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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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint oversees health, irrigation facilities in Budalin, Monywa

Sagaing Division to put 500,000 acres under physic nut

YANGON, 3 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye made a field trip to Budalin and Monywa Townships on 28 February.

While in Budalin Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended ceremonies to open the clinic in Thakhuttanei Model Village. He also joined the ceremony to put land under pre-monsoon long staple cotton and summer paddy in Budalin Township. He inspected nurturing of 10,000

physic nut saplings at the Township Development Affairs Committee Office.

Thakhuttanei Model Village in Budalin

Township was equipped with a new clinic built by U Kyaw Thauung-Daw Tin Tin Oo of Mandalay, for providing health care services to the local people from eight village-

tracts. The clinic is located on 4.15 acres of plot. At the ceremony, wellwishers donated K 5.7 million, hospital

equipment and one fire engine. In addition, four wellwishers made cash donations to Maungthaung Station Hospital.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint oversees functions of Yebudalin river water pumping project.
MNA



Yebudalin river water pumping project benefits 10,244 acres of land that have been put under monsoon paddy, 7,000 acres under summer paddy and 3,000 acres under pre-monsoon long staple cotton.



Officials formally opened the clinic and Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled its signboard.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint oversaw functions of Yebudalin river water pumping project. The project benefits 10,244 acres of land that have been put under monsoon paddy, 7,000 acres under summer paddy and 3,000 acres under pre-monsoon long staple cotton.

At the river water pumping project, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected works of water pumping station and the main

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 4 March, 2006

For development of agricultural sector

Myanmar is rich in natural resources and blessed with favourable weather conditions for agriculture. Therefore, the government is making all-out efforts for development of agricultural sector, which is the economic pillar of the State.

Moreover, the government has laid down and is implementing the five rural development tasks for enhancement of economic, social and education standards of farmers, the majority of Myanmar's population.

In the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the Peasants Day for 2006, it is stated that the government is placing special emphasis on exploitation of the nation's terrestrial and aquatic resources fully, ensuring modern cultivation methods and improvement of industrialized agriculture.

In an effort to ensure development of the agricultural sector of the State, the government is taking systematic measures for supply of irrigated water. In this regard, it is building a series of dams and reservoirs, embankments, sluice gates and river water pumping stations the length and breadth of the nation.

The government spent substantial funds on construction of irrigation infrastructures. As a result, altogether 183 dams and reservoirs and 293 river water pumping stations across the nation are benefiting 2.4 million acres of farmlands.

With the assistance of the government, farmers have been able to engage in double and mixed cropping, to apply modern agricultural techniques and to reclaim and use virgin and fallow lands and wetlands. This has resulted in boosting the per acre yield of crops.

Nowadays, the State Peace and Development Council upholding Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty—is building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. And it is making relentless efforts for further strengthening of national solidarity and prevalence of law and order.

In the meantime, the seven-step Road Map has been laid and is being implemented for the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accordance with the wishes of the people. At present, the National Convention is meeting with success in all aspects with the participation of delegates from all walks of life including delegates of peasants.

All in all, at a time when the government is making efforts in all seriousness for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the onus is on the entire mass of farmers to do their bit in the process.



Joint Secretary U Thein Aung of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board accepts K 100,000 donated by Dr U Lwin Aung-Daw Aye Aye Thin of Hline Township 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

MWAF provides assistance to students

YANGON, 3 March — The working group for rehabilitation and prevention under Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation on 23 February provided refreshments and assistance to 16 girls who will take the matriculation exam for 2005-2006 academic year.

At the ceremony held at the school for girls in Mayangon, officials presented refreshments and medicine worth over K 170,000.

Prof Daw Kyi Kyi Aung of the group explained dos and don'ts for taking the exam and Prof Daw Htay Htay of the group on preparations for physical and mental fitness.

MNA

Pro-Golfer Aung Win (Srixon+YCDC) wins championship



YANGON, 3 March — Pro-Golfer Aung Win (Srixon+YCDC) and Amateur Golfer Bo Bo captured championship award in the MPGA and MGF President's Cup Golf Tour 2006 at Hanthawady Golf and Country Club in Bago yesterday.

After the fourth and final round, MPGA and MGF Executive U Ko Ko Lay presented prize to Tiger Putting Challenge Award winner Ma Ni Ni Win (Bago); and Director U Thein Dan Shwe of Kaung Myat Co Ltd and Director Lt-Col Lay Myint (Retd) of Hanthawady Golf and Country Club presented prizes to daily best scorers in the amateur and professional golfers divisions.

Managing Director U Zaw Win Naing of Kanbawza Bank Ltd gave the first prize to Bo Bo who shot a 6-over-par 294 total in the amateur golfers division, the second prize to Aung Win who fired a 9-over-par 297 on aggregate, and the third prize to Naing Naing Lin who scored a 10-over-par 298 in total.

MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win

Hlaing (Retd) awarded first, second and third prizes to Aung Win (Srixon+YCDC), Nay Lin Tun (Srixon) and Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) respectively in the professional golfers division.

Aung Win (Srixon+YCDC) led the professional golfers division in the first position by shooting a one-under-par 287 total. The closet runner-up of the leader Nay Lin Tun (Srixon) scored a three-over-par 291 total for four rounds. Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) put his position at third by firing a four-over-par 292

Tourist Maps of Myanmar comes out

Complementary copies of Tourist Maps of Myanmar.

MNA



YANGON, 3 March — As part of an effort for booming of the tourism industry in Myanmar, Tourist Maps of Myanmar (TMM-16) published by Design and Printing Services Co Ltd (DPS) comes out today and will be distributed free to hotels and tourism services and tourist guides.

The circulation of TMM reaches over 1,140,000 yearly.

TMM-16 will also be distributed free to tourism services at ITB Berlin-2006 to be held in Berlin, Germany, from 8 to 12 March.

The maps are available at Myanma Hotels and Tourism Services (Sule) and DPS, No 165-157, 35th Street, Kyauktada Township.

MNA

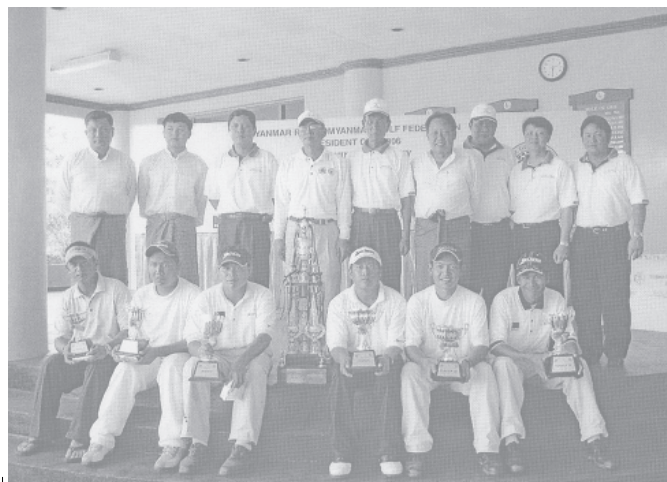
on aggregate.

First prize winner pro-golfer Aung Win (Srixon+YCDC) possessed K 3 million as reward.

MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) spoke words of thanks, and presented gifts to Director Lt-Col Lay Myint (Retd) of the club.

Han Event Man-

agement performed functions of the golf tour together with co-sponsors KBZ Bank Ltd, KM Golf Centre, Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water, Air Bagan Ltd, Grand Royal Special Reserve, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Eden Group Co Ltd, Hanthawady Gold and Country Club, Srixon, Taunggyi Gem-Master Enterprise Ltd. — MNA



Winners in professional and amateur golfers divisions seen with trophies in MPGA and MGF President's Cup Golf Tour. — MGF

Cuba accuses US of blocking approval of new UN human rights body

HAVANA, 2 March—Cuba on Wednesday accused the United States of plotting to reject the establishment of the proposed UN Human Rights Council out of its "own imperialist interests".

The US Government is planning to vote against a proposal presented by UN General Assembly President Jan Eliasson to replace the current Human Rights Commission, the Cuban Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The commission has been discredited thanks to the "manipulation of the United States and its European Union allies", added the Ministry.

The Ministry said the United States insisted on a

Council whose membership is subject to conditions that exclude anyone opposing "the aggressive and hegemonic actions of global imperialism".

The US Government was promoting a Council that had power to punish and sanction countries of the South, which would allow Washington to continue its tradition of manipulating developing countries, the statement said.

Such a council would be "unable to take effective decisions against racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, but would concentrate on civil and political rights as conceived by Washington", the statement added.—MNA/Xinhua

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The 78th annual Academy Awards Fashion Preview was held at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills, California recently.

INTERNET

Snowy Bulgaria marks Spring Day

SOPIA, 2 March—Despite the snows that covered the small Balkan state, Bulgarians celebrated Baba Marta, or the Spring Day on Wednesday with their traditional habitude.

On every 1 March, a kind of decoration made of red-and-white interwoven strings, called martenitsa, will be exchanged between friends and relatives as a token for health and luck. The martenitsa now comes in all shapes and sizes—from Guinness Record-worthy giant building packages to two tiny simple strings gently worn on a baby's arm. Children compete to get the most martenitsas and often walk around more ornate than a Christmas tree. According to the local habitude, the martenitsa can be taken off only when the first signs of spring—a crane or a blooming tree—are seen. Some people then tie it to fruit trees, while others place it under a rock, expecting more happiness and luck for the next year.—MNA/Xinhua



Pakistani activists dress as Guantanamo Bay prisoners as they take part in an anti-US demonstration in Karachi, on 2 March 2006, ahead of US President George W Bush's visit to Pakistan. — INTERNET

China sets up peacekeeping battalion for Lebanon mission

KUNMING, 2 March—China will send an engineering battalion on a peacekeeping mission to Lebanon, at the request of the United Nations, according to military sources. The battalion is formed by an engineering regiment under the Chengdu Area Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), based in Yunnan Province, southwest China.

The Chinese battalion, which comprises a mine-sweeping company, an engineering company, a logistics company and an in-field hospital, is expected to leave for Lebanon in the UN's chartered planes in mid March. It is the fourth PLA unit sent to carry out overseas peacekeeping missions so far.

