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Lt-Gen Maung Bo oversees progress in laying rail tracks on Mottama side. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends physic nut plant growing ceremonies in Mon State

YANGON, 4 March — Accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to open Yinnyein Sluice Gate built by Irrigation Department in Paung Township on 27 February.

In Mottama, Lt-Gen Maung Bo oversaw progress in laying rail tracks from Mottama Station yard to the approach structure A-2, construction of the platform shed and other construction tasks.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on construction of approach railroads by engineers. The construction of the approach railroads has completed by 93 per cent. They

also inspected construction of Mawlamyine Station.

On 28 February, Lt-Gen Maung Bo proceeded to the physic nut nursery of South-East Command, and sowed physic nut seeds into the small plastic bags. He viewed participation of family members of the command in nurturing physic nut saplings. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented physic nut seeds to be sown at regi-

ments and units to officials. South-East Command planted 240,000 physic nut saplings at its nursery.

At the physic nut plant growing ceremony of Mawlamyine Station, Deputy Commander Col Zaw Min reported on the target set for 144 acres of physic nut plantations nearby Shwenattaung Golf Course, and nurturing of the saplings. Lt-Gen Maung Bo planted a physic nut sapling.

(See page 8)

In Myanmar, bio-diesel can be extracted successfully from physic nut and used in farming equipment and others. Hence, efforts are to be made for growing physic nut plants.



Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects Crumb Rubber Factory of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise. — MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 5 March, 2006

Extend exploration of oil and gas

Myanmar is rich in terrestrial and aquatic resources. Combined with human resources and technologies, natural resources are being tapped for the development of national economy.

At present, efforts are being made with added momentum for the improvement of socio-economic status of the national people as peace and tranquillity has prevailed in the nation. Oil and gas is one of the natural resources being exploited in the nation. The Ministry of Energy has extended exploration of oil and gas for ensuring energy security of the State. In this regard, on-shore oil and gas exploration is being carried out with added momentum while off-shore oil exploration is being undertaken in cooperation with foreign companies.

According to the findings in Rakhine off-shore, there have been rich gas deposits to be tapped on commercial scale. Old wells as well as new ones in Yetagun Oil and Gas field in Taninthayi off-shore are producing substantial amount of gas daily.

On-shore oil and gas exploration is being conducted on an extensive scale and some oil and gas fields show bright prospects.

Achievements have been made in drilling of No 32 new well in Nyaungdon Oil and Gas Field, Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division. The new well is producing 3.5 million cubic-feet of gas and 20 barrels of condensate daily.

In the same way, the drilling of No 43 new well in Thagyitaung oil field, Pauk Township, Magway Division is meeting with success. The new well is producing 2.5 million cubic-feet of gas daily.

Likewise, progress has been made in drilling of No 18 new well in Sabei oil field, Pauk Township, Magway Division, and the new well is now producing 1.5 million cubic-feet of gas daily.

Nowadays, Thagyitaung oil field and Sabei oil field in Magway Division are producing some 420 barrels of crude oil and 20 million cubicfeet of gas daily.

In view of bright prospects, officials concerned and staff members of the Ministry of Energy are to make relentless efforts to meet the domestic demand of oil and gas and to engage in extended exploration of on-shore and off-shore gas in the long-term interest of the State.



To mark her birthday, Ma Myint Myint Khaing at 231 on Maha Bandoola Garden Street in Kyauktada Township recently donated K 110,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through U Maung Maung Gyi, Joint Treasurer of the Home. — 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

Maha Makutaramsi Myatmawtin Pagoda consecrated, Htidaw hoisted atop Myatmawtin Datpaungsu Pagoda

YANGON, 4 March— The Hsandawshin Maha Makutaramsi Myatmawtin Pagoda was consecrated and the Myatmawtin Datpaungsu Pagoda was hoisted Htidaw (tiered and ornamented finial) atop at a ceremony held at the pavilion of the Hsandawshin Maha Makutaramsi Myatmawtin Pagoda in Ngaputaw Township on 27 February morning.



Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, wife and congregation share merit gained. — MNA

The occasion was graced by the presence of members of the Sangha led by Member of the State Ovadacariya Patheingyi Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Carinda, Members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Patheingyi Nyaungbintha Pariyatti Monastery Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja

Bhaddanta Vissuta, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and wife Daw Than Nwe, Captain Myo Myint Than (Navy) of local station and wife and officials presented Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw (jewelled vane) and

Seinbudaw (diamond orb) to be hoisted atop the Myatmawtin Datpaungsu Pagoda to the Sayadaws. The commander and wife and wellwishers donated alms to the Sayadaws. Daw Khin Nweyi, her son Dr Tin Soe Lin and daughter Daw Pwint Mar Khaing (Shwepazun Family) of Yangon presented K 15 million and Thiri

Thudamma Theingi U Kyin Han and Daw Khin Myint of Patheingyi, K 7.5 million for all-round construction of the pagoda to the commander. The commander and officials enshrined religious objects into the reliquary and fixed the Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda. The Sayadaws consecrated the pagoda. — MNA

Prizes distributed to sales agents

YANGON, 4 March — A ceremony to distribute prizes to the sales agents who sold the stationery developed by Beauty World Trading Co Ltd most in 2005 in conjunction with a ceremony to throw a get-together took place at Traders Hotel, here, on 2 March.



Managing Director U Khin Maung Oo extends greetings. — MNA

Managing Director U Khin Maung Oo of the company extended greetings. Members of the Board of Directors U Maung Tin and U Zaw Zaw Moe presented prizes to the

sales agents. The company sells products such as Boss, Jumbo, Boss Reynolds, and Boss Smart brand ball-point pens and the new items will be produced.—MNA

New uZap slim aid device of Osim introduced

YANGON, 4 March — A new uZap slim aid device of Osim imported by NatRay Co Ltd was introduced at Sedona Hotel, here, on 26 February. It was attended by invited guests, journalists, film stars and Osim members.



This device is suited to anyone who wants to lose weight fast. The uZap showrooms are opened at Traders Hotel and another one at No 22, 9th mile on Pyay road. — MNA

Introduction ceremony of uZap slim aid device in progress.—MNA

Putin urges end to instability in energy markets

Moscow, 3 March — President Vladimir Putin, harnessing Russia's authority as an energy superpower, called on Wednesday for a strategy to tackle instability in world energy markets and spare future generations a legacy of conflict.

Putin's powerful call put energy security firmly at the centre of the agenda for Russia's presidency this year of the Group of Eight industrialized nations.

It also served to deflect Western criticism of Russia's democratic record and offset damaging publicity linked to January's dispute with

Ukraine over the price of Russian gas, which disrupted supplies to Europe.

"Instability in hydrocarbon markets poses today a real threat to global energy supply. The gap between supply and demand is widening," Putin said in a 1,700-word text issued by the Kremlin.

"We will strive to form a system of energy security which will take into account the interests of the whole world."

Striking a statesmanlike note, Putin warned that world leaders had a duty to work out a strategy to end instability over energy supplies or else generations to come would suffer.

A stable energy policy should reflect broad international interests, not just those of wealthy nations, he argued.

MNA/Reuters



Pupils draw pictures during the 2006 Hong Kong Flower Exhibition in the Victoria Park in Hong Kong, south China, on 3 March, 2006. A total of 180 exhibitors from across the world displayed 300,000 flowers of various kinds in the 10-day exhibition, opened on 3 March.—INTERNET

ထုတ်ကုန်အသစ် တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း



GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) headquarters in west London. Four people were injured following a chemical explosion at a GSK factory in Scotland.—INTERNET

Blast hits Glaxo drug ingredient plant in Scotland

LONDON, 3 March — A GlaxoSmithKline Plc factory in Scotland making active ingredients for two medicines was damaged by a blast on Thursday, injuring four employees, Europe's biggest drugmaker said. A company spokesman added it was too early to say what impact the explosion would have on supplies of medicines.

Industry analysts said any loss of revenues would be limited.

The Irvine plant makes ingredients for Glaxo's HIV and antibiotics division, and the accident damaged a unit making the anti-infective Wellvone and the malaria treatment Malarone — both minor products for the group.

Production at another facility on the same site was not affected by the blast. MNA/Reuters

Japanese make gasoline from cattle dung

Tokyo, 3 March — Scientists in energy-poor Japan said Friday they have found a new source of gasoline — cattle dung.

Sakae Shibusawa, an agriculture engineering professor at the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, said his team has successfully extracted .042 ounces of gasoline from every 3.5 ounces of cow dung by applying high pressure and heat.

"The new technology will be a boon for livestock breeders" to reduce the burden of disposing of large amounts of waste, Shibusawa said.

About 551,155 tons of cattle dung are produced each year in Japan, he said.

Gasoline extracted from cow dung is unheard of, said Tomiaki Tamura, an official of the Natural Resources and Energy Agency. Japan relies almost totally on imports for its oil and gasoline needs.

The team, helped by staff from the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology near Tokyo, produced gasoline by

adding several unspecified metal catalysts to the dung inside a container and applying a 30-atmosphere pressure and heat of up to 300 degrees Celsius (572 Fahrenheit), Shibusawa said. Details of the catalysts could not be disclosed, he added.

The team hopes to improve the technology so that it can be used commercially within five years, Shibusawa said.

In a separate experiment revealing another unusual business potential for cow dung,

another group of researchers has successfully extracted an aromatic ingredient of vanilla from cattle dung, said Miki Tsuruta, a Sekisui Chemical Co spokeswoman. The extracted ingredient, vanillin, can be used as fragrance in shampoo and candles, she said.

