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Friday, 3 March, 2006



State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing bid farewell to President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing bid farewell to Indonesian President and party

YANGON, 2 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing bade farewell to the Indonesian goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati at Yangon International Airport this afternoon. (See page 16)



State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing see off President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 3 March, 2006

Towards closer friendship and increased bilateral cooperation

At the invitation of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, the goodwill delegation headed by President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati on 1 March arrived in Myanmar on a two-day State visit.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe welcomed President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati at the Yangon International Airport.

The Union of Myanmar has always practised an independent and active foreign policy and been on friendly terms with other nations in the world, actively cooperating with international organizations including the UN, non-governmental organizations, her neighbouring nations and ASEAN members. And she has always placed special emphasis on friendly relations with her neighbours and ASEAN nations. Leaders of Myanmar, her neighbours and ASEAN members have often exchanged goodwill visits with a view to enhancing bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono paid a courtesy call on Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe at the Pyithu Hluttaw building on the afternoon of 1 March. Together with the Indonesian President at the meeting were the Indonesian Foreign Minister and high-ranking officials. After the meeting, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono attended the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding at the Pyithu Hluttaw building. The MoU was on the establishment of a Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted a dinner in honour of the goodwill delegation headed by President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati at the Reception Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw building.

Being an ASEAN member nation, Myanmar is translating into action one of the goals of the ASEAN — economic, social and cultural development through cooperation. And we believe the goodwill visit of President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will further cement mutual friendship and help boost cooperation between Myanmar and Indonesia.



Daw Pu Pu and Daw Mya Mya and family of 160, 38th Street, Kyauktada Township, in memory of late Ko Thauang Tun of IMI present K 150,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged 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

A&I Minister inspects summer paddy field of Zaungtu Diversion Dam



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Tanaw Dam Project in Kyaikto Township, Mon State. — MNA

YANGON, 1 March — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo together with officials inspected the thriving summer paddy plantations in the irrigated area of Zaungtu Diversion Dam in Bago Township.

On arrival at Tanaw Dam Project in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, the minister heard reports on progress of the construction of the dam and gave instructions on timely completion.

Afterwards, the minister inspected the tasks being carried out at the worksite and progress of the spillway with the 447 feet in length and 50 feet in width. In the evening, the minister inspected the nurturing of physic nut saplings of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise (research) in Kyaikto Township.

On 27 February, the minister met with teachers and students at Agricultural Institute in Thaton and attended to the needs. —MNA

Danubyu gets new tarred road

YANGON, 2 March — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a tarred road in Danubyu, Ayeyawady Division, was opened today in the pres-

ence of Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt.

The road is 1,925 feet long and 12 feet wide.

It was constructed at a cost of over K 8.9 million. Danubyu Township Development Affairs Department contributed over K 5.2 million and local people over K 3.7 million

to the construction fund.

During his tour, the minister met with officials of Danubyu Township DAD and discussed development tasks to be carried out in the township in 2006-2007 fiscal year. At the meeting, officials reported on tasks that have been carried out in the region in 2005-2006 fiscal year. Central Executive Committee Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister Col Thein Nyunt went to Nyaungdon and met with Ayeyawady Division USDA members. At the meeting, he attended to the needs for development in the region.



Minister Col Thein Nyunt attends opening of the tarred road in Danubyu.

PBANRDA

MNA

In-patients can take exam at hospitals

YANGON, 1 March — Students who are receiving medical treatment at hospitals can sit the matriculation exam at designated hospitals.

The designated hospitals are Yangon General Hospital, Central Women's Hospital and Waibargi Hospital here.

The examination will be held from 14 to 23 March. More information is available at the hospitals. — MNA

Winners of Armed Forces Day literary contest announced

YANGON, 2 March — The organizing committee for the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative literary and photo contests today announced the winners of the literary contest.

Tin Aung Soe (Pannmyodaw) took the first prize; Soe Paing Yun of Botahtaung the second and Ye Ye Tun (Hinthada) the third in the novel contest.

They will be awarded at the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative ceremony on 27 March. — MNA

Russian President calls for world energy security architecture

NEW YORK, 1 March—Russian President Vladimir Putin Tuesday called on wealthy countries to establish an international “energy security system” to avoid conflicts over the competition for energy supply.

In his article published in the *Wall Street Journal*, Putin said it is essential for the highly-industrialized countries “to pass on to the future

generations a world energy architecture that would help avoid conflicts and counterproductive competition for energy security”.

“Energy egotism in a modern and highly interdependent world is a road to nowhere,” he said.

The Russian President said in order to fight the “lack of stability in the hydrocarbon markets, coordinated activities of

the entire world community are needed”.

Putin called on the G-8 to focus on energy security as a strategic goal and “an engine of social and economic progress” while he suggested that non-G-8 countries should be engaged in the international initiatives aimed at promoting “innovation, energy saving and environmental protection”.

MNA/Xinhua

Dodik becomes new PM of Bosnia-Herzegovina's Serb Republic

BELGRADE, 1 March—Milorad Dodik has been approved as the new Prime Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina's Serb Republic, and his Cabinet also received the endorsement of lawmakers on Tuesday.

In the 83-seat Parliament, 46 deputies voted for Dodik, five were against and four abstained.

Deputies of the Serb Democratic Party (SDS) left the session before the vote in protest, according to the *Tanjug* news agency. The new 16-member Cabinet consists of eight Serb, five Muslim and three Croat ministers. It succeeds that of Pero Bukejlovic which lost a confidence motion in the Parliament of Serb

Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina last month.

The 47-year-old Dodik said his government would focus on a new economic policy that would stimulate exports, a review of the controversial privatization process and the fight against widespread organized crime.

MNA/Xinhua



Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, left, and Lithuania President Valdas Adamkus review the guard of honour during the welcoming ceremony at Government House in Bangkok, on 2 March, 2006.—INTERNET

US criticism is aggression against Venezuela

CARACAS, 1 March — Venezuelan Vice-President Jose Vicente Rangel said the critical remarks made by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director represented “another aggression” launched by the United States against the South American country.

Earlier on Tuesday, CIA director John Negroponte told the US Senate that Chavez “is spending hundreds of millions of dollars in an extravagant foreign policy” instead of fighting poverty. He also said that were Chavez reelected this year, he would stifle Venezuelan democracy.

Rangel denied the

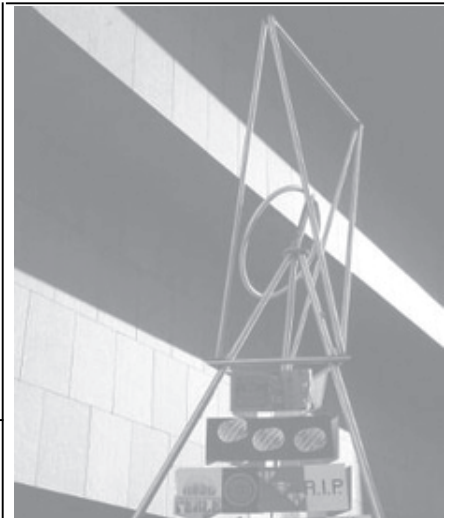
claims, saying Venezuela is spending petrol company profits to lift the country out of poverty and is having “unquestionable success that is noted all over the world”

Negroponte is “a shady character”, said Rangel, adding that the US official has been involved in human rights violations and drug trafficking in Honduras.

MNA/Xinhua



The Australian F1 Grand Prix hot air balloon floats over Melbourne on its inaugural flight on 1 March, 2006.—INTERNET



More than 180 artists contributed to the 'Peace Tower' which stands in front of Whitney Biennial in New York on 28 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Chinese unmanned flying saucer to take to sky in two years

BEIJING, 27 Feb—A Chinese unmanned flying saucer, the first of the kind in the country, will take to the sky within two years, a Chinese scientist announced in Beijing on Monday.

Professor Yan Lei with the School of Earth and Space Sciences of the elite Peking University said the so-called flying saucer is actually an analogue simulation model on a solar-energy-powered stratosphere, also known as ozone layer, a flight system widely used in fields such as telecommunications, meteorology and the earth monitoring.

The Chinese scientist

said that he is applying for a state patent for the creation.

The model was developed by a research team consisting of scientists from Professor Yan's school and technological workers from two private companies of technologies in Beijing.

The analogue simulation model is a five-pointed star shaped platform capable of adjusting itself in the atmosphere so that the amount of electricity generated by the solar panels attached to the top of the platform keeps rising.

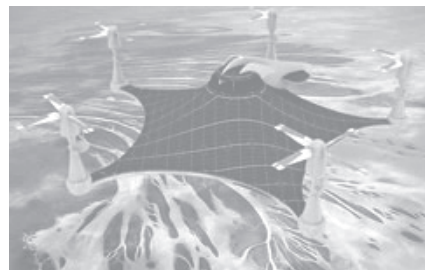
“Unlike conventional aircraft which rely on

high-speed movement for lifting force and the fuel-powered engine for dynamics, the newly-developed model employs propellers activated by machinery without bearings,” Professor Yan explained.

So the model, which is said to contain more than

a score of inventions, is also capable of operating noiseless flights, making vertical takeoffs and landings, remaining in suspension for a long-time in the air.

The newly developed model can partly replace the functions of a satellite as well. —Internet



An artist's concept of the Chinese unmanned flying saucer.—INTERNET

US military death toll rises to 2,295

WASHINGTON, 1 March—As of Wednesday, 1 March, 2006, at least 2,295 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 1,800 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is three lower than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Tuesday at 10 am EST. The British military has reported 103 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

Swiss official voices support for one-China policy

BEIJING, 1 March — Switzerland supports the one-China policy and regrets for the current situation across Taiwan Straits, visiting Swiss Defence Minister Samuel Schmid said here on Tuesday.

