

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 325

9th Waxing of Taboung 1367 ME

Tuesday, 7 March, 2006

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects overflowing wells in Ayadaw Township as residents in Myenat Village-tract fetch water. —MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects physic nut plantations, road and bridge construction, overflowing wells in Ayadaw Township

Overflowing wells contribute to rural water supply

YANGON, 6 March — Member of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence arrived at the construction site of the Union Highway, a road section between Monywa Home for the Aged and Kyweyan Junction.

At the briefing hall, Director U Khin Maung

Swe reported on construction progress of the road, building of two bridges out of the five and plans to tar the road. Sagaing Division PDC Chairman North West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave a supplementary report. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected tarring of road section between Station Road and Kyaukka Road in Monywa on the Union

Highway. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the physic nut plantation in Ayadaw township where Township PDC Chairman U Mya Ngwe reported on growing of 8,400 physic nut plants on 5-acre land. Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed the thriving plantation.

On arrival at Ayadaw Station, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports by Lt-Col Aung Min on growing of 50 acres of physic nut grafts and nurturing of one acre of physic nut nurseries and collecting of 100,000 grafts and 153,000 seeds. He then gave necessary instructions and inspected the plantations. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected a two-inch overflowing well with a capacity of 1800 gallons of water

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects storage of water at a pond in Myenat village, Ayadaw Township. —MNA

Overflowing well No 1 in Myenat village-tract in Ayadaw Township produces 22,500 gallons of water per hour. Sagaing Division Water Resources Utilization Department has undertaken eight overflowing wells and it plans to do more. Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed farmers to carry out water supply tasks for crops cultivation.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 7 March, 2006

Give priority to conservation of environment

Environment is very important for the existence of all living things. Therefore, it is necessary to protect and conserve our natural environment in order that it is suitable for human beings to live.

Nowadays, the world is experiencing deterioration of natural environment such as deforestation, desertification, deterioration of soil quality and depletion of water sources on earth. Moreover, the air and the oceans are being polluted and forests and biodiversity adversely affected. Therefore, all the nations in the world are taking various measures to prevent the deterioration of natural environment. Myanmar has had a fine tradition of conserving natural environment for a long time. Lush and green scenes of rural and urban areas reflect the love for conservation of Myanmar people.

In accordance with the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on conservation of forests and natural environment, the plan for greening nine districts in central Myanmar has been implemented since 1994. Now the plan has been extended up to 13 districts. As a result, most of the central part of Myanmar is now lush and green.

The government is building dams and river water pumping stations and at the same time it is sinking tube wells and tapping underground water across the nation. This contributes not only to boosting production of the agriculture sector but also to the greening work. Local authorities and people are accelerating the work on planting trees and extension of cultivation in watershed areas and conservation of forests, biodiversity and endangered species. Moreover, flora and fauna are protected through promulgation of relevant laws.

Farourable climate depends on forests. Therefore, planting trees and conserving forests regulate the climate. While the government is carrying out natural environment conservation work for the long-term interests of human beings, we would like to call on the entire people to fully cooperate with the government in the drive.

Special Appellate Bench hears cases

YANGON, 6 March — The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Yangon) U Thein Soe, Supreme Court Judges Dr Tin Aung Aye and U Tin Aye sitting at Court room No 1 this morning, heard four Special Civil Appeal Cases under Section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000.—MNA

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

Wellwishers donate cash to build refectory

YANGON, 6 March — Wellwishers donated over K 17.9 million to Bombay Monastery in Tamwe Township to build a two-storey refectory in the compound of the monastery.

At the cash donation ceremony held on 2 March at the monastery, Adviser to the Ministry of Religious Affairs U Arnt Maung accepted the cash donations.

Daw Khin Ohn Myint of Saya San Ward,

Bahan Township, donated K 17 million; Agga Maha Thiri Thudamma Theingi Daw Than Htay K 300,000; Thiri Thudamma Theingi Daw Khin Nann Mon K 200,000; Agga Maha Thiri Thudamma Manijotadhara U Kyaw Min K 100,000; Thiri Thudamma Theingi Daw Aye Mya Nwe K 100,000; Thiha Thudamma Theingi Daw Win Htay (a) Daw

Ma Nge K 100,000; U Hla Myint of Hsinmin Ice Factory K 120,000

and Thudamma Daw Nu Nu Nge K 100,000.

MNA



Sanatan Dhamma Palaka Organization holds ceremony at Mahatma Gandhi Hall in Yangon, to honour its patrons and to celebrate the centennial birthday of Shri Guru. — H



Winners in ASEAN radio quiz of Myanma Radio and Television. — MNA

Prizes distributed to ASEAN radio quiz winners

YANGON, 6 March — An ASEAN radio quiz took place at Myanma Radio and Television on 1 March. Maung Thein Htaik Aung stood first, Maung Kyaw Zeya second and Maung Di Di Hsai Aung third in the contest. Maung Myo Min Aung won a consolation prize in the contest.

Interested persons regardless of age and qualification may contact MRTV on Pyay Road.—MNA

CPT seals championship trophy after victory over Electric Power on penalties in First Division Closing Cup for 2005-2006

YANGON, 6 March — Communications Posts and Telegraphs Ministry team carried off the championship trophy after defeating Electric Power Ministry team with a 7-6 on penalties in the First Division Closing Cup for 2005-2006 on Padonma Sports Grounds at 3.30 pm today.

Aye Chan Htet Aung- 2, Ye Mon Paul-

1, Thu Naung-1, Dewa Gonman-1, Thiha Zaw-1, Soe Thein- 1 for CPT.

Ye Lin Tun-2, Aung Tha Mway-1, Aung Ko Ko Than-1, Win Htwe-1 Zaw Min Tun-1 for EP. Referee: U Win Cho.

Both teams set up the final match in full swing to be able to win the championship trophy and were held to a draw in full time. Both teams could not break the dead-

lock in extra 30 minutes. The two teams shot penalty spots and CPT won over Electric Power.

Ye Mon Paul scored the opening for CPT in 8th minute into the first half but Aung Tha Mway took the equalizer in 34th minute. Two minutes later CPT striker Thu Naung added second to extend their lead and the match ended with a 2-1 in the first half.

On the stroke of the second half, both teams set up several see-saw attacks. Electric Power Aung Ko Ko Than levelled the match in 14th minute and the result remained unchanged until the match was up.

As a result they continued the match in an extra time of 30 minutes. Ye Lin Tun shot third at 5th minute to put Electric Power back in front. After conceding a goal, CPT geared up its attacking speed and Aye Chan Htet Aung leveled the match from a corner at 18th minute.

The match ended with a 3-3 draw. Both teams shot five penalty kicks each.

After the final match, officials presented cash prizes to the winning teams. — MNA



CPT win championship trophy in First Division. — MNA

Donate blood

China to spend 14% more in building "new countryside"



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao gestures during his speech at the opening session of the National People's Congress in Beijing's Great Hall of the People on March 5, 2006. INTERNET

BEIJING, 5 March — The Chinese Government will spend 339.7 billion yuan (42 billion US dollars) in agriculture, rural areas and farmers this year, which is 42.2 billion yuan, or 14.18 per cent,

more than last year, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Sunday.

The target, along with plans to shift the government's priority in infrastructure investment to the countryside, to completely rescind agricultural tax and to increase input in rural education and medical care, signifies the drive to "build a socialist new countryside" will unravel in all fronts this year, observers say.

"We need to implement a policy of getting industry to support agriculture and cities to support the countryside, strengthen support for agriculture, rural areas and farmers, and continue making reforms in rural systems and innovations in rural

institutions to bring about a rapid and significant change in the overall appearance of the countryside," Wen said in a report on the work of the government at the annual session of the national legislature.

To build the "new countryside", the Central

Committee of the Communist Party of China has set objectives including "enhanced productive forces, higher living standards, civilized living style, an orderly and clean environment, and democratic administration".

MNA/Xinhua



Passengers watch live coverage of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao making his speech at the opening session of the National People's Congress, on a screen at Beijing Railway Station, on 5 March, 2006. —INTERNET

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Paraguay rejects US accusation of police protecting drug trafficking

BUENOS AIRES, 5 March — The Paraguayan Government demanded on Friday that the United States prove its accusation that Paraguayan police were protecting drug traffickers.

Paraguayan Interior Minister Rogelio Benitez told reporters that it was very dangerous to accuse people without providing evidence, according to reports from Asuncion, capital of Paraguay.

The remarks were directed at Gregory Beloney, the local chief of the US Drug Enforcement Administration working at the US Embassy in Asuncion, who was referred to by Benitez as the source of the allegations.

The US Embassy in Paraguay said in its annual report, published on Wednesday, that Paraguay suffered from police corruption and an inefficient justice system, both of which had a hand in helping drug trafficking.—MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb kills two Iraqis

BAGHDAD, 5 March — A car bomb targeting a police patrol went off south of Baghdad on Saturday, killing two civilians and wounding three policemen, an

Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

"A car bomb detonated near a fuel station in Salman Pak Town, 30 kilometres south of Baghdad, at 10:35 a.m. (0735 GMT) while a police patrol was passing by," the source said on condition of anonymity.

The blast damaged a police vehicle and several civilian cars queuing outside the fuel station, he added.

Earlier, another car bomb ripped through a minibus station in the southeastern suburb of Baghdad, killing seven people and injuring 20 others, the source said.

MNA/Xinhua

Mosquito-borne epidemic kills 93 in Reunion

PARIS, 5 March — The mosquito-borne disease known as chikungunya has left 93 dead and infected almost a quarter of the population on the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion, French Health Minister Xavier Bertrand said on Friday.

A total of 186,000 people out of the 777,000 population in the Reunion have fallen sick with the disease, said Bertrand.

The word Chikungunya derives from a Swahili word, meaning "that which bends up" because of its arthritic-type symptoms that leave victims stooped. The disease is generally non-fatal and patients eventually recover, although much about it remains unclear. — MNA/Xinhua



Aedes Albopictus mosquito which transmits the chikungunya virus. Madagascan health officials said the island had recorded its first cases of a disabling mosquito-borne disease that has claimed 93 lives on the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion. INTERNET

Grenade blast kills two Pakistani girls

QUETTA (Pakistan), 5 March — An unknown attacker threw a grenade on a street in the Pakistani town of Quetta on Friday, killing two girls playing there, police said.

