

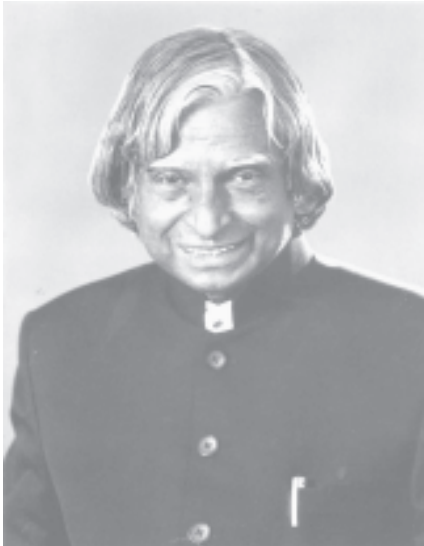
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Wednesday, 8 March, 2006

Curriculum Vitae of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam President of the Republic of India



Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

Born on 15th October 1931 at Rameswaram, in Tamil Nadu, Dr Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, specialized in Aeronautical Engineering from the Madras Institute of Technology. Dr Kalam has made significant contributions as Project Director to develop India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III), which successfully injected the Rohini satellite into near earth orbit in July 1980 and made India an exclusive member of the Space Club. He was responsible for the evolution of the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) launch vehicle programme. After working for two decades in ISRO and mastering launch vehicle technologies, Dr Kalam took up the responsibility of developing Indigenous Guided Missiles at the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), as the Chief Executive of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme. He was the Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister and Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development from July 1992 to December 1999.

As Chairman of the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), he generated the Technology Vision 2020 document, which gave a road map for transforming India from

the present developing status to a developed nation.

Dr Kalam has served as the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, in the rank of Cabinet Minister from November 1999 to November 2001. Dr Kalam was also the Chairman, Ex-officio, of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SACC) to the Cabinet.

Dr Kalam took up academic pursuit as Professor, Technology & Societal Transformation at Anna University, Chennai from November 2001 and was involved in teaching and research tasks. Above all, he took up a mission to ignite the young minds for national development by meeting high school students across the country.

Dr Kalam is one of the most distinguished scientists of India with the unique honour of receiving honorary doctorates from 30 universities and institutions. He is recipient of several awards and Fellow of many professional institutions. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam has been awarded the coveted civilian awards - Padma Bhushan in 1981, Padma Vibhushan in 1990 and the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna in 1997.

Dr Kalam became the 11th President of India on 25th July 2002. His focus is on transforming India into a developed nation by 2020.

Education, health and transport sectors, extensive growing of physic nut spotlighted

Lt-Gen Ye Myint on tour of Sagaing Division

YANGON, 7 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye visited the physic nut nursery in Kanbalu station on 2 March morning.

They also inspected the physic nut nursery of departments in Kanbalu Township.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the Kanbalu Township gymnasium project. The engineer in charge gave an account of progress of work. The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on the project.

On arrival at the Myoma market project in Kanbalu Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports by officials on progress of construction of shops and allotment of stalls. The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for systematic allotment of stalls and sanitation tasks, and inspected the project site.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited the Maha Shwezigyi Pagoda in the township and made a cash donation to it.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed the fossil of an Ingyin tree discovered near Kanbalu by Township Forest



Lt-Gen Ye Myint views fossil of Ingyin Tree in Kanbalu. — MNA

Department. Officials reported on stockpiling of Ingyin saplings.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint also inspected the nurturing of

50,000 physic nut saplings at the farm of departments in Pintha Station, Kyunhla Township.

He looked into the repairing of the 200-foot-long Zawchaung wooden bridge on Kanbalu-Kyunhla-Chatthin-Kawlin Road linking Chatthin and Thindaw villages. He also inspected the Daungmyu Bridge on the border between Kanbalu and Kawlin townships.

(See page 8)

Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed the fossil of an Ingyin tree discovered near Kanbalu by Township Forest Department. Officials reported on stockpiling of Ingyin saplings.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 8 March, 2006

Extend cultivation of physic nut, paddy and other crops

With a view to serving the long-term interests, ensuring higher living standard of national brethren, strengthening national unity and bringing about equitable regional and national development, the government is doing everything in its power and fulfilling all the requirements.