"I hope the two sides across the Straits can conduct dialogues and resolve the Taiwan question through political means," Schmid told reporters at a news briefing in the Swiss Embassy to China.

Schmid also briefed reporters on talks with

his Chinese counterpart Cao Gangchuan held on Monday afternoon.

He said the two countries intended to carry out a military strategic dialogue including regular exchange of visits and contacts, and that some preparatory work is going on.

Schmid will visit South Korea after concluding his China tour. When talking about the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula, he said China has played a vital role in pushing forward the nuclear talks.

"I hope the six-party talks can resume at an early date with efforts

from China," Schmid added.

"China has a bright prospect of development in the future. Switzerland will further promote the mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries in various fields," Schmid said.

MNA/Xinhua

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In a photo provided by 'BODIES, the Exhibition,' Jennifer Hartz, left, points out specifics to her daughter, 8-year-old Jessica Hartz, second from left, as Ann Scheraldi, standing, and Melinda Hartz, 5, right, listen to the audio commentary about the digestive system at a preview of 'BODIES, the Exhibition,' on 1 March, 2006, in Atlanta. —INTERNET

Vietnam to produce human-use H5N1 vaccines late this year

HANOI, 1 March — Vietnam will start manufacturing human-use vaccines against bird flu virus strain H5N1 in late 2006 with initial annual capacity of 2-3 million doses, an official in charge of hygiene and epidemiology told Xinhua on Tuesday.

A human-use H5N1 vaccine production line has already been installed at the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, the official from the institute said on a condition of anonymity.

A dose of locally-made H5N1 vaccines is estimated to cost around

30,000 Vietnamese dong (nearly 1.9 US dollars). The institute's initial vaccine production capacity is able to serve some one million people.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese workers install light bulbs on top of Tiananmen Gate near the Great Hall of the People where the Chinese Parliament is expected to begin its annual session this Sunday in Beijing, China, on 2 March, 2006. — INTERNET

Hundreds flee wildfires in US' Oklahoma State

WASHINGTON, 2 March — More than 500 people were forced to evacuate Wednesday after a spate of grassland wildfires sprang up and spread on the prairie in the south-central US state of Oklahoma.

The situation in the state's southern prairie worsened with winds at some 50 kilometres per hour and temperatures above 30 degrees Celsius, CNN reported.

Two firefighters were injured while fighting one of the fires in Stephens County, in southwestern Oklahoma, which destroyed homes and forced the evacuations of schools and businesses, authorities said.

The cause of the fires was not known. In

December, a string of brush fires in the same region burned thousands of acres and destroyed dozens of homes.

Many people lost power supply in the city of Duncan, as the fires

affected electricity transfer centres.

Also on Wednesday, a fire burned on parched grassland in northeast New Mexico, forcing some 100 people to evacuate.

MNA/Xinhua

Egyptian trains collide, 17 injured

CAIRO, 1 March — Two Egyptian trains collided in the Nile Delta on Tuesday and about 17 people were injured, the state news agency MENA said.

The accident took place near the town of Abu Hummus, which lies on the main line between

Cairo and Alexandria and about 95 miles northwest of the capital, it said.

The governor of Beheira Province, Adel Labib, said that a train bound for Cairo ran into the back of a train going to Port Said during a morning mist which reduced visibility. The

trains had left the previous station five minutes apart.

The injuries were in the two rear carriages of the Port Said train and eight of them have already left hospital after treatment, added the governor, quoted by MENA.—MNA/Reuters

12% of Iraq vets have mental problems

CHICAGO, 1 March — Thirty-five percent of Iraq veterans received mental health care during their first year home, according to a new Pentagon study.

In addition, 12 percent of the more than 222,000 returning Army soldiers and Marines in the study were diagnosed with a mental problem.

The researchers did not find the results surprising, because the military has a new mental health screening program for returning soldiers and is encouraging them to get help early to prevent serious problems later, said

study co-author Dr Charles Hoge, a colonel at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

Because of the new screening program, the findings cannot be compared to those from previous wars, Hoge said.

"There are psychological consequences of war and we want to address those up front," Hoge said. "The hope is we won't have as high

rates of mental health consequences as we've seen in prior wars."

Nineteen percent of those back from Iraq reported mental health concerns, compared with 11 percent of those back from Afghanistan and 8.5 percent of those returning from other places, such as Bosnia.

The study appears in Wednesday Journal of the American Medical Association.—Internet

Two British soldiers killed in Iraq attack

AMARA (Iraq), 1 March — Two British soldiers were killed and a third was wounded in an attack on a patrol in Amara, 230 miles southeast of Baghdad on Tuesday, the British military said.

British troops in armoured personnel carriers in the area of the first attack were later stoned by about 20 youths. The second incident was also confirmed by a

British spokesman.

"There were no further incidents and members of the multi-national force were back at camp and the incident closed at 16.15 pm (1315 GMT)," the spokesman said. The third soldier's injuries were not life threatening, the spokesman added, declining to give further details. Local residents said a roadside bomb had exploded.—MNA/Reuters



Surgery for white lion

BEIJING, 2 March — Veterinarians nip out tumor from the front left leg's elbow of a white lion during an operation at a pet veterinary hospital in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 28 Feb, 2006.

The 1.5-year-old male white lion with a weight of over 100 kilograms belongs to a rare species out of chromosome mutation, and was bred by the Hangzhou Wild Animals World. The veterinarians succeeded in taking out tumor from the lion's front legs' elbow during the operation.—Internet

China, Japan join in training specialists for ancient Silk Road

BEIJING, 1 March—China and Japan will cooperate in training 100 specialists for protecting the cultural heritage along the Silk Road in the coming five years. The State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) of China and the Foundation for Cultural Heritage and Art Research, a non-governmental organization of Japan, signed an agreement here on Monday.

According to the agreement, the Japanese side will invest 150 million

Japanese yen (about 1.28 million US dollars) in the joint training project.

“The special training programme for protecting the Silk Road is the first of its kind in China, and will be carried out by state-level research institutes of the two countries,” said Zhang Tinghao, head of China Cultural Relics Research Institute.

Those working in the cultural heritage protection organizations along the Silk Road in Xinjiang, Qinghai,

Ningxia, Gansu, Shaanxi and Henan, especially young and middle-aged specialists, will be chosen to join the project.

The training will include classes of cultural heritage protection theory, experiments in labs and field teaching in the protection of earth relics, ancient buildings, archaeological sites, pottery and porcelain, metal objects, murals, textiles and paper relics.

MNA/Xinhua



The Official Mascot of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, Goleo VI, and Wolfgang Niersbach, head of the Organizations Committee hold an enlarged World Cup ticket during the presentation of the FIFA 2006 World Cup tickets on 1 March, 2006 in Kaiserslautern, Germany. —INTERNET

Look who's buying girdles

TOKYO, 1 March—As Japanese waists expand, so is the market for girdles —for men.

A new line of male underwear that flattens the stomach and lifts the hips proved so popular when introduced on a trial basis last month that some stores quickly sold out.

“Men are getting so much more fashion conscious these days that they’re starting to pay attention to the lines of their body and their silhouette, just like women,” said a spokeswoman at Triumph International Japan, a leading underwear firm.

Triumph marketed two different types of “long girdle”—one from the navel to the knees, and the other a “hip hugger” version to be worn with low-waisted pants. Both sold so well that it plans to raise production and develop new variations, including a version for summer wear.

Other firms intend to launch similar products, according to business daily *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*. One even plans to start selling underwear that lifts and shapes the upper body as well.

One factor behind the boom, which has made the girdles popular not only among middle-aged men but also those in their 20s and 30s, is likely to be a growing weight problem among once slim Japanese.

According to a Health Ministry report issued last month, some 29 percent of men aged 20-60 are overweight compared with 24 percent in 2000.

The Triumph spokeswoman, however, said most of the demand is due to new styles in pants that are cut to emphasize the hips. “It’s really more about style,” she said. “After all, there aren’t that many men in their 20s and 30s whose figures are giving way.” —Internet



Activists from an Indian political party burn an effigy of US President George W Bush during a protest in the northern Indian city of Allahabad, on 2 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Microsoft portable gadget comes to light

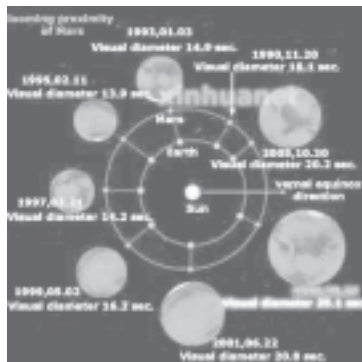
BEIJING, 28 Feb.—Microsoft has reportedly designed a new portable consumer gadget that will offer entertainment—video, games and music—in addition to basic Windows-based functions like e-mail, Web surfing and word processing.

Redmond, Wash-based Microsoft is developing an “ultra-portable PC,” the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Monday, citing a person familiar with work going on at the world’s largest software firm. Code-named “Origami,” the computer is a handheld PC that is smaller and lighter than most laptops on the market today. But it includes the full Windows XP operating system and could run Windows Vista, Microsoft’s successor operating system coming out this fall, according to a person familiar with the product.