MNA/Xinhua

Woman allegedly fakes death over tickets

DES MOINES, 2 March—Kimberly Du landed in a grave situation after police say she tried to avoid traffic charges by faking her death. Du, 36, of Des Moines, faked her death in December, court records show. Someone claiming to be Du's mother used a pair of forged documents, including a death notice printed on a newspaper Web site and a letter

purported to be signed by Du's mother, to persuade court officials that Du had died, records show.

The day after courthouse clerks received the documents, a judge tossed out an arrest warrant for Du. Authorities caught on to the plan when Du was stopped on 4 Jan for speeding and driving with a suspended license. Police say an investigation

showed that Du's supposed obituary never ran in a newspaper, and that a funeral was never held. Du was arrested last Friday and charged with forging her mother's name on a letter to the court. If convicted, she could face up to two years in prison.—Internert

World first leisure, recreation fair to open in Hangzhou

SHANGHAI, 2 March —The world's first leisure and recreation fair will be staged from 22 April to 22 October in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, according to sources with the municipal government.

Hangzhou vice-mayor Xiang Qin said the six-month fair, with more than 100 activities, is expected to allure 12 million tourists, one million from overseas.

As host city of the fair, Hangzhou has made full preparations for the event, including building a Xianghu Lake recreation zone, a world recreation exposition park and an oriental culture park.

With the theme "recreation -- changing human life," the fair will encompass about 100 activities like an international food festival, West Lake carnival, and international fireworks fair.

About 40 foreign cities of Britain, France, Australia and Japan will participate in the fair, which has also attracted enterprises and organizations from more than 40 domestic cities.—MNA/Xinhua



In this photo provided by Equi-Photo, the gavel goes down on a world record sale for a 2-year-old thoroughbred after the winning bid of \$16 million by agent Demi O'Byrne for Coolmore Stud on a colt by Forestry at the Fasig Tipton 2-year-old in training sale held at Calder Racecourse in Miami, on 28 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Two-year-old horse sold for record \$16m

MIAMI, 2 March—A 2-year-old colt who has yet to run a race drew a world record sale price of \$16 million at auction. Demi O'Byrne, an agent, was the bidder and purchased the colt for a team headed by John Magnier and Michael Tabor of the Ireland-based Coolmore Stud at the Fasig-Tipton sale at Calder Race Course. Tuesday's sale broke the record of \$13.1 million paid in the mid-1980s for Seattle Dancer, a half-brother to Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew. The previous record for a 2-year-old was \$5.2 million for a son of Tale of the Cat, who was sold at this sale last year. "You don't expect to sell a \$16 million horse," said Boyd Browning, chief operating officer for Fasig-Tipton of Lexington, Kentucky. "I don't know if it will happen again in my lifetime."

O'Byrne and John Ferguson, who represent Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum of Dubai, pushed the bidding into record territory. —The two major buyers in the world got hooked up in an emotional bidding situation, and sometimes logic doesn't prevail," Browning said. "An auction bid is not always a rational decision, but sometimes an emotional decision. Both people involved in the auction want to own the best horses in the world."

Internet

Germany suspects US "smear" over Iraq

BERLIN, 2 March — US media reports that German intelligence agents helped the American-led invasion of Iraq were a smear tactic against Berlin as a European power firmly opposed to the war, leading German politicians said on Tuesday.

The politicians from major parties, including the Social Democrats (SPD) of ex-chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, were reacting to reports that could embarrass current Chancellor Angel Merkel because she leads a coalition government of her conservatives with the SPD.

Germany denied on Monday a *New York Times* report that its intelligence officials obtained a copy of Saddam Hussein's defence plan for Baghdad

and passed it on to US commanders a month before the 2003 Iraq invasion. "This is an attempt to discredit the policies of Gerhard Schroeder, policies that were right," SPD chairman Matthias Platzeck told a group of foreign journalists on Tuesday.

"It's so patently obvious what is going on and it won't succeed. It's all very strange. Someone is trying to denounce Schroeder's Iraq policy."

Platzeck's comments were echoed by opposition leaders in Germany, which like France strongly opposed the Iraq war. They said the reports that appeared to make the German Government look hypocritical may be fiction deliberately planted to embarrass the many German critics of US policies on Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

တစ်ခုစွမ်းအား ဒေတီကျော်ဗွား



The Lamborghini Murcielago LP640 is unveiled as a world premiere presentation at the 76th Geneva International Motor Show on 1 March, 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland. —INTERNET

Foreign oil hostages released in southern Nigeria

LAGOS, 2 March — Six foreign hostages, including ailing US oil worker Macon Hawkins, who turned 69 on Wednesday, have been released after being held captive by militants for 11 days in Nigeria's oil-rich south.

"Six (of the nine) hostages have arrived at the government house in Warri," a local reporter told *Xinhua* from the southern oil city by phone. "We saw them, they seemed to be happy."

Delta State Governor James Ibori, who met with the freed hostages, called for the release of the remaining three, two Americans and one Briton, she added.

"That's correct, the (two) Thais, (two) Egyptians and (one) Filipino have been released. They belong to countries without interests in the oil industry," confirmed Jomo Gbomo, a self-described spokesman for the militants, via email to *Xinhua*. "The remaining three Westerners will be held indefinitely."

MNA/Xinhua



In this handout image supplied by the Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP), Tom Whitaker of Australia competes in round two of the Quiksilver Pro at Sanpper Rocks on 2 March, 2006 on the Gold Coast, Australia. —INTERNET

"Little Slum Inn" offers priceless views of Brazil

RIODE JANEIRO, 2 March — Breathtaking views high above Rio de Janeiro's beaches and mountains can be yours for just a few dollars a day — if you skip pricey hotels and sleep in a slum.

Rio's slums, or favelas, are infamous for drug and gang violence. But a new hostel called "The Little Slum Inn" is attracting adventurous tourists, mainly from Germany, France and the United

States, who dare to live amid the grit and poverty.

"This place isn't for wimps. If you are uptight, you can go stay at the Copacabana Palace," said co-owner and shantytown dweller Andreia Martins,

31, referring to the luxury beachfront hotel where the Rolling Stones stayed last month.

You can only get to the jungle-covered hillside slum of Pereira da Silva on foot. Most of its 1,900

residents live in unpainted brick hovels they built themselves on irregular lots.

But the hostel owners say staying in the slum is safe. It has buried its violent past and gained a reputation as one of Rio's calmest favelas since police killed a neighborhood drug lord in a shootout seven years ago. A police squad also trains there, so gangs avoid the slum.

Each room in the white, three-story inn has expansive terraces overlooking Rio's bay and cosy furnishings.

The tiny hostel's five rooms were booked solid during Rio's famous Carnival this week, even though the inn has no telephone and only accepts reservation requests by e-mail.

Internet



Andreia Martins sits on the balcony of her hotel at Pereira da Silva slum in Rio de Janeiro, on March 2, 2006. —INTERNET

Death toll from Baghdad car bomb rises to 20

BAGHDAD, 2 March — The death toll from a car bombing in eastern Baghdad on Wednesday has risen to 20, with about 40 others wounded, a police source told *Xinhua*.

According to latest report, 20 people were killed and about 40 others injured in the car bomb attack which occurred beside a traffic police centre in the eastern New Baghdad District, the source said.

The source also said that another car bomb attacked a police patrol in eastern Baghdad, but gave no information on any possible casualties.

The two attacks came less than an hour after the trial of former Iraqi President and his seven aides resumed in a Baghdad court. — MNA/Xinhua

Colombia captures head of drug traffickers

BOGOTA, 2 March — A leading drug trafficker was arrested in Colombia on Tuesday, the public prosecutor's office said.

Enrique "Mickey" Ramirez, who was formally charged with money laundering, is also wanted for drug trafficking after appearing on the list of the so-called "executioner's 12", who were linked to the Medellin Cartel, led by the late cocaine lord Pablo Escobar.

Ramirez was arrested in Florencia, capital of the southern province of Caqueta, as part of an investigation into suspicious bank operations involving 16 people, including the head of the region's livestock investment trust and two senior bankers. — MNA/Xinhua

Gas leakage poisons 8 at N-W China iron & steel plant

LANZHOU, 3 March — Eight people were confirmed poisoned seriously at a gas leakage accident that happened Tuesday morning in Yulin County of northwest China's Gansu Province, a newspaper based in this provincial capital reported on Thursday.

At around 11:00 Tuesday morning, a gas pipe at a steelmaking workshop of the Yuzhong Iron and Steel Co, Ltd in the county cracked suddenly when eight people were working at the scene.

The ensuing gas leakage left the eight, seven male and one female, seriously poisoned, the *Lanzhou Morning Post* said.

MNA/Xinhua

France names first inspector of nat'l education of Chinese language

PARIS, 3 March — France on Wednesday named Joel Bel Lassen its first general inspector to oversee the teaching and learning of the Chinese language in French middle schools nationwide.

France Educational Minister Gilles de Robien told reporters that the nomination testifies the importance of the teaching of the Chinese language in the French educational system, and bears remarkable significance for the future French-Chinese ties.

The close Sino-French cooperation, the rapid growth of the Chinese economy and the increase of foreign firms in China require more and more people to learn the Chinese language and the Chinese culture, he

said. According to the French Education Ministry, there are about 12,000 French people learning Chinese.

Chinese is now only the fifth biggest foreign language in French schools, but the number of Chinese learners is increasing at a rate of 20 to 30 per cent each year.

The Chinese language is being taught in 194 middle schools and 12 elementary schools in France.

MNA/Xinhua



A block of land (C) lies vacant after auction where it became Australia's most expensive strip of residential land on 3 March, 2006 in Sydney, Australia. The 120 square-metre block, which overlooks world-famous Bondi Beach, sold last week for AUD \$3,520,000 (USD \$2,630,000). —INTERNET



Animal rights activists, Sir Paul McCartney (R) and wife Heather Mills get up close to a seal pup during a venture onto the ice floes of the Gulf of St-Lawrence before the start of the seal hunting season on 2 March, 2006 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. —INTERNET

Iraq bans cars after another bloody day

BAGHDAD, 2 March—A bomb ripped through a vegetable market in a Shiite section of Baghdad, and a leading Sunni politician escaped an attack on his convoy Thursday as at least 36 people were killed in unrelenting violence, pushing Iraq toward civil war.

