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Monday, 6 March, 2006

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Ghana

YANGON, 6 March — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr John Agyekum Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Ghana which falls on 6 March 2006. —MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe views physic nut saplings displayed in townships and industrial zones. — 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

Physic nut seeds, plants nurtured in Yangon East District

YANGON, 5 March — A ceremony to sow physic nut seeds, organized by Yangon East District Peace and Development Council, was held at the compound of Soe Electronics Plant in Industrial Zone-1 of Dagon Myothit (South) 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, authorities, departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Red Cross Brigade, local people and employees of the industrial zone, totalling over 5,000.

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win cut the ribbon to open the ceremony, and delivered an address.

Chairman of Yangon East District PDC Lt-Col Maung Shein reported on tasks undertaken for growing physic nut plants in the district, and Division Manager U Aung Hsan of Myanmar Agriculture Service on facts about sowing the physic

nut seeds.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presented physic nut seeds and cuttings

to departmental officials, social organization members, members of the industrial zone management (See page 8)



Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win inspect nurturing of physic nut grafts at the nursery. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 6 March, 2006

Extend double and mixed croppings

Myanmar is an agro-based country. The agricultural sector plays a pivotal role in fulfilling food, clothing and shelter needs of farmers, the majority of the population of the nation as well as in the improvement of national economy.

Therefore, efforts are being made in all aspects for development of the agricultural sector. In this regard, priority is being given to supply of irrigated water, a prerequisite for agricultural development.

A series of large, medium and small dams and reservoirs are being built wherever possible while river water pumping stations are being set up in arid zones as well as in upper and central Myanmar.

Moreover, dams, embankments and sluice gates are being built in Lower Myanmar and other parts of the nation where agriculture is being undertaken on a wider scale. And preventive measures are being taken against flooding. Yinnyein Sluice Gate in Paung Township, Mon State built by the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was opened on 27 February. The irrigation facility is the 183rd of its kind built in the nation after 1988.

The construction of Yinnyein Sluice Gate will contribute to prevention of floods in farmland in monsoon and will benefit 20,000 acres of farmland in the region.

Ahzin Dam, Wapah Dam, Bilin Diversion Dam, Shwenattaung Dam, Winphanon Dam, Zeikkaye Sluice Gate and Kyonhtaw Sluice Gate including Yinnyein Sluice Gate were constructed in Mon State, and those irrigation facilities are now benefiting 84,000 acres of farmland.

With the emergence of a large number of irrigation facilities, Mon State is meeting with success in agricultural sector. In Mon State, altogether over 800,000 acres have been put under monsoon paddy and over 100,000 acres under summer paddy in 2005-2006 paddy cultivation season. Mon State has made arrangements to put one million acres under monsoon paddy during the paddy cultivation season this year.

Moreover, extended cultivation of monsoon groundnut, winter groundnut, winter sesame, sunflower, pulses and beans, sugarcane, rubber and pepper is being carried out in Mon State.

At the same time, steps are being taken to put 500,000 acres under physic nut plants in Mon State within three years.

Taking full advantage of favourable geographical and climatic conditions and with the help of modern agricultural techniques, farmers and officials concerned are to extend double and mixed croppings for improvement of the socio-economic life of rural people.



IWT Managing Director U Soe Tint presents prize to winner in English Proficiency Course No 1 for officers and staff held at Inland Water Transport Head Office on 1-3-2006. — TRANSPORT

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

Monks who passed Pariyatti examinations honoured

YANGON, 5 March — A ceremony to present prizes to winners in the 25th Silver Jubilee Pariyatti Saddhammahita Examination was held at Yadana Beikman Prayer Hall in the precinct of Maha Dhammayanthi Eindawya Monastery in Dagon Township this afternoon.

Member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Masoeyein Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tejosarabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts Examination Organizing Committee Chairman Thiri Thudhamma Manijota-dhara Dr Moe Tin and officials pre-



Masoeyein Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejosarabhivamsa presents a certificate to a monk who passed Pariyatti exam. — MNA

sented certificates to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejosarabhivamsa. The Sayadaw gave certificates to 15 winner monks in the examinations.

Wellwishers donated alms to the monks who passed the examinations. Later, member of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha

Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Gunananda of Dagon Pariyatti Monastery gave Ovadakatha.

MNA

IPRD Director-General back from Japan

YANGON, 5 March — Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department arrived back here by air yesterday after attending the ASEAN+3 Copyright Seminar held from 1 to 3 March in Tokyo, Japan. The director-general was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials of IPRD. — MNA

Follow Me cosmetics introduced

YANGON, 5 March — A special sales, organized by Ta-Fa Trading Co Ltd (Follow Me), took place at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning. It was attended by dentists of Myanmar Dental Association, journalists and guests.

Follow Me brand Age Defence Treatment Essence, Follow Me Herbal Fresh Toothpaste

and Whitening Toothbrush Massager were introduced.

Follow Me cosmetics distributed by Ta-Fa Trading Co Ltd were sold to those present.

Later, a smiling contest was held and those present selected first, second, third and consolation prize winners.

MNA

Construction gain three points, YCDC and Sunye share one point each

YANGON, 5 March — The Myanmar League Football Tournament for 2005-06 football season continued at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna and Aung San Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this afternoon.

YTC (Thuwunna) Construction: 3

Rail Transportation: 0
Construction took three points with a 3-0 victory over Rail Transportation. Min Min Tun of Construction scored two goals for his team. Unfortunately, Kyaw San of Rail Transportation netted an own goal.

While Construction is standing in the sixth position with 21

points in 14 matches, Rail Transportation is struggling for leaping his position from the 15th position with 10 points of the relegation zone to above positions.

Aung San Stadium YCDC: 1 Sunye: 1

In today's match, YCDC, a football powerhouse in Myanmar League, played a one-all draw with Sunye that has joined Myanmar League this year. YCDC gripped its position at the 8th with 19 points in 14 matches. Sunye put its position at the 11th with 17 points.

Tomorrow's fixtures: Banner vs A&I (YTC) Defence vs Army-A (Aung San). — NLM



A special sales, introduction of new products and smiling contest of Ta-Fa Trading Co Ltd (Follow Me) in progress.

MNA

Chinese V-P praises Russia's constant adherence to one-China policy

BEIJING, 4 March — China appreciates Russia's condemnation of Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian's move to cease the function of the "National Unification Council (NUC)" and the application of the "National Unification Guidelines", said Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong here on Thursday.



Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong

Zeng made the remarks while meeting with visiting Russian Minister of Interior Rashid Nurgaliyev. He said China highly appreciates Russia's constant adherence to the one-China principle and opposition to "Taiwan independence".

Zeng said Chen Shui-bian's actions are grave provocations against the one-China principle which is widely accepted by the international community. "We resolutely oppose the 'Taiwan independence' secessionist forces and their activities," said Zeng, adding the Chinese Mainland will continue to strive for the prospect of

peaceful reunification, but we will never allow 'Taiwan independence' secessionist forces to secede Taiwan from the Motherland under any name or by any means.

On bilateral relations, Zeng said the two countries have witnessed the all-round development of relations. The two countries have kept close high-level contacts and yielded fruitful results in various fields.

Zeng said that the long-term and stable development of China-Russia friendship and cooperation accords with the basic interests of the two countries and is conducive to world peace and stability.

On law-enforcement cooperation, Zeng said it is beneficial for both sides to enhance cooperation in the fields of anti-terrorism, law-enforcement and security.

The Chinese Government supports its Ministry of Public Security and the Russian Ministry of Interior to conduct further substantial cooperation in the fight against transnational crimes, said Zeng. Nurgaliyev spoke positively of the friendly ties between the two countries, expressing his hope that the two ministries can make joint efforts to combat transnational crimes and maintain stability.

MNA/Xinhua



Flamingos are seen near a pond with reflections inside a zoo in Guangzhou, the capital of China's southern Guangdong Province, on 4 March, 2006.—INTERNET



Africa's youngest tribal ruler Oyo Nyimba sits between his mother Best Kemigisha (R) and an unidentified adviser, on a throne covered in lion skin and under an arch of elephant tusks, during celebrations marking a decade in power for the 13-year-old boy King in Fort Portal, 320 km (199 miles) west of Uganda's capital Kampala, on 4 March, 2006. Since his coronation as a three-year-old, when he was pictured crying for a fizzy drink, the youthful Omukama (King) Oyo has had to grow into his role as leader of western Uganda's one million-strong Batoro tribe.—INTERNET

Accident victim allegedly fakes blindness

SAN RAFAEL, 5 March — A motorist accused of blinding a bicyclist in a hit-and-run accident was cleared of charges after a doctor determined the victim was faking his injury.

James Arrigoni, 45, of San Anselmo, had been accused of swerving his pickup truck into a cyclist who made an obscene gesture with his finger a year ago.

Torin Arnold, 26, of San Anselmo claimed he hit his head on the pavement and lost his vision.

He appeared at Arrigoni's court hearings wearing dark glasses and using a cane, and attended Braille school and was given a guide dog by a San Rafael nonprofit group, said defence attorney Jim Collins.

The case drew wide

support from cycling enthusiasts who sponsored a fundraiser to help pay Arnold's medical bills and urged the district attorney's office to file criminal charges.

Prosecutor Paul Haakenson told a Marin

County Superior Court judge on Thursday that he decided to drop the charges after reviewing medical records from an ophthalmologist who determined Arnold was pretending to be blind.

Internet

Colombian police seize 1,225 kilos of explosives

BOGOTA, 4 March — Colombia's secret police seized 1,225 kilos of explosives in a southern suburb of Bogota on Friday, authorities said.

The explosives belong to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the largest rebel group in the country.

The explosives, found in Venezia by Administered Security Department (DAS) officials, were made from the same substance used in attacks on a border police station three years ago.—MNA/Xinhua

Iranian company to build houses in Venezuela

CARACAS, 4 March — Venezuela and Iran have signed an agreement to jointly build 10,000 homes in Venezuela at a total cost of just over 400 million US dollars, state-run Bolivarian News Agency (ABN) said on Friday.