Tsuruta said the vanillin was extracted from a dung solution in a pressurized cooker in a project co-organized by a Japanese medical research institute.—Internet



A herd of deer stand together in the snow on an early misty morning in the Kralingse bos (Kralinger Park) in Rotterdam, the Netherlands on 3 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Former congressman gets eight-plus years

SAN DIEGO, 3 March — Former Rep Randy "Duke" Cunningham, who collected \$2.4 million in homes, yachts,

antique furnishings and other bribes on a scale unparalleled in the history of Congress, was sentenced Friday to eight years and four months in prison, the longest term meted out to a congressman in decades.

Cunningham, who resigned from Congress in disgrace last year, was spared the 10-year maximum by US District Judge Larry Burns but was immediately taken into custody. He also was ordered to pay \$1.8 million in restitution for back taxes and forfeit \$1.85 million in valuables he received.

Cunningham accepted money and gifts including a Rolls-Royce and \$40,000 Persian rugs from defense contractors and others in exchange for steering government contracts their way and other favors.

Federal prosecutors sought the maximum and his attorneys asked for mercy, but Cunningham, choking up as he addressed the judge, focused on accepting blame. "Your honor I have ripped my life to shreds due to my actions, my actions that I did to myself," he said.

Internet

Archaeology exhibition in Beijing

BEIJING, 2 March — Visitors view "pottery dancers" dating back to the second century BC at an archaeology exhibition in Beijing, capital of China, on 2 March, 2006. The exhibition, entitled "Kings of Chu in Western Han Dynasty", displayed 190 artworks selected from the unearthed antiques from the kings' tombs.—Internet



Malaysia, Iran to strengthen cooperation in infrastructure, energy

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 March — Malaysia and Iran on Thursday agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields of infrastructure, energy, tourism and biotechnology. Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi held talks with visiting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, after which the two state leaders held a joint Press conference.



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (R) and Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (L) —INTERNET

The two sides decided to further enhance cooperation in these fields in a bid to deepen social and economic ties between Malaysia and

Iran, said Badawi at the Press conference held in the administrative centre of Putrajaya. He added the Malaysia-Iran Joint Commission would discuss

follow-up measures to ensure a fruitful outcome.

Ahmadinejad said Teheran and Kuala Lumpur shared similar views on the political front.

"Both of us are looking for peace and tranquillity for all mankind based on spirituality and justice. We would like to see the realization and fulfilling of the dignity of man," said the Iranian President.

The cooperation of Iran and Malaysia could contribute to the building of international peace and stability, said Ahmadinejad.

Earlier, business communities in the two countries signed three

memorandums of understanding on construction and electricity projects to be built in Iran.

The trade between the two countries has been expanding steadily in recent years. According to local statistics, the bilateral trade for the first 11 months of the year 2005 reached 2.5 billion ringgit (664 million US dollars).

Ahmadinejad arrived here Wednesday evening on a three-day state visit. This is his first ever visit to Malaysia since he took office as Iranian President in August last year.

MNA/Xinhua

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World Cup fans smile as they pose with the original FIFA World Cup Trophy on display, on 3 March, 2006 in Singapore. —INTERNET

France opens inquiry into alleged CIA prisoner flights

PARIS, 3 March — The French prosecutor's office in the northeastern Paris suburb of Bobigny opened

Thursday an official inquiry into allegations that the CIA secretly transited detained terrorism suspects through its territory, officials said.

The International Federation for Human Rights and the League of Human Rights lodged a lawsuit in December 21, claiming that a *Gulfstream III* jet arriving at Bourget Airport from the Norwegian capital Oslo on 20 January, 2005 broke laws on arbitrary detention, sequestration and torture, and violated Geneva Conventions rules on the treatment of prisoners of war.

It was also spotted 10 times in Canada and six times at Guantanamo, the US military base in Cuba which is holding hundreds of suspects picked up in President George W Bush's "war on terror". The lawsuit aims to verify whether the air companies or bodies might have helped it, The French *Le Figaro* newspaper said. —MNA/Xinhua



The Kodak Theatre is seen through a plastic tent that will be used to shield the red carpet during preparations for the 78th Academy Awards in Hollywood on 2 March, 2006. The Oscars will be presented on 5 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Paula Abdul causes security breach at airport

LAS VEGAS, 4 March — Paula Abdul was allowed to board a plane at the Las Vegas airport without passing through a security checkpoint, prompting all passengers and luggage to be screened when they landed in California, officials said Friday.

An worker led the "American Idol" judge and a companion around the mandatory screening process before they boarded a Southwest Airlines flight headed to Burbank, Calif, Thursday afternoon, said Elaine Sanchez, a spokeswoman for McCarran International Airport.

She said she could not confirm reports that the

employee was trying to help the pop star avoid a swarm of fans.

Federal Transportation Safety Administration officials were alerted to the security breach while the plane was in the air, TSA spokeswoman Jessica Altschul said.

"We're conducting an internal investigation to see who exactly was responsible," she said.

The person who took Abdul past the checkpoint worked for an airport tenant, but not Southwest, Sanchez said. She said she could not identify the worker while the investigation was under way.

An Abdul spokes-

woman did not return a phone call.

Internet

At least one in ten deaths in Cyprus caused by smoking

NICOSIA, 3 March — More than one in ten deaths in Cyprus each year were caused by smoking, local Press reported on Thursday.

The result was achieved by the Cyprus International Institute for the Environment and Public Health in association with the Harvard School of Public Health after a six-month study on smoking in Cyprus. According to the statistics published in the report, 13 per cent of the deceased or 650 deaths in Cyprus every year are smoking-related, which is six times greater than the deaths in road accidents.

Meanwhile, smoking consumed the country's nearly 8 per cent of health care costs every year.

High expenditures in medical care for the smokers and productivity

drop caused by premature deaths among smokers who were still in working age bring to the country yearly losses of 132 million Cyprus pounds (264 million US dollars). In addition, smoking is expected to claim 28,000 lives among the country's all 220,000 youngsters who are currently under 20 in the future if the smoking rate which is 25 per cent now keeps unchanged.

Therefore, experts suggested in the report to set down a long term strategic programmes on smoking cessation, including a training plan to help smokers quit cigarettes. —MNA/Xinhua



Judge of the television talent show 'American Idol' Paula Abdul arrives at the 48th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, on 8 Feb, 2006. INTERNET

2,299 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 4 March — As of Friday, 3 March, 2006, at least 2,299 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 1,805 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is four lower than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EST.

The British military has reported 103 deaths; Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; and Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, one death each.

Internet

Study shows most US high school dropouts regretful

WASHINGTON, 3 March — Most students who drop out of high school in the United States admit they made a mistake by quitting and some say they might have stayed if classes were more challenging, according to a report released on Thursday.

Researchers said they were surprised to find that a majority of the 467 dropouts they interviewed were not what most people would consider underachieving troublemakers and losers.

One-third said they were failing in school, but more than six out of 10 were maintaining C averages or better when they quit. Almost half said they were bored or that the classwork seemed irrelevant.

"The teacher just stood in front of the room and just talked and didn't really like involve you," a young female respondent from Baltimore said.

"There wasn't anybody to keep me there," said a young man from Philadelphia who dreamed of going to college but quit high school with one

year to go and is now unemployed.

"There wasn't any learning going on," another complained. "They make you take classes in school that you're never going to use in life."

Three out of four said if they could turn back the clock they would choose to stay, and eight out of 10 said they now recognized that a high school diploma was important to succeed in life. Statistics show they are right. A high school dropout on average earns \$9,200 less a year than a high school graduate, and about \$1 million less over a lifetime than a college graduate.

The study is one of the most extensive ever of American high school dropouts, of which there are about 1 million each year.—Internet



A Chinese woman stands in front of the Great Hall of the People in China's capital Beijing on 4 March, 2006. The National People's Congress, an annual two-week government gathering in Beijing where major policy decisions are made, will start on Sunday. —INTERNET

Egypt rejects "political conditions" on free trade deal with US

CAIRO, 3 March— Egyptian Minister of Home, Foreign, Trade and Industry Rashid Mohammed Rashid said on Thursday that Egypt rejected political conditions set by the United States on a possible

Egyptian-US free trade agreement.

"Trade relations should not be tied to any other circumstances, political or otherwise," Rashid told reporters following talks with visiting US Secretary of Commerce Carlos

Gutierrez.

In addition, the Egyptian Minister noted that the time had not yet come for inking a free trade deal with the US.

"Both Egypt and the US believe that signing such an agreement was not appropriate at this time," said Rashid.

Washington has indicated in the past that Egypt should meet certain conditions, such as implementing political reforms, in order to be qualified for a trade agreement with the US

Egypt opposes such conditions, insisting that political reforms should come from within the country, but not be imposed from outside.—MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill four in ambush in northern Iraq

TIKRIT, 3 March— Gunmen ambushed a convoy of minibuses carrying policemen in northern Iraq on Wednesday night, killing four Iraqis including three policemen, a police source from Tikrit told Xinhua Thursday.

"A group of gunmen opened fire at a convoy of minibuses carrying policemen returning from training in Sulaimaniyah to Tikrit, 170 kilometres north of Baghdad, killing

three policemen and the driver of one of the minibuses," said Captain Ahmed Sufiyan from the highway police of Salahudin Province.

Two other policemen were wounded in the ambush, he said.

After the attack, local police searched a village near the scene of the attack and detained four suspects for interrogation, he added.

Earlier in the day, a police source in Tikrit said

that seven soldiers and four policemen were killed when gunmen attacked a security checkpoint in the northern Iraqi city of Samarra.