An aide to Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, meanwhile, lashed out at Sunni, Kurdish and secular political leaders who have mounted a campaign to deny him another term, saying the Shiite United Iraqi alliance will not change its candidate.

Al-Jaafari met with representatives of the

main political parties on Thursday night to discuss ways of containing the sectarian attacks, reversing an earlier decision to cancel the meeting after them. The Iraqi government later announced a one-day ban on private vehicles in Baghdad and its outskirts aimed at averting violence on Friday, when Muslims attend the most important

prayer service of the week.

The ban will take effect when the overnight curfew ends at 6 am Friday and will last until 4 pm, according to a statement issued by the prime minister's office. Police and army were instructed to seal off the capital and seize any private vehicles that defy the ban.

Internet

Central American countries review free trade deal with US

MEXICO CITY, 2 March—The Presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua met Tuesday to discuss the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) with the United States.

Nicaraguan President Oscar Berger said after the meeting in Guatemala that they had congratulated El Salvador on implementing the CAFTA, which will come into force there on Wednesday. El Salvador's Parliament has to examine the US trade deal, while Guatemala is still waiting for US confirmation of its requested conditions being met. The US Trade Representative Office has relaxed the waiting period for the treaty, Berger told reporters. Now countries that have met all the conditions during the first half of the month can begin operating under the terms of the deal at the start of the following month.

If everything goes smoothly, Guatemala could have a free trade deal operating as of 1 April

. The parliaments of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic have all approved the CAFTA. Prime Ministers of the

Central American countries are to meet on 9 March in Panama as part of a meeting of the Central America Integration System (SICA).

MNA/Xinhua

Executives, experts discuss potential of China's Internet market

BEIJING, 2 March—The meteoric growth of China's Internet has great potential for development and will promote a freer flow of information, major website executives and experts attending a seminar at Sanya, a city in south China's Hainan Province. China, the world's second largest Internet market after the United States, has 111 million Internet users. The number of netizens is expected to jump by at least 15 per cent annually before 2010.

"This means big business and enormous opportunities", Wang Yan, chief executive officer of sina.com, a top Chinese portal listed on

the New York Nasdaq stock exchange, was quoted by Wednesday's China Daily as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Actress Elizabeth Banks walks the runway during GM ten, General Motors' annual fashion show, in Los Angeles, on 28 Feb, 2006. INTERNET



Miss Universe Beauty Pageant 2006 in China Qi Fang, a contestant from central China's Jiangxi Province is crowned Miss Universe China 2006. —INTERNET

Singapore plans real-time traveller screening at checkpoints

SINGAPORE, 2 March—Singapore is planning to launch real-time traveller screening at its checkpoints during immigration clearance, Senior Minister of State for Law and Home Affairs Ho Peng Kee said in Parliament Wednesday.

According to Channel NewsAsia report, the screening, part of a multi-layered people clearance framework, will help check travellers against a database of known terrorists and wanted criminals by using facial and photo recognition technology.

Ho also said that Singapore plans to start issuing biometric passports later this year, a measure expected to be helpful in tightening passport and border controls.

MNA/Xinhua



A man walks through a park, on 2 March, 2006 in New York City. While the predicted snowfall has been less than forecasters predicted, New York experienced a messy day of sleet, rain and snow.

INTERNET



Cambodia, Indonesia to strengthen multi-faced cooperation

PHNOM PENH, 2 March — Cambodia and Indonesia agreed on Wednesday to continue their close cooperation within the regional multilateral frameworks.

In a joint statement released after the visiting of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Cambodia and Indonesia said that they will continue their close cooperation in ASEAN, the Non-Alignment Movement, Asia Cooperation Dialogue, and the Asia-Europe Meeting.

Susilo arrived here on Tuesday afternoon to pay a two-day state visit at the invitation of Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni. During Susilo's meeting with Cambodian leaders, both sides exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern, and informed each side of their current socio-economic development and progress in the country. Moreover, both sides reiterated strong commitment of the two countries to work closely with other ASEAN member countries for the ASEAN integration to meet the challenges of building the ASEAN community and the

deepening of partnership between ASEAN and its dialogue partners. It is Susilo's first time visit to Cambodia since he was sworn in as president in October

2004. Susilo paid a courtesy call to King Norodom Sihamoni and had talks on bilateral issues with Prime Minister Hun Sen and other leaders. —MNA/Xinhua

Bus crash kills at least 13 in Peru

LIMA, 3 March — A bus carrying foreign tourists skidded out of control and crashed on a rainy night outside Peru's ancient Inca city of Cuzco, killing at least 13 people, police said on Wednesday.

Authorities, still trying to identify the victims and their nationalities, said at least one American and two Chileans were among the dead from Tuesday's crash. The injured included US, British, Portuguese and Bolivian tourists.

The inter-provincial bus hit a parked truck as it was leaving the southern Peruvian city, gateway to the Inca citadel Machu Picchu, one of the country's most popular tourist sites. Police said the truck had been badly parked on the road, but the cause of the accident was not immediately known.

Hundreds of people die in bus crashes every year in Peru because of poorly maintained vehicles, dangerously rutted roads and harsh weather.

MNA/Reuters

UN announces Annan's candidates for new environment chief

UNITED NATIONS, 2 March — The UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has decided on a short list of candidates for the post Executive Director of the UN

Environment Programme (UNEP) which will become vacant on 1 April, 2006, UN spokeswoman Marie Okabe announced Wednesday. Environmental leaders

from Northern Europe, Central America and South Asia are on short list of candidates to head the UNEP as selected by the Secretary-General in advance of the end of the long-running tenure of Klaus Toepfer, Okabe told reporters.

According to the spokeswoman, the candidates include Borge Brende, the former environmental minister of Norway; Carlos Manuel Rodriguez Echandi, the Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica; Shafqat Kakakhel of Pakistan, the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP; Rajendra Pachauri of India, the Director-General of the Energy and Resource Institute; and Achim Steiner of Germany, the Director-General of the World Conservation Union. —MNA/Xinhua



A Pakistani Army soldier inspects the wreckage of destroyed vehicles after a bomb exploded outside the US Consulate on 2 March, 2006 in Karachi, Pakistan. A car bomb killed an American and at least four other people on Thursday, but Bush said 'terrorists and killers' would not stop his scheduled visit to Pakistan. —INTERNET

Putin in Hungary to reinforce "partnership"

BUDAPEST, 2 March — Russian President Vladimir Putin has emphasized the importance of Russia's "partnership" with Hungary, hoping the current relations between the two countries would never turn sour.

At the start of his two-day visit, Putin told a Press conference on Tuesday that despite their ups and downs in recent history, Russia's partnership with Hungary had helped Moscow improve ties with the European Union and NATO, of which Hungary is a member.

His Hungarian counterpart Laszlo Solyom echoed the eulogy on the Moscow-Budapest relationship.

Solyom voiced his appreciation of Russia's return of a collection of priceless books belonging to the Calvinist College of Sarospatok in northeast Hungary.

The books were taken to the ex-Soviet Union as

booty following World War II and were returned to Hungary a week ago.

Putin and Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany then outlined a set of joint ventures that could be significant to the economy of the entire European continent. The strategic cooperation projects include a new gas pipeline through Hungary, a Trans-Siberian railway with Budapest as a hub, metro construction and joint

development of state-of-the-art technology.

Putin hailed the talks in Budapest as sincere, pragmatic and constructive.

The Russian leader expressed his willingness to help Hungary update its sole nuclear power plant at Paks, while calling for Hungarian participation in building Russia's pharmaceutical plants and apartment house construction projects.

MNA/Xinhua



New cars of Japan's bullet trains, or Shinkansen, are being loaded on to a barge, getting ready to be shipped to China for the first time from a port in Kobe, western Japan, on 3 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Canadian company designs multilingual medical receptionist

OTTAWA, 2 March — A Canadian company has designed a computer system to help doctors and nurses talk to patients in a variety of languages, local media reported Wednesday.

The programme was designed by MedBridge in Fredericton, capital of New Brunswick Province. It had a test run in Saint John of the same province, on Tuesday, where hospital staff watched the computer translate health terminology into Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese, Portuguese, French, Russian and other languages, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

Health workers can ask patients questions in different languages through the computer, which also allows the patients to see the words on the screen in their own

language.

MedBridge president Robert DiDiodato said the programme can deal with a variety of questions.

"When the health provider is using this system they can double-click and ask them things like how bad is your pain? Or...what allergies do you have? There's an interface that's available for the patient to select and respond to whatever questions are posed," DiDiodato said.

If a patient is deaf, the system can also translate into American Sign Language using video, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Thutaswezon literary awards

Soe Aung (Traditional Medicine Institute)

At the first Thutaswezon (general knowledge) literary award for 2004 organized by the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and sponsored by the Thutaswezon Publishing House at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road on 14 January 2006, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said, "The writers and publishers of works of general knowledge or informative writing give priority to the interests of the nation and the people through literature. Informative writing or general knowledge literature is indeed free from adverse effects if compared with other genres and contributes towards the development of human resources. So, such works fully benefit the nation. The awarding of Thutaswezon awards serves as an effective encouragement to the writers and publishers of informative writing genre. Therefore, I would like to urge them to continue to write and publish works of informative writing or general knowledge literature".

The minister presented the life-long literary award to Major Tin Maung (Retd) (Theikpan Hmu Tin) and knowledge science award to writer Hlaing Thin.

Deputy Ministers for Information U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein and MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) presented award (applied science) to Dr Molla, award (arts) to Chit San Win, and award (general) to Aung Moun.

Regarding the literary awards in Myanmar, life-long national literary awards, national literary awards, Sarpay Beikman manuscript awards, and awards for national mottoes, literary and photos competitions have been presented for many years.