Under the agreement, Iranian company Keyso Corporations will build, within 15 months, four large housing estates, each with 2,500 homes, in the Venezuelan states — Barinas, Monagas, Portuguesa and Cojedes,

according to the report. MNA/Xinhua

Avalanche hits skiers in Alps, seven injured

MILAN, 4 March — An avalanche swept down a mountain in the western Italian Alps during an international ski competition on Friday, injuring at least seven people and briefly burying skiers under the snow.

Rescue teams plucked some athletes from the snowslide and combed the slopes for hours with sniffer dogs, eventually ruling out fears that at least one tourist had gone missing.

The avalanche hit the Artesina Rocca Giardina piste in the province of Cuneo in northwestern Italy near the border with France.

Three helicopters backed up the rescue operations.

"The search operations have been concluded. That hypothesis (of one missing) was not confirmed," said Gino Ghiazza a member of the local Alpine rescue services.

The avalanche struck at around midday, likely triggered by strong winds or else by off-piste skiers, rescue officials said.

MNA/Reuters



This image provided by the Arthur M Sackler Gallery shows Katsushika Hokusai's ink and colour on silk 'Boy Viewing Mount Fuji'. A show of the over 200-year-old works by this Japanese artist opens on 3 March, 2006, at the Smithsonian Institution's Arthur M Sackler Gallery shows and range from comic sketches to 47-foot scroll.—INTERNET

Iran ready to accept Russia's joint venture proposal

Moscow, 4 March — The Iranian leadership is prepared to accept Russia's proposal for upbuilding a joint uranium enrichment joint venture, State Duma Deputy Speaker Yuri Volkov said on Friday at the end of his three-day visit to Iran with a parliamentary delegation.

During the visit Russian legislators held talks with officials at a number of key Iranian departments and agencies, including the foreign, oil and energy ministries, the *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported on Friday.

Volkov said that the Russian delegation discussed with the Iranian side the most sensitive issues of political and economic cooperation. "The Bushehr nuclear power plant construction was the focus of attention," he said.

According to Volkov, the radicals in the Iranian leadership have been saying that "if Moscow refuses to finalize the Bushehr nuclear power plant construction, this would be tantamount to the ultimate betrayal of Iran's interests".

He pointed out that "these circles should not have the slightest chance of getting an extra argument in favour of Iran's self-isolation and open confrontation with the leading countries of the world."

About Iran's nuclear

programme Volkov said that Iranian parliamentary speaker Gholamali Haddad-Adel had told the Russian legislators the Iranians were very glad about the idea of a uranium enrichment joint venture project.

MNA/Xinhua

Fight graft with fat cat slimming drive, China urged

BEIJING, 4 March — An adviser to the Chinese parliament has urged curbs on civil servants' body weight to aid the fight against corruption.

In a country where people often complain that police officers seem too well fed to catch villains, Miu Shouliang said limiting the weight of officials would stop them spending government money on wining and dining, the *Xinhua* news agency reported.

Such a measure

"should also contribute to regulating their working styles and improving morality", *Xinhua* said, citing Miu, a businessman from the southern boom town of Shenzhen.

"However, some experts doubted the scientific basis of such a method," *Xinhua* added.

The proposed measure, which Miu did not detail, might do more than limit waste of public funds. Low-level bribery in China often takes the form of elaborate banquets, which, unlike cash, cannot be traced after being eaten.

The Chinese parliament is meeting in Beijing this month, alongside its advisory council, of which Miu is a member.

Internet



Two fishermen are set free a Chinese sturgeon back to the sea in Wenling, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 4 March, 2006. The Chinese sturgeon, high on the list of category A protection of the rare animals in the country, was mistakenly captured by a local fisherman on 3 March. —INTERNET

Millions of drivers do not know dashboard symbols

LONDON, 4 March — Millions of British motorists have no idea what some of the basic dashboard symbols mean, with women performing worse than men, research showed on Friday.

Despite drivers spending an average of 360 hours behind the wheel, 47 per cent of women and 33 per cent of men struggle to identify common symbols or basic warning lights.

The report for the AA motoring organization revealed 39 per cent of women and 28 per cent of men could not identify the warning light for main beam headlight, suggesting many of them unwittingly dazzle oncoming drivers.

Also of concern was

that 12 per cent of women and 7 per cent of men had no idea what the handbrake warning light was, while only 38 per cent of women

against 65 per cent of men knew what the warning lamp indicating high coolant temperature looked like.

MNA/Reuters



French actress Julie Delpy arrives as a presenter for the 2006 Independent Spirit Awards on 4 March, 2006, in Santa Monica, Calif. INTERNET

'Brokeback' named best independent film

SANTA MONICA, 5 March — The cowboy love story "Brokeback Mountain" won best picture and its creator Ang Lee was named best director on Saturday at the Independent Spirit Awards, which played out as a potential prelude to the Academy Awards.

Honouring the best in lower-budgeted, edgy filmmaking, the Spirit Awards honoured many key contenders for Sunday's Oscars, where "Brokeback Mountain" is the best-picture favourite.

"In a year when the Oscars have such an independent spirit, I really treasure this encouragement," Lee said.

Top Oscar nominees "Capote," "Crash" and "Transamerica" also earned two honours at the Spirit Awards, and virtually every winner in the ceremony's top 12 categories also is competing at the Oscars.

"Capote" took the best-

actor award for Philip Seymour Hoffman, who is the favorite to win the same prize at the Oscars for his role as author Truman Capote. The film also earned writer Dan Futterman the best-screenplay award.

Hoffman, who has won most other key best-actor honours this award season, cheered his fellow nominees: Jeff Daniels for "The Squid and the Whale," Terrence Howard for "Hustle & Flow," Heath Ledger for "Brokeback Mountain," and David Strathairn for "Good Night, and Good Luck."

Internet

Two road accidents kill seven in Vietnam

HANOI, 4 March — Seven people were killed and two others injured in two road accidents in Vietnam on Friday morning, *Vietnam News Agency* reported.

A truck crashed into two motorbikes in central Ha Tinh Province, killing four people and injuring two others. A motorbike's driver died on the spot, and three others on the way to hospital. The cause of the accident is to be clarified.

In the capital city Hanoi, a motorbike carrying three local young people, while trying to overtake a lorry, collided with a bus in opposite direction, killing three people aged 21-24.

Vietnam witnessed 1,489 traffic accidents in January, which killed 1,261 people and injured 1,264 others, up 10.6 per cent, 24.6 per cent and 6 per cent, over the same period last year respectively, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill at least 19 in raid on Iraq factory

BAGHDAD, 4 March — Dozens of suspected Sunni guerillas stormed a small town near Baghdad at dusk and killed at least 19 people, police said on Friday — a six-year-old girl killed with a single bullet to her forehead was among the dead.

Most of the victims were mostly poor Shiite labourers at a brick factory in the town of Nahrawan. It was one of the bloodiest incidents after 10 days of sectarian violence that has killed hundreds and pushed Iraq toward the brink of civil war.

"They all have a single bullet to the forehead, one of them is a six-year-old girl. I've sat here in the police station where the bodies were brought and wept all morning," said municipal council leader Alaa Abdul-Sahib al-Lamy.

MNA/Reuters



Actor Heath Ledger, right, arrives for the 2006 Independent Spirit Awards with Michelle Williams on 4 March, 2006, in Santa Monica, Calif. — INTERNET

Huge crater found in Egypt

CAIRO, 4 March—Scientists have discovered a huge crater in the Saharan desert, the largest one ever found there.

The crater is about 19 miles (31 kilometres) wide, more than twice as big as the next largest Saharan crater known. It utterly dwarfs Meteor Crater in Arizona, which is about three-fourths of a mile (1.2 kilometres) in diameter.

In fact, the newfound crater, in Egypt, was likely carved by a space rock that was itself roughly 0.75 miles wide in an event that would have been quite a shock, destroying everything for hundreds of miles. For comparison, the

Chicxulub crater left by a dinosaur-killing asteroid 65 million years ago is estimated to be 100 to 150 miles (160 to 240 kilometres) wide.

The crater was discovered in satellite images by Boston University researchers Farouk El-Baz and Eman Ghoneim. El-Baz named the crater "Kebira," which means "large" in Arabic and also relates to its location on the northern tip of the Gifl Kebir region in southwestern Egypt.

"Kebira may have escaped recognition because it is so large—bigger than the area of 125 football fields, or the total expanse of the Cairo urban region from its airport in the northeast to the Pyramids of Giza in the southwest," El-Baz said today.

Internet



A model displays a traditional Chinese gown called qipao during the 'Gege Chipao Show' in Beijing, China's capital, on 4 March, 2006. INTERNET



A French veterinarian captures two pelicans to vaccinate them against bird flu with the H5N2 vaccine in the zoo of Mulhouse, eastern France on 3 March, 2006. The zoo of Mulhouse began the vaccination against bird flu of the 620 birds in its collection.—INTERNET

Mice are key tool in quest for new drugs

BAR HARBOR (Maine), 4 March—When it comes to the price of mice, you pay more for defects. A mouse with arthritis runs close to \$200; two pairs of epileptic mice can cost 10 times that. You want three blind mice? That'll run you about \$250. And for your own custom mouse, with the genetic modification of your choosing, expect to pay as much as \$100,000. Always a mainstay of scientific research, mice have become a critical tool in the quest for new drugs and medical treatments.

It turns out that a mouse's genes are so similar to a person's that with proper manipulation — either by man or nature — they can produce an animal with an ailment akin to virtually any human medical condition. Mice with Alzheimer's disease, obesity, diabetes, cancer and countless other ailments are being used to study both the illnesses themselves and potential treatments.—Internet



A mouse looks on at an Argentine laboratory in Buenos Aires.—INTERNET

Czech oil spill raises fears in neighbouring Germany

PRAGUE, 4 March — Czech officials said they were laying protective floating barriers around an oil slick discovered on Friday in the Elbe River that has raised environmental concerns in neighbouring Germany.

"The slick is about 500 litres. It's maybe 15 kilometres (nine miles) long," said a dispatcher from the Czech agency that oversees the Elbe.

