on how to raise public awareness and to make the checkups more convenient, Wang Bin, director of the Division of Women's Health with the Ministry of Health on Friday.

Social workers will be available at every registration station to inform couples of the advisability of getting the

check-up, Wang was quoted by *China Daily* as saying.

Before the law in China was changed in October 2003, all couples had to show the result of the check-ups to get a certificate. However, the rate dropped significantly in many places to 1 per cent or lower after the law was revised.

Of all reported HIV/AIDS cases last year,

mother-baby infections account for 1 per cent, said Wu Zunyou of the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, noting that absence of the premarital tests removes the last line of defence against those infections.

Wang said it is not only a question of money but of public awareness. The cost of such a check-up is about 100 yuan (12 US dollars), not a burden for most couples. In rural areas, a family usually spends at least 10,000 yuan (1,200 US dollars) on a wedding.

The document will caution against such diseases as hepatitis, syphilis, and tuberculosis, and will suggest that patients delay their marriage if treatment for at least one of those diseases is necessary.

MNA/Xinhua



Nepali soldiers perform the famous Khukuri, the typical Nepali fighting knife, dance during the Army Day celebrations in the capital Kathmandu on 26 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Malaysia rules out bird flu in 10 suspects

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Feb — All 10 people quarantined in Malaysia with suspected bird flu this week have tested negative for the deadly H5N1 strain, a government official said on Friday.

The 10 were hospitalized with flu-like symptoms after the H5N1 virus was detected in 40 chickens found dead last week in Malaysia's first poultry infection in over a year.

"The test results on the

last two patients were also negative and they have been discharged. There's no new admission," Disease Control Division director Ramlee Rahmat told *Reuters*.

No human cases have so far been reported in Malaysia, which last reported the H5N1 virus in a chicken in the northern state of Kelantan in 2004.

Health officials have combed through 505 houses, screening more than 2,000 residents living within a 300-metre (1,000-

feet) radius of the infection site on the fringe of the capital. Mustapa Abdul Jalil, acting chief of veterinary services, said more manpower has been mobilized for the culling operation within a one-kilometre radius of site.

Surveillance tasks would be extended to a 10-kilometre (six-mile) zone, Mustapa said, stretching into the heart of Kuala Lumpur in an operation that will run until 3 March.

MNA/Reuters



A woman throws a snowball into the Yenisey River at sunset in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on 26 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Posco promotes top officials handling India project

NEW DELHI, 26 Feb—South Korean steel major Posco on Friday announced the promotion of two top officials handling its East Indian

state Orissa's steel plant, reflecting the significance the company attaches to the Indian project, *Indo-Asian News Service* (IANS) reported here.

The fifth largest steel manufacturer in the world announced the appointment of Posco India managing director, Soung-Sik Cho, as standing director in the Posco Board.

MNA/Xinhua

Donation contributes to 95% of China's clinical blood used in 2005

BEIJING, 26 Feb — Ninety-five per cent of blood collected for clinical use in China last year came from voluntary donation, said the Ministry of Health on Friday.

According to the figures released by the ministry, voluntary donation in blood collection rose by 7 per cent in 2005 over the previous year.

In Central China's Henan Province, 100 per cent of clinical blood use came from voluntary donation.

Beijing ranked 22nd on the list revealed by the ministry, of which only 75.46 per cent clinical blood demand was met by voluntary donation.

Voluntary donation is believed as the basis of blood safety. Experts say virus involving HIV and hepatitis through voluntary donation is very unlikely through the channel of transmission in

blood donation. Voluntary donors provide patients with safe and stable source of blood.

China's Law of Blood Donation took effect on 1 October, 1998. Proportion of voluntary donation has been rising since then.

However, problems are still existing in blood safety and voluntary donation. For instance, acts of paid blood collection are still seen in parts of the country and some local governments set quotas for voluntary donation, according to officials with the ministry.

The ministry will continue to promote voluntary blood donation in the coming years, in a bid to expand stable source of blood donation and

eliminate paid blood collection. —MNA/Xinhua

Another house crow tested H5 suspected in HK

HONG KONG, 25 Feb — Another house crow in Hong Kong was found H5 suspected Friday, said the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The department said preliminary test result indicated the dead house crow found in Shek Kip Mei was H5 suspected and further tests were being conducted.

The authority again warned the public to observe good personal hygiene and avoid personal contact with wild birds and live poultry as the risks of a possible breakout of bird flu intensified.