A total of 406 national literary awards were presented from 1962 to 2004; 631 Sarpay Beikman manuscript awards from 1969 to 2004, and 336 awards for national mottoes, literary and photo competitions from 1990 to 2005.

Life-long literary awards have been presented since 2001 and Pakokku U Ohn Pe manuscript awards since 1992. And it is good news for writers, researchers, compilers and publishers that there also have been presented Sayawun Tin Shwe literary award, Dhamma literary award and Thutaswezon literary award plus prizes of certain government departments.

The works for national literary awards, Thutaswezon literary awards and Sayawun Tin Shwe literary awards are selected from the publications that have been in circulation. And the works for Sarpay Beikman manuscript awards and Pakokku U Ohn Pe manuscript awards are selected from the publications that are to be published if chosen. When such works have come out, they are entitled to national literary awards, Thutaswezon literary awards and Sayawun Tin Shwe literary awards.

Thutaswezon Publishing House, that took initiative for Thutaswezon literary awards, was established in 1982 and since then, it has published monthly Thutaswezon magazine. It has published monthly Arojam (Health) magazine since 1992. In 1996, it started to publish weekly Pyi Myanmar journal that is the oldest of its kind in the nation. It also publishes weekly Thadinhlwa journal. It also publishes Good Health magazine (weekly) beginning in 2006. It occasionally publishes sports journal.

Previously, Thutaswezon Publishing House

published works on general knowledge only. Later, it started to publish weekly journals and monthly magazines, resulting in a reduction in the number of general knowledge works. And it wished other writers and publishers to publish works on general knowledge.

An increase in the number of literary awards means a rise in the level of appreciation of the good works of writers. With a view to awarding Thutaswezon literary awards under the supervision of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, the Thutaswezon Publishing House has laid down the following objectives.

1. to ensure the development of informative writing or general knowledge literature and to help raise the literary standard of Myanmar,
2. to enhance the public knowledge by increasing the number of works of informative writing, and
3. to encourage writers of informative writing.

The body for scrutinizing works for Thutaswezon literary awards is made up of some members of the MWJA and the national literary award scrutinizing committee. It chooses most suitable works for the prizes among the literary works published during the period from 1 January and 31 December in a year. In other words, the body chooses the works suitable for Thutaswezon literary awards from the books nominated for the national literary awards.

Life-long Thutaswezon literary award goes to a writer who has devoted his or her life to the improvement of general knowledge literature throughout his or her life.

The publishing house is planning to present more awards on other genres (for example, translation and reference).

It is encouraging for the brighter future of the Myanmar literary world that the presenting of national literary awards, Sarpay Beikman manuscript awards, Thutaswezon literary awards, Pakokku U Ohn Pe manuscript awards and Sayawun Tin Shwe literary awards for 2005 to mark Sarsodav Day will be held near the end of 2006.

Translation: MS

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Myanmar women to enter U-19 qualifier

YANGON, 3 March — Myanmar women football team led by an official of the Myanmar Football Federation left for Thailand today to participate in the U-19 Asia women soccer qualifier.

The qualifier will be held from 5 to 9 March in Thailand. Myanmar women soccer team will play against Australia on 7 March and Thailand on 9 March. —NLM



Myanmar Women's Football Team seen at the airport before departure for Thailand. — NLM

Kanbawza, Energy take three points more each

YANGON, 3 March — Myanmar League Football Tournament continued at the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna and Aung San Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this afternoon.

YTC (Thuwunna)

Kanbawza: 1

Home Affairs: 0

Kanbawza blanked out Home Affairs by shooting only goal that came through Tun Min Oo. After the match, Kanbawza stood in the sixth position, and Home Affairs in the eighth position in the league standings.

Aung San Stadium

Energy: 3

A&I: 0

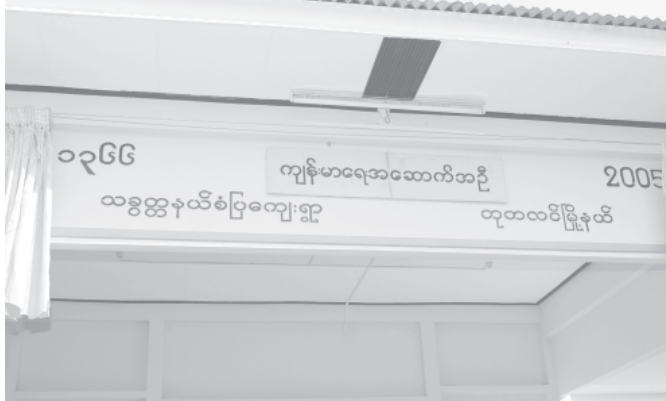
Energy that stood in the third position in the league standings crushed A&I team by a 3-0 result. After playing 13 matches, A&I is struggling in the relegation zone of the standings so as to have some points through winning plays.

Tomorrow's fixtures:

F&R vs Forestry (YTC)

Transport vs Commerce (Aung San).

NLM



Lt-Gen Ye Myint formally opens clinic of Thakhuttane Model Village. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint oversees health, irrigation facilities in Budalin, Monywa...

(from page 1)
canal, and heard reports on functions of the project by Deputy Director U Khin Zaw of Water Resources Utilization Department. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially met with local people and gave instructions on growing of paddy, pulses and beans,

sesame and other crops in the irrigated area.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended the ceremony to grow physic nut plants in Monywa Station of North-West Command. Local regiments and units in Monywa Station nurtured physic nut saplings in vacant and virgin lands. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Commander Maj-

Gen Tha Aye participated in the growing of physic nut plants together with Tatmadawmen and their families of the regiments and units. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected physic nut nurseries in the station.

Sagaing Division set the plan to put 500,000 acres of land

under physic nut plants within three years.

At Zeyathiri Hall in Monywa Station, Lt-

Gen Ye Myint met with Tatmadawmen and their families and gave instructions on growing of

physic nut plants, carrying out of public welfare and regional development tasks. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects cultivation of pre-monsoon long-staple cotton.

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects pesticides and cotton seeds. — MNA

Commander tours Thandwe, Taungup Townships

YANGON, 3 March — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected Aungthabye Dam being built by local people in Yaunggyi Oo Village in Thandwe Township on 22 February.

The commander oversaw groundnut plantations in Shwehlay Vil-

lage. At Thantaychaung hydel power plant project in Thandwe Township, the commander heard reports on implementation of the project.

In Taungup Township, the commander attended the ceremony to grow physic nut plants.

At the opening ceremony of Taungup Myoma BEHS No 2 (Branch), the commander delivered an ad-

dress.

On 23 February, the commander met with Tatmadawmen and family members in Taungup Station Hall.

While in Taungup Township, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint viewed the site for construction of the BEHS in Lamumaw Village, Lamumaw Station Hospital and road construction tasks. — MNA

Discussions of annual meeting of MWAF clarified

YANGON, 3 March — A meeting to clarify discussions of the annual meeting of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation took place at Meiktila Education College on 21 February.

Patron of Mandalay Division WAO Daw Khin Pyone Win made a speech on the occasion.

The secretary of Mandalay Division WAO clarified the discussions of annual meeting of MWAF.

The patron of Mandalay Division WAO accepted 15,800 membership applications from Meiktila, Myingyan, Yamethin and NyaungU Districts.

A work coordination meeting of Mandalay Division Health Committee (2/2006) was held at Division Health Department in Mandalay on 22 February. Chairperson of Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Pyone Win and Sec-

retary of Mandalay Division PDC Lt-Col Kyi Thein spoke on the occasion.

Dr Khin Maung Tun, head of Division Health Department explained discussions of (1/2006) work coordination meeting.

The specialists and doctors present reported on matters related to con-

trol of HIV/AIDS and TB. The project manager of Population Service International (PSI) discussed HIV/AIDS and TB control projects.

Later, The chairperson of Mandalay Division MCWSC fulfilled the requirements on the reports and discussions.

MNA



Patron of Mandalay Division WAO Daw Khin Pyone Win accepts 15,800 membership applications from Meiktila, Myingyan, Yamethin and NyaungU Districts. — MNA

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.**

Lt-Gen Maung Bo on tour...

(from page 16)

The earth dam has a 134 feet high and 5,200 feet long embankment and its water surface area is eight square miles. On completion, the facility will be able to prevent farmland from being flooded and irrigate 10,000 acres of summer paddy and mixed-crop plantations.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented 250 publications worth K 41,150 donated by the Ministry of Information to Shwe

Aling Yaung library at The Ein Village in Paung Township. Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo donated copies of Shwe Naing Ngan journal.

U Saw Sein Bwa donated a 21-inch colour TV; U Saw Tin Lone, K 195,000 worth satellite receiver donated by U Saw Se Se of Yangon; and head of Mon State Traditional Medicine Department U Tun Myint,

traditional medicines valued at K 84,300 donated by the Traditional Medicine Department to the village.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected the library and rural health care centre.

He held a meeting with local authorities, members of USDA and social organizations, teachers and students and local people at The Ein Village BEHS.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented a computer set donated by wellwishers



Lt-Gen Maung Bo presents a set of computer to The Ein Village BEHS through Headmaster U Soe Myint.

MNA



Construction site of Kataik Dam in Paung Township. — MNA

of Yinnyein Sluice Gate Project, and books and soap cakes to the school, and medicines and medical equipment to the health care centre through the officials.

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo presented a satellite receiver and a generator donated by Gadaik Dam Project to the village.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo said Gadaik Village has enjoyed the development in the education, health and transport sectors. On completion of the dam, the village and nearby

villages will develop more. He urged local people to extend growing of physic nut.

The commander said that The Ein Village has prospects and fine traditions, calling for maintenance of such fine traditions and efforts to serve the interests of the nation and the people.

The minister also delivered a speech.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented K 100,000 each to U Saw Hauk, 90, and U Saw Baw, 90. Then, he inspected the progress of the village.

MNA

Outstanding students honoured in Myitkyina

YANGON, 3 March — Myitkyina Education College conferred education diploma on the students who have completed their course on 24 February in Myitkyina, Kachin State.

Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint delivered an address.