The oil slick was discovered at 8:30 am local time (0730 GMT) and officials quickly began enacting a plan to control it, he added, giving no further details.

The Ministry of Environment and Agri-culture in the eastern German state of

Saxony said it had been informed by the Czechs of the oil slick, which is in the vicinity of Usti nad Labem, a city near the northern Czech border with Germany.

"The cause of the contamination is not yet clear," the ministry said in a statement. "It is possible that it was a damaged pipeline or a freighter or truck accident."

MNA/Reuters

Robots to challenge Chinese chess masters for first time

BEIJING, 4 March — China will hold its first Chinese chess competition between humans and robots this year, according to sources with the Chinese Society of Artificial Intelligence.

Robots will challenge five masters of Chinese chess at the First Chinese Chess Competition in July, and in August robots

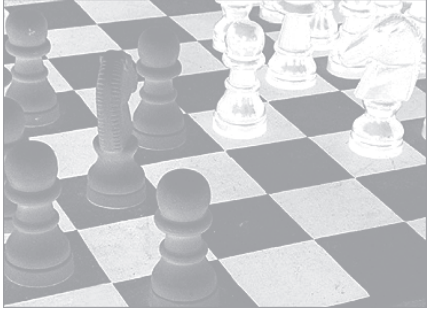
and humans will confront each other once again at the country's first exhibition on artificial intelligence products and

achievements. The competition, to be held from 25-31 July, will be sponsored by the society and three universities.

Chinese scientists have studied robots playing Chinese chess, which is different from the popular chess.

The robots that will enter the competition are developed by Chinese scientists.

During the competition, there will be a symposium at which scientists will share their views on the study of Chinese chess-playing robots. — MNA/Xinhua



Masters of Chinese chess are to face the ultimate challenge later this year when they battle it out against a team of robots, the Chinese Society of Artificial Intelligence said.—INTERNET

Lufthansa cancels European flights as snow falls

FRANKFURT, 4 March — Deutsche Lufthansa said it had to cancel about half of its flights to and from German airports on Friday morning because of bad weather and urged travellers flying within Germany to switch to the train.

Europe's second-biggest carrier had cancelled 56 domestic or European flights into or out of Germany by 0930 GMT, an airline spokesman said, as snow fell across parts of the country. "We expect further disruption and cancellations," the spokesman said. "The weather forecast is not optimistic. The situation will certainly get worse." MNA/Reuters

Malaysia to set up more fair price shops

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 March — Malaysia will set up more fair price shops to balance the public spending following recent rise in fuel prices, a senior official said on Friday. Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Shafie Apdal said a committee would be formed to identify suitable premises to grant the fair shop status.

"The fair price shop concept is the same as the previous programme. It will be expanded to wet markets and restaurants," Shafie told reporters here, adding there are 250 fair price shops nationwide covering 14 categories. Meanwhile, the minister said his ministry would cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry to open more farmers' markets where people could buy essential goods at lower prices.—MNA/Xinhua

China urges Iran to suspend nuclear activities

BEIJING, 4 March — China urged Iran on Thursday to “fully cooperate” with the UN nuclear watchdog and suspend nuclear enrichment activities, adding to rising international pressure on Teheran ahead of a key meeting.

China had noted that the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a report that Iran has not fully complied with its demand that it address questions about the scope and purpose of its nuclear programme, a spokesman for China’s Foreign Ministry told reports in Beijing.

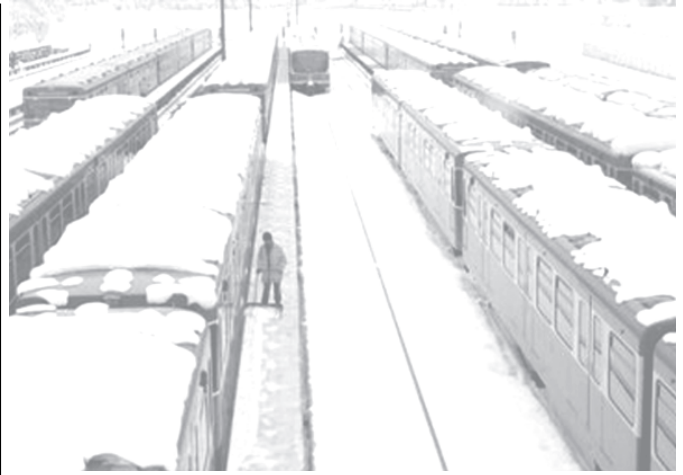
“China hopes Iran will fully cooperate with the agency and clarify the unresolved questions about its nuclear programme and will restore the international community’s confidence in Iran,” the spokesman Qin Gang said.

Time is running out for a breakthrough before 6 March, when the IAEA is to discuss a report on Iran’s nuclear activities.

Teheran says its nuclear plans are entirely peaceful, but the United States and the European Union trio of Britain, France and Germany say Iran hopes to gain the ability to make nuclear weapons.

The Western powers may use the 6 March meeting to push Iran towards the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

MNA/Reuters



A worker clears away the snow between underground train waggons at a train station in Munich, southern Germany, on 5 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Mubarak to visit Germany

BERLIN, 4 March — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will visit Germany in mid-March, the German Government announced here on Friday.

The two-day visit will start on 11-12 March, deputy government spokesman Thomas Steg said, adding the Egyptian President will hold talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leaders.

Topics include the situation in the Palestinian territories after the electorate victory of Hamas, Steg said. Mubarak will also meet with his German counterpart Horst Koehler, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Matthias Platzeck, head of the Social Democrats. — MNA/Xinhua

Guantanamo prisoner claims torture when force fed

WASHINGTON, 4 March — US authorities at Guantanamo Bay strapped Mohammed Bawazir’s legs, arms, head and midsection into a chair for as long as two hours each time they force fed him during his hunger strike, the Yemeni said.

They inserted a tube through his nose and into his stomach, inflicting unbearable pain, according to a court filing to a judge weighing on Friday Bawazir’s contention that he was tortured when he was force fed at the US naval base.

Denied access to a toilet while restrained, he received nutritional formula plus four bottles of water at each feeding, causing Bawazir to repeatedly urinate and defecate on his clothes, the filing said.

This treatment in January caused Bawazir to end his five-month hunger strike, amounted to torture and violated a new US law outlawing cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment of prisoners held by the US Government, the lawyers said.

US Justice Department attorneys denied that Bawazir, who has been held at the base since May 2002, was improperly treated or tortured. Bawazir is one of about 490 foreign terrorism suspects being held at the base in Cuba. Like all but 10 of them, he has not been charged with a crime.

The Justice attorneys said the forced feedings were designed to improve

Bawazir’s overall health and “performed in a humane fashion... and never in a manner designed to inflict pain or discomfort or as punishment or retaliation”.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jeremy Martin, chief spokesman for the military joint task force that runs the prison camp, said the goal at Guantanamo is “safe, humane, care and custody of all the detainees in our charge”.

He said there were Guantanamo four detainees on hunger strike, as of Friday, of whom three were being force fed.

“In keeping with our policies and procedures, our focus here has never been on breaking a hunger strike but on preserving life through lawful clinical means,” Martin said.

The Justice Department lawyers also told US District Court Judge Gladys Kessler that the court cannot even consider Bawazir’s emergency request for an injunction against any further torture. They said the new US Detainee Treatment Act, which outlaws torture of prisoners, denies the court jurisdiction in the case. — MNA/Reuters



Moroccan Siamese twins Hafsa and Ilham, who are joined at the spine and stomach, lie on a bed at a hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 4 March, 2006. Saudi surgeons, headed by Abdullah al-Rabeeah, began a 12-hour operation on Saturday to separate the twins. Rabeeah’s team has performed nearly a dozen such operations since 1990 on twins from Egypt, Poland, Malaysia, Iraq and the Philippines. —INTERNET

Malaysia shuts 500 nursery schools to curb disease

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 March — Malaysia has ordered the closure of nearly 500 kindergarten schools on the island of Borneo after four children died of the hand, foot and mouth viral disease, official news agency Bernama said on Friday.

Sarawak, one of the two eastern Malaysian states on Borneo, has reported four deaths from the disease, the agency said.

Health officials have called for 488 schools to be shut for two weeks in an effort to contain the spread of the disease, Health Minister Chua Soi Lek told reporters.

“This action is taken to

cut off the transmission of the infection of the disease, which increased markedly in Sarawak,” the agency quoted Chua as saying.

Hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) is a viral infection common in children and results in fever, mouth sores and a blistering rash, usually on the hands and feet. It is unrelated to foot-and-mouth disease, a

disease of cattle, sheep and swine.

Children are most susceptible to HFMD, but adults can also be affected.

Malaysia reported 13 cases of the disease in 2001, in its southern-most state of Johor, bordering Singapore. The previous year four children died of the disease, and an outbreak in 1997 killed 13. — MNA/Reuters

Ancient mural paintings unearthed in north China

TAIYUAN, 4 March — Archaeologists have discovered mural and lacquer paintings dating back about 1,500 years in one of 12 ancient tombs unearthed recently in North China’s Shanxi Province.

The paintings and other utensils found in the tomb provide insight into daily life in the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534), said the experts with the Datong Archaeology Institute.

MNA/Xinhua



A relief carving depicting the fertility god Min is on display as part of the ‘Excavating Egypt’ exhibit at the Albany Institute of History & Art in Albany, NY, recently. Artifacts from the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology at University College, London, are currently touring the United States. —INTERNET

Protect sea turtles

Mi Mi Maw (MSc)

Many countries including Myanmar are now taking necessary measures for prevention against environmental degradation as the marine ecosystem will be in disorder and there would occur natural disasters if natural aquatic resources are extinct.