MNA/Xinhua



German magician Vincent Vega poses for photographers as he stands in a hole inside a six-tonne block of ice before the start of the show in Munich, on 2 March, 2006. Vega will attempt to stay in the ice for 65 hours starting Thursday evening, trying to break the world record established in November 2000 by US illusionist David Blaine. —INTERNET



An Iraqi tank is parked at a checkpoint along a deserted intersection in Baghdad, on 3 March, 2006.

INTERNET

Woman seizes police car for 2-hour ride

LOS ANGELES, 4 March— A 25-year-old woman grabbed a sheriff deputy's sports utility vehicle on Thursday and led police on a two-hour televised car chase through suburban Los

Angeles County.

No injuries were reported in the pursuit — a staple of local TV news in the sprawling car capital of the world.

Deputy Dave Jennings said the woman, who was

described as having a long criminal record, was being questioned in the back seat of a deputy's SUV about a stolen vehicle.

She made her way into the front seat and drove off.

Followed by police cars and news helicopters, the woman screamed and sobbed into the on-board radio as officers tried to calm her down. In the end, the woman came to a stop and was arrested at gunpoint.

She is expected to face charges of theft and evading arrest.

MNA/Xinhua

Internet

MNA/Reuters

Population of artificially-bred tigers exceeds 4,000 in China

BEIJING, 4 March — Artificial breeding has helped the population of the tigers raised in captivity in China increase to more than 4,000 from less than 10 in the early 1990s, the state forestry authorities said Thursday.

In recent years, Chinese scientists have

made great progress in using artificial propagation to prevent the extinction of tigers, especially the extremely-endangered Siberian tigers, whose wild population is predicted to be no more than 10, said Zhuo Rongsheng, director of the wildlife and plants protection department of

the State Forestry Administration.

To date, more than 1,300 Siberian tigers have been raised in China, said Zhuo.

As the artificially-bred population of tigers increases, China has begun to launch wild training programmes for the tigers

to help them live wild like their ancestors, said Zhuo.

"Only if a wild population of tigers reaches a certain stable number, can we say the species can survive," said the director, adding the wild training programmes for tigers are going well.



Suspects charged in world's biggest peacetime robbery in Britain

LONDON, 3 March — Three suspects were charged on Wednesday in connection with the world's largest known peacetime robbery, police said.

The charges were the first to be brought as part of the investigation into the theft of 53 million pounds (92 million US dollars) at a cash depot in the southeast Kent county last week.

The two men and one woman being charged were identified as car salesman John Fowler, 57, and Stuart Royle, 39, and Kim Shackleton, 39, self-employed.

The two men were charged with conspiracy to rob the Securitas depot at Tonbridge, Kent, and the woman with handling the stolen goods.

They were to appear at Maidstone magistrates court in Kent on Thursday.

Meanwhile, police in Kent declined to elaborate on a report by the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper that detectives had found a

substantial amount of money buried on an isolated local farm.

"This investigation is likely to continue for many months and possibly years as we track down those responsible and indeed all of the stolen money," said Assistant Chief Constable Adrian Leppard in a statement.

On Monday, Leppard said five men had been arrested in addition to six people released on bail last week. A 2-million-pound (3.48-million-dollar) reward has been offered for anyone who can help to crack the case.

Posing as police officers, the robbers seized the depot's manager, then took his wife and young son hostage before fleeing with 53,116,760 pounds (over 92 million dollars) in cash.

MNA/Xinhua

Some 303 girls and women from all over Japan pose with Disney characters for the celebration of the Girls' Festival, a traditional Japanese festival celebrated on 3 March, at the Tokyo Disneyland in the capital of Japan.

INTERNET

Lab confirms first Swiss bird flu case was H5N1

ZURICH, 3 March — Laboratory tests have confirmed that a duck that died of bird flu last week in Geneva, Switzerland's first case, had the H5N1 strain, the Swiss Veterinary Office said on Wednesday.

The tests were carried out by the European reference laboratory in Britain, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, which announced the result on its website.

The swan was found close to the town of Kreuzlingen at the north-western corner of Lake Constance — also known as Bodensee — where two wild ducks have tested positive on the German side. — MNA/Reuters

Chinese, German PMs discuss Iran nuclear issues

BEIJING, 3 March — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Thursday there is still possibility of resolving the Iran nuclear issue within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

While talking over phone with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Wen said China supports the international nuclear non-proliferation system and advocates the issue be resolved through diplomatic talks.

China backs the talks and negotiation between Iran and Britain, France, Germany and Russia and is willing to keep contacts with concerned parties including Germany, he said.

Wen said China hopes the concerned parties will show restraint, patience

and a constructive attitude in a bid to create conditions for peacefully resolving the issue.

On the Taiwan issue, Wen called on the international community to keep alert to the dangerous move by the Taiwan authorities which on Monday ceased the function of the "National Unification Council" and application of the "National Unification Guidelines".

The move is a "grave provocation" against the one-China principle universally observed by the international community

and will undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, he said.

The German Government firmly adheres to the one-China policy and is worried about the Taiwan authorities' move, said Merkel, hoping the Taiwan issue will be resolved peacefully in line with the one-China policy.

Wen spoke highly of the close cooperation between China and Germany. He appreciates Germany's new government for continuing its friendly policy on China.

MNA/Xinhua



A man sledgehammers the remains of a home destroyed by the earthquake in the city of Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir on 3 March, 2006.

INTERNET

Canadian soldier killed, seven injured in car accident in Afghanistan

KABUL, 3 March — One Canadian soldier was killed and seven others injured in a car accident Thursday in Afghan southern province of Kandahar, a local official said.

"One Canadian soldier was killed, seven others were injured in a car overturn in the area about 10 kilometres west of Kandahar City," Abdul Hakim Khan, the provincial police chief told *Xinhua*.

At the same time, US military confirmed the accident, and said in a Press release, "Seven Coalition service members were injured and one died after their vehicle rolled over in Kandahar Province today."

The service members, from the Coalition's Multi-National Brigade South, were on a routine patrol in an armoured vehicle to the west of Kandahar City, the Press release said. "Four service members were evacuated by air to the Coalition hospital at Kandahar Airfield. One service member died soon after arrival. Two are in critical condition and one is in stable condition," it added. — MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills Iraqi policeman in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 3 March — A roadside bomb detonated near a police commando patrol, killing one policeman and wounding two others, in western Baghdad on Thursday, a police source said.

"An improvised explosive device detonated near a police commando

commando in Ameriyah District, killing a police commando and

wounding two others," Captain Ahmed Abdullah from Baghdad police told *Xinhua*. Earlier in the day, the police said three people were killed and ten others wounded in a bomb blast in a busy market in southern Baghdad.

MNA/Xinhua

Coal mine accident kills 2 in eastern Ukraine

KIEV, 3 March — Two miners have been killed in a coal mine accident in eastern Ukraine, the Emergency Situations Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

A rock slide occurred late Wednesday in the Miusinska mine in the eastern Luhansk region, causing two miners' death, the statement said. — MNA/Xinhua



Pakistanis chant anti-US slogans during a strike in Lahore, Pakistan, on 3 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Better and smooth transport for Dagon University students

Article and photos by Ko Ko Soe Nyunt



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Rail Transportation Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and guests pose after the opening ceremony.

Under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, a railroad linking Yangon Central Railway Station and Dagon University was constructed for the convenience of the students pursuing education in the university as well as the general public. The 4.96-mile facility was put into commission today (4 March).

The Ministry of Rail Transportation is taking measures for the development of the transport sector while the government has been making strenuous efforts to ensure all-round development of the nation.

The Myanmar Railways launched the project on 24 March 2004 and completed it on 4 March 2006.

As human resources are fundamental to the development of a nation, the officials concerned in the education sector are responsible for production of intellectuals and intelligentsia. The government is thus constructing roads and railroads for the convenience of students.

To complete the facility, 12 bridges had to be

built. There will be 20 runs between Yangon Central Railway Station and Dagon University from 5.25 am to 6.40 pm daily. The fare is 10 kyats per head. The season ticket for one month costs 230 kyats. A sale centre will be opened on the campus of Dagon University for season tickets.

The Myanmar Railways' circular and suburban trains are running 15 shifts for 165 runs a day for the convenience of Yangonites. The number of daily train commuters stood at about 70,000 in 2004-2005. Now, the number has increased to about 100,000. Plans are under way to run two trains between Yangon Central Railway Station and Dagon University.

Now, the total length of railroads across the nation has reached 3,074.89 miles, up from 1,976.35 miles in 1988. The railroad will be extended from Dagon University station to Moegyopyit and Hlawga

through Pale, Shwenantha, Nwekhwe, Htaukkyant, Hteinsun, Bantwegon and Kungyangon stations. Another inner circular railroad will be constructed between Toegyungalay station and Mingaladon station through Dagon University, Pale, Shwenantha, Nwekhwe, Padamyia and Pale stations.

The Dagon University station project was launched in April 2005 and completed in October the same year. That can shelter 150 passengers.

A girl student said, "The new railroad section is much beneficial to us, university students. Monthly bus fare is 3,000 kyats but the monthly season ticket costs only 230 kyats. The government is constructing railroads one after another, so it helps improve the transport sector as well as the education sector. We students thank the government for its drive for the development of all sectors including the education sector. We also thank the Ministry of Rail Transportation because we can now go to university by bus or by train".

The Head of State gave guidance, saying that only with the smooth and secure transport, could a region enjoy the development in the economic, social and administrative sectors. It was required to build fine roads linking places within a region as well as with those in other regions.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, the Myanmar Railways is trying its best for the emergence of a network of railroads throughout the nation.