The principal of the college presented diploma certificates to the students.

Senior military officials, local

authorities, members of the faculty and guests were also present at the ceremony.

The commander attended the ceremony to honour students who passed matriculation examination with high marks. Education officials also gave speeches.

The commander, the deputy commander and officials presented gifts to outstanding students and teachers for their outstanding performances.

MNA



Wapah Dam in Thaton in progress. — MNA

Information Deputy Minister inspects departmental works in Patheingyi

YANGON, 3 March — Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, accompanied by Assistant Director of Information and Public Relations Department U Ya Khant, on 1 March morning inspected the office of Patheingyi District IPRD and TV retransmission station in

Patheingyi and gave necessary instructions to officials.

In meeting with service personnel, the deputy minister stressed the need for them to make efforts hand in hand with local authorities for perpetual existence of libraries and to present difficulties if

there are any to the respective local authorities. He also spoke of the need to seek means and ways to increase the number of readers and to make them realize the advantages of libraries.

The deputy minister added that service personnel are to try their best to win the trust of local people and to engage in farming on a manageable scale.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein inspects Patheingyi District Information and Public Relations Department. — MNA

National Sanitation Week opened in Kengtung

YANGON, 3 March — National Sanitation Week was opened in Kengtung, Shan State (East) on 27 February and winners of National Sanitation Week commemorative essay contest were awarded at the opening ceremony.

Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing delivered an opening address. Commander, his wife and departmental officials presented prizes to the winners.

At the ceremony held at the hall of the Development Affairs Department in Kengtung, winning essays, posters, pamphlets and model fly-proof latrines were displayed. — MNA



In memory of father U Htay Kyu and mother Daw Aye Thi, Daw Aye Aye Htay, Dr Myint Oo Htay, U Tin Maung Htay donate K 500,000 to the fund of Vipassana Pagoda to be built in Mumbai, India through Secretary of International Dhammagiri Vipassana Organization Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja U Kyaw Khin Myint. — H

MRTV-4, related channels available in Mandalay, nearby townships

YANGON, 3 March — MRTV-4 and its related channels have been broadcast on a test run basic in Mandalay, Sagaing, Amrapura, Kyaukse, Myittha, Natogyi, Myingyan, Yesagyo, MaU, ChaungU, Myinmu, Madaya, Singu and Shwebo through Sagaing TV Retransmission Station since 1 February 2006.

As from 1 March, people from those regions can tune to MRTV-4 and its related channels through DVB-T receiver. MRTV-4 includes 5-Movies channel broadcasting foreign movies with English subtitles, 5-Cartoons channel broadcasting children's cartoons and 5-Sports channel broadcasting Premier League, FA, Champion League and Series A football matches. — MNA



Kanbawza team's Tun Min Oo struggling for a winning goal. (News on page 7) — NLM

Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee meets

YANGON, 3 March — Yangon Division Working Committee of the Sangha of the Division Sangha Nayaka Committee held an annual meeting at the committee office this afternoon.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win supplicated on religious matters at the meeting.

Division Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Vayaminda, on behalf of all Division Ovadacariya Sayadaws, and meeting chairman Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bahaddanta Kosalla, Division Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman, gave speeches.



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win accepts cash donations from a wellwisher.

MNA

The commander and officials presented offertories to the Sayadaws. Twenty-three donors presented K 1,355,000 to the meeting.

Division Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Indalabhivansa delivered a sermon. The congregation

shared the merits gained. Sayadaws read papers on the religious affairs including the vinaya.

MNA

Second time National Immunization Day launched in Myeik

YANGON, 3 March — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe attended the activities of the second time National Immunization Day at regiments and units under the control of the command headquarters at the local military hospital on 26 February.

The commander presented toys to the children and gave vaccines to 251 children.

Next, the commander oversaw giving of vaccines to children at seven centres and gave toys to them.

Daw Tin Tin Nwe, wife of the commander, explained health education to the local women.

MNA

Progress of rail transportation sector made in Bago Division, Mon State

YANGON, 3 March — The upgrading tasks are being undertaken along Bago-Sittoung Railroad in the area of No 6 Division of Myanmar Railways. Likewise, Sittoung-Hsatthwagon-DaikU railroad is under construction.

Myanmar Railways is upgrading the railroad section between Sittoung and Mottama regions by setting up the Special Team to implement the Sittoung-Mottama Railroad Upgrading Project.

After completion of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), a lot of sideworks appeared in the approach railroad construction project of the bridge. Among these tasks, construction tasks are being undertaken for the road to link Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway and Mottama Station, the new Mottama Station and the Platform Shed, laying of rail tracks from the new Mottama Station to Thaton, and earth work for laying rail tracks from Mottama Station to Mawlamyine.

In addition, Hline Overpass is under construction in Daingwunkwin of Mawlamyine. Myanmar Railways had built three platform sheds at Mawlamyine Station for convenience of the passengers. In the area of No 8 Division of Myanmar Railways, the plan is under way to supply water to

Mawlamyine Station.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than made a field trip to inspect construction and upgrading tasks of Myanmar Railways in Bago Division and Mon State on 28 February and 1 March.

MNA



Chairman of Jivatadana Sangha Hospital U Ko Ko Gyi (Retired Ambassador) recently accepted K 500,000 donated by Dr U Sai Maw-Dr Daw Poh Poh and family under the aegis of mother Daw Tin Tin Win. — H



A worker cleans an unidentified pharaonic head at an archaeological excavation site previously under a popular outdoor marketplace and next to residential housing in the Ain Shams District of Cairo in Egypt, on 1 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Fossil of new bird species discovered in N China

SHENYANG, 3 March—The remains of a new species of 100-million-year-old bird have been found in a fossil rich area of northeastern China's Liaoning Province, a Chinese archaeologist said on Wednesday.

"The bird is different from other known birds of the Mesozoic Era (seven million-120 million years ago) at the medium to small size range with a distinct thorn-like process on its nose, which has never been found among other known fossil birds," said Dr Li Li from the Institute of Mesozoic Paleontology of Western Liaoning of the Shenyang Normal University.

The findings give scientists a further opportunity to examine the di-

versity of early birds, said Li.

Li and her colleagues unearthed the fossil last October at the Dapingfang Town in the west of Liaoning where the remains of dinosaurs, fish and early bird species have also been found.

"We discovered the fossil about 16 metres underground and it immediately aroused our great interest as its nose was unusually long," said Dr Li.

The well-preserved remains include a complete skeleton with a skull. The total length of the bird fossil is 216 millimetres and its head is 28 millimetres with a high crista, said Li, adding the bird was named as Dapingfangornis after the place where it was found.

MNA/Xinhua

World's mobile phone sales volume totals 816 mln in 2005

HONG KONG, 3 March — Driven by strong demands in the booming economies, the mobile phone sales volume worldwide posted a bullish growth of 21 per cent in 2005 over the previous year, reaching 816 million, a market report said on Wednesday.

Mobile phone sales growth last year focused on major handsets manufacturers with the selling of six brands, Nokia, Motorola, Samsung, LG, Sony Ericsson and Siemens accounting for 78.4 per cent of the global market shares, according to a report by Gartner Inc, a global research and analysis company on the information technology industry.

The big six had further expanded their presence on the handsets market in 2005 and the market space for other brands was greatly squeezed, according to the report.

The Finland-based

Nokia still kept its leading position in the market with 266 million Nokia handsets being sold in 2005, or 32.5 per cent of the global market.

The US-based Motorola was the second largest mobile phone maker behind Nokia last year, selling 145 million handsets. Samsung took the third place in the market with its sales reaching 103 million mobile phones.

Carolina Milanesi, chief analyst of Gartner's mobile sectors in Britain's Egham, said mobile phone makers had to rely more on mass production or carefully tapping unique markets to survive increasingly intense competition.

The competition had imposed impact on the prices of the low-end markets while leading to more intense competition between handset makers in their designs and technology.

MNA/Xinhua

George Clooney caps journey from heartthrob to heavyweight

LOS ANGELES, 3 March—Believe it or not, George Clooney has never been to the Academy Awards.

With three nominations this year, Clooney's first walk down that red

carpet not only makes a bit of Oscar history but cements his journey from *People* magazine's "sexiest man alive" to *Total Film* magazine's "most dangerous man in Hollywood".

"I don't really feel like I'm going to win. I just like the idea of showing up," Clooney quipped last week.

The 44-year-old actor, who a decade ago set pulses racing as Doctor Douglas Ross on the TV hospital show "ER", has become the mischievous A-list star who can turn capers like "Ocean's Eleven" into box office gold and write, direct and act in risky projects that most studios shrink from.

Then there's his role in organizing star-studded

tsunami fund-raisers, campaigning with U2 singer Bono for African debt relief, opening a Las Vegas casino and somehow getting the rap for breaking up every faltering celebrity marriage.

Clooney is the first person in Oscar history to be nominated for acting and directing in two different films in the same year. He earned a nod for best original screenplay and best director for his *Black and White* McCarthy-era drama "Good Night, and Good Luck".

But he is strong favourite to take home the Oscar as best supporting actor for his role as a paunchy CIA agent in the Middle East oil and politics thriller "Syriana".

MNA/Reuters

Uruguay bans smoking in enclosed public areas

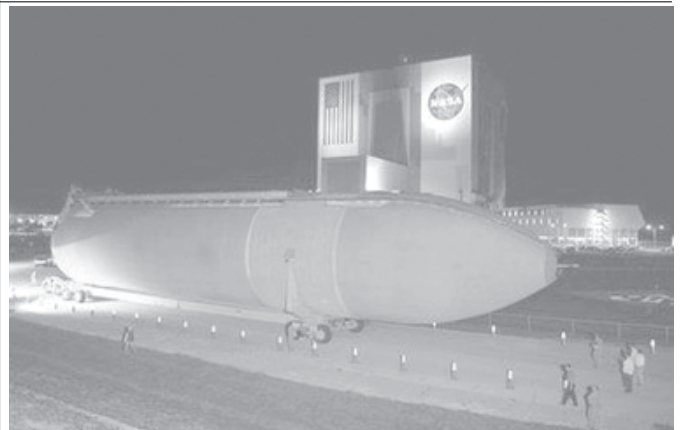
MONTEVIDEO, 3 March—Uruguay imposed a ban Wednesday on smoking in enclosed public areas, becoming the first country in America and the fifth in the world to impose the restriction.