The handheld is a slate with a 7-inch diagonal touch screen, about the size of portable DVD players. Users can touch the screen with their fingers or use a stylus to initiate programmes. —Internet

Earth, Mars in close encounter once in 60,000 years

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb.—Scientists say the Mars will move to its nearest position to Earth on 28 August, providing local stargazers with a terrific opportunity to watch the occurrence. The planet will be only 55.7566 million kilometres away from Earth, about 30 million kilometres nearer than in normal days. The last occurrence took place some 57,000 years ago. Astronomers say the next will be due 25,000 years later. —Internet



Two powerful quakes hit southeastern Iran

TEHERAN, 1 March—Two powerful earthquakes, measuring 5.8 and 5.6 on the Richter scale respectively, jolted two cities in the southeastern province of Kerman on Tuesday morning, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The first quake occurred at 11:01 am (0731 GMT), hitting Orzouyieh, a city 900 kilometres southeast to Teheran, IRNA quoted the seismological base of the Geophysics Institute of Teheran University as saying. —MNA/Xinhua

At least 13 killed, 40 wounded in three blasts in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 1 March—At least 13 Iraqi civilians were killed and 40 others wounded in three explosions that hit Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

“A car bomb went off in a busy area in Karrada District, killing at least four people and wounding up to 18 others,” the source said on condition of anonymity. —MNA/Xinhua

Paraguay police destroy five marijuana plantations

BUENOS AIRES, 1 March —Paraguayan police have destroyed 37 hectares of marijuana plantations, capable of producing 111 tons, in northeastern Paraguay.

On the first day of a new anti-marijuana operation in Amambay, close to the Brazilian border, the National Anti-Drug Agency (SENAD) destroyed five plantations, seized 80 kilos of chopped marijuana, 90 kilos of hashish and 20 kilos of seeds, reports from Asuncion, the Paraguayan capital, quoted authorities as saying on Tuesday. —MNA/Xinhua

Bomb explodes in Basque country northern Spain

MADRID, 1 March—A bomb exploded on Tuesday night in the town of Maria de Mutriku, the second such explosion in 24 hours in the northern Spanish Basque Country, the local Interior Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

An anonymous informant, identifying himself as a member of ETA, the Basque separatist group, warned the local highway rescue organization and the *Gara* daily paper of explosives in the social security offices at 8.30 pm local time. Police then rushed to the scene and set up a security cordon, evacuating the residents of nearby homes.

MNA/Xinhua

Iranian President starts visit to Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 March — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad arrived here Wednesday evening to start his three-day state visit.



Visiting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad (L) and Malaysia's King Syed Sirajuddin walk after the welcoming ceremony at the parliament square in Kuala Lumpur on 2 March, 2006.

INTERNET

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar met Ahmadinejad at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

Ahmadinejad's visit aims to strengthen the existing bilateral relations and cooperation between Malaysia and Iran in all fields, said Malaysian Foreign Ministry.

He will meet Malaysian Supreme Head of State Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin and hold talks with Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the ministry said in a statement released earlier. Apart from exchanging views on the

present regional and international issues, Ahmadinejad is expected to brief Badawi on Iran's nuclear programme.

This is Ahmadinejad's first ever visit to this Southeast Asian nation since he was elected as Iranian President in August of last year.

MNA/Xinhua

About 70 dolphins washed ashore on Japanese beach

TOKYO, 2 March — Scores of dolphins washed onto a beach on Japan's Pacific Coast on Tuesday, and surfers joined local officials in a struggle to push them back into the sea.

About 70 dolphins came ashore in the fishing town of Ichinomiya, about 40 miles southeast of Tokyo, local officials said.

Dozens of surfers, officials and residents rushed to the scene and tried to help the mammals swim back into the water, they said.

Most of the dolphins had returned to the water by sundown, they said.

"We have never seen such a large number of dolphins washed ashore in this town before," one official said. "We have no idea why this happened."

Some of the dolphins may have died, he said.

MNA/Reuters

Expert says bird flu could last five years in Britain

LONDON, 1 March — Bird flu could become endemic in Britain and last up to five years, the government's chief scientific adviser said on Tuesday.

"I would anticipate that avian flu will arrive at some point in the Britain," Professor David King told BBC news.

"We also have to anticipate that it will be here for five years-plus. We are talking about the possibility of this disease being endemic here in Britain," he said.

The bird flu virus has spread from Asia to Africa and Europe and caused the deaths of millions of birds and more than 90 people.

It reached France earlier this month amid criticism that the British Government had not done more to tackle the

threat and demands for poultry either to be kept indoors or vaccinated.

Britain's Farm Minister Margaret Beckett said on Monday that the country is well prepared to react swiftly to any outbreak of bird flu.

Britain has questioned the benefits of vaccination and Beckett reiterated fears that vaccines might mask rather than eradicate the disease although she said the government's policy was under review. "We are very conscious it is a changing situation," she told reporters.

MNA/Reuters

Four dead, dozens wounded in Karachi blast

KARACHI, 2 March — At least one car bomb exploded Thursday outside the US Consulate and a luxury hotel in Pakistan's largest city, killing at least four people and wounding dozens just days ahead of a visit to Pakistan by President Bush.

Two blasts ripped through vehicles in the parking lot of the Marriott Hotel, about 20 yards from the consulate gate, shattering windows at both locations and other nearby buildings. Ten cars were destroyed, casting clouds of thick black smoke over the scene.

Police initially said two car bombs had gone off, but provincial police chief Jahangir Mirza said a single bomb by a suspected suicide attacker may have triggered a second explosion when a burning car's fuel tank caught fire.

"There is a possibility that this could be a suicide

attack but we are still investigating," Mirza said.

Shabbir Qaimkhani, the provincial health minister, said four people were

killed, including a woman who died of her injuries in the hospital, and 49 others were wounded.

Internet



Pakistani firemen trying to put off fire caused by bomb blasts outside the US Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan, on 2 March, 2006.

INTERNET

China to survey hepatitis B epidemic situation

XINMEN, 1 March — China's Ministry of Health is going to launch a nationwide survey on the current epidemic situation of hepatitis B in a bid to give scientific support to the country's prevention of the disease.

The control of hepatitis B has been listed on the 11th national five-year programme (2006-2010) and is one of the priorities of the ministry on its infectious disease control agenda, said Qi Xiaoqi, director of the Department of Disease Control under the ministry.

The survey will focus on the current epidemic situation, changing trends, transmission elements, financial burdens and immunization evaluation

of hepatitis B, noted Qi at a national conference on the immunization plan of 2006 held on Tuesday.

"The control of hepatitis B is a crucial task of the ministry this year. We are organizing experts to assess the survey and will work out a detailed plan soon," said Qi.

Hepatitis B is one of the major infectious disease in China, which carried out nationwide surveys about the epidemic situation of

hepatitis on 1979 and 1992. According to experts, the country currently has 20 million people infected with chronic hepatitis B.

On 28 January, the ministry issued a national prevention and control plan on hepatitis B for the next five years, which set a goal of significant decrease in the incidence of hepatitis B and deaths caused by hepatocirrhosis and liver cancer by 2010.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed, two injured in Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 March — One US soldier was killed, two others were injured Tuesday in a firefight with Taliban militants in Afghan southern province of Uruzgan, US military said.

"Coalition forces conducting offensive operations in Uruzgan Province captured seven suspected Taliban fighters today in an engagement in which two US service members were wounded and one US service member was killed," US military said in a Press release. "One Coalition vehicle was damaged by an improvised explosive device during the engagement, in the vicinity of Tarin Kowt. Coalition forces attacked the enemy with small-arms fire," it

added. The wounded service members, according to US military, were evacuated for medical treatment at a nearby facility, and they are in stable condition. About 19,000 strong US-led Coalition troops stayed in Afghanistan since the collapse of Taliban in late 2001 for further cleanup operations.

Till now, more than 200 US soldiers have been killed in and around Afghanistan since the Operation Enduring Freedom since 2001. — MNA/Xinhua



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

Donate blood

Myanmar's education standard rising markedly

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

"Natthi Panna Sama Abha" is the original verbal sermon of the Buddha which means nothing can be compared with knowledge in making animate beings intellectual. And according to the Anguttara treatise (Pali), among various kinds of improvements, the improvement of knowledge is best.

As Myanmar nationals are a sort of people who value knowledge, a large number of laureates and learned persons have emerged throughout the history of Myanmar. Beyond doubt, the education standard of Myanmar stood high throughout the successive periods if compared with neighbouring countries.

Nevertheless, Myanmar's education standard fell during the period of servitude owing to the suppression of the colonialists who cleverly tarnished the Myanmar's education.

Before the life of servitude, the literacy rate of Myanmar stood at 72 per cent (men) and at 22 per cent (women), accounting for three times that of India. And the number of monasteries, the main source of the education of the youths at that time, fell drastically to 928 from 6,873.

However, it was members of the Sangha who had preserved as far as they could the prestige, education, literature and traditions of Myanmar and had taught and nurtured the children.

Since the post-independence period, Myanmar has been regenerating its education and the drive has now reached its peak with the participation of the people and members of the Sangha.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council in his speech at the opening of the basic education high school of War Veterans model village in Laydaungkan, Dagon Myothit (South), on 28 January 2006 said the government had been taking measures for enlarging the horizon of knowledge of the people to be able to further distinguish constructive efforts and destructive acts. Then, more than 40,000 high, middle and primary schools had been opened with over 25,000 teachers in over 60,000 villages across the nation.

At the Sayawun Tin Shwe literary awards ceremony held on 28 January 2006, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said the Ministry of Information had paid serious attention to the opening of self-reliant libraries in every village to improve the intellectual power of rural folks. It had been able to facilitate more than 48,880 villages with a self-reliant library each out of more than 60,000 villages. It was pursuing the target of opening a library each in more than 60,000 villages by 2006. Eventually, Myanmar would become a nation where every village had a library in the world, he

said. Today is knowledge age. So, world nations are vying one another to their utmost so as to get in the forefront in the global village.