Now, sea turtles are in danger of extinction all over the world including in Myanmar. Sea turtles are the most ancient animals with the longest life span. It came into being around 200 million years ago, earlier than di-

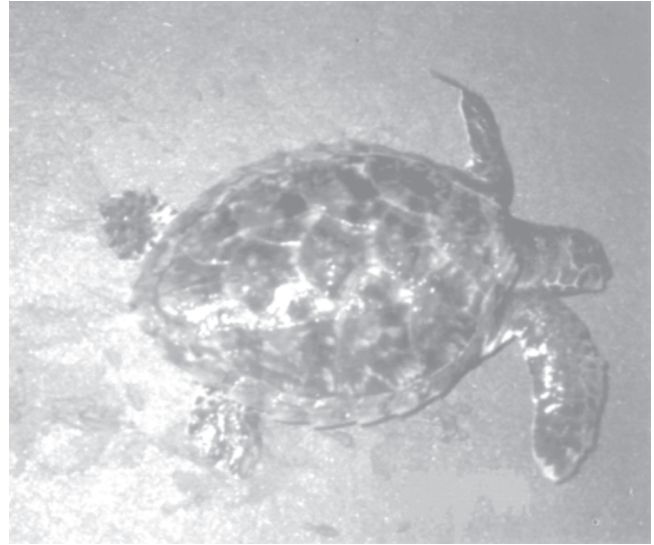
nosaur. There are seven species of sea turtles in the world. Among them, five species are found in Myanmar —leatherback turtle, found turtle, loggerhead turtle, hawksbill turtle and olive ridged turtle. Now, the species of turtle are on the verge of extinction so they are listed as threatened or endangered species of animals and steps are being taken to protect such endangered species.

Some of the major causes of extinction of sea turtles are human beings' consumption of turtle

eggs, predators' eating eggs and baby turtles, indiscriminate killing of turtles for human consumption, making ornamental objects from turtle shells, deterioration of land of turtles, and water pollution. Moreover, many turtles are caught in the fishnets and killed for human consumption. Most of the fishnets are taken out of water once every 24 hours. So, the turtles caught in the fishnets die of suffocation. Naturally, a turtle has to resurface three or four times a day to breathe, and if it fails to breathe 12 hours successively, it will suffocate.

Some local people not only unearth the turtle eggs but also kill the turtles that come ashore to lay eggs. Some turtles die after being caught to the pieces of fishnets. Some have to die when they ingest pieces of plastic, taking them for their food. Pieces of plastic in water may bring death to aquatic creatures as they look like food. Researchers have discovered that pieces of plastic in water cover the algae and coral and adversely affect the soil on the sea bed.

The Fisheries Department is now hatching



One of the endangered species of sea turtles.

Sea turtles are naturally tenacious to life and do not succumb to normal injuries easily. If a turtle is caught in a fishhook or fishing equipment, remove them from it, cover a wet cloth over it and let it take a rest for four hours. If so, the turtle can survive the injuries. Turtles can hatch out off the eggs in fifty days and move into the sea water. So, if local people in the coastal regions protect sea turtles, the sea will be inexhaustible food resource for human beings.

turtle eggs and releasing the baby turtles into the sea in Ngapudaw and Bogale townships in Ayeyawady Division. It is also conducting surveys in Mon State, Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division.

Almost all of the baby turtles hatched and set free into the sea are eaten by predators in the sea. Their survival rate is only 0.2 per cent, and so species of sea turtles are on the verge of extinction.

Sea turtles consume red algae that makes sea water toxic and causes red tide. Their consumption of red algae prevents red tide to an extent. So, sea turtles play an important role in

the marine ecosystem, and they are flagship species. Sea turtles are very beneficial to new generations.

If all species of sea turtles have been extinct, other aquatic creatures in the sea may die due to proliferation of red algae. Therefore, it is much required to protect species of sea turtles.

Sea turtles are a very useful marine resource. So, all are urged to set free sea turtles if they are caught accidentally, and not to unearth nor consume turtle eggs.

Sea turtles are naturally tenacious to life and do not succumb to normal injuries easily. If a turtle is

caught in a fishhook or fishing equipment, remove them from it, cover a wet cloth over it and let it take a rest for four hours. If so, the turtle can survive the injuries. Turtles can hatch out off the eggs in fifty days and move into the sea water. So, if local people in the coastal regions protect sea turtles, the sea will be inexhaustible food resource for human beings.

Thus, the people are exhorted to protect the environment of sea where major aquatic food resources such as fish and prawn live.

Translation: MS



Disabled athletics carry a bunch of balloons as they take part in the opening ceremony parade of the 12th National Sports Festival of the Disabled in Colombo's Sugathadasa Stadium, Sri Lanka on 4 March, 2006. — INTERNET

Spousal spats may harm heart health

NEW YORK, 5 March — The manner in which husbands and wives argue over such hot-button topics such as money, in-laws, and children, may be a factor in their risk of developing coronary atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries of the heart.

In a study of 150 couples, mostly in their 60s, researchers found that women who behaved in a hostile manner during marital disputes were more likely to have atherosclerosis, especially if their husbands were also hostile.

In men, hostility — their own or their wives — was not related to atherosclerosis. However, men who behaved in a dominating or controlling manner — or whose wives behaved in that way — were more likely to have clogged coronary arteries.

This study supports a "small but growing body of research that suggests that beyond the health benefits of being married, marital quality seems to make a difference in heart health," Dr. Timothy Smith, a psychologist from the University of

Utah noted in an interview with *Reuters Health*.

"Conflicts are an unavoidable part of being in any meaningful relationship," Smith said. "but the way we conduct them is important not only for our relationship health and emotional well-being but maybe even for our physical health as well."

Smith's team took a "behavioral snapshot" of married couples by bringing them into the lab and having them discuss a topic that is a source of conflict or disagreement for them. — MNA/Reuters

Physic nut seeds, plants nurtured in Yangon East District...

(from page 1)

committee and representatives of townships. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win sowed the seeds in the small bags.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed round documentary photos on nurturing physic nut seeds and grafts in 14 townships of the district.

They grew physic nut plants in commemoration of the nurturing ceremony.

Yangon East District had collected 320,000 physic nut saplings, 444 baskets of seeds and 190,000 grafts. So far, the district had grown 177 acres of physic nut seeds and grafts.

The district plans to put over 7,000 acres of land under physic nut plantations. A total of 229 nurseries were established in the townships and 10 nurseries at industrial zones. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence and Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win put physic nut grafts into small bags. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence presents physic nut seeds and grafts to an official. — MNA

Paper reading session held at Myeik University

YANGON, 5 March — Myeik University in Myeik, Taninthayi Division, held its paper reading session (1/2006) on 28 February.

Present were Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung

Maung Swe, Division Women's Affairs Organization Patron Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Tin Tin Nwe, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hong Ngai, senior military officers, departmental officials, members of social organizations, the rector,

professors and faculty members of the university.

The commander delivered an address on the occasion and Rector U Thein Aung explained the purpose of holding the paper reading session.

Altogether 12 papers were presented and read out at the session. — MNA

Ninth National Sanitation Week launched in Patheingyi

YANGON, 4 March — The ninth National Sanitation Week was launched at the branch office of Myanmar Medical Association (Patheingyi) in Patheingyi on 28 February.

Present were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe, senior officers, Secretary of Ayeyawady Division

Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Thein Hlaing, departmental officials and service personnel.

The commander delivered a speech and Head of Division Health Department Dr Than Aung reported on activities of National Sanitation Week in the division with the visual aids.

A coordination meeting on construction of Ngwe Hsaung Beach Road section-1 was held at Ayeyawady Division

Peace and Development Council Office. Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung reported on laying of concrete and construction of bridges, requirements, tour operators on proper drainage and roads and Chairman of Patheingyi District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hla Thwin on future tasks.

The commander called on cooperation for development of Ngwe Hsaung Beach. — MNA

Thanantana Dhamma Palaka Organization honours title winners

YANGON, 5 March — Thanantana Dhamma Palaka Organization (Yangon) honoured patrons of the organization in conjunction with the centennial birthday of the Shri Guru at Mahatma Ghandi Hall on Merchant Street, here, yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, and

Chairman of the Organization (Hindu) Dr Mohanlal opened the ceremony.

Dr U Hla Tun explained matters concerning the centennial birthday of the Shri Guru.

The Deputy Minister delivered an address. Chairman Dr Mohanlal and Vice-Chairman U Kyi Min presented certificates of honour to patrons of the

organization — Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title winners Dr Khin Maung Nyunt and U Kyaw Khin Myint, Thiri Thudamma Manijothara title winners Bandoola U Shwe and U Tin Maung (Sandi Traditional Medicine) and Lifelong Literary Award winner U Hla Kyaing (Writer Paragu).

MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate in Dagon Myothit (East) Township. (News reported) — MNA

Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport meets



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win speaking at coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport. — MNA

YANGON, 5 March — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held the coordination meeting on 3 March evening.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen

Hla Htay Win explained matters related to convenient and smooth travelling of people and students, and declining of traffic accidents.

Heads of department, registrars and officials of universities and colleges, members of the Supervisory Committee, departmental officials and chairmen of bus lines submitted reports on

enforcement of traffic rules, plying of school buses, matters related to smooth and secure transport, and conversion of vehicles into CNG vehicles.

The commander fulfilled the requirements and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

CEC members inspect development facilities in Kawhmu Township

YANGON, 5 March — CEC members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa today viewed digging of 2-million-gallon capacity lake being undertaken by USDA members and other social organization members at

Pyidawtha Ward in Kawhmu Township at noon today.

The lake, 500 feet long, 200 feet wide and five feet high, will supply water to local people.

In Htanmanaing Village, they looked into construction of the new building measuring 100 feet by 30 feet at Basic Education Middle School.

CEC member Mayor

Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepted 1,204 USDA membership applications from Village Organizer U Myint Thein. The CEC members and guests sowed physic nut seeds and grafts into the small bags. They viewed participation of the local people in sowing physic nut seeds and grafts at the nursery in Htanmanaing Village. — MNA

International Women's Day (8 March 2006)

Ninth National Sanitation Week activities launched in Yangon East District

YANGON, 4 March — The ninth National Sanitation Week activities, organized by Yangon East District Health Committee and District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, were launched at Yankin Education College at noon today. Yangon Division MCWSC Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai addressed the occasion.

The chairperson of Yangon East District MCWSC presented permanent membership applications from the township to Daw Mar Mar Wai. The Yangon Division MCWSC chairperson presented prizes to outstanding persons who won prizes in 2005 National Sanitation Week



Yangon Division MCWSC Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai presents prize to an outstanding township through an official. — MNA

activities.