Three children playing on the street in the capital of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province were wounded in the attack, whose motive was not known, police said.

MNA/Reuters

Zambia plants chilli to avoid elephant invasion

LUSAKA, 5 March — Stories of elephants invading people and destroying their crops have been the order of day in most rural parts of Zambia for years, but now they have found that chilli good remedy for ending this, reported Times of Zambia on Saturday.

People in Central Province are now adopting the chilli cultivation as one of their cash crops, the newspaper reported.

A community relations coordinator said they started to plant chilli last September and found the chilli growing is an effective barrier to elephants as the beasts are scared of smell of the crop.

The other way to keep them away is boiling the chilli, adding a bit of cooking oil and soaking a rope in the solution for a day. The rope can then be hung around the field to ensure elephants never cross the field.

If the chilli growing magic works, the crop would be planted around all the national parks as a way of caging the massive wild animals, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

Weisz blossoms with win for 'Gardener'

Clooney wins first Oscar for performance in 'Syriana'

LOS ANGELES, 6 March — Rachel Weisz won her first Academy Award on Sunday for her performance as an impassioned activist who dies under mysterious circumstances in "The Constant Gardener."

Earlier, George Clooney won best supporting actor at the 78th Academy Awards for his performance as a CIA man who starts unraveling the truth in the political thriller "Syriana."

Clooney, who also was nominated for best director and best original screenplay for "Good Night, and Good Luck," acknowledged critics who accuse the film industry of being out of touch with the American mainstream — but he said, "It's probably a good thing."

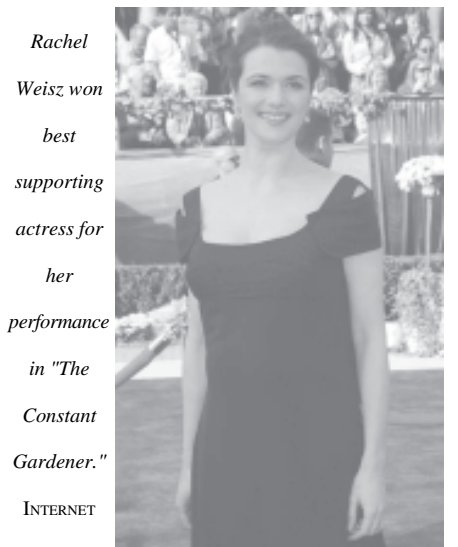
"We're the ones who were talking about AIDS when it was just being whispered, and we talked about civil rights when it wasn't really popular ... I'm proud to be a part of this academy, proud to be a part of this community and proud to be out of touch," he said. (Watch how Middle America feels cut off from Hollywood —2:50)

"Syriana," which explores the intermingling of oil and politics in the Middle East, is one of several films with social and political overtones among this year's nominees. First-time Oscar nominee Matt Dillon said the five movies up for best picture this year reflect audiences' desire for "authenticity."

"I think audiences are into authenticity at this point," said Dillon, nominated for best supporting actor for

his role in "Crash" on his way down the Red Carpet into the Kodak Theatre for tonight's ceremony.

"They are interested in films that are very specific, in things that are trying to look at things that are not usually addressed in films," he told CNN.—Internet



Rachel Weisz won best supporting actress for her performance in "The Constant Gardener." INTERNET

Chinese lawmaker promotes "edible" toothpick at Parlt session

BEIJING, 5 March — When Nan Shunji brought a lot of toothpicks made in her hometown to the annual session of China's top legislature, she meant to promote a concept of environment-friendly consumption.

The toothpicks of the deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) are special not only in colour, but also in raw material. They were made of corn flour instead of bamboo or wood.

The lawmaker from Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture in Northeast China's Jilin Province, said she will share the new product with her fellow deputies, hoping they can help bolster environmental protection.

Following her call for a ban on disposable wood

chopsticks at NPC's annual session last year, she is focusing on wood toothpicks this time, Nan said.

"We have wasted a lot of natural resources at our dinner tables," Nan, board chairwoman of a local paper mill, said.

The deputy said that 1.6 million cubic metres of wood and 1.4 million tons of bamboo are used each year to make toothpicks in China.

A ban on wood and bamboo toothpicks, she said, can not only save natural resources, but also

help curb pollution, as the bleaching procedure in making wood or bamboo toothpicks inevitably produces pollutants.

Corn flour can avoid such pollution, she said.

A survey showed that in China, 66.5 per cent of adults use toothpicks after meal, and the country consumes about 200 billion toothpicks a year.

Toothpicks made of corn flour are "edible", and used ones can either be saved for feedstuff or buried in soil, which are easily degradable, she said.—MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese military band conductor prepares to perform before the opening ceremony of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in China's capital of Beijing on 5 March, 2006. —INTERNET



A dead hump-backed whale is washed up Nieuwpoort's beach, northern Belgium on 5 March, 2006. The 10-metre (33 feet) long and 3 tonne whale was discovered dead in the Northsea on Saturday.—INTERNET

Study shows most US rivers polluted by pesticides

WASHINGTON, 5 March — A US Geological Survey (USGS) study found that pesticides contaminated almost all rivers and streams of the United States between 1992 and 2001, but below concentrations that affect human health.

The study released on Friday said that pesticides were found less commonly in groundwater.

However, in many streams, particularly those draining into urban and agricultural areas, pesticides were found at levels that could affect aquatic life or fish-eating wildlife. Pesticides are linked to cancer, birth defects and neurological disorders, the study noted.

"While the use of pesticides has resulted in a wide range of benefits

to control weeds, insects and other pests, including increased food production and reduction of insect-borne disease, their use also raises questions about possible effects on the environment, including water quality," said Robert Hirsch, the USGS associate director for water.—MNA/Xinhua

Snowfall blocks expressway sections in N-E China province

SHENYANG, 5 March — A snowfall hit northeast China's Liaoning Province Saturday, blocking some expressway sections.

Parts of the expressway connecting Beijing and northeast China's Liaoning Province were forced to close down, according to the provincial communications department. Other expressways in the province were also affected and some closed down due to low visibility.

The provincial meteorological observatory issued yellow snowfall alarming signal on Saturday morning to inform people of the snowfall effects on daily life. The yellow snowfall alarming is the slightest in the snowfall alarming system consisting of three colours: red, orange and yellow. Among them, red alarming represents the most serious influences upon the people.

MNA/Xinhua

Study predicts rise in overweight children

LONDON, 5 March— The number of overweight children worldwide will increase significantly by the end of the decade, and scientists expect profound impacts on everything from public health care to economies, a study published on Monday said.

Nearly half of the children in North and South America will be overweight by 2010, up from what recent studies say is about one-third, according to a report published by the International Journal of Pediatric Obesity.

In the European Union, about 38 per cent of all children will be overweight if present trends continue — up from about 25 per cent in recent surveys, the study

said. "We have truly a global epidemic which appears to be affecting most countries in the world," said Dr Philip James, chairman of the International Obesity Task Force and author of an editorial in the journal warning of the trend.

The percentages of overweight children also are expected to increase significantly in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Mexico, Chile, Brazil and Egypt have rates

comparable to fully industrialized nations, James said.

He estimated that, for example, one in five children in China will be overweight by 2010. "They're being bombarded like they are in the West to eat all the wrong foods. The Western world's food industries without even realizing it have precipitated an epidemic with enormous health consequences," he said.—Internet

Overweight kids may burden health care

The rate of overweight children is estimated to increase around the world, raising concerns of its impact on health care systems. Overweight children tend to carry the problem into adulthood.

Percentage of overweight children in the European Union* (Ages 5 through 16) Boys Girls

Spain	41.4	Hungary	31.5
Italy	30.8	Greece	32.9
Belgium	27.5	Finland	30.8
Denmark	26.9	Poland	28.6
France	23.7	Sweden	28.7
Germany	23	Portugal	26.1

Graphic compares overweight and obesity levels of children by European country. —INTERNET



George Clooney poses with his best supporting actor Oscar during the 78th Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California. Clooney won the award for his role in "Syriana". INTERNET

Azerbaijan confirms first case of H5N1 bird flu

Moscow, 5 March — Azerbaijan on Friday confirmed the first case of the deadly H5N1 bird flu on a poultry farm.

"We are taking all measures to fight against bird flu in the affected area of Gilyazi as well as its environs where a complete quarantine has been imposed," Agriculture Minister Ismet Abbasov told reporters.

Wild birds had been found to be infected with the H5N1 strain early last month in Azerbaijan, but this was the first case in domestic fowl.

MNA/Xinhua

Thousands of Japanese protest against US military relocation plan

TOKYO, 6 March — Tens of thousands of people protested against a US military realignment plan on Sunday in Okinawa of southern Japan, *Kyodo News* reported.

According to organizers, an estimated 35,000 protesters joined the two-hour rally in Ginowan, Okinawa prefecture, urging the immediate closure of the US Marine Corps Futenma Air Station in the city and its relocation outside Okinawa.

"The city of Ginowan strongly demands that Futenma, the world's most dangerous base, be shut down immediately and relocated outside of Japan," *Kyodo* quoted Ginowan Mayor Yoichi Iha as saying.

In October, Tokyo and Washington approved a realignment plan of US troops in Japan, under which the Futenma Air Station's function is to be moved from Ginowan to Camp Schwab in Nago, which is also in Okinawa.

Okinawa hosts a large part of the 50,000 US troops stationed in

Japan.

Local residents have long complained about noise, social problems and crimes associated with the bases.

The participants adopted a resolution at the end of the gathering, demanding that the Japanese Government respect local opinions against

the relocation and realignment plans.

Last Sunday, an estimated 8,000 people in Kanoya, southern prefecture of Kagoshima protested against a possible military transfer plan, under which the Futenma Air Station in Okinawa might be moved to Kanoya.