Now, in Myanmar, the school enrolment rate of school age children and adult literacy rate are close to cent per cent. In the process, the Pariyatti education and monastic education are contributing towards such a prudent drive.

Myanmar has witnessed many Pariyatti monasteries, each of which can accommodate one thousand to two thousand members of the Sangha to pursue Pariyatti education. For instance, in 2005-2006 academic year, altogether 1,334 novices and boy students of various national races are studying under Dhamma Kathika Sayadaws, Maha Dhamma Kathika Sayadaws, Kammathana Cariya Sayadaws and Maha Kammathana Cariya Sayadaws in Naga Cave Kalaywa Tawya monastic education school.

The awarding of national literary awards, Sarpay Beikman manuscript prizes, the prizes to mark significant days (for instance Armed Forces Day), Pakokku U Ohn Pe awards, general knowledge awards, and Sayawun Tin Shwe awards are the steps for raising the education standard of Myanmar.

Apart from the Ministry of Education, the government has established the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Technology for the development of human resources. At the same time, the Ministry of Information is exerting efforts with added momentum to enable every village to get a self-reliant library by 2006.

Therefore, Myanmar has a brighter future in the education sphere thanks to the enthusiastic participation of the people.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 2-3-2006

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Mubarak warns US against hitting Iran

CAIRO, 2 March— Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he had advised the United States against attacking Iran, predicting that Teheran would react through its influence over Shiite Muslim communities in Arab countries in the Gulf.

In remarks to Egyptian newspaper editors published on Wednesday, Mubarak also said an Israeli attack on Iran was most unlikely because Teheran would respond by launching ballistic missiles at the Jewish state.

The United States has declined to rule out military force against Iran, which it says it suspects of working on nuclear weapons under the cover of its civilian nuclear programme.

Mubarak, speaking on his way back from the Gulf on Monday, said he discussed the consequences of a US attack on Iran with US Vice-President Dick Cheney, who visited Egypt in January.

"I said to him word for word: 'Listen to my advice for once,'" Mubarak said, speaking the phrase in English. The remark was published in the state-owned daily *al-Gomhuria*.

Mubarak warned against the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

"If an airstrike (against Iran) took place, Iraq will turn into terrorist groups more than it is already. The Gulf area has Shiite majorities in many of the states and America is linked to vital interests

in this area and has naval facilities," Mubarak said.

"Iran spends generously on the Shi'a in every country and these people are prepared to do anything if Iran is hit."

The newspaper continued: "The President said that he ruled out completely Israel carrying out this strike (on Iran) because Iran possesses ballistic missiles which it would launch at Israel and which would cause great damage. — MNA/Reuter

All this needs to be known

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

Chinese journalists, scholars to start cultural trip to Arab nations

BEIJING, 2 March — Some 60 Chinese journalists and scholars will travel overland on a cultural expedition to 20 Arabian countries, according to a Press conference held here Wednesday. Chen Haosu, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), said the participants of the

expedition will bring Chinese friendship and good wishes to those they meet.

This year marks the 50 anniversary of the China-Arabia friendly cooperation, said Chen. The expedition, sponsored by CPAFFC and China-Arab Friendship Association, will help promote the China-Arabia non-government exchange activi-

ties and exert positive influence on the cooperation in the fields of culture, tourism, and economic and trade, he said.

The participants are expected to kick off the travel from the Chinese capital in mid October and arrive in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum in November 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

Blizzard hits N-W China prefecture

CHENGDU, 2 March — The worst blizzard in the past five decades hit the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Garze in northwest China's Sichuan Province since Monday, blocking roads and forced closure of groups of shops and plants, local source said.

Heavy snowfall

measuring 48 millimetres in depth hit the Tibetan prefecture, which is believed the worst in the past 50 years, the provincial disaster relief and meteorological departments said Wednesday.

The blizzard coincides with the Tibetan New Year, which fell on Tuesday, causing much

inconvenience for local residents.

The local government is arranging relief work and distributing relief materials to the affected people.

The heavy snowfall will continue on Wednesday and Thursday, the local meteorological observatory said.

MNA/Xinhua

*Diplomats see off
Indonesian
President Dr Susilo
Bambang
Yudhoyono
and
Madame Kristiani
Herrawati and
goodwill delegation
at Yangon Interna-
tional Airport.*

(News on page 1)

MNA



NPC Standing Committee of PRC donates computers and accessories to USDA

YANGON, 2 March—The National People's Congress Standing Committee of the People's Republic of China donated computers and accessories to the Union Solidarity and Development Association at the USDA Headquarters on University Avenue here this morning.

Concerning the donation, Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu said that China and Myanmar are friendly and good neighbourly countries sharing the same border. From time immemorial, the two peoples have harmoniously dealt with each other as Paukphaw relatives. The bilateral friendly cooperation has been flourishing due to the care and nurture given by the leaders of the two

sides. The two countries have been mutually cooperating in the political, economic, trade, cultural, education and health sectors. It can be said the friendly relations between the two countries have reached their peak. At the invitation of the USDA secretary-general, Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee Mr Wang Zhaoguo paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar in November 2005, and held a meeting with the Secretary-General. He paid courtesy calls on SPDC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe and Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Maung Aye. So, his visit was successful. The Chinese ambassador expressed thanks to the sec-

retary-general and responsible personnel who contributed to the visit to be successful.

The National People's Congress and the Chinese government placed emphasis on further improvement of the China-Myanmar friendly relations and mutual cooperation and are willing to help Myanmar government and people for national economic development of Myanmar and for raising the standard of living of the people. In conclusion, he said the two sides have to make collaborative efforts to deepen the China-Myanmar paukphaw relations and to accelerate the exchange programmes and cooperation in diverse fields.

The Chinese ambas-



Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu presents computers and accessories and DVD players to USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo. — MNA

sador handed over the computers and accessories and DVD players to USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo.

Expressing gratitude, the secretary-general said that the ultimate goal of the national people is to build a peaceful, modern

and developed nation. In the process, USDA members are pursuing the national goal hand in hand with the people. The membership of the USDA has reached more than 23 million and they are now putting efforts into the work programmes the State is implementing for restoration of peace and stability.

After the ceremony, the Chinese ambassador and the secretary-general discussed friendly cooperation between the youths of the two sides.

Also present were USDA Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min, CEC Member U Tin Naing Thein and officials of the USDA Headquarters.

MNA



Computers and accessories and DVD players presented by China to USDA.

MNA

Minister inspects road extension work

YANGON, 2 March — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun observed upgrading work at a section of Bayintnaung-Pathein Road on 28 February.

Accompanied by officials, the minister inspected road extension, rock laying, drainage digging and conduit building on Pathein-Thalatkwa-Mawtinsoon road.

The minister spoke of the need to complete rock laying work before the arrival of monsoon, to stockpile rocks and to extend the road according to schedule.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, the 102-mile Pathein-Thalatkwa-Mawtinsoon road has been upgraded into a 30-foot wide facility.

The project covers, road extension, latrite laying and conduit building. The road ensures road transport for the locals who were mainly relying on water transport.

MNA

Indonesian President visits Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 2 March — The Indonesian goodwill delegation led by Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati today visited Shwedagon Pagoda and National Museum here.

When they arrived at Shwedagon Pagoda, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and members of the pagoda board of trustees welcomed them.

At the pagoda, Dr Susilo Bambang signed in the visitors' book and donated cash to the pagoda funds through Deputy Minister Thura Aung Ko.

Afterwards, they viewed the jade Buddha Image, the great bell donated by King Thayawady and the old *htidaw* (umbrella) of the pagoda donated by King Mindon in 1871.

At 9 am, the delegation arrived at the People's

Square where Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn and wife welcomed them.

Dr Susilo Bambang and Madame Kristiani Herrawati planted the star flowers tree at the People's Square to mark the goodwill visit.

Afterwards, they visited National Museum where Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and officials welcomed them. President Dr Susilo Bambang signed in the visitors' book of the museum.

President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani arrived here yesterday to pay a State visit to Myanmar at the invitation of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing. — MNA



The Indonesian goodwill delegation seen at the Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA

Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati visit the National Museum. — MNA



Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati plant a commemorative star flower tree. — MNA

Establishments at Thagara Industrial Region inspected

YANGON, 2 March — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin made an inspection tour of Thagara Industrial Region of the Ministry of Industry-2 in Yedashe Township on 26 February.

At the Multi-purpose Diesel Engine Factory Project of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries, the

minister heard reports on construction of the foundry shop.

The minister oversaw storage of construction materials at the warehouse.

On 27 February, the minister proceeded to Htonbo of Padaung Township. He inspected manufacturing of plastic battery containers and parts, and its production

process. Officials of Directorate of Myanma Industrial Planning conducted the minister round the production site.

On his inspection tour, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin instructed officials to complete construction of the factories in time, to beautify the project site and its environs, and to meet the set standard. — MNA

Rail Transportation Minister looks into Pynmana-Taungdingyi railroad section, holds discussions about rural development tasks

YANGON, 1 March — CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min went on an inspection tour of Pynmana Railway Station yesterday morning.

Upon arrival at the station, the Minister gave instructions on enabling the station and its environs to be clean and pleasant and the travelers to be comfortable with peace of mind.

Accompanied by officials of Myanma Railways, the minister inspected steel beam bridge No 44 with 180 feet long between mile post Nos 236/16 and 236/17 and steel beam bridge No 57 with 180 feet long between mile post Nos 240/6 and 240/7 on Pynmana-Taungdingyi railway line and gave instructions on measures to be taken for durability of

the bridges before the rainy season and controlling waterways not to erode approach structures away.