Therefore, the voices of thanks expressed by the students of Dagon University and local people living along the railroad that will emerge near Dagon University is much louder than the sirens of circular and suburban local trains which started running today.

Translation: MS

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, the Myanmar Railways is trying its best for the emergence a network of railroads throughout the nation.



Newly inaugurated Dagon University station.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends physic nut plant growing ceremonies in Mon State...

(from page 1)

They also attended the Mon State physic nut plant growing ceremony in Mawlamyine. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that as global countries face the fuel shock, research works are being conducted to produce bio-diesel. In Myanmar, bio-diesel can be extracted successfully from physic nut and used in farming equipment and others. Hence, efforts are to be made for growing physic

nut plants. Afterwards, he viewed production of bio-diesel.

Mon State plans to grow 500,000 acres of physic nut plants within three years.

At the nursery in Mawlamyine, they sowed physic nut seeds.

On arrival at Mon State General Hospital, Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended the ceremony to donate the machine worth K 30 million to cure cataract. On behalf of late wellwisher Nun

Daw Bhirani of Khemarama Nunnery, Dr Htein Win and wife Daw Cho Cho Win handed over the machine to Medical Superintendent Dr Kyaw Thu. Eye specialist Dr Daw Myint Myint Oo explained treatment of cataract with the use of the machine.

Late Nun Daw Bhirani had donated hospital equipment worth K 34,933,000 to Mon State General Hospital.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo



Lt-Gen Maung Bo sows physic nut seeds into small plastic bags at the nursery of South-East Command. — MNA

and party proceeded to Crumb Rubber Factory of Myanma Perennial

Crops Enterprise in Mudon, and heard reports on matters related to the factory and requirements by officials. He attended to the needs and inspected brown crumb and yellow crumb and production process.

The factory was built in Mudon to manufacture crumb rubber and provide advanced rubber production technology to the local entrepreneurs.

While in Mudon, Lt-Gen Maung Bo looked into thriving summer paddy plantations at the 1,000-acre special summer paddy zone. He heard reports on cultivation of summer paddy by Mon State

Manager U Sein Win of Myanma Agriculture Service, and instructed officials to put 150,000 acres of land under summer paddy and 1 million acres under monsoon in Mon State in 2006-2007 financial year.

On 1 March, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to Sittoung Bridge (Moppalin) Construction Project site. They viewed installation of iron frames at counter span at the bridge. Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on timely completion of the construction tasks meeting set standard. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party left the construction site.

—MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects production of bio-diesel from physic nut seeds. — MNA

Educative talks held at training school of PBANRDA Ministry

YANGON, 4 March — Organized by National Race Working Group of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, an educative talk was held at the central training school of Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Dagon Myothit (North) Township yesterday morning.

Leader of the Working Group Daw Kyin Khaing, wife of the Minister for PBANRDA, gave an introductory speech.

Deputy Leader of Legal Studies and Consultation Working Group Professor Dr Daw Than

Nwe of Law Department gave a lecture on rights on marriage of Myanmar women.

It was attended by officials of MWAF, trainees from the central training school and national

races people from States and Divisions, totalling 195.

Next, officials of MWAF and guests viewed trainees' works at Women's Vocational Training School. —MNA

People Style Competition 2006 to be held

YANGON, 4 March — A People Style Competition 2006, organized by Myanmar People Magazine, will take place. Fashion Designers may take part in the competition individually and in

groups. Handsome prizes will be awarded. The competition will be held at Traders Hotel on 18 March 2006 and complimentary tickets are available. Applications are

available at Inforithm-Maze Co Ltd E 11 University Housing Estate on new University Avenue in Bahan Township Tel - 559068, 559069, 546743 and they are to be sent not later than 7 March. —MNA

Italian tourists arrive

YANGON, 4 March — A total of 49 Italian

tourists of Tegola Canadese arrived here

today with the co-arrangements of Orchestra Travel Ltd (Myanmar) and the Agents from Italy, Masaico Tour Operator and Sbrojavacca Viaggi. The guests will visit tourist sites around Myanmar covering Inle, Mandalay, Bagan and Ngapali during their stay and depart from Myanmar on 12 March.

—MNA



Arrival of 49 Italian tourists from Tegola Canadese Company.

MNA

DON'T SMOKE

Train shuttles ten times daily between the Central Railway Station...

(from page 16)
building new railroads for regional development, manufacturing carriages and wagons, locomotives and parts at home, and ensuring convenience travelling of passengers.

Development of human resources plays an important role in building the nation. To turn out educated persons is the main function of the education sector. Hence, Myanma Railways constructed a new railroad

were 1,976.35 miles of railroads before 1988 and now there are 3,074.89 miles of railroads.

The 26-mile Yemyetni-KyawUmin Road on ChaungU-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay section, 3.33-mile Okpozu-Thanyin Railroad, 5-mile Kyeeni-Chauk Railroad and 140.8-mile Pynmana-Myohaung dway Railroad (Kyitaungkan-Myitnge section) are under construction. The cir-

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened Yangon-Dagon University railroad section and the station.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe,

Decision of Taiwan would raise tensions on Cross-Straits relations, affect the peace and stability of Asia-Pacific region

YANGON, 4 March — On February 27, 2006, Taiwan leader Mr Chen Shui-bian announced the decision to stop the operation of the "National Unification Council (NUC)," and application of the "National Unification Guidelines."

As a nation, which has good neighbourly and friendly relations with the People's Republic of China, the Government of the Union of Myanmar has consistently adhered to the principle of "One China Policy" and regards Taiwan as an integral part

of China.

The Government of the Union of Myanmar is of the opinion that the decision would raise tensions on Cross-Strait relations and could affect the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Therefore, as the decision of Taiwan would jeopardize the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, the Government of the Union of Myanmar views that the decision is not acceptable for the region as a whole. — MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally open railroad section and Dagon University Station. — NLM



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence grows a physic nut plant. — NLM

for running the train from Yangon Railways Station to Dagon University daily.

The trains have been running from the Central

cular railroad will also be built from Dagon University Station to Shwepaunkan, Shwenatha, Nwekhway, Htaukkyant, Bunt-

the commander, the minister and the mayor also planted physic nut saplings in commemoration of the opening of the station. They took the train

2006.

The train shuttles ten times between the Central Railways Station and Dagon University Station beginning from 5.25 am



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win delivers an address at the opening ceremony of Yangon-Dagon University Railroad. — MNA

Railway Station to the Institute of Economics beginning 1 December 2000.

The number of passengers transport in a day increased from 70,000 in 2004-2005 up to 100,000 today. There

bwegon, Mogyopit and Hlawga.

Ma Saw Myat Sandi Lwin, an MA (Myanmar) student, spoke words of thanks. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe formally unveiled the signboard of Dagon University Sta-

and cordially greeted the passengers and university students.

Construction of 4.96-mile Toegyauungalay-Dagon University railroad section and the station started on 24 March 2004 and completed in

to 5.35 pm daily. The fare is K 10 per head and monthly season ticket is K 230.

Passengers are allowed to take the train free of charge till 8 March.

MNA

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min. MNA



MA Myanmar first year student Ma Saw Myat Sandi Lwin thanks for construction of the railroad. MNA



Fish Paste, Dry Fish and Fish Sauce Industry Project inspected in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win visits Shwe Min Tha fish sauce factory. — MNA

YANGON, 4 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin arrived at the project zone of Fish Paste, Dry Fish and Fish Sauce Industry of YCDC near Thayetpinchaung Village in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township this morning.

The commander and the mayor instructed officials to systematically perform transport services for products of the industry, and extend the plot for chilli powder production.

They attended physic nut plant growing ceremony of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township at the project zone.

At the industry, the commander and the mayor

inspected production of fish paste, dry fish and fish sauce, and gave necessary instructions.

They oversaw progress in construction of the 2 miles and 2 furlongs long road linking the project zone and Kyansitha Road in the township. They also inspected storage of water at Ngamoeyek Sluice Gate near Sitpintaung Village. Director of Yangon Division Irrigation Department U Kyaw Thein reported on supply of water to 5,895 acres of farmlands.

On arrival at Yegyaw self-reliant river water pumping project near Yegyaw Village in Hlegu Township, they viewed supply of water to 600 acres of land. They oversaw thriving 500 acres of summer paddy near Malit Village. They also inspected completion of Hsinphon river water pumping project. — MNA

Gold plates to be offered to Sule Pagoda

YANGON, 4 March—More than 90 members of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, musicians, film stars and model girls and boys from 1 pm to 5 pm today contributed their voluntary services by receiving donations of pilgrimages on the four archways for all-round renovation of the Sule Pagoda in Yangon under the auspices of the pagoda board of trustees.

The volunteers signed on the receipts of donations, and accompanied the donors to have photos taken.

The programme comprises offering of gold plates to the Htidad (tiered and ornamented finial) and the pagoda, gold foils to the Buddha images and renovation of satellite pagodas.

Today's donations amounted to K 2,496,340.

MNA

Instructor Course for Early Childhood Development concludes

YANGON, 4 March — The Instructor Course for Early Childhood Development, co-organized by Social Welfare Department and Singapore International Foundation, concluded at No 1 Pre-Primary School in Chanayethasan Township, Mandalay, yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint delivered an address. The Deputy Minister and officials presented completion certificates to the trainees.

The Deputy Minister gave gifts to Professor Dr Khoo Kim Choo of the Singapore expert team. After the ceremony, the Deputy Minister and party visited the training halls.