MNA/Xinhua



Russians storm a snow castle as they take part in 'Maslentsa' celebrations, 50 km (31 miles) north of Moscow, on 5 March, 2006. Russians on Sunday mark the end of Shrovetide festivities.—INTERNET



More than 30,000 people stage a rally against plans to relocate a US air base to another area on the island, demanding that the facility be moved outside the country, in Ginowan city, Japan's southern Okinawa island, on 5 March, 2006. A placard, partly seen foreground, read: 'Oppose the relocation plan'.

INTERNET

Britain, US to withdraw Iraq forces by early '07

LONDON, 5 March—The United States and Britain are planning to pull all their troops out of Iraq by the spring of 2007, two British newspapers reported in their Sunday editions, quoting unnamed senior Defence Ministry sources.

The Sunday Telegraph said the planned pull-out followed an acceptance by the two governments that the presence of foreign troops in Iraq was now a large obstacle to securing peace.

"The British Government is understood to be the driving force behind the withdrawal plan but all 24 coalition members are likely to welcome the move, given the growing international unpopularity of the war," the *Telegraph* said.

The Bush Administration and Pentagon have stated repeatedly there is no timetable for withdrawing troops from Iraq, and a US military spokesman repeated that on Saturday.—MNA/Reuters

Motor industry displays several shades of green at Geneva Show

GENEVA, 5 March —The motor industry is going green but two sides to the coin are on display at the Geneva Motor Show until 12 March.

On the one hand, more environmentally-conscious cars with greater fuel efficiency are the rage. On the other, carmakers are also promoting gas guzzling all-terrain vehicles that only a few drivers will use to full purpose in the countryside.

The world's second largest car maker, Toyota, introduced the hybrid

electric and petrol powered car to the mass market, and all European car makers are investing heavily in more fuel efficient or smaller vehicles. Apart from high oil and petrol prices, the trend is also driven by tougher emissions standards and environmental demands.

"It's clear that carmakers must offer cleaner models. There's a

wide range of technology available," said Ford Europe chief executive John Fleming.

Fleming highlighted new biofuels -- mixing petrol or diesel with fuel extracted from sugar or rapeseed-- saying they can reduce emissions without forcing the owner to pay more.

Meanwhile, Peugeot-Citroen group (PSA)

displayed prototypes of economical hybrid vehicles for the first time, using a combination of electric power and diesel rather than petrol. The group is aiming to market them in 2010.

"We are doing our ecological duty by offering cars that pollute less in terms of carbon dioxide emissions, but it's up to the customers to choose," said PSA Jean-Martin Folz.

"We're ready to bear our share of responsibility, but not all the sins of the world."

Emmanuel Bulle, an industry analyst with the ratings agency Fitch explained: "Carmakers are giving themselves a green image more than anything else." "On top of that, they know that once it comes to buying a car, consumers are swayed by their wallets or by the design more than by ecological considerations," he added.

Internet



General view of the final Press day at the Geneva Auto Show. The motor industry is going green but two sides to the coin are on display at the Geneva Motor Show until 12 March.—INTERNET

Microsoft asks US to intervene in Europe case

BRUSSELS, 5 March —Microsoft said on Friday it had asked US Federal courts to force IBM, Sun Microsystems, Oracle and Novell to give it documents in its battle against the European Commission.

Microsoft is fighting against a fine of up to two million euros (2.4 million US dollars) a day for failing to carry out sanctions that the Commission, the European Union's executive arm, imposed on it in 2004 for violating EU antitrust laws. Microsoft had asked the EU executive to turn over communications between the companies and the Commission, a "Monitoring Trustee" in the case, and a technical adviser to the Commission known as OTR. Microsoft says it needs those documents for its defence.

MNA/Reuters

Mortar kills seven in town near Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 5 March —A mortar round landed in a crowded market near a bus station killing seven people and wounding 20 in a town just southeast of Baghdad on Saturday, police sources said.

Iraq state television showed blood-stained stalls destroyed by the attack in the town of Gisir Diyala near Salman Pak.

The tin roof of a small restaurant was ripped open and shards of glass covered overturned tables and chairs. A mangled tea cart lay among the debris.

Police and firefighters rushed to the scene. "We were standing here. A mortar fell among us. This is a criminal act. The market and the bus station were crowded," a witness told Iraqiya.

MNA/Reuters

International community reiterates support for one-China principle

BEIJING, 6 March — Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, the Philippines and Myanmar have reiterated their support for the one-China principle and denounced Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian's decision to cease the function of the "National Unification Council" (NUC) and the application of the "National Unification Guidelines".

The Foreign Ministry of Kazakhstan issued a statement on Saturday, saying Kazakhstan sticks to the one-China principle.

The government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legitimate government representing the whole of China and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, the statement said. In a statement issued on Saturday, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry said the Uzbek Government condemns any attempts to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan".

Uzbekistan steadfastly sticks to its position on the Taiwan issue, as is clearly stated in the joint communique on establishing diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and China and in the Uzbek-Chinese Treaty of Good Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation.

Also on Saturday, the Philippine Foreign Ministry issued a statement, saying the Philippines

upholds the one-China principle and expressing the hope that the Taiwan issue will be resolved in a way which is peaceful and conducive to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Myanmar's official newspaper *New Light of Myanmar* reported on Sunday that "The federal government of Myanmar believes that the (Chen Shui-bian's) decision will increase tensions in cross-Straits relations and undermine peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific Region".

Therefore, the decision is unacceptable to the whole region, the Myanmar Government was quoted as saying. The "NUC" was set up in 1990 by the Taiwan authorities headed by Lee Teng-hui. A total of 14 meetings were held after its establishment. However, no "NUC" meeting has been held since Chen Shui-bian became Taiwan leader.

MNA/Xinhua

Thousands join anti-US protests in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 March — Thousands of Indonesians demonstrated against the United States on Sunday, calling it the world's enemy in general.

Some 5,000 protesters, including many children, gathered in front of the US Embassy in Jakarta in the morning, with banners reading "Warning, Bush evil", "Get out from Muslim countries" and "America enemy of the world". The demonstration was peaceful, with about 1,000 police on hand to make sure the protesters stayed across the street from the embassy, which ahead of the protest had warned Americans in Indonesia to stay away from the vicinity.

Two weeks ago a Sunday demonstration at the embassy got out of control with protesters breaking windows and battering the main gate.

MNA/Reuters



A man tries a Japanese Toyota one-seat, three-wheel concept car at the 76th Geneva International Auto Exhibition in Geneva, Switzerland, on 1 March, 2006. —INTERNET

US nuclear plant leaks fuel, health concerns

CHICAGO, 6 March — Years of radioactive waste water spills from Illinois nuclear power plants have fuelled suspicions the industry covers up safety problems and sparked debate about the risks from exposure to low-level radiation.

The recent, belated disclosures of leaks of the fission byproduct tritium from Exelon Corp.'s Braidwood, Dresden, and Byron twin-reactor nuclear plants — one as long ago as 1996 —

triggered worries among neighbours about whether it was safe to drink their water, or even stay.

"How'd you like to live next to that plant and every time you turn on the tap to take a drink you have to

think about whether it's safe?" asked Joe Cosgrove, the head of parks in Godley, Illinois, a town adjacent to Braidwood.

Cosgrove and some scientists and anti-nuclear activists who monitor

health issues related to nuclear power say the delay in reporting the spills is indicative of industry and regulatory obfuscation bordering on cover-up.

"We don't know what else has been leaked from that site. When they close ranks, you can't believe them," Cosgrove said, referring to the plant owner and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which oversees safety at the nation's 103 commercial reactors, including 11 in Illinois.

Cosgrove recalled a 2002 spill of diesel fuel that was initially mischaracterized by Braidwood's operators as run-off from a parking lot. — MNA/Reuters



Iraqi soldiers patrol in a tank near Taji, air base 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 5 March, 2006. —INTERNET



A snowboarder enjoys a ride in a street packed with snow in downtown Zurich, Switzerland, on 5 March, 2006. Heavy snow in northern Switzerland disrupted public transport and led to closures of roads as well as delays and cancellations of flights. —INTERNET

Tornado kills 5 in southwestern Bangladesh

DHAKA, 6 March — Five persons were killed and over 100 others wounded as a tornado swept through six villages in southwestern Bagerhat District Saturday night, private television channel Ntv reported Sunday.

According to Ntv, four people were killed due to house collapse and one person died following a lightning in the six villages, which were levelled by the one-and-half-minute tornado. The television said the tornado also flattened hundreds of houses, trees and electric poles and damaged crops on farm lands. —MNA/Xinhua

Pigs die of mysterious disease in eastern Nepal

KATHMANDU, 6 March — Over 2,000 pigs have died of an unidentified disease in some villages of Morang District in eastern Nepal in the past two months, an official said Sunday.

The disease, first seen in Dangihat and Karanari Village of Morang District, some 300 kilometres east of Kathmandu, claimed the lives of over 1,000 pigs in Letang Village alone, Shambhu Yadav, an official of the District Livestock Services Office (DLSO), said, adding that eight boars and four buffaloes also died of the disease. —MNA/Xinhua

Over 50 killed in northwestern Pakistan clashes

ISLAMABAD, 6 March — More than 50 people were killed in Pakistan's northwestern tribal region in two-day clashes between tribal militants and government troops, the Pakistani military said Sunday.

A total of 46 militants and 5 soldiers were killed and 10 more injured in fighting in the North Waziristan region bordering on Afghanistan, according to Army spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan. Sultan told a news conference that the local administration had now re-taken control of the government buildings, earlier controlled by the militants in Miran Shah, the headquarters of North Waziristan. — MNA/Xinhua

Second Canadian dies of Afghan injuries

KABUL, 6 March — A second Canadian soldier died on Sunday of injuries received when an armoured vehicle overturned in southern Afghanistan and another was in serious condition following an axe attack during a meeting with tribal elders.

Master Corporal Timothy Wilson died early on Sunday at a US military hospital at Landstuhl, Germany, three days after the accident in Kandahar Province, Canadian military spokesman Lieutenant Mark MacIntyre said. — MNA/Reuters

List of Oscar winners

LOS ANGELES, 6 March — Following is a complete list of winners of Academy Awards at the 78th annual Oscars ceremony, which took place in Hollywood on Sunday.