Upon arrival at Lewe, the minister met with townselders, members of USDA and social organizations and locals at NO 28 Saw Mill in Minpyin village and held discussions about harmonious efforts in rural development tasks and cordially greeted them.

Similarly, the

minister met with townselders, members of USDA and social organizations and locals at NO 56 Saw Mill in Thitpoat village and held discussions about harmonious efforts in rural development tasks and cordially greeted them.

In the end, the minister arrived at the place chosen to build a bridge crossing the creek and made arrangements to fulfill the needs.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects a bridge on Pynmana-Taungdingyi railroad section. — MR

Government working in close collaboration with ASEAN member countries for enhancement of economic, social and cultural sectors



Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung extends greetings at Seminar on Ten Nations One Community. — MNA

YANGON, 2 March — A ceremony to open the Seminar on Ten Nations One Community under the arrangements of the ASEAN Information Seminar Series IV (Fy 2005-2006), organized by ASEAN-COCI, was held at Patheingyi Hotel on Monywa-YeU Road in Patheingyi yesterday morning, with an address by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung extended greetings. He said that nowadays, while striving with strenuous efforts for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed new nation, the Government is working in close collaboration with ASEAN member countries for enhancement of economic, social and cultural sectors.

Respective countries joining hands with other ASEAN member nations perform discussions and cooperation tasks for ensuring sector-wise development of the security community, the economic community and the socio-cultural community which are three pillars of the ASEAN Vision 2020. Myanmar, being an ASEAN member country, is actively participating in the respective sector of realizing the three pillars of the ASEAN Vision 2020.

In doing so, ASEAN member countries are to disseminate knowledge on the ASEAN Vision to the people residing in the region. Hence, the holding of the seminar organized by ASEAN-COCI is one of the functions of the ASEAN. In conclusion, the commander said that fruits of the seminar will contribute toward implementation of the ASEAN Vision.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Organizing ASEAN Information Seminar Series (Fy 2005-2006) Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein delivered an opening address.

In the morning session of the seminar presided over by Director U Aye Kyaw of Energy Planning Department, Director-General U Aung Bwa of ASEAN Affairs Department discussed the topic on Overview on ASEAN; Director U Win Thein of ASEAN Affairs Department the topic on Bali Concord II and Vientiane Action Plan; Adviser to the Ministry for National Planning and Economic Development U Maung Maung Yi the topic on ASEAN economic cooperation; Pro-Rector U Kyaw Min Tun of Yangon Institute of Economic the topic on economic cooperation in ASEAN region; and Director (Management) U Phone Myint of MRTV the topic on ASEAN-COCI and plans of ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information implemented by Myanmar.

In the afternoon session, Director-General U Aung Bwa of ASEAN Affairs Department presided over the seminar. Director U Aye Kyaw of Energy Planning Department held discussions on energy cooperation in ASEAN; Director Daw Yin Kywe of Transport Department on current status of ASEAN cooperation in transport; Professor Dr Daw Myint Kyi of International Relations Department of YU on ASEAN cooperation in education, health and social sectors; Director Daw Yin Yin Lay of National Commission for Environment Affairs on cooperation of environmental conservation in ASEAN region; Deputy Director Police Lt-Col Kyaw Win

Thein of Transnational Crime Department on transnational crimes; and Deputy Director Police Lt-Col Htay Aung of CCDAC Office on endeavours of Myanmar in narcotic drugs elimination.

The seminar ended with the concluding remarks of Director-General U Aung Bwa.

The seminar was attended by senior military officers of South-West Command Headquarters, the chairman and members of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Seminar, local authorities, the Pro-Rector of Patheingyi University, faculty members of universities and colleges, representatives of Ayeyawady Division Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Red Cross Brigade, entrepreneurs from Patheingyi, Hinthada and Myaungmya Industrial Zones, representatives of social organizations and guests. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein delivers an address at opening of Seminar on Ten Nations One Community in Patheingyi. — MNA

Yangon East District WAO plants physic nut grafts

YANGON, 2 March — A nurturing ceremony of physic nut, organized by Yangon East District Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, took place at District Peace and Development Council Office in Thingangyun Township this morning.

Daw Mar Mar Wai, Patron of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization, made a speech. Division Manger of Myanma Agriculture Service U Aung San explained growing methods of physic nut.

Later, Patron Daw Mar Mar Wai presented physic nut seeds and grafts to Yangon East District MCWSC and sowed the seeds and planted the grafts.

A work coordination meeting of Yangon East District WAO was also held at the office.

Patron Daw Mar Mar Wai clarified matters related to measures to be taken by township and district WAOs.

After that, Patron Daw Mar Mar Wai gave K 250,000 provided by MWAF to Patron of Yangon East District WAO Daw Nan Shwe Yin and Chairperson Daw Khin San Htay for the tasks of earning more family income.—MNA



Yangon Division WAO Patron Daw Mar Mar Wai plants a physic nut graft. — MNA

Terrorist bombs explode in Toungoo

YANGON, 2 March — A bomb planted by terrorists exploded near No 1 Basic Education High School in Ward 19, Toungoo, at 7.45 am today, leaving a six inches deep and one foot wide hole in the ground.

Another bomb exploded at a place near a transformer of Electric Power Enterprise in Ward 20 and caused some damage to the nearby wall.

But there were no casualties and other damages in the two explosions.

It was found that the terrorist insurgents were wicked to the degree of blowing up a bomb near a school where school children were attending classes. They have been blowing up bombs with the sinister aim of destroying community peace and tranquillity and frightening the people.

Members of Myanmar Police Force are working closely with the people to expose and arrest the terrorists. — MNA

China to further improve rural teachers' quality, payment

BEIJING, 2 March—Chinese Minister of Education Zhou Ji said here Tuesday that concrete measures will be taken to improve rural teacher's quality and payment, with a specific fund to be launched in the near future.

At a Press conference held at the Information Office of the State Council, Zhou told reporters that large disparity still exists in the educational sector between rural and urban areas in China. To improve rural teacher's quality is key to solving the problem.

"Therefore, the Chinese Government will set up specific funds to support outstanding young teachers to work in outlying rural areas," Zhou said.

China has drawn a clear blueprint to promote rural education, Zhou said. In the next two years, it will make rural students exempt of all education tuition fees during the period of compulsory education and provide free textbooks and boarding subsidies for school kids

from needy families. And in the next five years, the country will spend 218.2 billion yuan (around 27 billion US dollars) to help improve education in its rural areas.

In addition, he said, the State Council has made a draft amendment to China's Law on Compulsory Education and tabled it to lawmakers on 4 February. *MNA/Xinhua*

S Korea cargo ship hit by storm in E China

SHANGHAI, 2 March—A cargo ship from South Korea encountered heavy storms in the East China Sea on Monday and as of 3:40 pm Tuesday, all the 16 crew members were rescued.

The source with Donghai Rescue Bureau, subordinated to the Ministry of Communications, the ship loaded with 6,100 tons of coal, named *MV. CHUNYEON*, was hit by the storms at 10:40 am Monday near the estuary of Minjiang River. *MNA/Xinhua*



A Fiat Grande Punto is shown together with Microsoft equipment during the Press days of the 76th Geneva International Motor Show, on Wednesday, 1 March, 2006, in Geneva, Switzerland.—INTERNET

5,000-year-old earthenware unearthed in N-W China

LANZHOU, 2 March—A large earthen jar painted in black and brownish red, which is confirmed by experts to be 5,000 years old, was unearthed recently in Lintao County of northwest China's Gansu Province.

The discovery is rare because of its bird-shape and numerous openings indicate that it belonged to the Majiayao culture, a historical period from about 3300 BC to 2050 BC. Usually these types of jars were made with

only one opening on the top, said Wang Haidong, president of the Gansu Provincial Majiayao Culture Society.

The jar is 32 centimetres high and 40 centimetres in diameter. There are two openings which are eight centimetres and three centimetres in diameter respectively at the top of the jar, according to local archaeologist. There is also a large open-

Security Forces discover large quantity of explosives in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 2 March—Nepal's Joint Security Forces have seized a large quantity of explosives in a western city, Ministry of Defence (MoD) said here Wednesday.

"The explosives were seized Tuesday from a truck with Indian registration number at Bhairahawa City in Rupandehi District, some 300 kilometres west of Kathmandu," MoD said in

a Press statement.

The explosives seized include 2,500 kilos of Gelatin, 475 kilos of Neo gel-90 (Emulsion Explosive Class-2), 7,500 metres of safety fuse, 29,000 No. 27 detonators and 10,200 pieces of No 33 detonators, the statement said.

The materials were discovered during a regular police check at Bhairahawa City, a southern area bordering India. They were found concealed under a heap of charcoal loaded on the truck.

The anti-government guerrillas of Nepal been successful in smuggling into the country explosives and the damage they might have caused to public life and property cannot even be imagined, the statement added.

It was the largest quantity of such materials ever seized in the country, Bishwa JB Rana, superintendent of Nepali police, told reporters. *MNA/Xinhua*

Philippine President makes new appointments in Cabinet

MANILA, 2 March—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo made adjustment to her Cabinet on Wednesday with new appointments.

Cabinet Officer for Presidential Engagements Conrado Limcaoco was named as Philippine Information Agency Director-General. The an-

nouncement was made by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on Wednesday.

Limcaoco would replace Renato Velasco who meanwhile was named chief of the Presidential Management Staff.

Velasco replaced Rigoberto Tiglao, who had been confirmed as Philip-

pine Ambassador to Greece.

Ermita said one of his undersecretaries Gamaliel Cordoba would take over Limcaoco's position.