Meanwhile, backyard poultry keepers who lost their birds under the recent ban are still seeking compensation from the government. The government said it would consider the feasibility of allowing poultry keepers to continue rearing pet poultry. —MNA/Xinhua



A health worker removes a chicken from a domestic farm as a villager watches in the Georgian village of Gonio near the Turkish border, some 400 km (248 miles) west of the capital Tbilisi on 26 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Kewell goal edges Liverpool past Man City

LONDON, 27 Feb — Liverpool kept the pressure on Manchester United in the race for second place in the Premier League with a 1-0 win over Manchester City at Anfield on Sunday.

Australian midfielder Harry Kewell got the only goal in the 40th minute but Liverpool, and specifically England striker Peter Crouch, could have had several more.

With United busy winning the League Cup with a 4-0 thrashing of Wigan Athletic, Liverpool moved alongside them on 54 points, albeit from a game more. Leaders Chelsea, who beat Portsmouth 2-0 on Saturday, are 15 points clear. Fourth-placed Tottenham Hotspur are eight points back on 46.

Bolton Wanderers climbed to sixth on 42 on Sunday when Kevin Nolan got a 68th-minute winner in a 2-1 home success over Fulham after Heidar Helguson had put the Londoners ahead but then scored an own goal just before halftime.

In the day's other game, Middlesbrough beat West Bromwich Albion 2-0 away with two first-half goals by Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink to move five points clear of their opponents and eight clear of the relegation zone. West Brom's Nigel Quashie was sent off in the 54th minute for kicking out at George

Boateng. At Anfield, Liverpool were on top throughout the first half but made the breakthrough only five minutes before the interval.

England midfielder Steven Gerrard showed fine control to bring the ball down in the centre circle and then release Kewell with a pass over the top of covering defender Danny Mills, allowing the Australian to sprint away and fire low past David James.

Mills then cleared a Crouch header off the line in first-half injury time.

MNA/Reuters

Hamburg suffer 2-0 home defeat to Stuttgart

BERLIN, 27 Feb — Third-placed Hamburg SV suffered a 2-0 home defeat to VfB Stuttgart on Sunday and fell 11 points behind Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich. Silvio Meissner scored for Stuttgart two minutes before the interval and Mario Gomez doubled the lead in stoppage time, outstripping Rafael von der Vaart to put the ball into Hamburg's empty goal.

Stuttgart's victory, their first in Hamburg in 10 years, sent them up to fifth with 33 points. Bayern crushed Eintracht Frankfurt 5-2 on Saturday and top the table with 58 points from 23 matches. Hamburg, the only team to beat Bayern this season, play at Munich next weekend.

MNA/Reuters



Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium lifts her trophy after defeating Maria Sharapova of Russia during the final of the Dubai Open tennis tournament in Dubai on 25 Feb, 2006. Henin-Hardenne won 7-5 6-2.—INTERNET

Real beaten at Mallorca, Valencia held by Getafe

MADRID, 27 Feb — Third-placed Real Madrid lost 2-1 at lowly Real Mallorca on Sunday, ending their six-match winning run in the Primera Liga.

With second-placed Valencia held to a 1-1 home draw by Getafe, Barcelona strengthened their grip at the top thanks to Saturday's 2-0 victory at Real Zaragoza.

The champions have 58 points from 25 games, Valencia have 50 points and Real 48.

Osasuna, on 46, can rise from fourth to third by beating Deportivo Coruna later on Sunday.

Real were cautious and disjointed as they set out to put their midweek Champions League defeat by Arsenal behind them.

The visitors took the lead against the run of play through Sergio Ramos after 32 minutes but 16th-placed Mallorca always looked dangerous.—MNA/Reuters

Rooney leads United to 4-0 League Cup final win

CARDIFF, 27 Feb — Manchester United outplayed an overawed Wigan Athletic to win the English League Cup final 4-0 on Sunday, with England striker Wayne Rooney scoring twice.

Man of the match Rooney scored after 33 and 61 minutes after hitting the bar with a header early in the first half.

Louis Saha, with his sixth goal in the competition, and winger Cristiano Ronaldo also netted in a blistering six-minute spell in the second half which guaranteed United manager Alex Ferguson the 27th major honour of his career.

United, whose only previous League Cup win came in 1992, dominated from start to finish and were never seriously troubled by Wigan, appearing in the first major final in the club's history in their first season in the top flight.