Best Picture - "Crash" (Paul Haggis and Cathy Schulman, producers; Lionsgate)

Director - Ang Lee, "Brokeback Mountain" (Focus Features)

Lead Actor - Philip Seymour Hoffman, "Capote" (United Artists/Sony Pictures Classics)

Lead Actress - Reese Witherspoon, "Walk the Line" (20th Century Fox)

Supporting Actor - George Clooney, "Syriana" (Warner Bros. Pictures)

Supporting Actress - Rachel Weisz, "The Constant Gardener" (Focus Features)

Adapted Screenplay - "Brokeback Mountain" (Larry McMurtry & Diana Ossana; Focus Features)

Original Screenplay - "Crash" (Paul Haggis & Bobby Moresco, story by Paul Haggis; Lionsgate)

Foreign Language - "Tsotsi" (Gavin Hood, director; Miramax Films; South Africa)

Documentary Feature - "March

of the Penguins" (Luc Jacquet, Yves Darondeau; Warner Independent Pictures)

Documentary Short - "A Note of Triumph: The Golden Age of Norman Corwin" (Corinne Marrinan, Eric Simonson)



US actress Reese Witherspoon accepts her best actress Oscar during the 78th Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California. Witherspoon won the award for her role in "Walk the Line."—INTERNET

Original Score - "Brokeback Mountain" (Gustavo Santaolalla; Focus Features)

Original Song - "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" from "Hustle & Flow" (Jordan Houston, Cedric Coleman and Paul Beauregard; Paramount Classics)

Animated Feature - "Wallace & Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit" (Nick Park and Steve Box; DreamWorks Animation)

Animated Short Film - "The Moon



Ang Lee wins best director for "Brokeback Mountain" at the 78th annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California March 5, 2006.—INTERNET

and the Son: An Imagined Conversation" (John Canemaker, Peggy Stern)

Art Direction - "Memoirs of a Geisha" (John Myhre, Gretchen Rau; Columbia Pictures, DreamWorks SKG)

Cinematography - "Memoirs of a Geisha" (Dion Beebe; Columbia Pictures, DreamWorks SKG)

Costume Design - "Memoirs of a Geisha" (Colleen Atwood; Columbia Pictures, DreamWorks SKG)

Film Editing - "Crash" (Hughes Winborne; Lionsgate)

Live Action Short Film - "Six Shooter" (Martin McDonagh; Sundance Film Channel)

Makeup - "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" (Howard Berger, Tami Lane; Walt Disney Pictures)

Sound Mixing - "King Kong" (Christopher Boyes, Michael Semanick, Michael Hedges, Hammond Peek; Universal Pictures)

Sound Editing - "King Kong" (Mike

Hopkins, Ethan Van der Ryn; Universal Pictures)

Visual Effects - "King Kong," (Joe Letteri, Brian Van't Hul, Christian Rivers, Richard Taylor; Universal)

Lionsgate is a unit of Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.

Focus Features and Universal Pictures are units of NBCUniversal, which is controlled by General Electric Co.

Sony Pictures Classics and Columbia Pictures are units of Sony Corp.

Twentieth Century Fox is a unit of News Corp.

Warner Bros Pictures and Warner Independent Pictures are units of Time Warner Inc.

Walt Disney Pictures and Miramax Films are units of Walt Disney Co.

MNA/Reuters



Philip Seymour Hoffman (R), who won the Oscar for best actor in a leading role for 'Capote', and Mimi O'Donnell arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party at Mortons in West Hollywood on 5 March, 2006. —INTERNET



Producer of best picture "Crash" Paul Haggis (R) celebrates at the 78th annual Academy Awards in Hollywood, on 5 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Japanese scientists develop new blood test device

TOKYO, 6 March — Japanese scientists have developed a blood test device, with which the exact dosage of anti-thrombotic agent can be decided in 80 minutes in treatment of blood clots, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* newspaper reported on Monday.

The tool, which was developed by researchers from Tokyo University, Shimuzu Corp and Toppan Printing Co, can also decide from a drop of blood the needed dosages in fighting rheumatism and cancer.

Warfarin, a widely-used anti-thrombotic drug, could cause chronic nosebleeds and cerebral hemorrhage if inappropriate dosage of the medicine is taken for a long time.

To solve this problem, the researchers studied two genes that are related to blood coagulation and metabolism and found they are directly linked to the amount of drugs that patients can safely be administered, according to the paper.

The tool can also be used in the treatment of rheumatism, mental illnesses, leukaemia and lung cancer, said the researchers.—MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia targets 100,000 foreign students by 2010

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 March — The Malaysian Government hopes to woo 100,000 foreign students to study in local institutions of higher learning by 2010, a senior education official said.

Malaysia has the potential to become the choice country for foreign students to pursue tertiary education abroad,

Higher Education Minister Mustapa Mohamed was quoted as saying by the *Bernama* news agency on Sunday.

He said the social stability and reasonable cost of living were among those factors which helped draw foreign students to come to this country.

MNA/Xinhua



Belarus paratroopers pour water on themselves as they take part in 'Maslenitsa' celebrations in Minsk, on 5 March, 2006. Belarusians celebrate an ancient religious holiday 'Maslenitsa' (Pancake Week) ahead of the traditional Easter fast.—INTERNET

Philippines, Russia to sign tourism agreement

MANILA, 6 March — The Philippines and Russia will sign a tourism cooperation agreement this month to further boost travel between the two countries, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported on its website Sunday.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano and Minister Vladimir Stazhalkovsky of the Russia Federation's Federal Agency for Tourism are scheduled to sign the bilateral agreement on 14 March at the Philippine Embassy in Moscow.

The accord was first drafted in 1998. Russia is becoming a major source of tourists to the Philippines, with the number of Russian visitors here up 108 per cent from 2004 to 2005, said officials.

In January of this year, the Philippines played host to 334 Russian tourists who visited Cebu, Bohol and Boracay, all in central Philippines.

The World Tourism Organization has ranked Russian travellers 10th in the list of biggest spenders.

MNA/Xinhua



**Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects
physic nut plantations, road...**

(from page 1)
per hour in Ayadaw Station, overflowing well No 2 with a capacity of 4,300 gallons of water per hour in Myenat village-tract and storage of water, cordially greeted local people and gave instructions on efficient use of water. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited the physic nut nursery owned by departments in Myenat village and cordially greeted local people. They also inspected overflowing well No 1 with a capacity of 22,500 gallons of water per hour in Myenat vil-

lage-tract. At the briefing hall, Director U Hla Min of Sagaing Division Water Resources Utilization Department reported on undertaking of eight overflowing wells and plans to do more. The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed farmers to carry out water supply tasks for crops cultivation.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party next visited overflowing well No 3 with a capacity of 21,000 gallons of water per hour and inspected storage of water. He urged local

farmers to grow physic nut plants with water from the well.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint proceeded to Thamayo Bridge linking Ayadaw Township in Monywa District and Wetlet Township in Shwebo District. He called for proper maintenance of the bridge and left necessary instructions. He also looked into construction of a road linking Sagaing District and Shwebo District, condition of the bridges on Sagaing-Kyaukmyaung road. On arrival at the briefing hall in Sheinmaka village in Wetlet Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence inspects construction of a road section of Union Road.— MNA

by Road Construction In-charge Lt-Col Aung San on progress of the road section between Sagaing Junction and Kyaukmyaung. The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint next inspected condition of construction of Tatywa

visited Yebyu Station in Wetlet Township. At the briefing hall of the station, an official reported on digging of canals. Lt-Gen Ye Myint also visited the briefing hall of Shwebo-Kyaukmyaung Junction where Shwebo District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Than Tun re-

instructions to officials. After that, he met with local people in Yonbin village and instructed farmers to grow crops as well as physic nut plants. The commander donated sports gear and books to the village. After inspecting the

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for proper maintenance of Thamayo Bridge linking Ayadaw Township in Monywa District and Wetlet Township in Shwebo District during his inspection of the facility.



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects a wooden bridge linking Ayadaw Township and Wetlet Township. — MNA

Road at Wetlet Junction and gave necessary instructions to officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party

ported on construction of Sheinmaka-Kyaukmyaung Road. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary

construction of road near Kapwat village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint went to Kanbalu Township. — MNA

Winners of Marching Songs Contest and Military Drill Songs Contest announced

YANGON, 6 March —The list of winners of Marching Songs Contest and Military Drill Songs Contest organized by the Poetry and Fine Arts Contest Organizing Work Committee was announced today. In Marching Songs Contest, DigaOo of Kyimyindine Township stood first, Win Tun (Myawady) of Myawady TV second, Lay Naing Min of South Okkalapa Township third. The consolation prize winners are Lin Kyaw of Insein Township, Saw Yan Kyaw of Thingangyun Township and Nay Mon Shwe Win of Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

In Military Drill Songs Contest (Level-1), Tekkatho Aye Ko of Shwepyitha Township stood first, Tun Tun Min of Tamway Township second and Ma Khin Mya Thet Hnin of Sangyoung Township third. The consolation prize winners are Lay Naing Min (Myawady) of South Okkalapa Township, Win Tun (Myawady) of Myawady TV, Soe Htut Khine of South Okkalapa Township, Nay Mon Shwe Win of Dagon Myothit (South) Township and Hinhada Myo Aung of South Okkalapa. In Military Drill Songs Contest (Level-2), Pyint Thit Oo (Kalaywa) of

Insein Township stood first, Yuki of South Okkalapa second and Saw Hla Tun of Pazundaung Township third. The consolation prize winners are Myo Swe Thant of Dagon Myothit (South), Aung Naing Soe of Mingaladon Township, Saw Su Su San of North Okkalapa Township and Tint Lwin Oo of Dagon Myothit (South). The first, second and third prize winners are to attend the prize presentation ceremony to be held on 27 March, 2006. The consolation prize winners are to contact the respective military commands. The prize winners are to contact Secretary

U Ko Ko Htwe of the Committee, MRTV, Pyay Road as soon as possible. — MNA

A & I beat Banner 1-0

YANGON, 6 March — The Myanmar League

Football Tournament for 2005-2006 continued this afternoon at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna and Agriculture and Irrigation Team beat Banner Team 1-0.

In today's match, Agriculture & Irrigation Team got 13 points in 14 matches while the Banner Team is standing at the fifth position with 24 points in 14 matches.