The ban followed a decree by Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez, who is a trained cancer specialist and has been leading an anti-smoking campaign since March 2005.

The ban covers businesses including restaurants, discos and workplaces. The decree provides for a fine of 1,000 US dollars in case of first offence. The government can close repeated offenders.

Vazquez was quoted as saying that a strategy promoting smoke-free zones had been implemented successfully in many countries, where it approved effective in protecting non-smokers and helping those who want to give up smoking.

MNA/Xinhua



The recently remodelled space shuttle external fuel tank for the next mission, STS-121, is transported past the huge Vehicle Assembly Building after arriving by barge at the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 1 March, 2006. —INTERNET



Sixteen days old leopard cubs look on from a cardboard box at the State Zoological Park in Gauhati, India, on 3 March, 2006. Woodcutters rescued two leopard cubs from Gaurang reserve forest in Kokrajhar District, Assam and handed them over to forest officials last week. —INTERNET

Almost 200 die in carnival celebrations in LA

MEXICO CITY, 3 March — Nearly 200 people were killed and hundreds more wounded in carnival festivals in Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia and Panama, according to reports reaching here on Wednesday.

The heaviest death toll occurred in Ecuador where 104 people died, 262 were wounded, and five committed suicide, police spokesman Juan Zapata told the Press in the capital of Quito.

Thanks to new carnival security measures, this year's death toll is still lower than that of last year, when the festival claimed 120 lives and 1,510 people were arrested, Zapata said.—MNA/Xinhua

Don't smoke

ADVERTISEMENTS

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ ဖွဲ့စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် မတ်လ ၃ ရက် ချုပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေ(သို့မဟုတ်) CIF/ Yangon USS စနစ်ဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရန် ချုပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ မိတ်ခေါ်အပ်ပါသည်-

စဉ့် ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည် အရေအတွက်

- (က) လမ်းဆေးဆွဲဆေးဖွဲ့(သာဗိုလ်လပ်တစ်ပေါင်ဒါ) (အဖြူ/အဝါ) ၁၅၀ တန်
(ခ) ဂေါက်ကွင်းသုံးဘာဂီယာ (2 Seater) ၂၀ စီး

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ (၁၇-၂၀၀၆)ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီ ဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းသွင်းပေးရန်အတွက် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင် တိတိ)နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့် ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေး ဌာနမှတစ်ဆင့် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို ရန်ကုန်အမှတ်- ၃၈၈၇၂ သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (6009)WE

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (6009)WE are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S CONTAINER SERVICES AND SHIPPING AGENCY CO, LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (051)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (051) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Sri Lankan hospitals ready to fight bird flu

COLOMBO, 2 March—Sri Lankan hospitals have been directed to take emergency measures to fight the avian flu threat, Epidemiology Unit Department Director Paba Palihawadana has said.

Besides the 20 hospitals that have already been earmarked for improvement to combat the disease, the Unit has decided to select 20 more hospitals, Palihawadana was quoted on Wednesday by Daily News as saying.

These 40 hospitals would be provided with modern equipment and facilities to combat the virus and the anti-viral drug Osaltamavir (Tamiflu) has been stored.

MNA/Xinhua

MYANMAR Building A Modern State 2005. On sale US\$ 5.00 per copy. Available at Sarpyu Beikman Book Shop, No. 529-531, Merchant Street, Yangon.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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in respect of "Human pharmaceutical preparations (Int'l. Class 5)".

ITS to help tackle traffic congestion in Beijing

BEIJING, 2 March — Beijing is planning to adopt a series of intelligent transportation systems (ITS) to alleviate the city's traffic congestion.

The use of high-tech devices in buses, taxis, public car parks and bus stations will greatly improve the transportation efficiency, said Liu Xiaoming, deputy director of Beijing Municipal Committee of Communications. Liu officially announced on Tuesday the 14th World Congress of ITS was to be held in Beijing Exhibition Centre in October 2007, according to Wednesday's China Daily.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia, Iran make new bid to break nuclear impasse

Moscow, 2 March— Russian and Iranian negotiators make a fresh bid in Moscow on Wednesday to reach a compromise deal that might defuse Teheran's stand-off with the West over its nuclear programme.

Iranian officials, headed by top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani, were due to meet a Russian delegation for further discussion of Moscow's proposal to carry out uranium enrichment for the Islamic Republic on Russian soil.

Larijani's presence, matched by that of Russian Security Council

chief Igor Ivanov, put the new round of talks on a higher footing and raised hopes Iran was taking the Russian proposal seriously, something the West at times has doubted.

"We are optimistic we can agree with our Iranian partners ... we think we can come to an agreement that a joint venture on the soil of the Russian Federation will be able to meet Iran's needs fully," Russian President Vladimir Putin told a news conference during a visit to Hungary.

Moscow sees the enrichment joint venture as a way out of

confrontation, but diplomats in Europe and the United States doubt the proposal will satisfy Iran, which they suspect of covertly seeking nuclear weapons.

Although Teheran says it has a "basic" agreement with Russia about the scheme, it has refused so far to give up what it sees as its right to enrich uranium at home.

"We would like to enjoy our rights like Japan to have nuclear technology, of course for peaceful purposes," Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said in Japan on Tuesday.

MNA/Reuters

Luxury rental market in Beijing set to boom in next three years

BEIJING, 2 March—Luxury home rental prices in Beijing are expected to climb 5-10 per cent per year during 2006 and 2008 thanks to more expatriates moving to the city and the 2008 Olympic Games.

This rental market covers hotel-serviced apartments, as well as high-end apartments and villas, mainly targeting foreigners and Chinese people working for large multinational companies, on Thursday's China Daily quoted a report as saying.

The report was released Wednesday by Jones Lang LaSalle, an international property consulting house.

"More multinationals seek set-ups and expansions in Beijing, the capital of the world's fastest-growing economy, and the 2008 Olympic Games offers more opportunities," said Anna Kalifa, Jones Lang LaSalle's head of research in Beijing.

Beijing is becoming a cleaner and more sophisticated city as a result of the event, said Kalifa, who wrote the report.

"Considering the massive

infrastructure projects coming to the city, notably the series of new metro lines, airport light rail and expressway, the long term outlook for the city is incredibly positive," said Kalifa.

Last year, there were more than 7,500 luxury units delivered to the luxury residential market, while the figure is expected to be 4,000-plus this year and 3,200 in 2007.

Though the number of units has decreased, the quality of the housing will improve and the property value will increase in the next two years, according to the report.

Chaoyang Park, located at the East Third Ring Road beside the city's Central Business District (CBD), and further east of the Chaoyang District will be the site of most of the luxury units.

The report also forecasted that Sanlitun, a hub of foreign embassies, and Chaoyang Park will be hot for apartments, while the Shunyi area near Capital International Airport will be popular for villas.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဆက်ရေးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Mild thyroid disease not tied to heart problems

NEW YORK, 2 March — Mild disease of the thyroid gland, a hormone-secreting organ in the neck, does not generally cause heart problems or stroke, new research shows. The one exception is a slightly overactive thyroid gland, which may raise the risk of atrial fibrillation, a common heart-rhythm disturbance in which the upper chambers beat erratically.

The findings are based on a study of 3233 older adults who had thyroid function testing performed between 1989 and 1990 and then were followed through June 2002 for heart problems and stroke. All of the subjects were 65 years of age or older when the study started.

Dr Anne R Cappola, from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia, and colleagues report their findings in this week's Journal of

the American Medical Association.

In terms of thyroid function, 82 per cent of subjects were normal, 15 per cent were mildly underactive, 1.5 per cent were moderately underactive, and 1.5 per cent were mildly overactive.

Compared with individuals with normal thyroid function, subjects with mildly overactive glands were nearly twice as likely to develop atrial fibrillation during follow-up. By contrast, the other types of thyroid disease

did not predispose to any heart problems or stroke.

"Our analyses do not support screening older individuals for thyroid disease to prevent heart disease and stroke," the investigators conclude.

MNA/Reuters



A ferry from the British company P & O at the French port of Cherbourg, on 3 March, 2006. The Dubai company taking over a British firm that manages key US ports said it will hold off finalizing the deal until next week.—INTERNET

Kenya to boost rapid expansion of information sector

NAIROBI, 2 March — As part of its efforts to boost the rapid expansion of information sector, the Kenyan Government will remove all taxes charged on imported computer parts and accessories in order to increase investment and employment opportunities in the industry, Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki announced on Tuesday.

The move will not only make computers affordable to more Kenyans, but it will also lead to increased productivity and employment opportunities through value addition, said the President while officially opening the Information Communication Technology (ICT) Strategy Con-ference in Nairobi.

He encouraged industry and other potential investors to join hands with the Kenyan Government and the Kenyan people to take advantage of the opportunities being created by the new policy thrust.

The Kenyan Government will be tabling a new Communications Bill in the next session of Parliament in order to create a framework for a liberalized ICT industry and also to provide a roadmap for the development of ICT in the country over

the next five years, Kibaki disclosed.

MNA/Xinhua



A Hollywood stunt performer exercises on a motorcycle before a stunt show in Shanghai International Racing Circuit in Shanghai, on 2 March, 2006. —INTERNET

China's first self-designed 'ARJ21' to make maiden flight in 2008

SHANGHAI, 2 March — China's first self-designed feeder passenger jet, the Advanced Regional Jet in the 21st Century (ARJ21), is expected to make its maiden flight in 2008, sources said here Wednesday.

The structural drawing of the turbo fan jet has passed appraisal by concerned state department and component parts of the jet are expected to go into

production soon, said an official with the East China Management Bureau of the General Civil Aviation Association of China. The new regional jet, with 70-90 seats, will be powered by a CF34-10A engine made by the General Electric Company. Other component parts of the jet will be manufactured by domestic enterprises.—MNA/Xinhua

Super mirror installed at ANSTO

SYDNEY, 3 March—Dr Michael James from the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization (ANSTO) looks through a "super mirror" before it is installed in the Platypus neutron reflectometer on 2 March, 2006 in Sydney, Australia.