Secretary of Yangon East District MCWSC Dr Daw Mu Mu Nyo explained the activities carried out in the district.

Later, those present viewed documentary photos on activities of the ninth National Sanitation Week.

MNA

Myanmar CP Inter-Club Tennis Tournament 20-26 March

YANGON, 5 March — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Myanmar CP Inter-Club Tennis Tournament, to be organized by Myanmar Tennis Federation and sponsored by Myanmar CP Livestock Co Ltd, will take place at Theinbyu Tennis Pitch, here, from 20 to 26 March.

A class teams are to be set up with four or five athletes. Athletes of the A class teams may take part in two

singles events and one doubles event.

B class teams are to be formed with six or seven athletes. They may participate in three doubles events. Women may join the women's singles event. In addition, youth may compete in the under-10, the under-12, and the under-14 events.

A class contestants must be athletes from the selected national team and State/Division teams.

B class teams may be formed with one above-45 State/Division

selected athlete each and over-50 former State/Division selected tennis players.

Myanmar Tennis Federation will accommodate the tennis teams.

Those wishing to take part in the tournament may contact MTF, Tel: 372360 and 381991, not later than at 5 pm on 18 March. On 19 March, an official is to attend the ceremony to draw the tournament schedules at the office of MTF.

MNA

Spain, Turkey call for diplomatic solution to Iran N-dispute

MADRID, 5 March — Spain and Turkey called for a diplomatic solution to the crisis over Iran's nuclear programme, the foreign ministers of both countries said on Friday.

Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos and his Turk-

ish counterpart Abdullah Gul told a Press conference that they hoped that such a solution would be found even though the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was in a position to take the matter to the United Nations.

The last-chance talks between foreign ministers from key EU members and Iran's top nuclear negotiator ended on Friday in Vienna without any agreement, leaving open the path to possible UN Security Council action. — MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

Buddha Pujaniya of Hsandawshin Maha Makuhtayanthi Myatmawtin Pagoda opened

YANGON, 5 March — The Buddha Pujaniya of historic Hsandawshin Maha Makuhtayanthi Myatmawtin Pagoda was opened at the pagoda in Ngapudaw Township on 27 February.

Present were Chairman of Ayeawady Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hla Thwin and officials and devotees.

Thura Myint Aung and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Col Kyaw Lin Tun of regional battalion and wife, staff officers, members of Division Peace and Development Council, Chairman of Patheingyi District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hla Thwin and officials and devotees.

The commander formally opened the Buddha

Pujaniya and sprinkled scented water on the archway.

The commander inspected roads and bridges along the Mawtin-Patheingyi Road, village to village roads and economic development in the region.

The commander and party also visited historic Shwemyintin Pagoda in Ngapudaw Township.

MNA



BUDDHA PUJANIYA HELD: The 2594th Buddha Pujaniya of Shwedagon Pagoda was held on 4-3-2006. Religious association members recite Maha Pathana at Chanthagyi Prayer Hall of Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA

Commander on inspection tour of Pinlaung, Pekhon

YANGON, 5 March — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint together with officials inspected physic nut plantation of Pinlaung Station on 26 February and left instructions.

There are 250 acres of physic nut and 130,000

physic nut saplings are being grown at the Station.

On arrival at Saungpyaung village in Pinlaung Township, the commander observed 10 acres of physic nut and discussed growing of physic nut with locals.

Later, the commander proceeded to Pekhon Township and

oversaw 30 acres of physic nut plantation of the township, nurturing of 22,000 physic nut saplings at Township MEPE, sowing of 190,000 physic nut at Township PDC office and nurturing of 60,000 physic nut saplings of Pekhon Station and gave necessary instructions to the officials concerned.

MNA

Angola pushes for more investment in non-oil sectors

JOHANNESBURG, 5 March — Angola's Finance Minister has urged companies to diversify their investments in the resource-rich African nation, noting that the non-oil part of the economy would grow 11.9 per cent in 2006, state news agency *Angop* reported on Friday.

Jose Pedro de Morais, speaking on Thursday at the close of a forum on capital markets, said foreign companies should take advantage of the strong growth forecast for the country's non-oil sector.

Greater investment in small manufacturing, industry and other such sectors of the economy would constitute a significant boost to reconstruction efforts in the southwest African country after 27 years of civil war ended in 2002.

It would also be evidence of a welcome diversification away from oil — the commodity that overwhelmingly dominates the Angolan economy.

Although oil accounts for around 80 per cent of tax revenues for the Angolan Government, it provides only a fraction of the jobs in a country where unemployment is rampant.

Robert Bunyi, head Africa analyst at South Africa's Standard Bank agreed that non-oil industry could play a greater role in Angola's economic development. Overall GDP growth in Angola is forecast at 27.9 per cent for 2006.

"Sure, it's possible. But it's coming from a very low base, and you must make sure that money does not get ferried away

through corruption," he said.

Business investments outside of oil and diamonds totalled 123 million US dollars in the first half of 2005, according to the latest figures from Angola's national private investment agency (ANIP).

Around 90 per cent of that amount was foreign direct investment (FDI), with former colonial power Portugal, South Africa and China accounting for the lion's share.

Chinese businesses, in particular, are increasing their presence in the non-oil portion of Angola's economy following the extension by China's EXIMBANK of a two-billion-US-dollar oil-backed credit line to the Angolan Government.

MNA/Reuters

Development tasks in Dalla township inspected

YANGON, 5 March — Union Solidarity and Development Association CEC member (Yangon Division In-charge) Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa yesterday inspected development work being carried out in Dalla Township and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Next, the vice-mayor visited the Township People's Hospital where he inspected sanitation work being carried out by USDA members in the hospital compound, patients' wards, X-ray room, operation theater and construction of a ward for monks and left necessary instructions there.

Afterwards, the CEC member met with

townselders at the office of Dalla Township Peace and Development Council. Officials reported on water supply tasks, providing health care and giving educative talks to the public in the township. Later, township USDA donated K 100,000 to Phyto Health Care Organization and the vice-mayor K 100,000 to the township USDA. — MNA



Racers participating in the Crashed Ice competition skate along the iced-over course under the Kent gate in Quebec City, on 4 March, 2006. The race mixes boardercross and hockey. — INTERNET

Italian President rejects 100 m euro bird flu fund

ROME, 5 March — The Italian Government's 100-million-euro (120.2-million-US-dollar) plan to help its poultry sector survive the bird flu crisis was rejected by President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi on Friday due to lack of funds.

Parliament approved tax breaks for the poultry industry on Wednesday, but Ciampi, who has the final say on legislation,

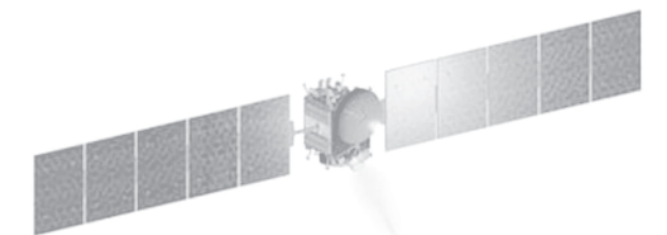
sent the bill back, saying it did not have the financial cover needed, according to a statement from his office.

The bill will now be discussed again in Parliament next Tuesday. Although Italy's legislature is formally closed in the runup to an April 9 election, it can convene for urgent matters.

Chicken sales have

plummeted 70 per cent in Italy due to consumer fears over bird flu and the sector has cut 30,000 jobs due to the crisis, farmers' confederation Coldiretti has said. Italy was one of the first countries in the European Union to discover the deadly H5N1 virus when, on February 11, it was confirmed found in several wild swans.

MNA/Reuters



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

Microsoft to provide cheap computers in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 5 March — Giant software maker Microsoft Corp, through its Indonesian arm, Microsoft Indonesia, is planning to provide "affordable computer" packages, plus genuine software, to millions of Indonesians this year.

"We are looking at ways to offer personal computers (PCs) — maybe including Internet access — on a monthly installment basis," visiting Microsoft Corp. senior vice-president Will Poole was quoted Saturday by *The Jakarta Post* daily as saying.

Affordability has led to relatively low computer penetration in Indonesia, with the rate currently standing at only 4 per cent, according to a report from the International Telecommunications Union.

Poole explained that Microsoft would collaborate with a number of consumer finance firms in order to reach people who would normally have no access to credit.

The scheme has already been tried out in Brazil, where Microsoft says a third of the applicants were those from the middle- and lower-income brackets "who could not afford computers otherwise".

MNA/Xinhua



French singer Amel Bet receives artist revelation of public during the Victoires de la Musique, French Music Award, in Paris on Saturday, 4 March. —INTERNET

Singapore, Libya establish diplomatic relations

SINGAPORE, 5 March — Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on Saturday the city state and Libya have established diplomatic relations.

"The Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, wishing to strengthen and develop friendly relations between them, have agreed to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries with effect from 3 March, 2006," said the ministry in a statement.

Libya, located in northern Africa, is a country of 1.76 million square kilometres with a population of more than six million. Tripoli is the capital of Libya. —MNA/Xinhua

N-W China ethnic region promotes highway construction

URUMQI, 5 March — Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in Northwest China has invested a total of 33 billion yuan (4.125 billion US dollars) over the past five years in the promotion of highway construction in both urban and rural areas.

According to a work conference of the regional transport department, the money was used to build nearly 90,000 kilometres of roads across the region during the country's 10th-Five-Year Plan (2001-2005) for National Economic and Social Development.

The investment in highway construction during that period was three times more than the total during a period spanning 45 years from 1955 to 2000.

So far, a comprehensive road network has been built up in Xinjiang, consisting of 541 kilo-



A limestone statue of Imhotep, the fabled architect of the step pyramid pictured in the background, is on display as part of the 'Excavating Egypt' exhibit at the Albany Institute of History & Art in Albany, NY, recently. Artifacts from the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology at University College, London, are currently touring the United States. —INTERNET

Brazil takes swift action against chemical spill

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 March — The Brazilian Government acted swiftly on Friday to prevent the drinking water of six cities from being contaminated following a chemical spill in Rio de Janeiro state.