For instance, extended cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and various crops can be carried out in Sagaing Division due to the dams and river water pumping stations built by the government. As a result, Sagaing Division produces 50 million baskets of paddy more than regional consumption and has become the granary of Upper Myanmar.

To ensure sufficient water supply for agricultural purpose and for greening projects, the government is constructing large dams. At the same time, it is also building small dams and ponds tapping overflowing water sources. Farmers ought to grow more paddy and other crops by making the best use of the water resources.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-General Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and officials on 1 March visited Monywa Township, inspecting regional development and agriculture work. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged the use of water from overflowing wells to extend the cultivation of pigeon pea, sesamum and physic nut. Three overflowing wells in Myenat village-tract in Ayadaw Township in Sagaing Division produce 47,800 gallons of water per hour. Local farmers are trying to grow paddy in addition to pigeon pea and sesamum with the use of water from overflowing wells. Moreover, they are planning to grow physic nut on vacant and virgin land. In Ayadaw Township, more than 8,000 saplings of physic nut have been planted.

Bio-diesel derived from physic nut can be used in tractors, water pumps and generators. Moreover, crushed physic nut can be used as natural fertilizer. Therefore, cultivation of physic nut contributes not only to agriculture work but also to electric power supply to villages.

Therefore, we would like to call on farmers and local authorities in various states and divisions to extend the cultivation of physic nut in addition to paddy and other crops by making the best use of water from dams, river water pumping stations and overflowing wells.



To commemorate the 83rd birthday of Daw Tin Tin Hla of No 30/5 (B), Thiri Mingalar Yeiktha, Kaba Aye, Yankin Township, family members recently donated K 100,000 to the funds of Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Secretary of the Administrative Board U Tin Maung Win. — 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

Industry-1 Minister meets Japanese businessmen

YANGON, 7 March — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang and General Manager of the office of Mitsubishi Corporation based here Mr Kiyoyoshi Katagiri and party today discussed win-win cooperation.

Also present at the meeting held at the ministry here were directors-general of the industries and officials under Ministry of Industry-1.—MNA



Minister U Aung Thuang meets Mr Kiyoyoshi Katagiri and party. —MNA

U Saw Hla Min accredited to Kingdom of Spain

YANGON, 8 March — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Saw Hla Min, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the French Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Spain. — MNA

U Saw Hla Min accredited to Swiss Confederation

YANGON, 8 March — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Saw Hla Min, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the French Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Swiss Confederation. — MNA

Developing Nantai (Zaygon) village in Kalaw Township, Shan State (South)

YANGON, 7 March — Don-Pawke village-to-village gravel road in Nantai village-tract in Kalaw Township, Shan State (South), was opened on 24 February morning. More than 3,000 people including members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations attended the road opening ceremony.

Taunggyi District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Myint Tin, Township PDC Chairman U Myint Aung and Township Development Affairs Committee Executive Officer U Aung Myint formally opened the road linking Don village in Nantai village-tract and Pawke village in Lamine village-tract. The road with 12,000 feet in length and 10 feet in width was built at a cost of K 10,714,000.

Next, a physic nut plant growing ceremony took place in Nantai model village. Township Myanma Agriculture Service Deputy Manager U Mya Kaung explained cultivation methods for physic nut plants and its



U Khun Hti presents K 30,000 to an official. — MNA

usefulness and called for growing of the plants. After that, those present collectively grew 110,000 saplings of physic nut. Next, Leya-16 power tailors, generators, pumps and trailer Gs were run with the use of physic nut oil. Kalaw Township has grown 685,200 physic nut plants so far.

At a book donation ceremony for Nantai Village self-reliant library, Shan State Women's Affairs Organization, District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Township USDA donated various kinds of books. A total of 138 libraries have been opened in Kalaw

Township.

A ceremony to present primary and middle school completion certificates was held at Nantai Village BEMS. Headmaster U Tin Hsaung presented certificates to 198 students. A health educational talk was also held at the health centre of the village. Facts about reproductive health was explained and pregnant women, babies and elderly people were given medical treatment. Besides, Head of State Health Department Dr Sai Kham Hlaing and doctors gave medical treatment to 125 patients in the village.