The training course lasted six weeks. A total of 33 heads of pre-primary schools from Social Welfare Department, Basic Education Department, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, KBC, MBC, YMCA and World Vision attended the training course. — MNA

Mandalay sub-printing house marks its fifth anniversary

YANGON, 4 March—To mark its fifth founding anniversary, the sub-printing house (Mandalay) under the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information on 1 March offered alms food to members of the Sangha led by Member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Abbot of Awaiya Yama Monastery in Maha Aungmye Township, Mandalay.

The officials also offered alms to the Sayadaws.

Gifts were presented to six staff who did not take any off in 2005, and the staff of administrative, photolitho and printing sections. — MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint addresses the conclusion of the Instructor Course for Early Childhood Development. — MNA

Developing Pwayhla model village in Pindaya Township, Shan State (South)

YANGON, 4 March — The government is taking measures for equitable development of all regions of the country.

Development Affairs Committees in Shan State (South) are carrying out regional development tasks including building rural roads. A

ceremony to grow physic nut plants took place in the village. Members of social organizations and USDA and local people collectively grew 80,000

plants. At the ceremony those present enthusiastically viewed operations of Leya-16 power tillers, generators and pumps with physic nut oil. A total of 320,000 physic nut plants have been grown on 1,898 acres of land in Pindaya township. In Taunggyi District 1,664,000 plants were grown during the second week of February. Plans are to be made for cultivation of 70,000 acres of physic nut in 2006.

At a ceremony to donate books to Pyinnya Pyogin Library of the Village Information and Public Relations Department, wellwishers donated various kinds of books to Maung Kyaw Htoo, who is physically handicapped. Committee

members and doctors of State Medical Association gave medical treatment to 382 patients in Station Hospital.

Next, MCWA, MCWSC, Women's Affairs Organization members held discussions with local women. Formation, duties and functions of the MMCWA and facts about WAO were discussed. A total of 29 elderly women were presented K 69,000 by State WAO and K 29,000 by Pa-O National Organization.

In Pwayhla model village there are one station hospital and four health care branches. The village has seen progress not only in the health sector but also in the education sector. Out of 42 students who sat in the

2005 matriculation exam, 21 passed it. The village has a population of 1,708. It has 6,395 acres of cultivable land and 2836 acres of land have been put under crops. Pindaya township has a population of 71,151. With 23,996 acres of paddy cultivation, the township has enjoyed 116.20 percent food sufficiency. It has also 15,404 acres of oil crops with 215.16 percent edible oil sufficiency. In addition, various crops are thriving in the township.

Pindaya Township catches the attention of tourists due to its beautiful scenery with various nationals such as Danu and Pa-O plus pagodas and monasteries in abundance. — MNA



Dr Daw Win Nu Nu Thant gives educative talks on measures for elimination of narcotic drugs at Pwayhla model village BEHS. — MNA

American arrested in Bali drug bust

JAKARTA, 4 March — A US citizen has been arrested this week on Indonesia's resort island of Bali for alleged drug trafficking, police said Friday.

James Kling, 40, was arrested Wednesday in his hotel room where officers found 49 grammes of marijuana and 176 grammes of hashish, said Bali police spokesman Senior Commander Reniban.

"This man came under suspicion after we got a tip-off from the community," Reniban was quoted by *Antara* news agency as saying. Reniban said the Californian refused police questioning until he was accompanied by an interpreter. Indonesia has a tough law on drug trafficking which is punishable by death here.

The Bali court last month convicted nine Australian citizens of drug smuggling and sentenced to death two of them and handed life sentence to the remaining seven.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists find Antarctic ice shrank significantly

WASHINGTON, 4 March — The Antarctic ice sheet shrank significantly during the past three years, according to the findings of a NASA study released on Thursday.

Using data from the NASA/German Aerospace Centre Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE), scientists concluded that Antarctica's ice sheet decreased by about 152 cubic kilometres annually from April 2002 to August 2005.

The estimated loss was enough to raise global sea level about 1.2 millimetres (0.04724 inch) during the study period or about 13 per cent of the overall observed sea level rise for the same period, according to the study conducted by researchers at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

That is about how much water the United States consumes in three months and represents a change of about 0.4 millimetre (0.01575 inch) per year to global sea level rise, the study concluded.

Most of the mass loss came from the West Antarctic ice sheet, the study said.

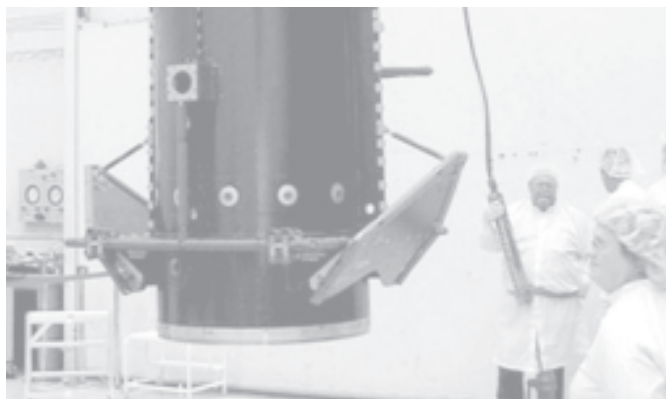
"Antarctica is Earth's largest reservoir of fresh water", researcher Isabella Velicogna said.

"The GRACE mission is unique in its ability to measure mass changes directly for entire ice sheets and can determine how Earth's mass distribution changes over time", she said.

"Because ice sheets are a large source of uncertainties in projections of sea level change, this represents a very important step toward more accurate prediction," Velicogna said.

Measuring variations in Antarctica's ice sheet mass is difficult because of its size and complexity.

Twin GRACE satellites, which can track tiny changes in Earth's gravity field, monitored the entire Antarctic ice sheet as a whole. — MNA/Reuters



This undated photo provided by NASA shows workers maneuvering the Dawn Mission spacecraft. NASA on 3 March, 2006, canceled the mission to visit two asteroids, five months after the programme was put on hold because of cost overruns and technical problems. — INTERNET

Cambodian top legislator resigns

PHNOM PENH, 4 March — Cambodia's royalist FUNCINPEC Party President Prince Norodom Ranariddh on Friday resigned his post as the National Assembly president.

In a letter to his coalition partner the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) Chairman Chea Sim and CPP Vice-Chairman Hun Sen, Prince Ranariddh said that he resigned because his position kept him too busy to meet his party members. He said he wants to put more time on enhancing his royalist FUNCINPEC Party's strength.

"His departure is for the preparation on next national election in 2008,"

government spokesman Khieu Kanharith told *Xinhua*.

Khieu Kanharith said that "Senate President Chea Sim and Prime Minister Hun Sen have agreed to hold a Parliament session to elect a new president", and that the incumbent First Deputy President Heng Samrim will be nominated to replace Prince Ranariddh.

Observers here said that Prince Ranariddh's resignation was a response to the recent development of the domestic political situation.

His resignation was

made a day after two senior FUNCINPEC Party officials were fired from their jobs by Prime Minister Hun Sen. Hun Sen dismissed FUNCINPEC's co-ministers of Defence and Interior in a surprise move on Thursday.

Moreover, the Constitution was amended on Thursday to reduce the amount of lawmakers required to form a government and reach quorum at sessions of Parliament from two thirds to 50 per cent plus one, which is said will make FUNCINPEC Party feel more difficult in the future. — MNA/Xinhua

Parents' loyalty may sway school satisfaction levels

LONDON, 4 March — Most parents are satisfied with their children's school, particularly in the primary sector, although an Ofsted report said parental loyalty may be colouring their view if a school is not performing so well.

Parents of children in primary school are more forgiving of weak leadership and management and more tolerant of weak teaching than parents in secondary schools, the report found.

Overall the findings show parents are very satisfied with their child's school and that since 1997 there has been a steady improvement in parental contact with schools.

The report noted that high levels of satisfaction corresponded with schools that were good at communicating with parents.

"Parents recognize ef-

fective schools and appreciate the links that schools have established with them in recent years," said Ofsted's Director of Education Miriam Rosen.

"Schools that are good at consulting parents, telling them about the progress of their children and listening to their concerns, have highly satisfied parents," Rosen said in a statement.

Parents also liked schools that had a positive ethos and an absence of bullying and racism. The report found schools that were rated highly tended to be those with the least number of pupils from poor backgrounds. Ofsted said parent satisfaction levels were excellent, very good or good in 88 per cent of primary schools, 77 per cent of secondary schools and 91 per cent of special schools.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam, Australia end WTO negotiation

HANOI, 4 March — Vietnam and Australia on Thursday signed an agreement on concluding the bilateral negotiation on the former's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The conclusion will usher in a new stage for the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Trade, Luong Van Tu, said at the signing ceremony here.

The trade between the two countries reached 4.4 billion Australian dollars (nearly 3.3 US dollars) in 2005. Many Australian investors are operating the fields of telecommunications, banking, infrastructure, transportation, food processing, healthcare and environment in Vietnam.

Vietnam is expected to finish all bilateral talks on its WTO accession before the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) slated for November in the country, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Vu Khoan said recently. — MNA/Xinhua



A woman walks in the snow in Harrogate on 2 March, 2006. Icy winds have brought cold weather this year to parts of the UK and led to road and school closures. — INTERNET

California girl's twice-stolen prosthetic legs returned

LOS ANGELES, 4 March — Two prosthetic legs stolen from a 16-year-old California girl have mysteriously turned up in her mother's van, the second time in three months that an artificial limb belonging to the teen has been taken and then returned, police said on Friday.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sergeant David Austin said investigators dusted the slightly damaged

limbs for fingerprints and had interviewed a "laundry list" of people but were baffled by the thefts.