The win was the biggest in the final since it was switched from two legs in 1967 and guarantees second-placed United a place in next season's UEFA Cup if they should finish outside the Champions League qualifying places in the Premier League.

The Wigan players seemed to freeze on the biggest day in their club's history under the closed roof at the Millennium Stadium.

United settled quickly and could have gone ahead as early as the seventh minute when Rooney headed against the bar after the Wigan defenders failed to deal with a cross.—MNA/Reuters



South Korean team members celebrate on the podium following their gold medal win in the men's 5000 metres short track speed skating relay at the Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy, on 25 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Argentine Heinze could be fit for World Cup

MANCHESTER (England), 27 Feb — Argentina defender Gabriel Heinze is winning his battle to be fit for the World Cup finals in Germany starting in June, according to Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson.

Heinze looked likely to miss the tournament after suffering a serious knee injury in a European Champions League match at Villarreal on

14 September. But after a successful operation to repair cruciate ligament damage, the 27-year-old has been working his way back to full

fitness in Argentina.

"His progress is very good now. He's on full throttle and training very well every day," Ferguson told reporters.

"He wanted a particular surgeon to do the operation, which every player is entitled to and the surgeon who did the operation is in complete control of his rehabilitation. "Our latest development is that he will possibly be here at the beginning of April with the possibility of playing before the end of the season."

Heinze said earlier this week he was aiming to start playing in a month's time.—MNA/Reuters



Danny Williams, right, in action against Matt Skelton during the Commonwealth Heavyweight Championship bout at the Excel Centre, London, on 25 Feb, 2006. Williams beat Skelton on a split points decision to retain his Commonwealth heavyweight boxing title.—INTERNET

Juventus beat Lecce in clean sweep for top trio

ROME, 27 Feb — Serie A leaders Juventus led a clean sweep of victories for Italy's top three when they came from behind to beat relegation-threatened Lecce 3-1 on Sunday.

Goals by Emerson, Robert Kovac and a late Alessandro Del Piero penalty cancelled out Gennaro Delvecchio's goal for the visitors to give Juve 70 points from 27 matches.

They are 10 points ahead of second-placed AC Milan, who won 2-0 at Palermo. Inter Milan lie third on 58 points after a 3-1 victory against Udinese.

Later on Sunday AS Roma will attempt to set a record of 11 consecutive Serie A wins if they defeat Lazio in the Rome derby (kickoff 1930 GMT).

Lecce had taken just

four points on the road this season prior to arriving at Turin's Stadio delle Alpi, but took the lead when Delvecchio dived to head Alfonso Camorani's cross past Gianluigi

Buffon in the tenth minute.

The champions hit straight back, Emerson backheeling Adrian Mutu's low shot into the net eight minutes later.

MNA/Reuters



Juventus' Adrian Mutu (L) fights for the ball with Lecce's Alfonso Camorani during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Delle Alpi Stadium in Turin, northern Italy, on 26 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

AOC agrees on steps to prevent misunderstanding

KUWAIT CITY, 27 Feb — Qatari First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamad bin Jasim Al-Thani said a final agreement was signed by the High Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations (AOC) in Doha, Qatar, to prevent world misunderstanding, the *Qatar News Agency* reported on Sunday.

Hamad made the remarks at a joint Press conference with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the Arab League Amr Moussa and Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu.

Hamad said the AOC agreement could contribute to preventing any misunderstanding in the future, noting that participants discussed the means of

avoiding any offences in the future and how to deal with the current situation.

Annan would bring the final communique to the UN General Assembly, the official added. The AOC is a 2005 initiative by Annan and the prime ministers of Spain and Turkey aimed at bringing together institutions and civil societies to eliminate misunderstandings between peoples of different cultures and religions. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Israel's Sharon turns 78 in coma

JERUSALEM, 27 Feb — Family and close friends of comatose Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon marked his 78th birthday on Sunday with subdued visits to his hospital bedside.

Other well-wishers filed into the Jerusalem Hospital, bringing flowers, cards and prayers for the recovery of Sharon, who suffered a stroke on 4 January as he campaigned for re-election on a platform of ending conflict with the Palestinians.

"I still hope he will wake up, that a miracle will happen," said Ilanit Itcha, who brought a gift to the hospital. "He is my Prime Minister and he is loved".

Cards came from supporters around the world. A mournful looking Omri Sharon, the prime minister's son, made no comment to waiting reporters as he left the Hadassah Hospital.