At Nantai Monastery, members of Shan State

Women's Affairs Organization held discussions with the women of the village.

Kalaw Township, regarded as a 'pine city' has 13 hotels and motels. It draws about 5,000 tourists annually. It is also known for its shopping paradise with many markets where fruits, vegetables and crops are in abundance.

Nantai village is known for its hybrid potato seeds and thriving potato plantations. The village is situated on the motor road linking Shan State (South) and Kayah State. The village has now enjoyed progress in all aspects. — MNA

US Congressman says Iran, Al-Qaeda benefit from US in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 6 March — The US presence in Iraq is hurting the worldwide war on terrorism and benefits only Iran and al-Qaeda, US Representative John Murtha said on Sunday.

"The only people who want us in Iraq are Iran and al-Qaeda," Murtha said on CBS's "Face the Nation" political talk show. "And I talked to a top-level commander the other day and he said China wants us there also. Why? Because we're depleting our resources ... our troop resources and our fiscal resources.

"The war on terrorism is worldwide. In Iraq, it's a civil war," said Murtha, a Pennsylvania Democrat.

Murtha, who in November called for the immediate withdrawal of

US troops from Iraq, said it was useless for the United States to advise Iraqis.

"One of the problems I see and frustrating things is our ambassador keeps giving advice to the Iraqis," Murtha said. "Every time we give the Iraqis advice, they vote for someone else ... The Iraqis don't pay attention to our advice."

The US role in fighting terrorism around the world is being subverted by Iraq, said Murtha, who characterized the sectarian strife between Iraq's Sunni and Shiite Muslims as a civil war that must be settled

internally.

Murtha, a decorated Vietnam veteran who retired from the Marines Corps Reserve as a colonel in 1990, said Iraq would do a better job of rooting out terrorists once US troops leave the country.

"I'm convinced they know where they are, they know who they are," he said. "But they won't tell us because they've turned against us. We've lost the hearts and minds of the people." —MNA/Reuters



An artist's impression released on 6 March, 2006 shows a new bridge that will form a link with a massive new tourist development on reclaimed land in Singapore. —INTERNET

Singapore plans audacious new twisting bridge

SINGAPORE, 6 March — Singapore Monday unveiled an audacious plan to build a helix-shaped bridge that will link a massive new tourist development, including a giant Ferris wheel and casino complex on reclaimed land.

The bridge, which will cost around S\$68 million, is believed to be the world's first to resemble the structure of DNA, the genetic material.

Singapore aims to double visitor arrivals to 17 million and triple

tourism receipts to S\$30 billion by 2015 with new projects such as two planned casino-resorts and a 170-meter-high (558 feet) Ferris wheel. The nearby resort island of Sentosa is also being developed.

Tourism is one of the

biggest service industries in the city-state of 4.4 million people, generating more than 5 percent of gross domestic product.

The government said construction of the bridge,

consisting of a six-lane motorway and six-metre wide pedestrian walkway, will begin at the end of the year and is targeted for completion in 2009.

Internet



An unexploded bomb lies on the ground after a car bomb attack in Baghdad on 6 March, 2006.

INTERNET

CPPCC says Beijing to seize Olympic opportunity

BEIJING, 6 March — The Olympic Games will constitute impetus for Beijing's development and the capital city should seize the opportunity, said leader of China's top political advisory body on Sunday. Noting that the preparation work for the 29th Summer Olympic Games has entered a crucial stage, Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), told a panel of national legislators from Beijing that the city must be fully prepared to stage a great event in 2008.

The opportunity the Games to Beijing will play as a great driver for the city's development in the next five years, Jia, also a

member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said.

MNA/Xinhua

2,301 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 6 March — As of Monday, 6 March, 2006, at least 2,301 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 1,805 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is three lower than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Monday at 10 am EST.

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

Internet



A woman and her daughter walk past armoured vehicle during an operation to search for weapons at the Grotta slum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 5 March, 2006. —INTERNET

2006. —INTERNET

UN says poppy cultivation on rise in Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 March — Poppy cultivation in the post-war Afghanistan is on the rise, a spokesman of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said Monday.

"A survey conducted by the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics and UN Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) last December and January in Afghanistan in 2006 shows an increase in 13 provinces," Adrian Edwards told journalists at a weekly news briefing.