The two legs, which were taken from Melissa Huff's bedroom in February, were found on Wednesday in the back of her mother's van, Austin said. "Mrs Huff had the van at Arcadia High School (for about two hours) and when she drove away she heard some rattling and

ultimately found the two legs that had just recently been stolen had been placed in the back of the van," Austin said.

Melissa, who lost her right leg in 2003 when a car struck her outside the school, uses a 16,000-US-dollar prosthetic limb to play softball and also has a 12,000-US-dollar artificial leg for everyday use.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnamese shrimp exporters follow US anti-dumping case

HANOI, 3 March — All 54 Vietnamese enterprises shipping shrimps to the United States between July 2004 and January 2006 have just requested the US Department of Commerce (DoC) to review anti-dumping duties, a local agency said on Thursday.

The DoC will select a number of companies in six countries targeted with anti-dumping tariffs — Vietnam, China, Thailand, India, Brazil and Ecuador — for annual tariff adjustment, the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) said, noting that it is expected to review export prices of shrimps of the selected companies in a certain period, and then impose new tariffs for them and the average rates for other firms having made the request.

The review process will cost a company at least 75,000 US dollars and the selected one will be given 90 days to make the final decision to continue with the process or not. In January 2005, the DoC determined anti-dumping duties of 4.3-25.76 per cent on four Vietnamese mandatory respondents, of 4.57 per cent on 17 voluntary respondents, and of 25.76 per cent on other local shrimp exporters.

From now to November, Vietnam is spending over 7 billion Vietnamese dong (443,000 dollars) on constructing trademarks for its shrimps and prawns, and hiring foreign consultants to map out promotion strategies to be conducted in the United States and Japan, the VASEP said.

Besides the two markets, Vietnam is promoting export of shrimps and prawns to the European Union, especially England, Germany, France, Belgium and Italy. Exports to England and Belgium currently represent some 30 per cent of Vietnam's prawn export revenue, the VASEP noted.

This year, Vietnam is boosting export of different seafood items with shrimps and prawns as a key item to traditional markets such as China, the United States, the European Union and Japan, and some new ones, including the Middle East, East Europe, Africa and South America. — MNA/Xinhua

Uranium found in Colombia not weapons grade

BOGOTA, 3 March — Two Colombians caught trying to sell uranium might have tried to offer it to Marxist rebels but the metal was depleted and unsuitable for making a nuclear or dirty bomb, according to a preliminary government report and the Attorney General's office on Thursday.

Soldiers and police arrested a man and a woman in an industrial neighbourhood of the capital Bogota on February 24 and seized 29.7 pounds (13.5 kilos) of uranium sitting on a lead base beneath polystyrene foam containers full of water and ice, according to a news release by the Attorney General's office.

Intelligence indicated the suspects, who have been released from custody but are still under investigation, were trying to sell the uranium to the highest bidder and might have tried to contact a rebel group fighting the government, said a spokeswoman for the Attorney General's office.

But a preliminary

investigation by the Mining Ministry indicated the uranium was depleted, she said.

While depleted uranium has some military and industrial uses, it is not particularly dangerous, according to Joe Cirincione of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

"You cannot make a

nuclear weapon out of this, you can't use it for a dirty bomb," Cirincione told Reuters, adding that there have been instances in which criminals have tried to con groups like al-Qaeda into buying depleted uranium.

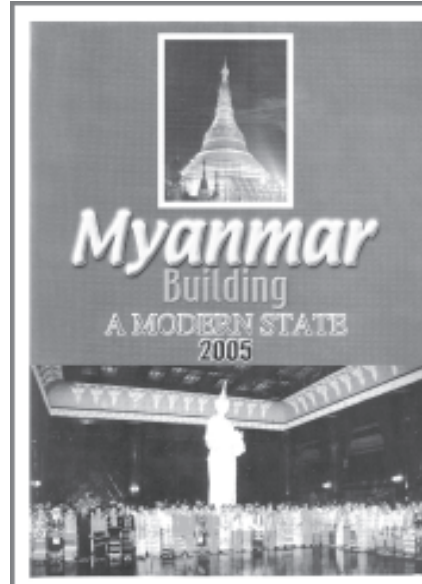
"You could handle this stuff, you could hold it in your hand," Cirincione said.

MNA/Reuters



Cindy Klassen of Canada skates during the 3000m World Cup speed skating finals in Heerenveen, the Netherlands on 4 March, 2006. Klassen won the combined Ladies' 3000 and 5000 meters World Cup.

INTERNET



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APEC defines 7 operation priorities for this year

HANOI, 3 March — Senior officials from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) approved here Thursday seven priorities regarding APEC operation this year, including boosting APEC cooperation to beef up trade and investment, and improving human security.

These priority areas were approved at the first senior officials' meeting (SOM I) of APEC, said Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Cong Phung, who is also chairman of SOM I, after the two-day meeting which ended Thursday.

Five other priority areas include enhancing competitiveness of small and medium enterprises; raising integration capacity via manpower development, informatics and telecommunications cooperation and partnership for development; promoting transparency

and anti-corruption; connecting APEC economies through tourism and culture exchanges; and reforming APEC towards a more efficient and dynamic community.

"These are specific directions for operation of APEC in 2006. They will be materialized during working sessions of all forums, task forces and committees in APEC," Phung said.

Regarding human security, the meeting confirmed APEC's determination in stepping up cooperation on

preventing and combating natural disasters and epidemics, he said, noting that a meeting of ministers responsible for avian and pandemic influenza will be held in Vietnam's central Da Nang city in early May.

SOM I and many related meetings were held in Hanoi from February 20 to March 2 with the participation of nearly 1,580 delegates. They touched upon such fields as e-commerce, customs, intellectual property, market access, anti-corruption, and counter-terrorism. —MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwean banker kidnapped by armed men

HARARE, 3 March — A Zimbabwean banker has been kidnapped and robbed of his Mercedes Benz by five armed men in Harare, local newspaper *The Herald* reported on Thursday.

NMB Bank financial director Bensen Ndachena lost his car on Tuesday

evening when the robbers, who had tailed him in a white pick-up truck, pounced on him as he parked his car near a friend's flat along Fife Avenue in the capital city.

Three of the attackers, two of whom were armed with a pistol and an AK 47 rifle, jumped from their truck, accosted Ndachena and ordered him to get off the wheel and move to the back seat, the report said.

One of the robbers then drove the car whilst the others flanked Ndachena in the back seat.

Police believe the robbers kidnapped him because they suspected the car had an anti-hijack system, but after allaying their fears, they later

dumped him near the National Sports Stadium along the Harare-Bulawayo Road.

On Monday night, Colin Benyure of Mount Pleasant lost his Mercedes Benz E230 to four armed robbers, who had also trailed him in a pick-up truck and pounced on him at the gate to his house at around 7 pm.

Last month, a Harare family lost a Mercedes Benz and valuable goods worth billions of Zimbabwean dollars to four armed robbers.

MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

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China, Singapore cooperate on digital movie distribution

SINGAPORE, 3 March— China Film Digital Company signed a memorandum of intent (MoI) with the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) and the city state's MediaCorp Technologies Company here Thursday on digital movie distribution.

Under the MoI, the two companies will, with the support of IDA, jointly develop a commercial digital distribution model to make Chinese digital content available to audiences in Singapore and other countries and regions in Asia sooner and in better quality.

According to a Press release issued by MediaCorp Technologies

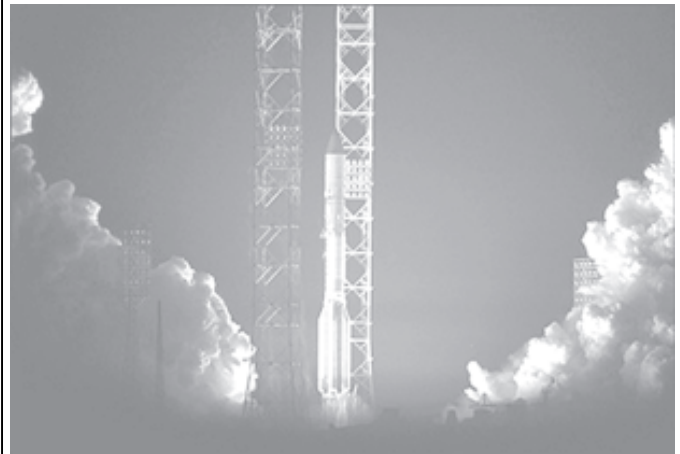
Thursday, Chinese digital movies will be transmitted to Singapore via satellite, by leveraging on the Cross Continental Transmission Project (CCTx), where subtitles in different languages and trailers creation will be added on to the movies before they are distributed to various markets in Asia.

The CCTx, which was

first used to transmit digital content from the United States to Singapore successfully in last June, establishes a secure, reliable and cost-effective way of digital delivery, the Press release said.

A Chinese digital movie entitled "Sunrise, Sunset" has been delivered from Beijing to Singapore following this model.

MNA/Xinhua



A Russian Proton-M rocket booster blasts off a launch pad at Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in December 2005. A Russian rocket launched a Saudi telecoms satellite into space overnight, but mechanical problems complicated the last phase of placing the payload in orbit, Russia's space agency said.—INTERNET

NASA has new plan to complete Space Station

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 3 March— NASA on Thursday unveiled a plan to finish the International Space Station that could see construction resume in September after a four-year hiatus and a new laboratory launched next year.