Tomorrow's fixtures
MAPT Team vs Kambawza (Aung San)
Energy Team vs Home Affairs Team (YTC)
— NLM

Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2006 on 11, 12 March



YANGON, 6 March — Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, a Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2006 will be held

at Lashio Golf Club in Lashio, Shan State (North) on 11 and 12 March. Amateur golfers can enlist at the club not later than 10 March. Main sponsor is IBTC and co-sponsors are Air Mandalay, Crusher Club Soda, Srixon and Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel. Han Event Management will organize the champion.—MNA

Managers (Upper Myanmar) of Myanma Economic Bank meet

YANGON, 6 March — The state/division/district and township managers (Upper Myanmar) of Myanma Economic Bank under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue held a coordination meeting for 2005-2006 fiscal year at the City Hall of Mandalay, Mandalay Division, yesterday with addresses by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, heads of department, Managing Director of Myanma

Economics Bank U Myat Zaw, Director-General of Internal Revenue Department U Hsan Tun, general managers of MCBs, state/division/district and township managers (Upper Myanmar) of Myanma Economics Bank and others.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw made a speech on the occasion.

Next, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun said that courtesy is vital for success of banking services. State/division/district and township managers are to make constant efforts for self improvement in performance of their duties since they are responsible for the respective state/division/district and township banks (branch).

After that, the managers reported on work carried out in the respective banks (branch) and future tasks.

Afterwards, managing directors and officials of the Central Bank of Myanmar assessed and discussed work efficiency of state/division/district and township managers.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the managing director of MEB.

After the meeting, the Minister inspected the Central Bank of Myanmar (Upper Myanmar) and the Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank (Mandalay).

MNA



The plenary meeting of fifth 47-member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee in progress. — MNA

Buddha Pujaniya of Shwephonepwin Pagoda to be held

YANGON, 6 March — The 49th Buddha Pujaniya ceremony of Shwephonepwin Pagoda in Pazundaung Township will be held from 15 to 19 March.

Sayadaws will

deliver sermons on the nights of 15, 16, 17 and 18 March at the pagoda to mark the ceremony.

A total of 15 Sayadaws will consecrate the pagoda on the morning of 19 March and pro-

visions will be donated to 166 Members of the Sangha and 45 nuns on the afternoon of 19 March. Those wishing to donate provisions may contact Ph 290425.

MNA



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun meets officials of Myanma Economic Bank branches in Upper Myanmar. — MNA

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai of Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association meets with members of Hlegu Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

MNA

Number of Hlegu MCWA members increases

YANGON, 6 March — Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association today met with Hlegu Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association at the office of Hlegu Township MCWA and accepted the 300 membership applications of Hlegu Township MCWA.

At the meeting, Chairperson of the supervisory committee Daw Mar Mar Wai briefed on tasks to be carried out by township/ward/village

MCWAs as part of a contribution to the success of the objectives of MMCWA.

After the meeting, Daw Mar Mar Wai and party went to the pre-primary school of No 11 LID MCWA and presented gifts to the children. Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division MCWA Daw Mar Mar Wai also met with members of Hlegu Township and No 11 LID MCWAs and briefed on the future tasks for 2006. — MNA



Earthquake report

YANGON, 6 March — A slight earthquake of intensity (4.4) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar about 179 miles north of Kaba Aye Seismological Observatory (near Bago Yoma), was recorded at 21 hours 53 minutes 33 seconds at Myanmar Standard Time today.

MNA

Vice-President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Lwin and Executive Dr Sein Win leave Yangon for Malaysia to attend Malaysia Furniture City being held in Kuala Lumpur from 1 to 11 March. — UMFCCI



All this needs to be known

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

Top Chinese leaders join panel discussions with political advisers

BEIJING, 6 March — Top Chinese leaders, including President Hu Jintao, top legislator Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen Jiabao, on Saturday joined panel discussions with the country's political advisers, who are holding their annual full meeting in Beijing.

The discussions of the advisers, or members of the Tenth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's political advisory body, also attracted the participation of CPPCC National Com-

mittee Chairman Jia Qinglin, Vice-President Zeng Qinghong, and other senior Party leaders Wu Guanzheng, Li Changchun and Luo Gan.

The eight leaders are all in the nine-member Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the

Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the top decision-making body of the ruling party.

"In order to attain the development goals set for the next five years, we shall unswervingly rely on the general public and sin-

cerely bring benefits to the people," said President Hu while discussing the country's 11th Five-Year National Economic and Social Development Plan (2006-2010) with advisers from the non-Communist parties.

MNA/Xinhua

Libya names new Prime Minister, head of oil sector

TRIPOLI, 6 March — Libya's top legislative and executive body on Sunday appointed al-Baghdadi Ali Al-Mahmoudi as prime minister, replacing the reform-minded Shokri Ghanem who was put in charge of the country's oil sector.

The General People's Congress also said in a statement that Fathi Omar Bin Shatwan, who was Oil Minister during Ghanem's premiership, lost the oil portfolio in the Cabinet reshuffle, with his department renamed the Industry, Electricity and Mining Ministry.

Ghanem was appointed chairman of the National Oil Corporation, replacing Abdallah Al Badri and giving him effective control over oil policy, it said.

The congress also named Farhat Omar Bin Guidara as the new central bank governor, replacing Ahmed Mohammed Moneisi.

Moneisi takes the job of Finance Minister, replacing Mohammed Ali al-Houeziz, who becomes the North African country's Deputy Prime Minister.

Deputy Interior Minister Salah Rajab Al-Masmari was named as the new Interior Minister, replacing Nasser al-Mabrouk Abdallah, who was fired last month. — MNA/Reuters

International Women's Day (8 March 2006)



An Afghan boy receives polio vaccination drops during an anti-polio campaign in Kabul, Afghanistan on 5 March, 2006. The three-day anti-polio drive, which began on Sunday, aims to reach out to about 7.2 million children below five years of age across the country.—INTERNET

Thailand seeks way out for trade deadlock amid avian flu

BANGKOK, 6 March — Thailand's Ministry of Commerce will invite trading partners from Europe and the Middle East to inspect chicken and shrimp production in Thailand in May with an objective to boost exports of the two products, said a senior ministry official.

Chantra Purnariksha, director-general of the Ministry's Department of Export Promotion, said here on Saturday that the plan came after 46 countries outside the European Union (EU) had imposed an import ban on poultry from France following an outbreak of bird flu.

Saudi Arabia, which formerly imported poultry from France at about 80,000 tons annually, has lowered its import and this should give an opportunity to Thailand to export its boiled or cooked chickens to EU member countries and the Middle East, Mrs Chantra was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

Musharraf says he has introduced essence of democracy in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 6 March — Asserting that he has introduced the essence of democracy in Pakistan for the first time, President Pervez Musharraf Saturday said that the country's Constitution had allowed him to wear the military uniform until 2007 and he will take a decision on whether to shed it beyond that time limit.

Wearing of the khaki "has been allowed by the Constitution until 2007 and I will go by the Constitution. Beyond 2007, the

issue will be addressed according to the Constitution", he said addressing a joint Press conference with US President George W Bush.

Maintaining that freedom of speech, right to vote for minorities along with Muslims and opening of TV and print media had been done under his regime, the General said, "I introduced the essence of democracy in Pakistan, which was never there before".

Responding to Bush's observation that a sustain-

able democracy was needed in Pakistan as the two countries continued their fight against terror, he said elections to the National Assembly and provincial assemblies have been held as per adult franchise system.

MNA/PTI

NZ helicopter crash kills 2

WELLINGTON, 6 March — Two people died when their helicopter crashed in steep terrain in South Island of New Zealand Sunday morning.

According to police, the Robinson 22 crashed near Lake Wanaka at central South Island. The site of the crash was on a ridge, in steep terrain. The helicopter then dropped away to a gorge.

Recovery operations were hampered by strong wind in the area but flying conditions had been "ideal" at the time of the crash, said the police.

MNA/Xinhua

Taleban kill French officer in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan), 6 March — Taleban guerillas killed a French special forces officer in Afghanistan on Saturday and a Canadian officer was in critical condition after being attacked with an axe during a meeting with tribal elders.

Elsewhere in the volatile south, a roadside bomb killed an Afghan intelligence agent and four other Afghans while US Presi-

dent George W Bush was in neighbouring Pakistan discussing ways to improve cooperation in the US-led war on terrorism.

The violence is part of a guerilla campaign to topple the US-backed government of President Hamid Karzai that has claimed more than 1,500 lives since the start of last year.

Canadian Lieutenant Trevor Greene from British Columbia was with a civilian-military team meeting tribal elders in Kandahar Province's Shinkai District when he was attacked, Canadian military spokesman Lieutenant Mark MacIntyre said. — MNA/Reuters

Sixth German state finds H5N1 strain of avian flu

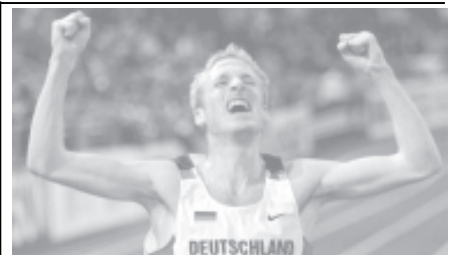
BERLIN, 6 March — Lower Saxony has become the sixth German state to confirm that a wild bird tested positive for the H5N1 strain of avian flu, state officials said on Saturday.

"The grey goose fell from the sky in mid-flight," said a spokeswoman for the food safety and consumer protection office in Lower Saxony, the German state home to the largest stock of farmed poultry in the country.

The dead bird was recovered from a field outside Soltau-Fallingbommel last Sunday.

More than 150 wild birds and one cat have tested positive for H5N1 in Europe.

MNA/Reuters



Germany's Jan Fitschen wins the men's 3,000 metres final at the European Athletics Indoor Cup in Lievin, northern France, on 5 March, 2006. Fitschen clocked 7 minutes 58.08 seconds.—INTERNET

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“တီဘီရောဂါကင်းစင်ဖို့ အားလုံးပါဝင် ဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”

World TB Day

2006 March 24

“Action for Life: towards a world free of tuberculosis”

ကမ္ဘာ့အကျန်းမဝခြင်းဒီဂရီ

India PM to participate in G-8 dialogue

NEW DELHI, 6 March — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will attend the G-8 summit at St Petersburg, Russia, in July, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said Sunday.