The new appointments were part of the on-going changes in the Cabinet started by President Arroyo since February, Ermita added. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Laurent Guittard, chief steward on an airliner between the French Ocean Indian island of Reunion and Paris sprays an organic product inside the cabin to eradicate all insects, on Monday, 27 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET



Chevy Rahlves, the dog of United States Alpine ski star Daron Rahlves, is seen in the main square in Sestriere, Italy, on Thursday, 16 Feb, 2006. Chevy usually accompanies Rahlves and his wife Michelle as they travel the World Cup circuit in a motor home. *INTERNET*

29 Taleban militants join Afghan Government

KABUL, 2 March—Twenty-nine more anti-government militants laid down their arms and joined the Afghan Government on Tuesday, the head of Commission for Strengthening Peace (CSP) said.

"Around 29 dissident brothers from Taleban today joined the peace process and vowed to help build their country,"

Sibghatullah Mujaddadi told journalists at a ceremony held in connection with former militants' surrender.

Over 1,100 militants, according to officials, have laid down their arms and joined the government over the past nine months since the establishment of CSP.

Termining militancy as un-Islamic, Mujaddadi called on other anti-gov-

ernment militias to give up insurgency and join the peace process.

"If the government ensures security of Taleban members and provides job to them, more Taleban operatives will give up resistance and join the government," former militant Mohammad Hashim of northwest Faryab province told *Xinhua*. *MNA/Xinhua*

Portuguese police seize two tons of marijuana

LISBON, 1 March — Portuguese police seized two tons of marijuana and killed one suspected drug trafficker on Tuesday in a raid in southern Portugal, said the police on Tuesday.

The suspected drug dealers opened fire when they were surprised by the police, triggering a shootout during which a 20-year-old trafficker was killed. The police arrested eight Portuguese — six men and two women — all of whom have criminal

records including drug trafficking, robbery and document forgery. The suspects, aged between 20 to 25, will appear before a bail judge on Wednesday morning.

The drugs, divided into 70 packets, were loaded onto some small vehicles from a boat on the Albufeira Beach in Algarve, southern Portugal.

Another dozen of suspects had possibly escaped, according to the police. —MNA/Xinhua

HIV infections on rise in Belgium

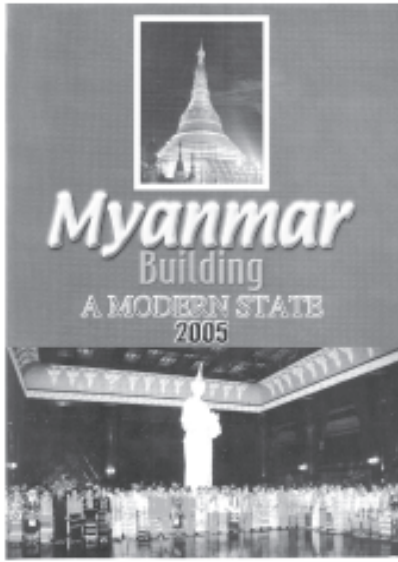
BRUSSELS, 1 March — An average of three people are diagnosed HIV positive in Belgium everyday, while the rate recorded in the 1980s was two people a day, the Scientific Institute for Public Health and the College of AIDS Reference Laboratories said on Tuesday.

Between 1997 and 2004, the number of HIV infections in Belgium rose by 43 percent, the institutes said. The increase occurred among both immigrant and native Belgian communities. Figures also showed that 66 percent of HIV-positive men were infected after having gay or bi-sexual

sex, while 87 per cent of women were infected via heterosexual sex.

Since the start of the HIV epidemic in the 1980s and up until 2004, some 17,968 people have been diagnosed with HIV in Belgium. Among them, 1,763 people have died.

MNA/Xinhua



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China warns foreigners who break law to be deported

BEIJING, 1 March — As a new law on public order comes into effect, China's Public Security Bureau is warning that foreigners who break the law can be and will be deported.

The Law on Penalties for Offenses against Public Order, which comes into being on 1 March, provides guidelines on how to punish violators of 238 different offenses, said Wu Heping, spokesman of Public Security Ministry. The previous law listed 73 offences.

"The Ministry of Public Security will be granted more authority in disciplining offenders, including deporting foreigners who break the law," said Ke Liangdong, director of the legal affairs

office of the ministry.

This is the first update of law in two decades and was required because of the dramatic rise in the number of foreigners in China and changes in Chinese society. New offences include extreme cases of undermining social order under cover of religion, prostitution, living off the avails of prostitution and buying sex.

"It is possible for foreigners to be deported for any wrongful act named in the law," said Ke, adding that there is some flexibility

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and the circumstances of the incident will be taken into account.

He said, a foreign offender can also be fined or detained.

Ke said local police can not deport anyone without the approval from the Ministry of Public Security or local governments which are authorized by the ministry.

There are "many cases" of foreigners committing offences, said Wu Mingshan, an official with the Public Security Ministry. "The most common offences involve prostitution, theft, and assault."

Wu said people with diplomatic privilege are exempted from the penalties of the law as they are in most countries.

Foreigners in China are expected to understand the new laws and the ministry is working on an English-language version of the text, he said. —MNA/Xinhua

Police seize nine kilos of hashish in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 1 March — Nepali police seized nine kilos of hashish from a passenger bus in Kathmandu on Tuesday morning, Radio Nepal reported.

The narcotic was seized from a bus belonging to Danphe Travels, which was packed in two big bags, the state-owned radio quoted the Sorakhutte ward police office as saying. Two persons who smuggled the hashish to Bhairahawa were arrested, the radio noted. —MNA/Xinhua

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် စက္ကူနှင့်ပုံနှိပ်လုပ်ငန်းသုံးပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းတို့အတွက် အသုံးပြုရန်လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စက္ကူနှင့်ပုံနှိပ်လုပ်ငန်းသုံး ပစ္စည်းများကို ယှဉ်တွဲပါအရေအတွက်များအတိုင်း ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်—

(က) **ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်း**

(1) Newsprint Paper (48.8 Gsm) (28 1/4", 30", 34", 40")	၁၅၅၀ တန်
(2) Woodfree Paper (A1 Size Sheet)	၁၅ တန်
(3) Art Card (အထူ) (250/265 Gsm) (A1 Size)	၅ တန်
(4) Art Card (အပါး) (105/110 Gsm) (A1 Size)	၁၀ တန်
(5) Negative Developer	၄၀၀ လီတာ
(6) Positive Plates & Chemicals	
(a) 635 x 745 x 0.3 mm	၁၀၀၀ ချပ်
(b) 1065 x 785 x 0.3 mm	၁၀၀၀ ချပ်
(7) Positive Developer	၆၀၀ လီတာ
(8) Ortho Film (50 shots/Pkt) (22" x 32")	၇၀ ထုပ်
(9) Stitching Wire (23 Gauge)	၁၀၀၀ ကျွိုင်
(10) Stitching Wire (24 Gauge)	၆၀၀ ကျွိုင်

(ခ) **သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း**

(1) Newsprint Paper (48.8 Gsm) (30", 34")	၄၅၅ တန်
(2) Sheetfed Offset Ink (Black)	၁၀၀၀ ကီလို
(3) P/S Negative Plates	
(a) 915 x 626 x 0.3 mm	၆၀၀ ချပ်
(b) 889 x 586 x 0.3 mm	၃၂၀၀ ချပ်
(4) Wipe on Aluminium Plates	
(a) 745 x 635 x 0.24 mm	၈၀၀ ချပ်
(b) 650 x 550 x 0.24 mm	၂၅၀၀ ချပ်
(5) Coating A + B Set	၁၂၀ နံ
(6) P/S Developer	၃၀၀ လီတာ
(7) Developing Laquer (1 Litre/Box)	၂၀၀ သွား
(8) Ortho film (Agfa) (24" x 200')	၅၀ လီပ်
(9) Agfa Developer (10 Ltrs/PKT)	၅၀ သွား
(10) Hilithodol Developer (10 Ltrs/Pkt)	၃၀ သွား
(11) Fixer (5 Ltrs/Box)	၆၀ သွား
(12) Photographic Paper (10" x 12")	၁၀၀ ထုပ်
(13) Rubber Blanket With T Bar	၇၀ ချပ်
(14) Rubber Blanket Roll (28 m x 1075 mm x 1.95 mm)	၃ လီပ်
(15) Stencil Paper	၁၀၀၀ သွား
(16) Duplicating Ink Tube	၇၀၀ သွား
(17) A3 Toner	၆၀ သွား
(18) Gum Arabic (20 Litres/ Bot)	၄၅ ပုလင်း

၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၁၅-၃-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီတွင် ပိတ်ပါမည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်ဖုန်းဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်—
ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပစက္ကူများ ဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထုတ်ဝေရေးဌာန၊ ချေးကော်မတီ

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်စာအသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား
ပြည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
ဖုန်း: -၅၃၇၆၀၅

Drive with care

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွင့်လှစ်တိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ခုံ



A Chinese artist working on restoring a silk mural taken from the 230-year old Qianlong Gardens in the Forbidden City, Beijing, China, Wednesday, on 1 March, 2006. — INTERNET

More needs to be done to halt Britain's obesity rise

LONDON, 1 March — The British Government and relevant organizations need to put in more efforts to halt the rapid rise of obesity, especially in children, a report said on Tuesday.

According to the report issued by the National Audit Office, the Healthcare Commission and the Audit Commission, 13.7 per cent of British youngsters were obese in 2003, and the number is still rising.

Obesity costs the National Health Service one billion pounds (1.75 billion US dollars) each year, and a further 2.3-billion pound (4 billion

dollars) for the economy. If the trend continues, the cost to the economy would rise to 3.6 billion pounds (6.3 billion dollars) by 2010, the report said.