The future of the half-built orbiting research outpost depends on NASA proving that problems have been fixed with its space shuttle fuel tank that caused the 2003 Columbia disaster and reappeared on the only shuttle mission since the accident.

NASA hopes to fly its next shuttle mission as early as May.

It would be the first since the flight of Discovery last July.

Construction of the space station has been delayed by the Columbia accident, in which seven astronauts were killed. NASA's shuttle is the

only spaceship with the cargo hold to carry the station's modules and is scheduled for retirement in 2010.

MNA/Reuters



Revelers dangle beads from a balcony over Bourbon St. during Mardi Gras festivities in the French Quarter of New Orleans, Louisiana recently. Mardi Gras (French for 'Fat Tuesday') is the day before Ash Wednesday, and a celebration of the last the day before the beginning of the Christian season of Lent.—INTERNET

Russia fails to send satellite into designated orbit

Moscow, 3 March— Russia failed to put a telecommunication satellite of Saudi-based Arabsat company into a designated orbit, the

Russian Federal Space Agency said in a statement Wednesday.

The Arabsat-4A telecommunication satellite lifted off atop a Proton-M booster rocket at Moscow Time 23:10 (2010 GMT) on Tuesday from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The Briz-M upper stage on the rocket failed to function properly and failed to deliver the satellite to a designated

orbit, the agency said.

The satellite's own engines will be used to put it in the final orbit after an expert commission examines the situation, the ITAR-TASS news agency said. The Arabsat-4A is a civilian satellite made by the Austrian Astrium company for Arabsat. It will provide digital television and telephone services to the Middle East, Europe and Asia for 15 years.—MNA/Xinhua

Tanzania to woo investment to agriculture

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 3 March — Tanzania has planned to attract this year more foreign investment into agriculture to boost the overall economic growth of the country.

The East African country has worked out strategies to boost investment into such sectors as agro-processing and irrigation, according to the Tanzania Investment Centre on Thursday.

The executive director

of the centre, Emmanuel ole Naiko, said that his country had been set to attract 550 million US dollars in foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows this year.

FDI inflows into Tanzania has been on the rise during the past five years, averaging 356 million dollars a year and reaching 500 million dollars last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Cat with bird flu poses no threat to humans

BRUSSELS, 3 March— European Union veterinarian experts said on Wednesday that cats infected with H5N1 bird

flu virus will not pass it on to humans but precautionary measures were recommended.

Germany has found

one dead cat infected with H5N1 in the island of Ruegen, where a high number of infected wild birds had been found in the last weeks.

"Current knowledge indicates that no H5N1 infection has ever occurred in humans due to animals other than domestic poultry. Current knowledge suggests that the disease in carnivores such as cats is a "cul de sac" of the infection that has not lead to an increase in the risk posed by this virus for animal or public health", they said in a statement.

They said, however, no

information is currently available to either confirm or exclude the possibility of H5N1 spreading to other carnivores, such as dogs.

The finding of H5N1 in the cat in question has probably occurred due to its exposure to infected wild birds, they said.

The experts recommended several precautionary measures for areas where H5N1 has been confirmed in wild birds after the cat was found infected with H5N1.

MNA/Xinhua



The male cat Tinka peers through the bars of his so-called quarantine box on 2 March 2006 in an animal shelter in the southern town of Munich, where his owner brought him in fear of the bird flu disease.—INTERNET

Sweden says preliminary test finds BSE in dead cow

STOCKHOLM, 3 March— Swedish authorities said on Wednesday they have detected a suspected case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, in a dead cow. "A quick test of a 12-year-old cow on a farm in Vaestmanland County (west of Stockholm) has come back positive for BSE", the National Veterinary Institute said in a statement.

Samples from the animal have been sent to a laboratory in Britain. If confirmed, this would be this country's first case of mad cow disease. Final test results were expected back from a laboratory in Britain within the next two weeks, the institute said.—MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Swedish coach says England will regret sacking Eriksson

LONDON, 4 March— Sweden head coach Lars Lagerback claimed that England will regret allowing Sven-Goran Eriksson to step down after the World Cup finals.

"All the criticism he has had is unfair," said Lagerback after Sweden's 3-0 defeat by the Republic of Ireland.

"If you look over the period of time he has been the manager, I doubt another England manager has had the same run of results. "I think he has only lost one qualification game. You won the World Cup in 1966 and got to the semifinals in 1990 but, that apart, I don't know who has had a better record than Sven. He has done a marvellous job with England and I do not understand the criticism he gets.

"Maybe it will be two years before you look back and think you made a mistake letting him go. Just because he is not a typical English manager on the touchline punching the air, you may not think he is doing anything but that is wrong. That's his character."

Lagerback hopes that their dismal display in Dublin, when Steve Staunton got off to a winning start as the Republic of Ireland manager, was a one-off as Sweden began their World Cup preparations.

MNA/Xinhua

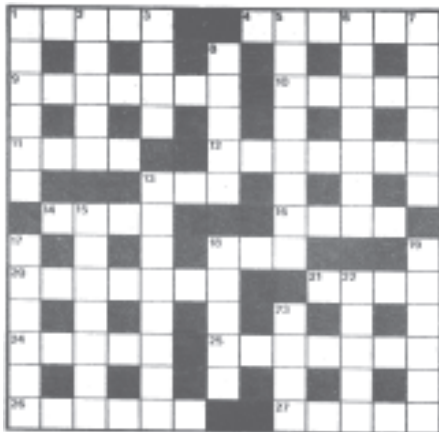
Ireland captain Keane signs new 4-year deal at Spurs

LONDON, 4 March— Tottenham Hotspur's Irish striker Robbie Keane has signed a new four-year contract, the Premier League club said on Friday.

"It is something that has been going on for a while. I am just happy it is now signed and I can look forward to a good future with Tottenham," said the new Ireland captain.

It has been a good week for Keane, who celebrated becoming Ireland skipper with a goal in his country's 3-0 friendly win over World Cup-bound Sweden at Lansdowne Road on Wednesday. — MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Monetary unit
- 4 Battled
- 9 Small cucumber
- 10 Mournful song
- 11 Speed
- 12 Thinly-fried batter
- 13 Colour
- 14 Indonesian island
- 16 Lively dance
- 18 The hawthorn
- 20 Shorten
- 21 Scheme
- 24 Pick-me-up
- 25 Wrongdoer
- 26 Drowsy
- 27 Instruct

DOWN

- 1 Number
- 2 Turn aside
- 3 Kind of fuel
- 5 Commonplace
- 6 Rubbish
- 7 Ancient Egyptian city
- 8 Bird
- 13 Pinch Ada (anag.)
- 15 Set in order
- 17 Prickly plant
- 18 Place of pilgrimage
- 19 Sew
- 22 Miss Doone
- 23 Even

Angola's World Cup opponents win friendly matches

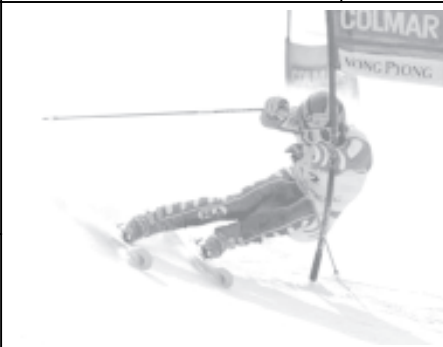
LUANDA, 3 March— Contrary to Angola's national team of football that lost to South Korea (0-1), Portugal, Mexico and Iran, the Angola's opponents in the World Cup of this year in Germany, won their respective friendly games in preparation for the 2006 World Cup. According to local media on Thursday, playing in Seoul under low temperature on Wednesday, Angola were beaten by the local team with a goal by Manchester United's forward, Park in the 22 minutes of the game.

On the same day, Mexico beat Ghana 1-0, Iran beat Costa Rica 3-2 while Portugal thrashed Saudi Arabia 3-0.

MNA/Xinhua



Uzbekistan's Klavdiya Zapashikova (R) fights for the ball with Singapore's Azreena Maat (L), as Aziza Ermatova (2nd R) and Olga Kim (2nd L) watch, during their AFC U-19 Women's Championship qualifying soccer match at Amman International Stadium, on 3 March, 2006. Uzbekistan won 2-0.—INTERNET



Italy's Davide Simoncelli skis down the course during the first run of the sixth men's giant slalom at the first day of FIS Ski World Cup at Yongpyong in Pyeongchang county, South Korea, on 4 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Lampard misses League game, struggling to make Barcelona

COBHAM (England), 4 March — Chelsea's Frank Lampard will miss Saturday's Premier League game at West Bromwich Albion because of a hamstring injury and may struggle to be fit for Tuesday's Champions League showdown with Barcelona.

The 27-year-old midfielder stalwart, who has sat out only one other Premier League game this season, was sent home from England's training camp this week and missed the friendly against Uruguay after tweaking the hamstring in training.

A Chelsea spokesman said on Friday that Lampard, runner-up in the World and European player of the year awards, was a certain absentee from the match against struggling West Brom. — MNA/Reuters

Ronaldo left out of Real squad for Madrid derby

MADRID, 4 March— Striker Ronaldo has been left out of Real Madrid's squad for the city derby against Atletico Madrid on Saturday. The Brazilian has been criticized by Real fans for below-par performances and hinted last week he wanted to leave.

On Thursday Real's new president Fernando Martin said he would not put up with players who failed to put in the required effort. Real coach Juan Ramon Lopez Caro said the player had been left out for tactical reasons. "I don't think he is being singled out for what happened during the week," Ronaldo's Brazil and Real teammate Julio Baptista told reporters.