The Prime Minister accepted the invitation made by Russian President Vladimir Putin to participate in the G-8 summit when the two had a 20-minute telephone conversation late Saturday evening, the ministry said in a statement.

The Indian side made the phone call 24 hours

after US President George W Bush concluded his three-day visit.

“The two leaders discussed implementation of areas of cooperation identified during their last summit in Moscow in December 2005” in the context of the mid-March visit of Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, the statement said.—MNA/Xinhua

World's largest open access e-journals portal launched from India

NEW DELHI, 6 March — The world's largest open access e-journals portal, www.openj-gate.com, was launched by Bangalore (in South India)-based Informatics (India) Ltd recently.

A free service for everyone across the globe, Open J-Gate is India's contribution to global research and towards promoting the open access movement, Informatics said in a release here on Saturday.

The portal was launched by Jean-Claude Guedon, a global expert of open access movement, on the occasion of the 12th Annual Lecture on Informatics at Indian National Academy of Sciences (INSA).

Open J-Gate is the first portal to index over 3,000 open access e-journals on a single searchable platform using a standard database, overtaking a comparable initiative by Lund University, Sweden, which covers less than 600 e-journals.

The portal will have over 2 million articles published in about 2,000 peer reviewed research journals, besides those from over 1,000 trade and professional journals. —MNA/PTI

Bangladesh to build more export processing zones

DHAKA, 6 March — Bangladesh plans to build two more export processing zones (EPZ) in south-eastern Chittagong as investors from both home and abroad are showing more interest in investing in those kind of zones, said a government official on Sunday.

The official with the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) said investors are showing more interest in these zones be-



A Tibetan woman walks across the tracks at the Lhasa railway station in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region on 4 March, 2006. The Qinghai-Tibet railway, which runs from Xining in Qinghai Province to Lhasa, will be opened to cargo trains from March while trials for the passenger service will begin in July. —INTERNET

India's Nambiar appointed Annan's Special Adviser

UNITED NATIONS, 6 March — Veteran Indian diplomat Vijay Nambiar has been appointed Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan with the rank of Under-Secretary General.

Nambiar, India's Deputy National Security Adviser, will advise the Secretary-General on a range of matters and will both follow the issues and represent Annan in the United Nations and elsewhere at a high level, the world body said.

At the United Nations, Nambiar will be liaising with Permanent Representatives. He will also be a member of the Policy Committee.

MNA/PTI

Slovak PM breaks leg while skiing, undergoes operation

BRATISLAVA, 6 March — Slovak Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda, campaigning for re-election, had to undergo an operation after suffering a complicated fracture of a lower leg while skiing on Saturday, local media reported.

“It is quite a common injury for skiing,” Health Minister Rudolf Zajac told a news conference. “It required regular treatment, no extraordinary steps were needed”.

Dzurinda was attending an event

for families in northern Slovakia before the accident, news channel TA3 reported.

Zajac said it was too early to say whether Dzurinda would be able to make a planned trip to Washington to meet US President George W Bush next weekend.

The injury came as Slovakia began preparations for 17 June parliamentary elections, in which Dzurinda will try to stay in office for a third consecutive term. —MNA/Reuters



A volunteer shovels snow from the collapsed plastic roof of a tennis centre in Munich on 5 March, 2006. The roof collapsed under the weight of heavy snow. In southern Germany, snow fall has disrupted local transport and domestic flights. —INTERNET

Bomb blast in Turkish city hurts man, causes damage

ANKARA, 6 March — A small bomb wounded one man and damaged dozens of buildings in western Turkey on Saturday, the state-run Anatolian news agency said.

The makeshift bomb exploded in a wheelbarrow near a police station in a mainly Kurdish district of Izmir, Turkey's third biggest city, located on the Aegean coast.

The wounded man, aged 54, had been crossing the street at the

time of the blast, which shattered glass and caused other damage to more than 40 buildings in the vicinity.

Police suspected the hand of the rebel Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which is fighting for an ethnic homeland

in southeast Turkey, Anatolian said.

A wide variety of militant groups ranging from Kurdish rebels to ultra-left radicals and Islamists operate in Turkey and small-scale bomb blasts are not uncommon.

MNA/Reuters



Photo taken on 1 March, 2006 shows a German Volkswagen concept car displayed at the 76th Geneva International Auto Exhibition in Geneva, Switzerland. —INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (283)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (283) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

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TRADE MARK CAUTION
HONDA GIKEN KOGYO
KABUSHIKI KAISHA (also
trading as HONDA MOTOR
CO., LTD.), of 1-1, 2-Chome,
Misaki-ayama, Minato-ku,
Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner
of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg. No. 4694/1998

The said trade mark consists of "Wing Device" and is used in respect of:- "Vehicles, apparatus for locomotion by land, air or water and parts and accessories for all the above mentioned goods".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for HONDA GIKEN
KOGYO KABUSHIKI
KAISHA
P. O. Box 69, Yangon.
Dated: 7 March 2006

**Sri Lanka targets
600,000 tourists
in 2006**

COLOMBO, 5 March — The Sri Lankan Tourism Ministry and the Sri Lanka Tourist Board have set a target of 600,000 tourist arrivals by end 2006, *Daily News* reported on Saturday. To achieve the goal and promote Sri Lanka's tourism both regionally and globally, several crash programmes have already been introduced and other plans and policies are to kick off shortly, said Tourism Secretary P Ramanujam.

Up to 52,000 tourist arrivals were recorded in January this year, said the official. The total number of tourist arrivals to the country stood at 566,202 in 2004 and 549,308 in 2005.—MNA/Xinhua

Militants killed in Afghan firefight

KABUL, 5 March—At least eight Taliban militants were killed and 10 others arrested on Friday in firefight in Afghan southern province of Helmand, an Afghan official said. "This morning at about 10 am a group of Taliban militants ambushed Afghan police in Sangin District. The police fired back afterwards. During the firefight between two sides, eight Taliban militants were killed, 10 of them were arrested, four police were injured," Haji Mohaiuddin, deputy provincial governor told *Xinhua*.

The ambush comes just two days after US President George W Bush paid a sudden visit to this war-torn country. In the past two days, Taliban militants have launched repeated attacks especially in the southern Region.—MNA/Xinhua

China hikes sci-tech input by 19.2%

BEIJING, 5 March—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Sunday that the central government will allocate 71.6 billion yuan this year for investment in science and technology, representing an increase of 19.2 per cent year-on-year.

"China has entered a stage in its history where it must increase its reliance on scientific and technological advances and innovation to drive social and economic development," Premier Wen told the opening ceremony of the Fourth Session of China's Tenth National People's Congress (NPC).—MNA/Xinhua

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2005

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**Cross-Straits relations
improve in past one year**

BEIJING, 5 March — The relations between the Chinese Mainland and Taiwan have improved in various aspects in the past one year after Chinese President Hu Jintao made public his four-point guideline on cross-Straits relations, *Xinhua* said here on Friday. The news agency said, however, the fighting against "Taiwan Independence" activities and "secessionist forces" has remained arduous and complicated.

The door for dialogues between political parties from cross-Straits has opened. The inter-Party exchanges and dialogues between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Taiwan based Kuomintang, People First Party and New Party had won applause from both home and overseas, it said.

In the meantime, the Mainland and Taiwan

have made progress in various fields including trade, tourism, education and banking.

MNA/Xinhua

**Briton moves into second
highest UN post**

UNITED NATIONS, 5 March — Briton Mark Malloch Brown was named deputy secretary-

general of the United Nations, the second highest post in the organization, to replace Canadian Louise Frechette, the United Nations announced on Friday. Malloch Brown, 52, became Annan's chief of staff in January 2005 in a reshuffle aimed at instituting UN managing reforms and combating scandals in the oil-for-food programme in Iraq and sexual abuse by peacekeepers.

His promotion had been rumoured and denied for months but became official when UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan informed diplomats on Thursday of a reshuffle in his executive office following resignations of key staff members. Annan's second five-year term ends at the end of 2006.

Frechette announced her resignation several months ago and will leave on 31 March to join a research institute in Canada. Malloch Brown was a former director of the UN Development Programme, or UNDP, and before that was an official at the World Bank in Washington.

The United Nations is releasing a major management reform report on Tuesday. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Malloch Brown would work "with senior UN staff and member states" in a follow up to the report.—MNA/Reuters

**Blair ally splits with husband
linked to Italy probe**

LONDON, 5 March—A British Government minister and close ally of Prime Minister Tony Blair is to separate from her husband, who faces a high-level corruption probe in Italy, her husband's lawyer said on Saturday.

Culture Minister Tessa Jowell survived an inquiry this week into whether she had broken a ministerial code over the couple's financial arrangements.

But she remained under pressure after the investigation left open the possibility of links between her tax lawyer husband David Mills and a bribery allegation against Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. The lawyer, David Kirk, said the couple were separating because of the "dreadful strain" caused by the inquiries.

"They hope that over time their relationship can be restored, but, given the current circumstances, they have agreed a period of separation," he said in a statement. Jowell, responsible for preparations for London's 2012 Olympic Games, was cleared on Thursday of breaching the code of conduct for ministers after she said she was not aware of a 600,000-US-dollar payment used to repay a mortgage on the couple's home.

MNA/Reuters



A truck passes aircraft as it removes snow from the manoeuvring area of Munich international airport on 5 March, 2006. In southern Germany, snow fall has disrupted local transport and domestic flights.—INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

US launches drive to plug leaks

WASHINGTON, March 6 — The Bush Administration has launched several investigations to discourage government employees from leaking classified information to news reporters, *The Washington Post* reported in its Sunday edition.

FBI agents have interviewed dozens of employees at the CIA, the National Security Agency and other intelligence agencies in recent weeks

as they investigate possible leaks that led to reports about the NSA's domestic spying programme and secret CIA prisons in Eastern

Europe, the *Post* said.

Employees at the FBI, the CIA, the Justice Department and other agencies have also received Justice Department letters prohibiting them from discussing the NSA programme, the *Post* said, citing anonymous sources.