The 13 provinces, which saw increase in poppy cultivation, include the restive Helmand, Uruzgan and Zabul, the hotbed of

Taleban, said the UN official.

Afghanistan, with an output of 3,600 tons of opium poppy in 2003, became the single largest producer of the raw material used in manufacturing heroin in the world.

The post-Taleban nation also by producing 4,200 in 2004 and 4,100 tons of opium in 2005 has topped the list in supplying the contraband in the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Moroccan conjoined twins successfully separated in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, 6 March — Moroccan conjoined twins were in stable condition after a separation surgery that lasted more than 15 hours on Saturday in Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Sunday.

Abdullah al-Rebia, head of the medical team carrying out the surgical operation, said at a Press conference that his team successfully separated the conjoined twin girls in a surgery lasting more than 15 hours. The twin girls, Hafsa and Elham, had a joined spine and shared a vagina.

Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz had ordered the operation and paid the expenses of the surgery.

Al-Rebia has successfully separated 10 conjoined twins.

MNA/Xinhua

China launches pilot programme to “clean-up” its rural areas

BELING, 6 March— China has launched a pilot campaign to tackle major environmental problems in its vast rural areas, according to the State Environmental Protection Administration of China.



A Chinese worker welds steel rebar at a construction site in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province on 6 March, 2006. —INTERNET

The programme is a major move of the Chinese Government over the next five years to overhaul the rural environment in a bid to enable farmers to bid farewell to the garbage-ridden and dust-smothered environment.

At present, the programme has already been carried out in six provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities and counties, including Jiangsu, Jilin and Ningxia. And the programme is to extend gradually to other parts of the country, the administration said.

MNA/Xinhua



A worker makes final touches on the logo of British mobile phone company O2 in preparation for the CeBIT computer fair in the northern German town of Hanover on 6 March, 2006. The world's largest computer and information technology fair CeBIT runs from 9 March until 15 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Saudi wants to trim waists of overweight population

RIYADH, 6 March— Saudi Arabia has launched a battle to trim waistlines in its overweight population, which has become one of the world's foremost “obese societies,” a seminar heard this weekend.

American-style fast-food restaurants are part of the fabric of modern life in Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter with a mostly affluent population of around 24 million.

Statistics released at a Health Ministry conference on Saturday showed that obesity affected 51 percent of Saudi women and 45 percent of men, as well as 29 percent of teenage girls and 36 percent of boys.

The government says there is a specific danger to children, who can now make use of special telephone help lines. “There are specific social

practices which cause certain illnesses,” television presenter Abdullahal-Fozan told the meeting, describing Saudi Arabia as an “obese society.”

Health experts say a spiraling increase in diabetes and other illnesses among Gulf Arabs has been the price of a rapid modernization of their desert states.

The new campaign to eat more healthily and exercise — “Weigh your life” — has been launched in the Saudi media with the help of prominent public figures who have had noted battles against weight gain. —Internet

US preparing for bird flu

KANSAS CITY (Missouri), 6 March— US Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns on Saturday said the United States was preparing for a likely outbreak of avian flu and assured consumers that poultry remains safe to eat.

“There is no way to put a big cage around the United States. I think it is fair to assume we'll deal with—avian influenza” said Johanns, who was attending a pork producers' meeting in Kansas City. “We could see it in domestic flocks as well as (wild) birds.” Johanns said the United States has been conducting exercises and making plans to deal with bird flu in the United States even as US officials work with other countries to encourage consumers to continue poultry consumption, albeit by using proper cooking methods.

MNA/Reuters

S Korean President embarks on three African nations trip

SEOUL, 6 March — South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun left here Monday for a nine-day trip to Egypt, Nigeria and Algeria as part of his efforts to boost diplomatic relations with these resource-rich countries.

Roh is to visit Egypt on 6-9 March, Nigeria on 9-11 March and Algeria on 11-13 March before returning home on 14 March, said South Korean Presidential Office.

Roh is to hold summit talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Nigerian President Olugbegun Obasanjo and Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika during his African trip. It is also the first time for Roh to visit Africa since he took office in February 2003.