The super mirrors, produced in Hungary by Mirrotron, will be used in the machine to bounce subatomic neutrons off the surface of liquids and other materials to determine their structure. It will study chemical and biological processes on the nanoscale, and the findings may be used to help treat Respiratory Distress Syndrome, which is a major cause of death in premature babies.—Internet



Soy benefits heart health in healthy young men

NEW YORK, 2 March— Soy proteins modulate the ratio of different lipids in the blood, in a way that should reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases, in healthy subjects, according to Canadian researchers.

Diet is one channel through which blood lipid levels can be modified. Lately, soy has received special attention, in particular soy proteins and soy "isoflavones" — estrogen-like plant compounds whose effects are still controversial — according to lead author Alison Duncan, from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada.

"There is evidence to suggest that soy reduces lipid levels in various samples of humans, but it hasn't really been looked at in people that are healthy," Duncan told Reuters Health.

She and her colleagues aimed to assess the effect of

soy protein with varying amounts of isoflavones in healthy young men.

As described in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, the study included 35 healthy men about 28 years old, who took three different supplements for periods of eight weeks: "regular" milk proteins, soy proteins with low isoflavone content, and soy with high isoflavone content.

The different supplements were given in a random order, each separated by a one-month break, to insure the sequence did not influence the findings, according to Duncan.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore launches Chinese Language, Culture Fund

SINGAPORE, 2 March — A Chinese Language and Culture Fund was launched here Wednesday, aiming to raise the level of competence in the Chinese language and promote the Chinese culture among Chinese Singaporeans, especially the younger generation.

Initiated by the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations (SFCCA) and the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) in October 2004, the fund will financially support creative projects and activities organized by local educational institutions, companies or organizations in line with

the above-mentioned aims. Kwek Leng Joo, Chairman of the Administration Committee of the fund and former president of the SCCCI, said at a Press conference that the fund is set up timely in the context of the rapid economic growth in China.

MNA/Xinhua

Donate Blood



Jordan Kerr of Australia and Travis Parrott of the USA are seen in action against Simon Aspelin of Sweden and Todd Perry of Australia during their quarter final match at the Tennis Channel Open at Darling Tennis Centre, on 2 March, 2006 in Las Vegas, Nevada. —INTERNET

Luxemburgo works magic to lift Santos top in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 3 March— Santos beat Sao Caetano 3-2 to move top of the Sao Paulo state championship for the first time since coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo returned to the club. Wednesday's result puts Santos on 28 points, two ahead of Sao Paulo and Palmeiras.

Former Real Madrid coach Luxemburgo has hammered together a cohesive unit despite lacking any of the bigger names still playing in Brazilian domestic football.

Santos have been overshadowed by the high-scoring Corinthians and Sao Paulo teams but have now taken maximum points from their last five games in the state championship.

MNA/Reuters

Hewitt sure to play Davis Cup tie

CANBERRA, 3 March— Australia will have former world number one Lleyton Hewitt play in the Davis Cup quarterfinal tie against Belarus next month.

John Fitzgerald, captain of Australian tennis team, Thursday confirmed that Hewitt, who is competing in the Las Vegas ATP tournament, is keen to play for Australia.

The top-ranked Australian has just made the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-3 easy win over Czech Jan Hernych on Wednesday.

Hewitt, 24, holds the Australian record for the most singles victories in Davis Cup with 27 to just six losses in 20 ties over seven years.

MNA/Xinhua

Argentina, Brazil, swimmers set new records in S American C'ship

BOGOTA, 3 March— Argentina's Javiera Salcedo and Brazil's Gabriela Silva have set new records at the South American Championship in Medellin, Colombia, local media reported on Thursday.

Salcedo swam the 50-metre breaststroke in 33.07 seconds, beating the 33.19 previous record set in 2002 by Peru's Valeria Silva.

Brazil's Silva swam the 100-metre butterfly in 1:02.24 to beat the 1:02.80 record set by her compatriot Fabiola Molina in the 2004 competition in Maldonado, Uruguay.

The Championship, which hosts 11 countries from the region, began on Wednesday night.

MNA/Xinhua



LeBron James #23 of the Cleveland Cavaliers dunks during the NBA game with the Chicago Bulls on 2 March, 2006 at the United Centre in Chicago, Illinois. —INTERNET

Agent says Ballack very interested in Chelsea move

LONDON, 3 Mar— Chelsea's interest in Michael Ballack is reciprocated by the Bayern Munich playmaker. Ballack's agent said on Thursday. "Nothing has been signed, but there will be ongoing contact with Chelsea," Michael Becker was quoted as telling the BBC on Thursday.

"There is strong interest from both sides. The trend is in this direction."

Earlier this week Ballack denied he had signed a four-year deal with the English champions. Becker said the interest of his 29-year-old client in moving to Real Madrid was cooling.

"Michael had initially been very keen on Real Madrid. But the leadership changes there in the last few months mean we don't know what's happening," Becker said.

"There has been a change in the whole set-up at Real and we don't know where we stand -- it's very confusing. British newspaper reports on Thursday linked Ballack with a move to Inter Milan but Becker ruled this out. — MNA/Reuters

Arsenal's Cole out for three weeks

LONDON, 3 March — Arsenal left back Ashley Cole will be out for three weeks, manager Arsene Wenger told the club's website on Thursday.

The England international damaged his ankle in a reserve game against Tottenham Hotspur on Monday, but Wenger was confident the injury was not too serious.

"We had very bad news at first and then much better news," said Wenger. "In the end it was very reassuring. Ashley will be out for three weeks minimum because of an ankle sprain.

"It is on the left foot and is nothing to do with the surgery he had before."

Cole has managed little more than an hour of competitive football since October after fracturing his right foot and then struggling with a thigh injury.

With Chelsea's on-loan left back Wayne Bridge carried off in England's friendly victory over Uruguay on Wednesday, na-

tional coach Sven-Goran Eriksson is running short of left-sided options for the World Cup, which starts in June.

Wenger was hopeful that striker Robin van

Persie would be fit for the Champions League second leg tie against Real Madrid on Wednesday. Arsenal won the first match 1-0.

MNA/Reuters

Bayern set eyes on Dutch Mark van Bommel

BRUSSELS, 3 March — Bayern Munich have identified Dutch international midfielder Mark van Bommel as the man to replace departing captain Michael Ballack, Dutch media reported on Thursday.

The Dutchman has not featured for Barcelona as regularly as he would have liked since joining on a Bosman from PSV in the summer, and a move to the Bundesliga could be the ideal scenario for regular first-team action.

"He is a very good player, a winner and a personality on the pitch," Bayern boss Felix Magath was quoted as saying when asked to comment on the midfielder.

"He can lead a team, otherwise he wouldn't be playing for both Holland and Barcelona," he said.

Indeed, Bayern appear to have enlisted the help of striker and fellow countryman Roy Makaay in trying to persuade the player to join the club.

"I have already spoken to him about Bayern," Makaay was quoted as saying.

One obstacle to any potential move could be Barcelona's unwillingness to lose a midfielder that gives a great balance

to the attacking talents of Giuly, Deco, Messi and Xavi. — MNA/Xinhua

Pele says Brazil needs to watch step in World Cup travel

CANBERRA, 3 March — Five-time World Cup champion Brazil should be chary of each game when they do battle in June's World Cup this year, former Brazilian soccer legend Pele said Thursday.

"Brazil has two players in each position who are very good. But in the World Cup, sometimes it takes just one game for you to go out," said Pele, who led Brazil to World Cup titles in 1958, 1962 and 1970.

Brazil beat Russia 1-0 in a friendly match Wednesday on a Ronaldo goal.

The 65-year-old soccer star also said upsets are a feature of the World Cup, citing the example of France, which was ousted stunningly in group stage in 2002.

MNA/Xinhua

Chelsea join race to sign Raul Garcia

LONDON, 3 March — Chelsea have joined the hunt for Osasuna's impressive midfield starlet Raul Garcia.

The 19-year-old has already been targeted by West Ham in recent months as his progress at the Estadio El Sadar continues to catch the eyes of a number of scouts.

The Spanish Under-21 ace spoke about the most recent link with the English champions. "Nothing surprises me now," he said.

"After everything that I have seen that has been said about me. Whatever happens, if anything at all, will happen at the end of the season.

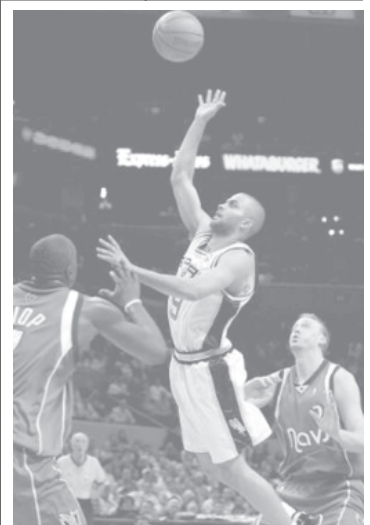
"At the moment I am paying no attention and only thinking about Osasuna.

"If I can continue playing well more chances will come along and now the only thing we have to do is keep everything going well at this club. — MNA/Xinhua



Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand plays into the 9th green during the first round of the Enjoy Jakarta HSBC Indonesian Open at the Emerald Golf & Country Club on 2 March, 2006 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

INTERNET



San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker (C) goes to the hoop against Dallas Mavericks centre DeSagana Diop (L) and forward Keith Van Horn in the first half during their NBA game in San Antonio, Texas, on 2 March, 2006.

INTERNET



Li Yuchun
CHINA'S ONE
OF
TEN EYE-
CATCHING
STARS IN
2006.
INTERNET

Annual exhibition on career, education opens in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 3 March — An annual career and education exhibition, the latest one of the Career series, opened at Singapore's Suntec City Exhibition Centre Thursday.