Republican lawmakers like Kansas Senator Pat Roberts are considering legislation that would stiffen penalties for leaking.

FBI agents have contacted reporters at the *Sacramento Bee* about their coverage of a terrorism case that was based on classified

documents, the *Post* said.

CIA Director Porter Goss has warned employees at the agency against speaking to reporters, and called for prosecutors to call reporters before a grand jury to force them to reveal who is leaking information, the *Post* said.

Several reporters have already been forced to reveal anonymous sources to a US prosecutor investigating the leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity after her husband accused the Bush Administration of twisting intelligence to justify its invasion of Iraq.

MNA/Reuters



Finland's Samir Abbassi competes in the men's long jump final at the European Athletics Indoor Cup in Lievin, northern France, on 5 March, 2006.

INTERNET

Thailand's exports expected to grow 17.5 % this year

BANGKOK, 6 March — Thailand's exports in 2006 are projected at 130.3 billion US dollars, up 17.5 per cent from 2005, *Thai News Agency* reported Sunday.

The increase is due to continue expansion of global trade and an assertive trade strategy adopted by the government, the agency quoted a forecast from the Ministry of Commerce as saying.

Exports of electronic goods and spare parts will be the major driving force in boosting this year's exports, while exports of agricultural goods will also rise on the back of an expected decline in global agricultural production of between 4-5 per cent due to natural calamity.

Thailand is expected to ship more tapioca, rubber and maize this year, the ministry said.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand to stock more bird flu vaccine

BANGKOK, 6 March — Thailand is to overhaul the management of its flu vaccine stock to cope with a shortage which is likely to become serious as the global spread of the virus set to push vaccine demand higher, according to local news media report on Sunday.

Supamit Chun-sutiwat, a senior medical officer who takes care of the bird flu preparedness plan, was quoted by the *Bangkok Post* as saying that demand for the influenza vaccine is higher in cold weather countries such as the United States, Japan and South Korea than in tropical countries like Thailand, which uses less.

But the current bird flu situation will lead to higher demand for the flu vaccine

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia considers overhauling exam-oriented educational system

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 March — Malaysian Education Minister Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said Sunday his ministry is looking for best ways to overhaul the heavily examination-oriented system functioning in schools.

The Education Ministry has realized the current system in primary and secondary schools is impractical, burdensome to students and fails to reflect their capabilities, said Hishammuddin. "I don't deny the examination system is burdensome to teachers and students alike, that is why we want to come up with a new system," Hishammuddin said after opening a student course in the Pahang State.—MNA/Xinhua

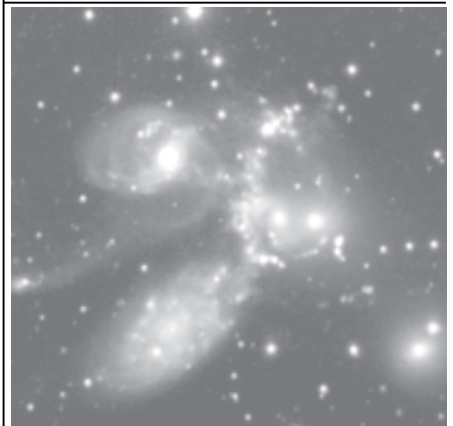


Dancers perform during the play of 'Giselle' by Maria Gimenez classic ballet in the Maestro Padilla auditorium in Almeria, southeastern Spain on 4 March, 2006.—INTERNET

2006.—INTERNET



Models pose next to a Ferrari used in last year's Formula One motor racing which is on display at the Formula One Grand Prix season promotional event held at a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur, on 5 March, 2006.—INTERNET



In this undated image made available from NASA on 5 March, 2006, which shows the central region of a group of galaxies 300 million Light-years away known as tephan's Quinted.—INTERNET

Indonesia plans massive increase in Tamiflu

JAKARTA, 6 March — Indonesia, which has suffered more deaths from bird flu this year than any other country, plans a massive increase in its supply of anti-flu Tamiflu tablets, the *Jakarta Post* newspaper reported on Sunday.

If taken within two days of contracting the virus, Tamiflu can work against the often deadly H5N1 flu, which international tests show has killed nine people in Indonesia so far in 2006. The government plans to distribute 12 million Tamiflu tablets to affected areas of the sprawling archipelago, although currently it has just 16,000 in stock, the *Jakarta Post* said.

"I expect we will have up to 5 million tablets by April," Health Minister Fadillah Supari was quoted as saying on Saturday.

She said pills would be handed out to health institutions in provinces with recorded outbreaks.

Another minister has said the pills would have to be imported since local companies have yet to start making the drug.—MNA/Reuters

SPORTS



Tottenham Hotspurs' Robbie Keane, left, controls the ball past Blackburn Rovers' Andy Todd to score during their English Premier League soccer match at the White Hart Lane ground in London, on 5 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Tottenham beat Blackburn 3-2

LONDON, 6 March— Spurs tightened their grip on fourth place after securing a thrilling 3-2 win over Blackburn on Sunday.

Robbie Keane scored twice in the opening half, first with a superb effort after a contentious throw-in and then with a close-range finish.

Blackburn argued Keane's second should have been disallowed for handball but on 43 minutes Florent Sinama Pongolle's header reduced the deficit to 2-1.

On 70 minutes Bellamy drilled home the ball to level the scores but then Mido turned in Aaron Lennon's cross. The win moved Spurs five points clear of fifth-placed Arsenal and six ahead of Blackburn, who are also chasing a European place.

Blackburn were probably unlucky not to claim at least a point, given the nature of Keane's goals and the visitors' domination of possession.

In the 90th minute Michael Gray hit the Spurs bar with a looping header as Blackburn desperately searched for that third goal to square the game.

Keane's first goal was a wonder to behold, even though it stemmed from a throw-in that should have been awarded to Blackburn.

Television replays clearly showed the ball touched Mido before it went out but instead the throw was given to Spurs.

The Egyptian quickly took the throw, picking out Keane, who -- with his back to goal as well as being closely marked by Robbie Savage -- still had plenty to do. Despite that unpromising position, Keane nonchalantly flicked the ball over Savage, slipped inside Andy Todd with a second, sharp piece of skill, before hammering a shot past keeper Brad Friedel.

MNA/Xinhua

Manchester City beat Sunderland 2-1

LONDON, 6 March— Manchester City striker Georgios Samaras scored two goals in as many minutes as his side laboured to beat bottom club Sunderland 2-1 on Sunday.

It looked ominous for the visitors when Samaras angled in a drive after nine minutes before lashing in his second.

But City eased off and Kevin Kyle pulled one back for Sunderland, who gained in belief as the game wore on.

Bradley Wright-Phillips was denied a penalty for City, who held on, with the visitors' Gary Breen sent off late on.

City had wasted little time at the start of the match in immediately pinning back Sunderland and they used the expansive Eastlands pitch to probe a path through the visitors' defence.

Sunderland looked out of their depth and gifted the home side the lead when central defender Danny Collins lingered in possession and was robbed by Samaras.

The Greek international powered an angled drive past keeper Kelvin Davis before adding a second a minute later when he lashed home a shot from Trevor Sinclair's cross.

City's main danger was complacency and it duly proved their downfall as they allowed Sunderland back into the game with a goal from a set-piece.

Julio Arca found Black Cats central defender Breen with a free-kick and he headed across goal for Kyle to apply the simplest of finishes.

Sunderland's spirits were lifted as they began to have more of a say in proceedings, although City remained in control and seemed able to step up the pace of the game at will.

MNA/Reuters



Sunderland's Kevin Kyle, bottom left, celebrates scoring against Manchester City during their English Premier League soccer match at The City of Manchester Stadium, Manchester, England, on 5 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Roma's record run ends after 1-1 draw with Inter

ROME, 6 March— AS Roma's record-breaking run in Serie A was ended when a late goal by Marco Materazzi gave Inter Milan a 1-1 draw on Sunday.

The result interrupted Roma's sequence of 11 consecutive league wins.

Inter are third in the table with 59 points from 28 matches, three points ahead of Fiorentina who climbed to fourth with a 2-1 win over Siena. Roma slipped to fifth on 55.

Juventus (73 points) and AC Milan (63) occupy the

top two places after respective wins over Sampdoria and Empoli on Saturday.

Roma and Inter had early chances at the Olympic Stadium.

Home keeper Doni dived to his near post to stop an Alvaro Recoba shot while at the other end Francesco Toldo palmed out Rodrigo Taddei's free kick.

Roma broke the deadlock in the ninth minute when Brazilian winger Mancini dribbled into the area, rounded defender Materazzi and cut the ball back for Taddei to score.

Inter steadily grew in confidence and went close to equalizing before the interval when Doni saved a volley from Esteban Cambiasso.

The visitors kept up the pressure after the break although Roma almost made it 2-0 when Mancini, alone on goal, fired over.

As they did in the first half, Inter finished the second period on the attack by winning a series of corners and pushing Roma back to the edge of their area.

The pressure paid off a minute from time when Materazzi headed a corner in at the near post.

Fiorentina's fans must have anticipated an easy victory over mid-table Siena when Serie A's top scorer Luca Toni muscled in front of his marker to sidefoot Stefano Fiore's cross past keeper Marco Fortin in the third minute.—MNA/Reuters



World Cup winner in the women's 500 metres race, Jenny Wolf of Germany, centre, Sveilana Zhurova of Russia, left and second overall, and Chiara Simionato of Italy, right and third overall, react on the podium of the World Cup speedskiing finals at Thialf stadium in Heerenveen, northern Netherlands, on 5 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Valencia miss chance after draw at Malaga

MADRID, 6 March— Valencia missed the chance to reclaim second spot in the Primera Liga when they were surprisingly held 0-0 by basement side Malaga on Sunday.

Malaga, who had lost three of their four games since Manuel Hierro took charge as coach last month, produced a gritty defensive display to keep Valencia at bay.

The result means Valencia remain in third place, level on 51 points with Real Madrid who put a week of turmoil behind them with a gutsy 2-1 victory at home to Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

Valencia's slip-up allowed reigning champions Barcelona to extend their advantage at the top of the table to 10 points following their 3-2 win at home to Deportivo Coruna on Saturday.