A spokesman for Sharon said other aides also visited the bedside.

MNA/Reuters



Russian President Vladimir Putin talks to Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliiev (off picture) during their meeting in Baku. Russia's Lower House of Parliament has approved a sweeping new anti-terrorism law defining terms under which the military may shoot down hijacked passenger planes, strike at suspected terrorist targets and intercept communications for security reasons.

INTERNET

Russian Parliament passes anti-terrorism bill

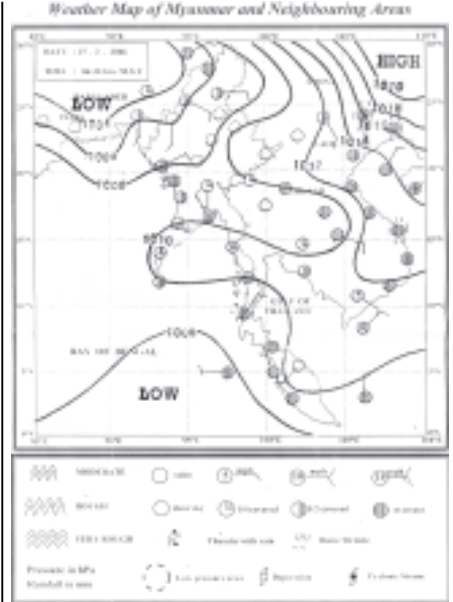
MOSCOW, 27 Feb — Russia's Lower House of Parliament passed on Sunday an anti-terrorism bill that would allow the Armed Forces, under certain circumstances, to shoot down hijacked planes or destroy ships being used by terrorists.

The bill gives the Federal Security Service the lead role in anti-terrorist operations, but the military may be called in to stop aircraft or ships being used for terrorist attacks or hijacked by terrorists, Russian news agencies reported.

Under the bill, the Armed Forces are allowed to shoot down an aircraft or destroy a ship if it does not respond to or obey radio orders.

The President is given the power to decide on the use of the Armed Forces in fighting terrorism outside Russia in keeping with international accords Russia signed.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 27 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Pinlaung (6°C) and Lashio (7°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Machanbaw (0.20) inch.

Maximum temperature on 26-2-2006 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 27-2-2006 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 27-2-2006 was (83%). Total sunshine hours on 26-2-2006 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 27-2-2006 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 (7) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 26-2-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-2-2006: Isolated light rain are likely in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-2-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-2-2006: Fair weather.



Tuesday, 28 February

Tune in today

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music -It's your life
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music -Everybody's everything
- 8.50 am National news / Slogan
- 9.00 am Music -Take it easy
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music -Hello, goodbye
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music -Anyone of us -Evergreen -May be -Do you remember
- 9.00 pm English Speaking Course Level-III Unit-(29)
- 9.15 pm Article/Music
- 9.25 pm Weekly sports reel
- 9.35 pm Music for your listening pleasure
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



Tuesday, 28 February
View on today

7:00 am

- 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am

- 2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- 3. Morning news

7:40 am

- 4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- 5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:05 am

- 6. အရေးကြိမ်

8:10 am

- 7. တံငါတံတား

8:15 am

- 8. အကကြိမ်

8:20 am

- 9. Song of yesteryears

8:30 am

- 10. International news

8:45 am

- 11. Let's Go

4:00 pm

- 1. Martial song

4:15 pm

- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- 3. English for Everyday Use

4:40 pm

- 4. Musical programme

4:50 pm

- 5. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ

-ခုတ်ယူနစ် (သတ္တဗော အထူးပြု (သတ္တဗော)

5:05 am

- 6. Dance of national races

5:20 pm

- 7. ခံစားနားဆင်ထားတတ်ဝင်

5:30 pm

- 8. ဟွန်းသံ (စရာနှင့် ယာဉ်ထိန်းရုံတပ်ရဲ့ ဝင်ရောက်)

ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်

5:35 pm

- 9. Sing and Enjoy

6:00 pm

- 10. Evening news

6:30 pm

- 11. Weather report

6:35 pm

- 12. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"ရယ်ရယ်ဆော့ရယ်" ဝုရုတ်

ဆိတ်လေး" (အပိုင်း-၆၈)

6:55 pm

- 13. ကဗျာကြိမ်

7:10 pm

- 14. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုးပြည်အကျိုး

7:25 pm

- 15. အတိတ်ကြိမ်

7:40 pm

- 16. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:00 pm

- 17. News

18. International news

19. Weather report

20. လပတ်စွဲအသံအနုပညာဗေဒ

ခန့်မှန်းချက်

21. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"ချစ်ရယ်ရယ်" ခေ့ကလေးများ" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)

22. The next day's programme

C-in-C (Air) Office wins Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's trophy in handicap play

YANGON, 27 Feb— The 2005-2006 Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air Force) golf championship was held at Yedagun Taung Golf Resort in Mandalay on 25 February.

Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, and Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw teed off tracer balls

to open the championship tournament.

Golfers from 15 teams took part in the first day match. The second day match continued at the same golf course the next morning. The tournament ended in the evening.

At the prize awarding ceremony held at the golf course at 5 pm, vocalists sang songs to the accompaniment of modern music troupe of Mandalay City Development Committee.

Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun presented first prize to Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), second prize to South-East Command, and third prize

to Central Command in team handicap play, and he also presented the first prize to Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Yangon Command, and Eastern Command in team scratch play. Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the individual handicap play and individual scratch play.

Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe presented most par, most birdie, and best golfer (handicap) and best golfer (scratch) awards to the winners. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw presented day long drive and (See page 9)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint presents prize to a winner. —MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects dam projects, cultivation of summer paddy, physic nut in Bago



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects construction tasks in Ye Nwe Dam. —MNA

YANGON, 27 Feb— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence arrived at the 1445-acre plantation of summer paddy in Pauktaw village in Bago Township on 25 February morning.

Bago Division PDC Chairman Southern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko reported on cultivation of summer paddy through irrigation from Zaungtu diversion weir, cultivation of 6,000 acres out of 15,000 acreage in Bago and Waw

Townships last year and cultivation of 10,000 acres of paddy this year. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed the plantations and gave necessary instructions. Bago Division has cultivated 275,977 acres of summer paddy in 2005-2006.

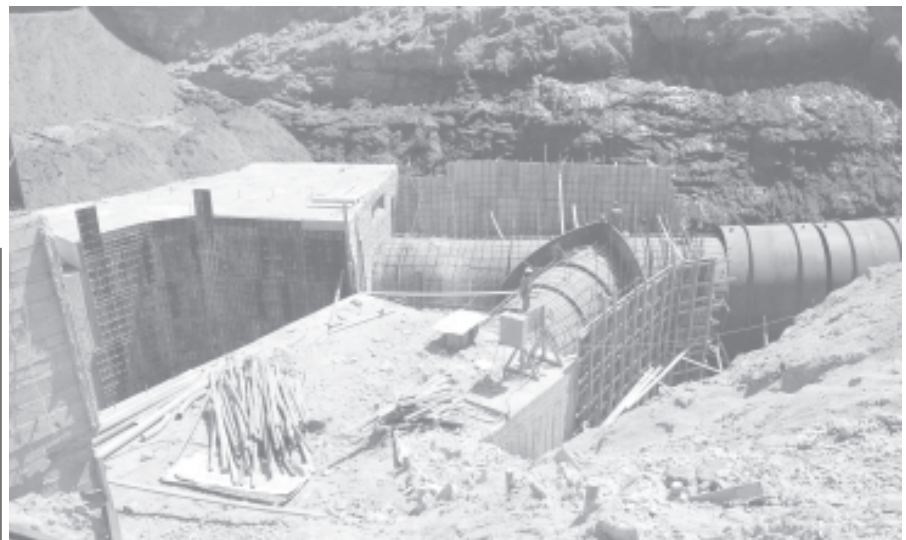
On arrival at

Sittoung (Sathwagon-Myitkyo-DaikU Railroad project site, he heard a report by the deputy general manager of Myanma Railways on progress of the railroad in cooperation with Myanmar Golden Crown Construction & General Trading Co. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than stressed the

need for timely completion of the project and meeting the set standard. The new railroad on Bago-Mottama Railroad will go to DaikU on Yangon-Mandalay railroad. Bago Division Superintending Engineer U Tin Htut also reported on paving of

(See page 10)

On completion of Ye Nwe Hydro-electric power project, 118500 acres of land will be benefited and 25 megawatt of electricity will be generated.



Temporary closure of Defence Services Museum

YANGON, 27 Feb— Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, here, will be closed temporarily starting from 1 March to decorate it for the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibitions. It will be opened to the public on 26 March as an Exhibition to mark the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day. —MNA