Dykes broke on Thursday in the southeastern state, dumping 80,000 cubic metres of pollutants into the Fuba River, which feeds the Muriae River.

The dykes, which have since been repaired, belong to the Rio Pomba

Mineracao mining company, environmental authorities said on Friday.

State authorities immediately stopped the drawing of water from the Muriae Lake which supplies the city of Lago do Muriae. Their swift response had prevented the contaminants from reaching the South Paraiba River, which provides water for six cities in the region, the authorities said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran not to suspend its nuclear research

TEHERAN, 5 March — Iran will not accept the European Union trio's demands of suspending its uranium enrichment process, but it is possible to conduct the research outside Iran temporarily, Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani said Saturday.

"We told the foreign ministers that enrichment for research purposes is Iran's acknowledged right as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and therefore we will not accept any demands of suspending it," Larijani told reporters on his arrival here from Vienna. Larijani held last-

chance talks with top foreign officials from Germany, Britain and France in Vienna on Friday, but the talks ended without any results achieved.

"The aim of our negotiation with Russia and the EU was to preserve and maintain the research we have started, and in an appropriate way preserve the rights of all Iranians... (Iran) will not give in to any intimidation and referral to the UN Security Council," said Larijani.

However, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told reporters after talks that "time is running out. If we want success we have to act now".

Referring to the Russian plan that Iran had negotiated previously, Larijani for the first time said that temporary uranium enrichment outside Iran would be possible. However, Iran has not given a clear reply to the Russian plan so far.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysians encouraged to produce own food for daily use

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 March — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Friday launched a national green book campaign to encourage people to produce their own food for daily consumption.

Themed "Plant, Rear for Self-Consumption, Save for Economic Development", the campaign aims to promote the self-sufficient culture and encourage more people to involve themselves in the agriculture sector.

At the launching ceremony near here, Badawi stressed that the government's focus on the agriculture was not a retrogressive move.

"I hope the assumption by certain groups that the prospect of the agriculture sector is less encouraging will be set aside and instead accepted and supported by all strata of society," said Badawi.

Agriculture, if properly planned, could be a new source of wealth and it has the potential to ensure sustainable economic growth, said the Prime Minister.

MNA/Xinhua



Super middleweight boxer Joe Calzaghe (R) fights American Jeff Lacy (L) in Manchester, England on 4 March, 2006. Britain's Calzaghe gave Lacy a relentless beating on his way to a unanimous points decision win that saw him crowned the world's best super-middleweight and ended Lacy's unbeaten record. —INTERNET

US CBO forecasts \$371b deficit in 2006

WASHINGTON, 4 March — The US budget deficit this year will hit 371 billion US dollars, up from an earlier estimate of 355 billion US dollars, the Congressional Budget Office estimated on Friday.

The likely increase was attributed mainly to additional funds requested by the Bush Administration for the US military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan, said the CBO, Congress' nonpartisan budget analyst.

CBO said that would put the fiscal 2006 budget deficit at 2.8 per cent of gross domestic product, compared with the 318 billion US dollars deficit last year that was 2.6 per cent of GDP.

For fiscal 2007, CBO said the Bush Administration's budget proposal would result in a deficit of 335 billion US dollars. But the agency said the Bush plan, now under consideration by the Senate and House of Representatives, only requested 50 billion US dollars to keep forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, which "may not be sufficient".

"If the pace of those operations continued at about this year's level, the deficit in 2007 would be in the vicinity of 355 billion US dollars, or 2.6 per cent of GDP," CBO said in its preliminary review of the Bush budget.— *MNA/Reuters*

BND admits agent works alongside US in Iraq

BERLIN, 4 March — The German foreign intelligence agency BND admitted here Friday that one of its agents worked alongside the US military at its operations command centre during the war, but it denied that its agents had passed on any information to the Americans.

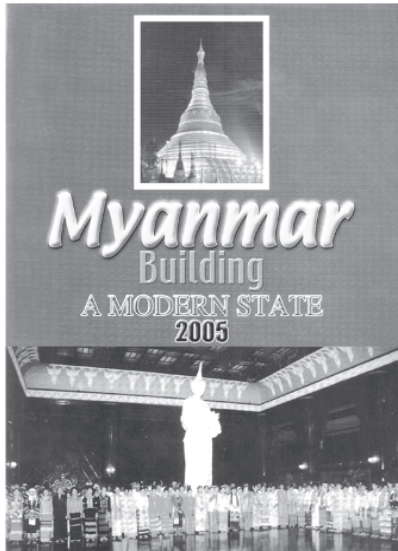
The admission came one day after the *New York Times* reported that from early 2003 through the American invasion of Iraq, a German intelligence officer stationed in the office of American commander Tommy R. Frank in Qatar and passed on to the United States information gathered in Baghdad by two German spies.

The BND confirmed the report that the German officer made 25 reports to the Americans, answering 18 of 33 specific requests for information made by the United States during the first few months of the Iraq war.

The agency said that the information relayed to the Americans always went through the BND headquarters in the southern German town of Pullach near Munich and had no relevant military value.

It said the decision to station an intelligence officer in Qatar from early 2003 through the invasion on March 20, 2003 was approved by the Gerhard Schroeder government.

The Times published a report on Monday that said two German intelligence agents in Baghdad obtained a copy of Saddam Hussein's plan to defend the Iraqi capital, and a German official passed the plan on to American commanders a month before the invasion in March 2003. — *MNA/Xinhua*



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လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း
ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၅ / ၂၀၀၆
၁၃၆၇ ခုနှစ်၊ တပေါင်းလဆန်း ၃ ရက်
(၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ ၁ ရက်)

၀။ အားကစားဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ အားကစားနှင့်ကာယပညာဦးစီးဌာနတွင် လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါရာထူးများအတွက်လျှောက်လွှာများအလို့ငှါခေါ်ယူခြင်း-

ရာထူး	ပညာအရည်အချင်း	လစ်လပ်
ဦးစီးအရာရှိ (မြို့နယ်)	တက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုခုမှ	၅၀ နေရာ

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည်-
(က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်၊
(ခ) ၂၈-၃-၂၀၀၆ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၃၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါက အသက် ၄၀ နှစ်) ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်၊
(ဂ) အနည်းဆုံး ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း အားကစား (အလွတ်တန်း) လက်ရွေးစင် ဖြစ်ပေးသူ ဖြစ်ရမည် (အားကစားနှင့်ကာယပညာဦးစီးဌာနမှ ထောက်ခံချက်ပေးတို့ တင်ပြရမည်)၊
(ဃ) မည်သည့် ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း ဒေသဆိုင်ရာအရာရှိတာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်နိုင်သူဖြစ်ရမည်၊
(င) ရွေးချယ်ခြင်းမခံရမီ အားကစားနှင့် ကြံ့ခိုင်သန်စွမ်းမှုစစ်ဆေးခံရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မရှင်သို့ ၂၈-၃-၂၀၀၆ နေ့ အရောက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၄။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့် စာရွက်စာတမ်းများ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၂၀၀/- ပေးသွင်းရမည့် နည်းလမ်း၊ ရေးဖြေနှုတ်ဖြေ စစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန် လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့် စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့က ကြေညာချက်အမှတ် ၀/၉၀ မြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးလေ့လာရေးအဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာခေါ်ယူသော ရာထူးများသို့ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများအတွက် လမ်းညွှန်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၅။ ရန်ကင်းမြို့နှင့်မန္တလေးမြို့များတွင် ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲ စာစစ်ဌာနများထားရှိမည်။ မိမိ ဖြေဆိုလိုသော စာစစ်ဌာနကို လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ရွေးလမ်း တိကျစွာဖော်ပြရမည်။

၆။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်း လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိ တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအကဲ မှတစ်ဆင့် ဝန်ကြီးဌာနအဖွဲ့အစည်းဖြင့် ရယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မရှင်သို့ ၂၈-၃-၂၀၀၆ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာ တစ်စောင်ကို မိမိတို့ပိုင်ဆိုင်ထား၍ ဤအဖွဲ့အစည်း တိုက်ရိုက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၇။ ၂၂-၄-၂၀၀၆ နေ့နှင့် ၂၃-၄-၂၀၀၆ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ် ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲ ကျင်းပမည်။ ၂၀-၄-၂၀၀၆ နေ့မှ စ၍ မန္တလေးတိုင်း အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် ဤအဖွဲ့အစည်းတွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့်ကတ်ပြားများကို ထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၈။ စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုပါက ဤအဖွဲ့အစည်း လူထုဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေး ဝန်ထမ်း (၃၃၀၆၃၃) သို့ ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

၉။ ဤကြော်ငြာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မရှင်၏ Website လိပ်စာ csstb.imis.com.mm တွင်လည်း ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။



This photo provided by Disney shows Jerry Rice, former NFL wide receiver and runner-up on the recent ABC-TV show 'Dancing with the Stars,' dancing with Minnie Mouse, on 4 March, 2006, at the Disney-MGM Studios in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. —Internet

Bomb explosion causes damages in S-W Iran

TEHERAN, 4 March — A bomb exploded late Thursday in the southwestern Iranian city of Ahvaz, causing damages but no casualties, the official IRNA news agency reported on Friday.

The explosion shattered windows of the buildings in the surrounding area, and "terrorist agents were behind the blast", the report said, revealing no details. IRNA also said that two people were hanged on Thursday after they had been proven behind two fatal bombing explosions in Ahvaz on January 24, which killed seven and injured nearly 90 others. Ahvaz is the capital city of Khuzestan, an oil-rich province bordering Iraq, and the province has become frequent target of bomb attacks since last June which Teheran blamed on the continuous provocation of some foreign countries. Khuzestan accounts for almost 90 per cent of Iran's nearly 132 billion barrels of proven oil reserve and most of the country's two million ethnic Arabs live in the province.— *MNA/Xinhua*

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွင့်လှစ်တိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ခုံ



The actual Oscar statues to be presented to winners at the 78th annual Academy Awards are displayed in cases near the Kodak Theatre, site of the award show, in Hollywood on 3 March, 2006. —INTERNET

China's 3G subscribers to grow 30 million every year

BEIJING, 4 March — The number of China's subscribers to third generation mobile communications (3G) is expected to increase by 30 million a year over the next four years.