Valencia host Real Madrid at the Mestalla next weekend while Barcelona

face a tricky away trip to Osasuna.

Osasuna dropped off the pace and are now five points adrift of Real and Valencia in fourth place in the table after their 2-0 loss at Celta Vigo who are now hot on their heels in the race for the Champions League places.

Brazilian striker Fernando Baiano gave the Galicians an early lead when he fired a curling shot inside the far post from the edge of the area and midfielder Fabian Canobbio added a second 19 minutes from time with a virtuoso solo goal.

The Uruguayan gathered the ball after pushing it past two defenders, rounded the keeper and then slotted it home.

MNA/Reuters

McCarthy ends gold drought as Porto sweep past Nacional

LISBON, 6 March— South Africa striker Benni McCarthy ended a goal drought lasting since September by netting in Portuguese Premier League leaders Porto's 3-0 home win over Nacional Madeira on Sunday.

Sporting restored their three-point cushion over third-placed Benfica with a 2-0 home victory over Gil Vicente, Spanish striker Koke scoring twice.

Porto have 54 points from 25 matches followed by Sporting on 52.

Former European champions Porto took the lead after 16 minutes when McCarthy fired his second league goal of the season from a pass by Brazilian Adriano.

MNA/Reuters



Simon Dyson of England kisses his trophy after winning Indonesia Open golf tournament at Emerald Golf Club on the outskirts of Jakarta, on 5 March, 2006. Dyson took the first position with 20 under par.—INTERNET

Democrats insist Congress must decide on US ports

WASHINGTON, 6 March — Democrats on Saturday kept up the drumbeat of criticism of the Bush Administration for approving a state-owned Arab company's plan to manage US ports, saying Congress must decide whether the deal should go through.

In their weekly radio address, the Democrats also called for a dramatic increase in the screening of cargo arriving at US ports, and increased resources for the US Coast Guard.

"I was outraged to learn that the President wanted to outsource operations at some American ports to the United Arab Emirates," said Francine Busby, a candi-

date for the congressional seat left vacant in California by disgraced former Representative Randy "Duke" Cunningham.

"Congress should review and decide on whether or not this deal should proceed," Busby said in the radio address.

She is running in an open primary next month for the seat vacated by Cunningham, a Republican. He was sentenced on

Friday to eight years and four months in prison for taking 2.4 million US dollars in bribes.

Dubai Ports World, which is owned by the United Arab Emirates, plans to buy British port operator P&O for 6.85 billion US dollars, including its terminals in six major US ports.

The Bush Administration approved the deal in January, and a London

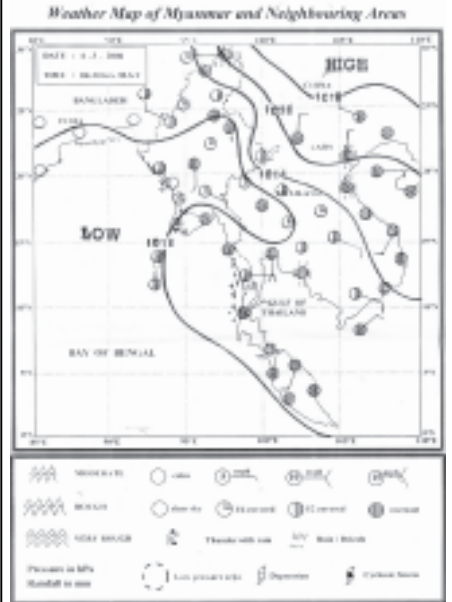
court has said it can go ahead. It is expected to close next week.

Amid an outcry from US lawmakers of both parties, who fear the deal could be a Trojan horse for militants wanting to attack the United States, the White House backtracked last weekend and said it would conduct another 45-day review of the purchase on national security grounds.

The company formally sought that new security review on Friday, and it has promised to abide by the result.

Busby complained the UAE had been one of only three countries in the world that recognized the Taliban as a legitimate government in Afghanistan, and had served as a financial staging ground for the 11 September attacks on the United States.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Monday, 6 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas.

Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin State, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Aunglan (39°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (0.86) inch, Machanbaw (0.16) inch, Putao (0.11) inch.

Maximum temperature on 5-3-2006 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 6-3-2006 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 6-3-2006 was (80%). Total sunshine hours on 5-3-2006 was (8.6) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 6-3-2006 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 (6) mph from Northwest at (15:00) hours MST on 5-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 7-3-2006: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin, and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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


Forecast for Pyinmana and neighbouring area for 7-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-3-2006: Partly cloudy.



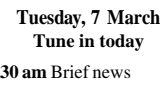
People watch a concert marking the end of Pancake week or Maslenitsa ('but-ter' in Russian), a traditional carnival, at the Moscow Red Square, on 5 March, 2006, with a symbolic figure of Maslenitsa in the foreground. —INTERENT



Tuesday, 7 March

View on today

<p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. ဂျော့ဇ်ရှင်ဇင်ကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အင်္ကျီတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂူ၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသုဒ္ဓဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ မဗ္ဗဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:50 am</p> <p>5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>6. Song of yesteryears</p>	<p>8:10 am</p> <p>7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:20 am</p> <p>8. ဣန္ဒြေရောင်တံတား</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>9. International news</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>10. Let's Go</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm</p> <p>2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>3. English for Everyday Use</p> <p>4:40 pm</p> <p>4. တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၃) ရန်ပုံ</p> <p>4:55 pm</p> <p>5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့ဝိပဿနာရုပ်ပြိုင်ပွဲကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သက္ကဓာအထူးပြု) (သက္ကဓာ)</p> <p>5:10 pm</p> <p>6. Dance of national races</p> <p>5:20 pm</p> <p>7. ခံစားနားဆင်တေးဇာတ်ဝင်</p> <p>5:30 pm</p> <p>8. "မူးလျှင်မမောင်းနဲ့၊ မောင်းလျှင်မမူးနဲ့"</p>	<p>(လူဇင်၊ လူသူဟံသာ၊ အိမ်အိမ်)</p> <p>(ခါရိုက်တာ သက်တင်)</p> <p>5:35 pm</p> <p>9. Sing and Enjoy</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>10. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>11. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm</p> <p>12. နိုင်ငံခြားကာကွယ်ရေးဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရယ်ရှင်ဆော့ဇွဲ-ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်ဆိတ်လေး" (အပိုင်း ၇၀)</p> <p>6:55 pm</p> <p>13. အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:10 pm</p> <p>14. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းများ</p> <p>7:25 pm</p> <p>15. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:35 pm</p> <p>16. The mirror images of musical oldies</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>17. News</p> <p>18. International news</p> <p>19. Weather report</p> <p>20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဗျော်စွမ်းစွမ်းစွမ်းကလေးများ" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)</p> <p>21. The next day's programme</p>
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Tuesday, 7 March

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:
-Little red riding-hood

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:
-Under the bridge

8:50 am National news & Slogan

9:00 am Music:
-Love thing

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music:
-Feel for yours love

1:30 pm News & Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music
-If you come back
-This I promise you
-Written in the stars
-Like a rose

9:00 pm English Speaking Course Level-I Unit ()

9:15 pm Article/Music

9:25 pm Weekly sports reel

9:35 pm Music for your listening pleasure

9:45 pm News & Slogan

10.00 pm PEL

16th plenary meeting of fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held

YANGON, 6 March— The 16th plenary meeting of fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was held at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin, Kaba Aye Hill, here this morning.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw of Maha Visutarama Monastery in Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara presided over the meeting.

Sayadaw Bhadanta Kumara delivered an

OVADAKATHA.

The Sayadaw said that some unscrupulous persons using such facilities as loudspeakers and vehicles went round the residential areas and solicited donations from the public saying that the donations would be used for building religious structures like pagodas, monasteries and others.

Such being the case, efforts are to be made in cooperation with the authorities concerned to do away with such unscrupulous persons who collected donations in the name

of religion.

Therefore, Sayadaws led by member Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee are to play an exemplary role in leading all members of the Sangha and lay disciples for perpetuation of the Sasana, through the observance of the vinaya rules in order that all the Buddhist faithful would follow their example.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung submitted the supplications related to religious affairs.

He said the Lord



Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw of Maha Visutarama Monastery in Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharatha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara speaking at the meeting.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung submits supplications on religious affairs.—MNA

Buddha assigned religious duties to Sangha organizations and today Theravada Sasana has flourished in the world.

He said he was very much pleased to see that over 500,000 members of the Sangha and over 30,000 nuns are shouldering religious duties and carrying out the tasks for purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Sasana under the leadership of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

The minister said Pali and English subjects will

be included in the entrance examination of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities. A workshop on upgrading of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities was held the previous year.

Academic members of the Sangha are compiling international level curriculum, he added.

Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja YwaU Sandayon Sarthintaik of Tatkon Sayadaw Bhaddanta

Sanda Siri submitted the report of the committee.

Afterwards, members of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee from various states and divisions reported on Vinaya affairs and religious matters.

Member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee discussed Vinaya affairs and religious matters and made decisions.

The first day of the meeting ended in the afternoon and the meeting continues tomorrow.

Wellwishers Daw Myint Myint Thein of Parami Yeiktha and Daw Khin Win Myint of Bahan Township offered alms to the Sayadaws. — MNA

Bo Teza gymnasium opened in Natmauk

YANGON, 6 March — Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe attended the opening ceremony of Bo Teza gymnasium in Natmauk, Magway Division yesterday.

Col Phone Maw Shwe and Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Zaw Lin formally opened the new gymnasium and the minister later unveiled the bronze plaque. They posed for a photo with those present.

The minister presented sports gear worth K 540,000 to

Magway Division SPEC, sports gear worth K 460,000 to six townships in the division and provided cash and sports gear worth over K 600,000 to the division's youth teams. The dance groups to the ceremony also demonstrated their skills and the ceremony ended. After that, the minister cordially greeted those present.

The new gymnasium cost K 54 million.

The minister proceeded to Pyawbwe and met with township's SPEC members and executives of Union Solidarity and Development Association. He provided sports gear and inspected the sports ground and tennis court there.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and guests pose for a photo.—SPED