Organized by the Singapore Professional Centre, the exhibition serves as a platform for interactions among students, job seekers, employers as well as education institutions.

More than 550 exhibitors from 20 countries including China, Australia, the United States, Britain, Canada, Germany and Singapore are offering various course placements and job opportunities at the four-day event.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia begins promoting gas-fired vehicles

JAKARTA, 3 March— The Indonesian Government pledged Thursday to provide financial assistance for the use of gas fuel in public transport under the energy-saving campaign.

Minister of Transportation Hatta Radjasa said the government has secured 4.3 billion US dollars to help land transport operators convert their conventional vehicles into gas-fired ones.

"The fund is intended for the purchase of converter kits planted on public transport vehicles," the minister was quoted by the *Antara* news agency as saying during a visit in the Jakarta suburb of Depok.

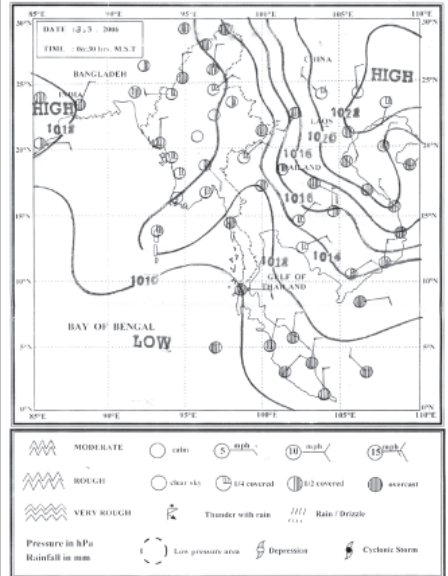
The government will provide 4,000 converter kits in the preliminary stage, he said.— MNA/Xinhua

ASLEEP IN JESUS Dr June Po Yein Age 72

Dr June Po Yein, daughter of (Mr D'Silva and Daw Hla Oo), mother of Deborah Din (a) Thida Yein-Saw Nicky Din and grandmother of Sarah-Anne Din, beloved wife of (U Robert Po Yein), fell asleep in Jesus on Wednesday, 1st March 2006, at 5:40 pm. Funeral service will be held at Ywama Baptist Church, Insein on Monday, 6th March 2006 at 10:00 am and thence to Yayway cemetery for cremation.

Bereaved Family

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 3 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Kachin, Shan States and Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Kachin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Northern Shan, Chin States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Sagaing (39°C).

Maximum temperature on 2-3-2006 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 3-3-2006 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 3-3-2006 was (91%). Total sunshine hours on 2-3-2006 was (7.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 3-3-2006 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 (8) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 2-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4-3-2006: Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin, Chin and Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and 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 isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Pynmana and neighbouring area for 4-3-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-3-2006: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for second weekend of March 2006: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

EARTHQUAKE REPORT

(Issued at 07:00 hours MST, Today)
A Slight earthquake of intensity (4.8) Richter Scale with its epicentre India-Myanmar border region about (250) miles Northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory (45 miles Southeast of Imphar, Manipur, India), was recorded at (23) hrs (47) min (56) sec MST on 2 March, 2006.



Saturday, 4 March
View on today

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am**
6. ဆရာချောင်းရေလှောင်တံခံ
- 8:20 am**
7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Grammar Made Easy
- 11:00 am**
1. Martial song
- 11:15 am**
2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am**
3. News
- 11:40 am**
4. Games for children
- 12:05 am**
5. Round up of the week's TV local news

- 12:35 pm**
6. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "Doraemon"
- 1:05 pm**
7. ဩစတြေးလျပြည်ဝေရာစာပဒေသာ
- 1:15 pm**
8. လောကီတီ (အပိုင်း-၅) "မေတ္တာအတိမ်အနက်ကို ချိန်ဆက်၍ကြည့်သောအခါ" (ပိုင်စောရဲထွန်း၊ စည်သူတင်စိုး၊ ခင်စာမြင့်ကျော်၊ လင်းစာနည်အော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်အေး)
- 2:00 pm**
9. Dance of national races
- 2:15 pm**
10. အာဂလိယောကျိန်း ဖြန့်ဖြူးခြင်း ဝတ်စုံ စက်တီးစီးတဲ့ လူသားများ
- 2:25 pm**
11. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:30 pm**
12. "သတိနှင့်ယှဉ် အသိနှင့်မြင်" (အပိုင်း-၂) (ဝါးမယ်မရဲမောင်၊ ဘုန်းလွန်း၊ မြတ်စောသီအောင်၊ ရတနာခင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ မြင့်ဖုန်းခိုင်၊ နီနီရွှေရည်၊ ဆောင်းနင်းစော၊ ပိုင်စိုးရင်သိန်း၊ အိုင်းရစ်လေးမြင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
- 2:35 pm**
13. အိုင်းဒါးတံတား (ပဲခူးတိုင်း)
- 2:45 pm**
14. International news
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English for Everyday Use

- 4:45 pm**
4. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းစား ဂီတစား
- 4:50 pm**
5. တပ်မတော်နေ့ ရုတ်ပြုထားသိချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရထားများ (၂၀၀၃) ခုနှစ်
- 5:00 pm**
6. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနှစ် (ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြု (ရူပဗေဒ))
- 5:15 pm**
7. Musical programme
- 5:25 pm**
8. Games for children
- 5:50 pm**
9. Musical programme
- 6:00 pm**
10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
12. နေပူအခြေခံ အမျိုးသား ဝတ်စုံကျင့်သန်ရှင်းရေး ရက်သတ္တဝတ်လွှပ်ရှားဖွဲ့
- 6:50 pm**
13. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:05 pm**
14. (6)နှစ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့ ရုတ်ပြုထားသိချင်းများ
- 7:20 pm**
15. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:30 pm**
16. Musical programme
- 7:40 pm**
17. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 pm**
18. News
- 8:00 pm**
19. International news
- 8:00 pm**
20. Weather report
- 8:00 pm**
21. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရုပ်စုံပြိုင်ပွဲ" (အပိုင်း-၂၇)
- 8:00 pm**
22. The next day's programme



Saturday, 4 March
Tune in today

- 8:30 am** Brief news
8:35 am Music:
-Left 2 right (Natural)
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
8:45 am Music:
-Happy just to be with you (Michelle)
- 8:50 am** National news + 12 Objectives & People's Desire
9:00 am Music:
-Sweet Dreams (Alex Butcher)
- 9:05 am** International news
9:10 am Music:
-If you wanna party...
- 1:30 pm** News & Slogan
1:40 pm Music at your request:
-Blue night (MLTR)
-I'm not a girl not yet a woman (Britney Spear)
-Top of the world (The Carpenters)
-I have a dream (Westlife)
- 9:00 pm** ASEAN review
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Myanmar culture
9:30 pm Souvenirs:
-The sweetest sounds (Patti Page)
-A taste of honey (Julie London)
-Leaving on a jet plane
- 9:45 pm** News & Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

Lt-Gen Maung Bo on tour around Mon State

YANGON, 3 March— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mon State PDC Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected Mayan Sluice Gate Project in Thaton Township, Mon State, on 26 February morning.

The minister reported on the purpose of the facility and the result of benefiting 7,500 acres of farmland; offi-

persuade local people to grow physic nut.

At the meeting with officials of the village, Lt-Gen Maung Bo discussed measures to raise the standard of living of rural folks, extend agriculture and livestock breeding, and for the people to do their bit in the tasks.

He also inspected Wapah Dam, north to Thaton-Myaingalay Road, one and a half miles east from Thaton and gave instructions on the facility.

On arrival at the 100,000 physic nut grafts nursery of

Lt-Gen Maung Bo looked into the Donthami river water pumping station project near Zaymathwe Village in Thaton Township. The minister reported on capability to irrigate 3,300 acres of farmland; and an official from the Water Resources Utilization Department on facts about the project, and

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects Mayan Sluice Gate Construction Project.
MNA



river water pumping stations in Thaton District. Lt-Gen Maung Bo called for speedy completion of the project to benefit 9,000 acres of summer paddy and arrangements for irrigation of farmland of Kyettuyway Village. He inspected the earth work, and the construction of spillway, control tower and conduit of the Gadaik Dam Project, two miles upstream Gadaik Village in Paung Township. He also viewed the progress

of growing 17 acres of rubber and nurturing of 2,000 saplings of physic nut. The minister reported on the project and officials on work progress and future programmes.

The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended to the requirements and called for cooperation of local administrative bodies and departmental officials for speedy completion of the project. (See page 9)

cial on facts about the project and programmes for paddy cultivation with the water from the dam; and the commander on construction of roads in villages with laterite extracted from the project, and cultivation of paddy.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo instructed local administrative bodies to supervise tasks to extend cultivation of monsoon paddy to 1 million acres and summer paddy to 150,000 acres, and to

Thaton Township PDC in Zaymathwe Village, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander and the minister grew physic nut saplings.

They viewed the demonstration of operating Leya-16 power tillers, combined harvesters, tractors, Kubota water pumps and stoves, and lighting oil lamps and lanterns.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo called on local people to extend growing of physic nut.

USDA youths to scale Mt Phonkan

YANGON, 3 March — A hiking team comprising youths of Union Solidarity and Development Association and Myanmar Hiking and Mountaining Federation will have to trek up 11,500-foot-high Phonkan Mountain ranges in Putao in northern Myanmar this summer.

Wellwishers donated cash to the hiking team on 26 February in the presence of Secretariat Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Central Executive Committee Member of

USDA Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

At the cash donation ceremony held at Mandalay Division USDA, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint also attended to needs for the summer trekking.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on 25 February went to Mandalay Division Myanma Posts and Telecommunications in Mandalay and also inspected the services and inspected a bus terminal in Pyawbwe on 24 February.

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INSIDE

Life-long literary awards have been presented since 2001 and Pakokku U Ohn Pe manuscript awards since 1992. And it is good news for writers, researchers, compilers and publishers that there also have been presented Sayawun Tin Shwe literary award, Dhamma literary award and Thutaswezon literary award plus prizes of certain government departments.

PAGE 7

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Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw meets service personnel in Mandalay Division.—MNA