"He wasn't angry with the decision. "On form he is the best striker in the world. We need to remain calm. Next Wednesday we have an important game and he will be well rested for it." — MNA/Reuters



The view from the upper deck of the New Busch Stadium under construction in St. Louis, Missouri, on 3 March, 2006. Most of the stadium, with the exception of a few thousand seats, is projected to be ready for the St Louis Cardinals' home opener scheduled for 10 April, 2006 against the Milwaukee Brewers. —INTERNET



Italy's Flavia Pennetta gestures during her match against Estonia's Maret Ani during their Mexico Open tennis tournament match on 3 March, 2006, in Acapulco, Mexico.—INTERNET

Hiddink, Russian association deny reaching agreement

AMSTERDAM/ MOSCOW, 4 March— PSV Eindhoven coach Guus Hiddink has denied reaching an agreement with the Russian Football Association (RFU) to become their new national coach after this year's World Cup finals.

After Friday's training session with the Dutch leaders Hiddink said he had never spoken to RFU vice-president Nikita Simonyan, who on Thursday told Dutch television NOS Sport that Hiddink had been named as Russia's new coach. Simonyan backtracked on Friday, saying there had been a misunderstanding.

"It seems all a bit premature," Hiddink told reporters.

"We had some contacts but not only with the Russian association, also with other associations.

"I never spoke with that men

(Simonyan) and don't know him. Put people before a camera and microphone and they will say these things, you can't prevent that." "I expected this announcement earlier from a different side," Hiddink added.

The RFU issued a statement on Friday saying that no contract with the 59-year-old Dutchman had been signed.

"There was a misunderstanding. I have no information that Hiddink has been appointed Russia coach," Simonyan told Reuters.— MNA/Reuters

Bush arrives in Pakistan after protests, bomb

ISLAMABAD, 4 March — A nationwide strike called by Islamist parties paralyzed Pakistan on Friday hours before US President George W Bush arrived for talks in which he is expected to urge greater efforts against Islamist militants.

Bush flew in with his wife, Laura, aboard *Air Force One* to a military airbase near Islamabad from Pakistan's old rival India, where he called for the South Asian neighbours to settle their decades old dispute over the Kashmir region.

His visit a day after a suicide car bomber killed an American diplomat and two other people in the city of Karachi has angered Islamists opposed to the US-led war on terrorism and President Pervez Musharraf's support for the campaign.

Speaking in India shortly before he left, Bush said he and Musharraf, who he is due to meet on Saturday,

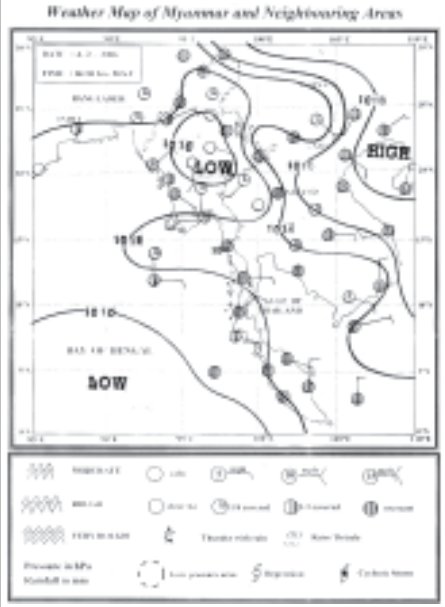
would discuss efforts to tackle militancy.

"I will meet with President Musharraf to discuss Pakistan's vital cooperation in the war on terror and our efforts to foster economic and political development so we can reduce the appeal of radical Islam," he said.

Bush also gave reason for Pakistani opposition groups to hope that Washington will push Musharraf, who came to power in a military coup seven years ago, to move faster to strengthen democratic institutions ahead of a general election next year.

"I believe that a democratic, prosperous Pakistan will be a steadfast partner for America, a peaceful neighbour for India and a force for freedom and moderation in the Arab world."

A White House official later said Bush meant to say "Muslim world". — *MNA/Xinhua*



WEATHER

Saturday, 4 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, isolated in Kachin and Shan States 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 Mon State, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu and Magway (40°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Dawei (1.54) inches.

Maximum temperature on 3-3-2006 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 4-3-2006 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 4-3-2006 was (80%). Total sunshine hours on 3-3-2006 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 4-3-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 3-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 5-3-2006: Isolated light rain are likely in Kachin and Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Pynmana and neighbouring area for 5-3-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-3-2006: Generally fair weather.

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



Harp seal pups lie on an ice floe in the Gulf of St Lawrence, Canada on 2 March, 2006. INTERNET



Sunday, 5 March
View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော် ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာဂဠု ၇၇၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာသဒ္ဒမ္မ ဓမ္မာတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် တက္ကသိုလ်တက္ကသိုလ်သစ် ဝန်ကြီးတော်

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. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ပြာမာလာ

8:10 am

6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

7. အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်ပေါက်သည့် သခင်တန်ခေါက်တံတား

8:20 am

8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Say it in English

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:15 am

2. Musical programme

11:25 am

3. Round up of the week's International news

11:35 am

4. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "Doraemon"

12:05 pm

5. Myanmar video feature: "နန်းကြားခြင်းအိပ်မက်ဘုံ" (မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ အိန္ဒြာကျော်စင်၊ စမိုင်းလီ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မိုးအောင်)

2:00 pm

6. Musical programme

2:10 pm

7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:15 pm

8. "ဓမ္မာဘိက္ခုနီ" (စိုးသိဟ၊ ဆုဝန်ထွား၊ နန်းကလျာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စောနန္ဒာလှိုင်)

2:25 pm

11. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:35 pm

10. သံလွင်မြစ်နီတီ တက်ရပ်သံတော်

2:45 pm

11. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေး သီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၃) ခုနှစ်

4:45 pm

4. အခေ့သင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ငန်းများ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဝတ်စနစ် (ရှုကွေ့သေ၊ သတ္တ ဓေးအထူးပြုများ) (ရှုကွေ့သေ)

5:00 pm

5. Dance of National races

5:10 pm

6. Musical programme

5:25 pm

7. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

8. Evening news

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:35 pm

10. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

6:45 pm

11. (၆၀)နှစ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းများ

6:55 pm

12. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:05 pm

13. ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား ဓားစာကဏ္ဍ

7:20 pm

14. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:35 pm

15. Agricultural source of Myanmar development

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား" (အပိုင်း-၂၈)

20. The next day's programme



Sunday, 5 March
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:

-Should I, would I, could I

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:

-Like I love you

8:50 am National News & Slogan

9:00 am Music:

-Love is a wonderful thing

9:05 am International News

9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar

9:20 am Music:

-The better end

1:30 pm News & Slogan

1:40 pm Children's delight

-Story for children "The cunning snake"

-Songs for children

9:00 pm Weekly news review

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Music:

-A most peculiar man

-Goodbye girl

9:45 pm News & Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

Train shuttles ten times daily between the Central Railway Station and Dagon University Station

Yangon-Dagon University Railroad Section put into service

YANGON, 4 March — The Yangon-Dagon University Railroad Section, constructed by Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation, was inaugurated in front of Dagon University Station in Dagon Myothit (East) Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than, senior military officers, departmental heads, local authorities, the rector of Dagon University, fac-



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence formally unveils the signboard of Dagon University Railway Station. — MNA

ulty members, students, social organization and local people.

First, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win delivered an address. He said that the State Peace and Development Council is building a peaceful, modern and developed nation with the aims of

enabling the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with other countries, developing the national economy, and ensuring uplift of living standard of the national people. Therefore, sector-wise progress has been witnessed obviously. Thanks to active partici-

pation of the people residing in Yangon Division in the respective sectors, Yangon Division meets remarkable development in all aspects.

The Head of State had given guidance that only then will better transport contribute to enhancement of economic, social and administrative sectors of the respective regions; and that roads in the region need should improve for development of the region.

While implementing the plans of regional development in line with the guidance of the Head of State, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council is giving priority to improvement of the regional transport network

The 26-mile Yemyetni-KyawUmin Road on ChaungU-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay section, 3.33-mile Okpozu-Thanyin Railroad, 5-mile Kyeeni-Chauk Railroad and 140.8-mile Pyinmana-Myohaung dway Railroad (Kyitaungkan-Myitnge section) are under construction. The circular railroad will also be built from Dagon University Station to Shwepaukkan, Shwenatha, Nwekhway, Htaukkyant, Buntbwagon, Mogyopit and Hlawga.

for ensuring economic, health, education and social development of the local people. As part of efforts for better transport, the Ministry of Rail Transportation had constructed the railroad from

Yangon Central Railway Station to Dagon University for the smooth transportation of Dagon University students residing in the townships along the railroad, and local people. In conclusion, the commander thanked employees of Myanmar Railways who constructed the railroad section and the station.

Afterwards, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min said that the railroad section from Yangon Central Railway Station to Dagon University, and Dagon University Station were built for smooth transport of students who are pursuing education at Dagon University in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

Myanmar Railways is performing the tasks of upgrading railroads and (See page 9)

INSIDE

The new railroad section is much beneficial to us, university students. Monthly bus fare is 3,000 kyats but the monthly season ticket now costs only 230 kyats. The government is constructing railroads one after another, so it helps improve the transport sector as well as the education sector. We students thank the government for its drive for the development of all sectors including the education sector. We also thank the Ministry of Rail Transportation because we can now go to university by bus or by train.

PAGE 7

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY KO KO SOE NYUNT



A train starts running after the opening ceremony of Dagon University Railway Station. — NLM