Considering 3G's global momentum and the establishment of national standards, the Chinese Government is likely to issue its first 3G licence this year, according to a report released by the China Centre for Information Industry Development (CCID) on Thursday.

The year of 2006 is the initial stage for building 3G networks and

users will be mainly in big cities, the report read.

With the spread of 3G network construction, subscribers will grow rapidly over the next four years, it said.

The report predicted that 3G will have 2.12 million users this year in China and the number will hit 120 million in 2010.

As the country's largest mobile communications operator, China Mobile is most likely to get the 3G

licence based on the European-developed standard. Based on this assumption, the CCID predicted that WCDMA would take the lion's share of the market, estimated to be more than 60 per cent, in the early stages.

The proportion will drop gradually to 45 per cent in 2010, with the development of subscribers to the other two technologies TD-SCDMA and CDMA 2000, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Nearly 600 million Chinese suffer from passive smoking

BEIJING, 4 March — Shocked by the fact that nearly half of the country's 1.3 billion population are suffering from passive smoking, a Chinese lawmaker has called for a national legislation to ban smoking at all public places.

"According to my estimation based on a survey, nearly 600 million Chinese suffer from passive smoking, which occurs in 71 per cent of Chinese households, 32.5 per cent of public places and 25 per cent of working places," said Chen Guiyun, a deputy to the 10th National People's Congress (NPC), China's legislature, from the southwestern municipality of Chongqing.

China already has a whopping smoking population of 350 million aged above 15, or one of every three smokers in the world.

"It is imperative to create a no-smoking

social environment and enhance the self-protection awareness of non-smokers," said Chen.

According to the legislator, women and children in the country suffer most from secondhand smoking, as the survey showed the passive smoking ratio among the females was 57 per cent, and even as high as 70 per cent among professional women aged between 20 and 49.

"I have tabled a motion to the upcoming NPC session, suggesting the State Council (the Chinese Cabinet) formulate regulations on smoking ban in public places as early as possible," said Chen, who

is here for the annual full session of the NPC, slated to open here on Sunday.

When the conditions

are ripe, Chen said, the NPC should even enact a law on such a ban.

MNA/Xinhua

AOL to roll out free e-mail to non-profits

NEW YORK, 4 March — AOL, the Internet service provider unit of Time Warner Inc, on Friday said it will not charge legitimate not-for-profit organizations and advocacy groups to have their e-mail delivered to consumers.

The decision addresses an outcry from political and civic activist groups, which said AOL's plans to charge mass senders of e-mail a fee to reduce junk mail amounted to an "attack" on

the "free existence of online civic participation".

The company said that it is seeking to make it "crystal clear" that nonprofit groups would have all their e-mails delivered, including enabled Web-links and images, contrary to recent criticism in the media by advocacy groups.

MNA/Reuters



French singer Camille receives two awards, artist revelation on stage and revelation of album for le fil 'The Line' during the Victoires de la Musique, French Music Award, in Paris, on 4 March, 2006. INTERNET

Singapore to build next generation infocomm highway

SINGAPORE, 4 March — Singapore plans to build a new ultra fast-speed National Broadband Network by 2012, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts Lee Boon Yang said in Parliament on Friday.

According to Channel NewsAsia report, the proposed network will be made up of two parts, including a wired network linking businesses, schools, hospitals and homes, as well as a wireless network covering major areas of the city state.

With expected Internet connection speeds of 100 megabytes to one gigabytes per second, the wired network will be open to all service providers and

reach 85 per cent of households in the country.

Inviting the private sector to work with the government in the project, Lee said that 50 per cent of the network will be finished within three years while the whole network be put into operation by 2012.

The wireless broadband network services at affordable rates are expected to be rolled out by the end of this year, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua

HK wins "Asian City of The Future"

HONG KONG, 4 March — Hong Kong was selected as the overall winner of "Asian City of the Future 2005/06" in a competition organized by fDi Magazine, which is under the Financial Times Business group, said Hong Kong Government on Friday.

The influential magazine in the investment world invited more than 60 cities and regions to participate in the competition. The panel of judges was comprised of fDi's editorial team and business executives based in the Asia Pacific Region.

MNA/Xinhua



Wild ducks fly in the Albufera's Natural Park near the Village of Alcudia on the Spanish Island of Mallorca, on 3 March, 2006. Spain will be particularly exposed to possible cases of bird flu in migrating birds returning from Africa in the coming weeks, but there are no confirmed cases yet. —INTERNET

SPORTS

West Ham draw Everton 2-2

LONDON, 5 March— James Beattie scored lobbed in a clever finish with 19 minutes left to seal Everton a 2-2 draw with West Ham on Saturday.

Marlon Harewood's low finish put West Ham ahead after 10 minutes, but Leon Osman's powerful shot put Everton level eight minutes later.

Dean Ashton's angled drive quickly restored West Ham's lead, but Beattie earned Everton a deserved draw.

Everton, who had Tony Hibbert and Phil Neville back after suspension, started brightly but fell behind after only 10 minutes.

Harewood rounded off a slick passing move involving Yossi Benayoun and Ashton to beat on-loan keeper Sander Westerveld with a low finish from 18 yards.

Everton were quickly on terms with another fine goal, James McFadden and Mikel Arteta combining for Osman to strike a rising drive past Shaka Hislop.

But in an entertaining encounter, they were only level for five minutes before Ashton restored West Ham's lead in impressive fashion.—MNA/Xinhua



Hamburg's soccer players Mehdi Mahdavia from Iran, Bastian Reinhardt, Thimothée Atubo from Cameroon, Dutch Khalid Boulahrouz, Dutch Nigel de Jong and Dutch Raphael van der Vaart, left to right, dance and celebrate after the German first soccer division match between Bayern Munich and Hamburger SV in Munich's Allianz Arena, southern Germany, on 4 March, 2006. Hamburg won the match 2-1.—INTERNET

Aston Villa beat Portsmouth 1-0

LONDON, 5 March— Milan Baros scored his tenth goal of the season to give Aston Villa a 1-0 win over Portsmouth on Saturday.

Pompey boss Harry Redknapp watched in horror as his defence failed to mark Baros from a James Milner free-kick and the striker headed home on 36 minutes.

The goal condemned hapless Portsmouth to a ninth straight away defeat.

Lomana LuaLua was Pompey's only threat in attack and he set up Gary O'Neil for a strike which was well saved by Thomas Sorensen shortly after the break.

But Villa deservedly held on, leaving Pompey still eight points from safety.

With Aston Villa's injury-hit defence and Portsmouth's woeful away record, the game always promised to be open and so it proved in the first half.

David O'Leary's defensive woes were evident in his team selection, the Villa boss springing a surprise by rushing Wilfred Bouma back into the side after three months out with a knee injury.

However, the hosts, and in particular Kevin Phillips, were sharp in attack and it was Phillips who had the game's first clear chance.

The striker, restored to the starting line-up at the expense of Juan Pablo Angel, was sent clear by Steven Davis' superb through-ball but Dean Kiely was quick to see the danger and blocked the shot.—MNA/Xinhua

In-form Inzaghi grabs double as Milan beat Empoli 3-0

ROME, 5 March— AC Milan striker Filippo Inzaghi continued his excellent run of form as he struck twice in a 3-0 win over relegation-threatened Empoli in Serie A on Saturday.

Inzaghi's goals, taking his tally to seven in his last five league games, and Andriy Shevchenko's strike gave second-placed Milan 63 points from 28 matches, seven points behind leaders Juventus,

who play Sampdoria later on Saturday (1930 GMT).

Milan, aiming for a fifth Serie A win in a row, had dropped just two points at the San Siro all season but initially struggled to break down a well-organized defence in an even first half.

Alessandro Costacurta came closest to giving them the lead when he hit the post on the half hour mark.—MNA/Reuters



Moto GP World motorcycling champion Valentino Rossi of Italy takes a curve on his Yamaha during a testing session in Montmelo, near Barcelona, Spain, on 4 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Riquelme leads Villarreal to 3-2 comeback win over Alaves

MADRID, 5 March— Argentine playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme turned in an inspired performance with two goals to lead Villarreal to a 3-2 comeback win at home to struggling Alaves in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

Alaves took the lead against the run of play when Australian striker John Aloisi volleyed home at the far post after some great work by Rodolfo Bodipo on the left in the 11th minute. But Riquelme put Villarreal back on level terms nine minutes later when his in-swinging corner caught Alaves keeper Franco Costanzo off guard.

Midfielder Enrique de Lucas restored the Alaves

lead when he fired the ball under keeper Sebastian Viera after defender Juanito had slipped a brilliant through ball behind the Villarreal back four.

Riquelme struck once again midway through the second half when he popped up unmarked at the far post after substitute striker Guillermo Franco had skewed a headed into his path following a corner.

Franco then headed

home a fine cross from Hector Font seven minutes from time to earn Villarreal a deserved win that will give them a valuable boost ahead of next week's Champions League game against Rangers. After a week of upheaval at Real Madrid with the resignation of president Florentino Perez, the players will be under pressure to produce the goods later against rejuvenated city rivals Atletico Madrid who have won six matches in a row.

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea beat West Brom as tempers flare

LONDON, 5 March— Goals from Didier Drogba and Joe Cole gave Premier League leaders Chelsea a 2-1 victory over West Bromwich Albion in a bad-tempered Hawthorns clash on Saturday.

Drogba punished some half-hearted defending shortly after halftime to drill a low shot past Tomasz Kuszczak and Cole wrapped up the points with a close-range effort 10 minutes after replacing Damien Duff.

Substitute Nwankwo Kanu gave West Brom a lifeline with three minutes remaining but Chelsea hung on to move 18 points clear at the top before Saturday's later matches.