Childhood obesity "is a causal factor in a number of chronic diseases and conditions including high blood pressure, heart disease and type 2 diabetes", Healthcare Commission Chief

Executive Anna Walker said in the report.

She praised the government for setting tough targets in fighting obesity, but added that more work needed to be done, such as making sure all government agencies and organizations work together more effectively and sending more guidance to local schools, health groups and parents.

MNA/Xinhua

Renowned Russian pianist to perform in HK

HONG KONG, 1 March — Russian pianist Evgeny Kissin, who is famous for his understanding and performance of the classics of Beethoven and Chopin, will give a piano recital in Hong Kong in April, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department said here on Tuesday.

Kissin's "Encore Series" will be staged at 8:00 pm on 4 April at the Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, according to a Press release by the department.

Tickets will be available from 2 March

onwards. The department also decided to grant half-price concessions to senior citizens, people with disabilities, full-time students and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients as normal tickets are priced from 550 to 200 Hong

Kong dollars (71 to 26 US dollars).

In the Hong Kong performance, Kissin will perform Beethoven's and Chopin's delightful classics, including Beethoven's piano sonata and Chopin's scherzo, according to the department.

Kissin entered the Moscow Gnessin School of Music when he was six, where he was a student of Anna Pavlovna Kantor. He came to international attention in March, 1984, when then 12-year-old Kissin performed Chopin's Piano Concertos in the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory with the Moscow State Philharmonic under Dmitri Kitaenko.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Turkey exports 40 mln flowers to Europe for Women's Day

ANKARA, 1 March — Forty million flowers have been exported to Europe from Turkey's Mediterranean Province of Antalya for the upcoming Women's Day on 8 March, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Tuesday.

Osman Bagdatlioglu, Deputy Chairman of Antalya's Flower Exporters' Union, was quoted as saying that 80 per cent of these exported flowers would head to Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria.

He said Turkish flower exporters expected a revenue of 5-6 million US dollars, adding that they would increase flower exports to Europe by 30 per cent next year.

MNA/Xinhua



Brazil's soccer legend Pele poses with children during a promotional event for the 2006 World Cup in Germany, in Shanghai, east China, on 27 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Australia to buy Lockheed missiles for fighter jets

CANBERRA, 1 March — Australia announced on Tuesday it will buy long-range missiles from Lockheed Martin Corp for its strike aircraft, but dropped plans to arm its maritime surveillance planes with the missiles.

Defence Minister Brendan Nelson said the contract, worth between 350 million Australian dollars (259 million US dollars) to 450 million Australian dollars, is part of a 28.8-billion-Australian-dollar plan to upgrade the country's defence capability by 2010.

He said the government would buy an undisclosed number of the Joint Air-to-Surface Stand-off Missiles, a stealth missile which can hit targets 250 miles away, for its fleet of 71 F/A-18 Hornets.

Lockheed Martin won the contract beating out Europe's Taurus Systems GmbH, which makes the KEPD 350 missile, and

Boeing Co's SLAM-ER missile. Nelson said the extra reach of the new missiles, due to enter service by December 2009, did not represent any change to Australia's strategic defence outlook.

"The acquisition of long-range missiles does not represent a change in Australia's defence posture and capability planning," he said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Samsung builds largest offshore production, R&D base in N China city

TIANJIN, 1 March — Samsung, from South Korea (ROK), has increased its investment in this north China's manufacturing base from 29 million US dollars to 197 million US dollars, becoming the largest cell phone maker on the Chinese Mainland.

Company officials said Samsung is building the largest overseas mobile phone production and R&D (Research and Development) base in Tianjin.

According to the local commerce commission, the Samsung Telecommunications Co, in Tianjin will expand its annual production capacity from 24 million GSM (global system for mobile telecommunications) cell phones to 42 million units and its annual sales income to 4.6 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua



The view of the scene of a train crash in Buenos Aires, on 27 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Federer struggles past Kuwaiti to reach Dubai quarters

DUBAI, 2 March — A passive Roger Federer struggled to defeat Kuwait's Mohammed Al Ghareeb 7-6, 6-4 at the Dubai Open on Wednesday.

Marat Safin failed to follow up his first round victory over world number five Nikolay Davydenko, losing 7-6, 6-4 to Belgian Olivier Rochus in his first tournament for six months.

Serving well, Al Ghareeb -- ranked 488 in the world -- showed no sign of nerves in the biggest match of his career and after breaking to lead 3-2, he consolidated his

Former Chelsea striker Osgood passes away

LONDON, 2 March — Former Chelsea striker Peter Osgood has died of a heart attack, aged 59, the London club said on Wednesday.

Osgood, who worked behind the scenes at Chelsea until his death, was taken ill while attending a family funeral earlier on Wednesday. Osgood was a key member of the stylish Chelsea side of the early 1970s, helping them win the FA Cup in 1970 and the European Cup Winners' Cup, beating Real Madrid in the final, the following season.

He played four times for England. Aged 17, Osgood scored twice on his Chelsea debut in 1964 and quickly developed into a skilled and fearless striker who served the club with distinction for 10 years.

MNA/Reuters

advantage by firing four aces past the world number one.

The Kuwaiti fought off four break points to lead 5-3 and came within two points of claiming the set before Federer edged the tiebreak 7-5.

MNA/Reuters



England's Peter Crouch (top) out jumps Uruguay's Diego Godin to score during their international friendly soccer match at Anfield in Liverpool, Northern England, 1 March, 2006. England won 2-1.—INTERNET

Spain grab rousing 3-2 win over Ivory Coast

VALLADOLID (Spain), 2 March — Spain twice came from behind for a 3-2 victory at home to African Nations Cup runners-up Ivory Coast in a pulsating World Cup warm-up in Valladolid on Wednesday.

Centre back Juanito grabbed the winner five minutes from time when he headed in low past keeper Jean-Jacques Tizie

after a corner to help his side extend their unbeaten run to 19 matches under Luis Aragones.

"People will have enjoyed a game against a very good side," said a satisfied Aragones. "It was difficult because physically they are very strong, but we created more chances than them and played better too."

Ivory Coast coach Henri Michel said he was pleased with his side's performance despite the defeat.

"Without playing a great game we got a decent result," said the Frenchman. "We could have prevented their three goals and we didn't have our first-choice defence out. "Spain are a young team who haven't lost for two years and we need to play good sides like this if we are to prepare for the World Cup in the best possible way."

Michel's side took the lead against the run of play in the 13th minute when striker Abdelkader Keita cracked the ball past Iker Casillas at the far post after the Spanish defence had failed to deal with a cross from midfielder Kanga Akale.

MNA/Reuters

Ireland beat Sweden 3-0 win on Staunton debut

DUBLIN, 2 March — Ireland gave new coach Steve Staunton a perfect start with an assured 3-0 victory over World Cup finalists Sweden in a friendly on Wednesday.



Graham Kavanagh of Ireland makes an over head kick during a friendly match between Ireland and Sweden at the Landsdowne road on 1 March, 2006 in Dublin, Ireland.

INTERNET

The home side, who have not qualified for the finals in Germany, piled on the pressure from the start with Chelsea winger Damien Duff giving Sweden the most trouble early on.

Duff was rewarded with his first goal for Ireland since November 2003, his shot after cutting into the box deflecting in off Sweden's Olof Mellberg in the 36th minute. Ireland dominated throughout, while Sweden, traditionally strong in defence, looked leaden-footed at the back.

Tottenham's Robbie Keane, wearing the captain's armband for the first time, scored two minutes into the second half after being released by Levante's Ian Harte.

Liam Miller, currently on loan to Leeds from Manchester United, capped a perfect night for Staunton, dashing through from

midfield and blasting into the roof of the net from 20 yards.

Irish goalkeeper Wayne Henderson, winning his first cap, saved Sweden's best chance of a goal in the 59th minute, denying Barcelona striker Henrik Larsson.

It was Sweden's last match before coach Lars Lagerback chooses his squad for the World Cup and he said it was one of the worst games under his leadership.

"It seems like we're not focused," he said. "We make too many mistakes. We're not playing like a team."

Sweden are in Group B for the World Cup with England, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago and Swedish captain Mellberg said he hoped his side could step up a gear.

MNA/Reuters

Canada hand returning Austria coach losing start

VIENNA, 2 March — Josef Hickersberger got off to a losing start in his second spell as Austria coach when his team lost 2-0 at home to Canada in a friendly on Wednesday.

Jim Brennan scored both goals for the visitors after coming on as a substitute at the start of the second half. Brennan twice pounced on loose balls the Austrians failed to clear, though he was helped by a deflection for his second goal.

NA/Reuters

Raul hopes galactico disappears with Perez exit

MADRID, 2 March — Real Madrid captain Raul hopes the term galactico disappears from use after Florentino Perez resigned as the club's president on Monday.

"This word has caused the club more damage over the last few years than anything else," Raul told a news conference on Tuesday. "I hope this word will go away now. I hope the people see us from now on as sportsmen and as professionals."

"We are representing an important club with millions of fans and will try to give our all for them."

Galactico, which loosely means superstar, has been used to describe the high-profile players Perez lured to the club during his six-year reign.

MNA/Reuters



Amelie Mauresmo of France returns the ball to her compatriot Marion Bartoli during their match at the third day of the Qatar Open tennis tournament in Doha, 1 March, 2006.—INTERNET



Daniele de Rossi of Italy scores the third goal against Robert Huth of Germany during the international friendly match between Italy and Germany at the Artemio Franchi Stadium on 1 March, 2006 in Florence, Italy.—INTERNET

Agassi beaten by German Phau in Dubai

DUBAI, 2 March — Andre Agassi slumped to a 7-5, 7-5 defeat against Germany's Bjorn Phau in the second round of the Dubai Open on Wednesday.