In between their goals, Chelsea winger Arjen Robben was shown a straight red card for a reckless lunge on Jonathan Greening — a decision met with sarcastic applause towards referee Mark Halsey by Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho. "It should have been a yellow card not a red, I didn't think it was two-footed," Chelsea

captain John Terry told Sky Sports.

The England defender also explained the late appearance of Chelsea's players for the start of the second half, an incident that provoked the first of several slanging matches between Mourinho and West Brom manager Bryan Robson.

"We got a bit of a telling off at halftime," Terry said. "We got a bit of a kick up the backside."

Mourinho also exchanged angry words with Robson after Drogba made a meal of challenge by Greening and the two managers did not shake hands at the final whistle. "Drogba just dives about all the time, he tried to get Jonathan Greening sent off. My player never touched him and yet he's rolling about feigning injury," said Robson.—MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

1	F	R	A	N	C	8	8	4	O	U	G	H	T						
	I	S	V	S	O	8	S	8	R	8	A	8	H						
9	G	H	E	R	K	I	N	8	D	I	R	G	E						
	S	U	R	E			I	I	B	B									
11	R	A	T	E			P	A	N	C	A	K	E						
	E						H	U	E	A	G	S							
							J	A	V	A									
										R	E	E	L						
17	C	R	N				M	A	Y				S						
20	A	B	R	I	D	G	E			21	L	O	T						
	C	A	I	C						22	F	O	I						
24	T	O	N	I	C					25	C	U	L	P	R	I	T		
	U	G	A								A	A	N	C					
26	S	L	E	E	P	Y	8	8						27	T	E	A	C	H

Hewitt reaches Vegas final

LAS VEGAS, 5 March— Top seed Lleyton Hewitt advanced to the final of the Tennis Channel Open on Saturday with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-0 win over Paul Goldstein.

The world number 10 struggled to get to grips with American Goldstein's constant change of pace in the first set and was broken four times.

"I couldn't put in first serves and was double faulting," said Hewitt. "He puts a lot of pressure on anyone's service games. He has a good compact return."

Hewitt dug in in the second set, playing further inside the baseline and ripping his return of serves. Goldstein grew extremely erratic, while Hewitt consistently hit the lines.

"He wasn't making a lot of easy mistakes so I tried to put more pressure on him and I was able to do that," said Hewitt.—MNA/Reuters



Anna-Lena Groenefeld (R) of Germany holds her winning trophy as Flavia Pennetta of Italy holds her runner-up trophy after the women's singles final at the Mexican Open tennis tournament in Acapulco, on 4 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Finns to test mobile phone radiation on human skin

HELSINKI, 5 March — Finland's radiation watchdog is to study the effects of mobile phones on human proteins by direct tests on people's skin, to see if handset transmissions affect their health.

A pilot study, to be conducted next week, will expose a small area of skin on volunteers' arms to cellphone radiation for the duration of a long phone



Runoff from days of heavy rains spills out of a river into the ocean on 4 March, 2006, on the Windward side of Oahu, Hawaii. —INTERNET

call, or for one hour, research professor Dariusz Leszczynski said on Friday.

Researchers will then take a skin sample to study and compare with one taken before the radiation exposure, he told Reuters.

Cell samples used in previous laboratory tests by the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority were all from women, and to keep consistency in the data, 10 female volunteers will be used in the new study — all of them employees at the watchdog.

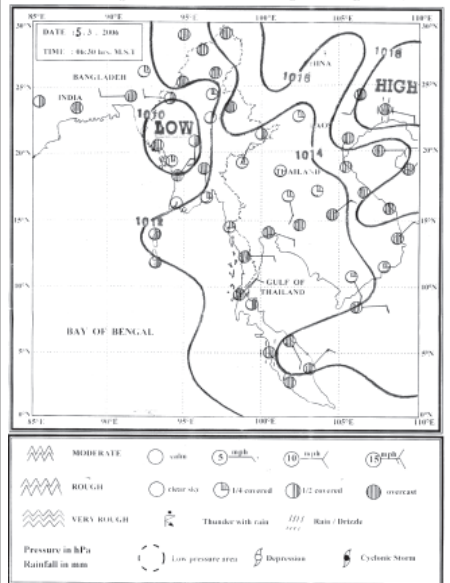
In previous tests, Leszczynski's group found evidence of mobile phone radiation causing cell-level changes such as shrinkage, but he said it was still impossible to say if that had significant health effects.

"Cells function in a different way when they are in the body than in laboratory surroundings. Now we want to confirm whether radiation causes cell level changes in humans as well," he said.

The results of the study are due by the end of the year, and Leszczynski's team hopes to show if radiation has any impact on the body's natural barrier that prevents toxins and other dangerous proteins that might be in the bloodstream from reaching brain cells.

Some researchers suspect brain cancer has become more common as a result of cellphone use, but there is no clear evidence to support that, Leszczynski said. "If harmful proteins get through to the brain, it could have an indirect link with cancer, but this is pure speculation," he added. Finland, home to top global mobile maker Nokia, has one of the most mature telecom markets in the world, with almost everyone having a mobile handset. — MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 5 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Aunglan (39°C).

Maximum temperature on 4-3-2006 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 5-3-2006 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 5-3-2006 was (73%). Total sunshine hours on 4-3-2006 was (8.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 5-3-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 4-3-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 6-3-2006: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Chin and Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Pyinmana and neighbouring area for 6-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-3-2006: Partly cloudy.



Monday, 6 March
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုဗ္ဗ၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- Song of national races

8:00 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

- Cute little dancers

8:20 am

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:25 am

- ကျောက်တစ်လုံးရေကုရေလှောင်တစ်

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Grammar Made Easy

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- Practice in Reading

4:40 pm

- တစ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၃) ခုနှစ်

4:50 pm

- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြုများ) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)

5:05 pm

- Musical programme

5:15 pm

- Dance variety

5:25 pm

- မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:35 pm

- Song and dance of national races

5:45 pm

- ဆွေမျိုးတော်ပေမယ့် ခုရဲမျိုး တင်လင်း၊ ဆောင်း၊ အိန္ဒြေကွန်း၊ ဗေဒ၊ (ဒါရိုက်တာ သက်တင်)

5:50 pm

- Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရယ်ရွှင်ဆော့ပြောမုရွက်ဆိတ်လေး" (အပိုင်း ၆၉)

6:55 pm

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:10 pm

- (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက် တစ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

7:25 pm

- Industrial achievement

7:35 pm

- Musical programme

8:00 pm

- News

8:15 pm

- International news

8:30 pm

- Weather report

8:45 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ပျော်ရွှင်ဖွယ်နေ့လေးများ" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)

8:55 pm

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာ ဓမ္မဇ္ဇာဘာဝနာ ဖွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

9:00 pm

- The next day's programme



Monday, 6 March
Tune in today

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: -Why oh Why
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: -Hold on
- 8.50 am National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -What is gonna be
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:20 am Music: -It is not supposed to be that way
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music -Save a prayer -Love for all seasons
- 9:00 pm Spotlight on the star
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Radio Magazine Drugs Elimination Women's Affairs
- 9:35 pm Vocal Gems/ Golden Land's melody -Mawlamyine
- 9:45 pm News & Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL

Preparations for construction of railroad to link Okposu Station and University of East Yangon

YANGON, 5 March — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than, arrived at Okposu Station this morning to inspect the axis for the railroad to link Okposu Station in Thanlyin Township to University of East Yangon (Thanlyin) and the place for construction of the railway station.

Senior Engineer (Civil) U Htay Aung of Myanmar Railways Division-7 reported on construction of the railroad.

The minister oversaw the site for the railway station. General Manager (Civil) U Thi Han briefed the minister on completion of earth work



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects the place for the axis of railroad and railway station in Thanlyin Township. — RAILWAYS

for the railroad axis and arrangements for building the railway station.

Managing Director

U Hla Yi of Road Transport, General Manager U Hla Yi of Myanmar Railways and officials

reported to the minister on passenger transport service from Hlawga Station, and the railroad extending

Objectives of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day

- * To work in concert with the people for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic new nation
- * To strive for successful realization of the seven-point policy programme of the State
- * To crush every danger posed to the State hand in hand with people
- * To build a strong, capable and modern Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes

to University of Computer Studies.

The minister and the deputy minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister

explained functions of the Ministry of Rail Transportation to officials of Myanmar Railways, and Road Transport. — MNA

Energy Minister inspects burning of gas at Mya test well No 1

YANGON, 5 March — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, accompanied by officials of Daewoo E&P Myanmar Co, this morning inspected burning of natural gas at Mya Test Well No 1 at A-3 Block of Rakhine offshore.

At the briefing hall of Nan Hai-II drilling platform, Managing Director Dr SY Yeong of Daewoo E&P Myanmar Co reported on successful drilling of natural gas at Mya test well No 1, the comparison of natural gas deposits between Blocks A-1 and A-3, arrangements for selling natural gas from the deposits, prospects of natural gas exploration at Block A-3, and future tasks.

The minister discussed prospects of selling natural gas from three natural gas deposits to neighbouring countries through pipelines, and construction of Liquefied Natural Gas Plant. Next, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of drilling the test wells at two geographical structures.

The minister and officials of the Ministry of Energy held a discussion on future tasks. Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi presented a fruit basket to

foreign technicians and Myanmar employees.

The minister and party visited the Nan Hai drilling platform and burning of natural gas at Mya test well No 1.

Block A-3 is located beside Block A-1 of Shwe natural gas deposit at Rakhine offshore. According to the feasibility studies, it is estimated that there are 2 trillion cubic-feet of natural gas at Mya natural gas deposit. Furthermore, there will be more natural gas deposits in Block A-3 area.

MNA

According to the feasibility studies, it is estimated that there are 2 trillion cubic-feet of natural gas at Mya natural gas deposit. Furthermore, there will be more natural gas deposits in Block A-3 area.

INSIDE

Sea turtles consume red algae that makes sea water toxic and causes red tide. Their consumption of red algae prevents red tide to an extent. So, sea turtles play an important role in the marine ecosystem, and they are flagship species. Sea turtles are very beneficial to new generations.



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and party inspect burning of natural gas at Block A-3 of Rakhine offshore. — ENERGY