Playing only his second tournament of the year after injury, the 35-year old American looked second best against his 80th-ranked opponent, who played solidly from the baseline and showed astonishing speed at the net.

His aggressive play against an opponent who never really found his rhythm allowed Phau to break for 3-2.

Agassi levelled at 4-4 when Phau netted a forehand, but the German struck a glorious backhand pass on the run to break again for 6-5 and he served out the set to love.

Both players earned break point opportunities in the second set and it was Phau who broke first to lead 4-3.

MNA/Reuters

Azerbaijan hold Ukraine to 0-0 draw in friendly

BAKU, 2 March — Azerbaijan held World Cup finalists Ukraine to a 0-0 draw in a friendly on Tuesday, the first time the teams have met at this level.

An early strike from Ukraine's Maksim Kalinichenko hit the bar but otherwise the team, without top striker Andriy Shevchenko, failed to threaten in the first half. After 32 minutes Azerbaijan's captain Rashad Sadygov almost opened the scoring with a powerful shot from 25 metres which went just wide.

Ukraine failed to convert a couple of good chances early in the second half of a scrappy game fought out in midfield.— MNA/Reuters

Britain failed to keep control over tsunami aid

LONDON, 2 March. — Britain should keep close tabs on the more than 50 million pounds (87.35 million dollars) in aid it provided to Asian tsunami victims, the country's spending watchdog, the National Audit Office (NAO) said on Wednesday.

Britain initially offered 75 million pounds (131 million dollars) to the tsunami victim countries after the disaster occurred on 26 December, 2004, but later reduced it to 64.1 million pounds (112 million dollars).

Among the aid, more than 50 million pounds (87.5 million dollars) are being paid to third parties as grants to be distributed to the countries later.

However, the NAO reported that some projects handled by these third parties, such as United Nations agencies and charity groups, were delayed. As a result,

unspent grant money was held by the third parties.

"It remains important to keep control over the 50 million pounds paid in grants to other organizations and to know how it is spent," John Bourn, the head of the NAO, said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Grenade accidentally explodes at Russian security office

Moscow, 2 March— A stun grenade on Wednesday exploded as a result of mishandling, leaving two injured, at a regional department of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), the *Interfax* news agency reported.

The blast hit the FSB regional department in Nizhny Novgorod, Northeast of Moscow, at 10:25 am (0725 GMT), the department's Press service was quoted as saying.

Two employees were injured but their lives were not in danger, the department said.

The military prosecutor's office of the Nizhny Novgorod Garrison is investigating the incident, according to the department. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Gas pipeline blown up in southwestern Pakistan

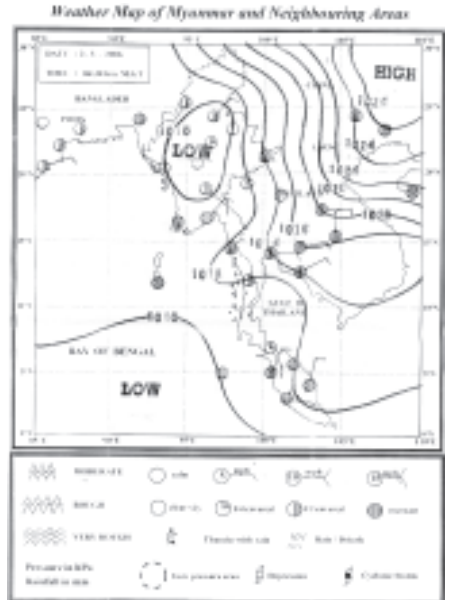
QUETTA (Pakistan), 2 March — Militants blew up a gas pipeline in Baluchistan on Wednesday, the latest attack in the Southwest province where rebels are fighting for greater autonomy, officials said.

The pipeline feeds gas to Baluchistan and officials of Sui Southern Gas Co Ltd, which owns the pipe-

line, said supplies to consumers remained unaffected. The blast occurred in the early hours near Pakistan's main gas field at Sui and damaged a section of a supply pipeline, Arif Tareen, spokesman for Sui Southern Gas said.

Tareen said supplies to consumers would not be affected. "We have made alternate arrangements to supply gas smoothly to the affected area so there is no disruption in supplies," Tareen told *Reuters*.

MNA/Reuters



Revellers walk back to their cars and head home after the Mardi Gras celebration ended at 12 am on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter, announcing the official end of Mardi Gras in New Orleans, on 1 March 2006.—INTERNET

WEATHER

Thursday, 2 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30

hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather have been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan and Chin States, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State, Sagaing and Magway Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Magway (40°C).

Maximum temperature on 1-3-2006 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 2-3-2006 was 65°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 2-3-2006 was (87%). Total sunshine hours on 1-3-2006 was (7.3) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 2-3-2006 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 (5) mph from Southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 1-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 3-3-2006: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in the upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Pyinmana and neighbouring area for 3-3-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-3-2006: Generally fair weather.

<p>Friday, 3 March View on today</p>	8:25 am	9. ပုလင်းဆေးသောက်ခန်း	5:30 pm	8. အထီးမြိုင်ပွဲ
	8:30 am	10. International news	5:35 pm	9. Songs of yesteryears
	8:45 am	11. English for Everyday Use	5:45 pm	10. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက်တစ်ဆောင်ဆရာ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
	4:00 pm	1. Martial song	6:00 pm	11. Evening news
	4:15 pm	2. Songs to uphold National Spirit	6:30 pm	12. Weather report
	4:30 pm	3. Practice in Reading	6:35 pm	13. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်
	4:40 pm	4. တေးသရုပ်ဖော် အစီအစဉ်	7:00 pm	14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရောင်စုံခေတ္တာ"
	4:45 pm	5. တစ်ဆောင်ဆရာ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေး သီချင်းမြိုင်ပွဲဆရာတေးများ (၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်)	8:00 pm	15. News
	5:00 pm	6. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြိုင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ အထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)	8:00 pm	16. International news
	5:15 pm	7. Song of national races	8:00 pm	17. Weather report
	8:20 am	8. အထီးမြိုင်ပွဲ	8:00 pm	18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နှင်းဆီအိမ်ကော်"
	8:10 am	7. The mirror images of the musical oldies	8:00 pm	19. The next day's programme
	8:20 am	8. အထီးမြိုင်ပွဲ		

<p>Friday, 3 March Tune in today</p>
8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music
8.50 am National news / Slogan
9:00 am Music
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music
1:30 pm News / Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music
9.00 pm WOM
9.15 pm Article
9.25 pm Music at your request
9.45 pm News / Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

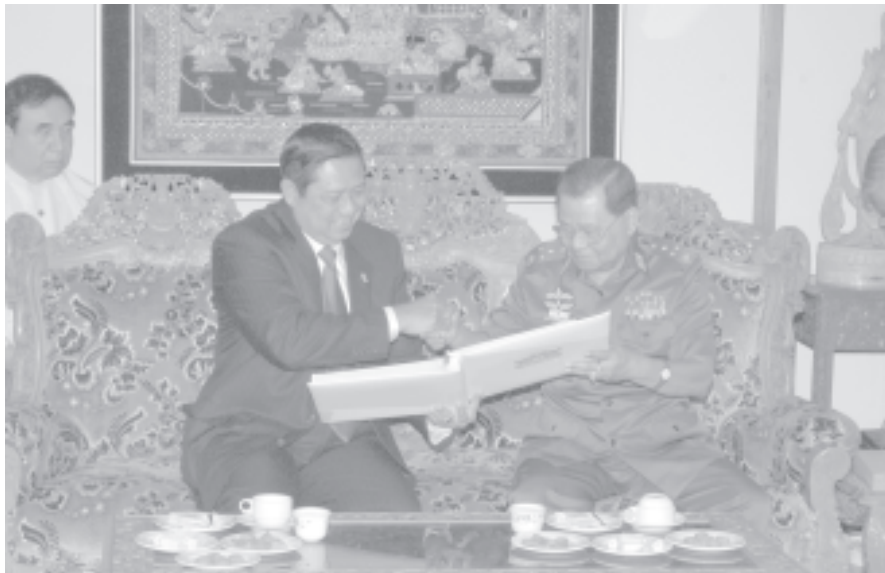
Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing bid farewell to...

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Also present at the airport were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, ministers and their wives, Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia U Khin Zaw Win and wife, the Director-General of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, departmental heads, Indonesian Ambassador Mr Wyoso Prodjowarsito and wife and embassy staff of the Indonesian Embassy.



State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing see off President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati at Yangon International Airport. — MNA



State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe presents documentary photo album on the goodwill visit to Myanmar to Indonesia President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at Yangon International Airport.

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At 3.50 pm, President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati and party arrived at VIP Lounge of Yangon International Airport. Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greeted them.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe presented a documentary photo album on the visit and VCD as gifts to the Indonesian President.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party bade farewell to the Indonesian President and Madame and party at the special aircraft.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially shook hands with the guest President and Madame.

When the special aircraft carrying Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati and party left here at 4.15 pm, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party waved them from the VIP Lounge of Yangon International Airport.

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Myanmar has witnessed many Pariyatti monasteries, each of which can accommodate one thousand to two thousand members of the Sangha to pursue Pariyatti education. For instance, in 2005-2006 academic year, altogether 1,334 novices and boy students of various national races are studying under Dhamma Kathika Sayadaws, Maha Dhamma Kathika Sayadaws, Kammathana Cariya Sayadaws and Maha Kammathana Cariya Sayadaws in Naga Cave Kalaywa Tawya monastic education school.



State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing see off President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madame Kristiani Herrawati at Yangon International Airport.

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