“The President's trip to Africa is mostly focused on energy security and resource diplomacy. It is also meant to diversify practical cooperation with African countries and help South Korean firms make further inroads into the continent,” Roh's spokesman Kim Man-soo said. — MNA/Xinhua

Ukraine to hold public bidding for Black Sea oil, gas exploitation

KIEV, 6 March— Ukraine will hold an open bidding on 25 March among investors interested in taking part in the exploration of oil and natural gas fields on the Black Sea continental shelf, President Viktor Yushchenko said on Saturday in a radio speech.

Fifteen famous companies worldwide have registered for the bidding, which marks the first of its kind to attract investment partners in tapping energy resources on the Ukrainian part of the Black Sea, the President said. — MNA/Xinhua



A Russian woman walks in heavy snowfall in a park in Russia's provincial town of Tambov on 5 March, 2006. Early spring started with heavy snowfalls and strong winds in central Russia. —INTERNET

Roadside bomb kills five in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan), 6 March — A roadside bomb killed an Afghan intelligence official, three bodyguards and one other man in southern Afghanistan on Saturday, officials said.

The blast in Nadali District of Helmand Province killed Mohammad Ali Borak, a local official of the National Security Administration, said Asadullah Sherzad, head of national security in the province.

“It was a remote-controlled bomb,” Sherzad told Reuters. He blamed Taleban guerillas.

Sherzad said an Afghan electrician who had been travelling in the same

vehicle as Borak and his bodyguards was also killed.

The attack was the latest in a spate of insurgent violence to hit Helmand.

On Friday, Taleban gunmen killed the chief government official in Sangin District, hours after police killed eight guerillas and arrested 10 in a two-hour battle.

Saturday's bloodshed came as US President George W Bush was in neighbouring Pakistan discussing ways to improve cooperation in the US-led war on terrorism. —MNA/Reuters

Long corridor at Beijing's Summer Palace getting face-lift

BELING, 7 March — A 720-metre long corridor at the gorgeous Summer Palace in the western suburbs of the national capital Beijing is undergoing an overhaul to protect the dainty paintings on its ceilings and beams against the rain.

The renovation project, the first of its kind in the past half century since 1956, will replace 80 per cent of the existing, old tiles with new ones, but traditional handwork will be adopted to retain the structure's original outlook, the Beijing News reported on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua



A member of elite police unit Mobile Brigade (BRIMOB) subdues a suspected terrorist during a drill in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 6 March, 2006. The drill was a part of the rehearsal for a police show of force which will be held on to boost the fight against terrorism.—INTERNET

Sniper shoots dead US soldier north of Baghdad

DHULUIYANH (Iraq), 6 March—Guerilla snipers gunned down a US soldier in Dhuluiyah Town of northern Iraq on Sunday, witnesses said.

“A sniper shot dead a US soldier in the Sorah intersection in central Dhuluiyah Town while the US troops were near an Iraqi Army checkpoint at the site,” a witness told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The attack prompted US troops to open fire randomly, wounding three civilians and damaging four cars and several shops, the witness added.

US soldiers backed by helicopters immediately searched the surrounding buildings and orchards,

detaining some suspected civilians before they pulled out of the town, the witnesses said.

Dhuluiyah, some 100 kilometres north of Baghdad, has been a hotbed of insurgency against the US troops since the invasion in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Poland confirms presence of H5 bird flu virus in dead swans

WARSAW, 6 March — Poland on Sunday confirmed the presence of the H5 bird flu virus in two dead swans, but said further tests are needed to determine whether it is the lethal H5N1.

Agriculture Minister Krzysztof Jurgiel told a Press conference that further tests will be conducted in the European Union reference laboratory in Britain and the result is expected next week. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz said Poland is fully prepared for any bird flu outbreak.

The two swans were found dead two days ago on the banks of the Vistula River in the northern city of Torun. The affected areas have been placed under close surveillance. The Central European country has told the EU Commission it will take all necessary measures to contain the virus.

MNA/Xinhua

Families of Mexican dead miners demand for victims' bodies

MEXICO CITY, 6 March — The families of 65 miners killed by a mine explosion last month in northern Mexico demanded the retrieval of the victims' bodies, local radio reported on Sunday.

The relatives made their demands with a march between Nueva Rosita and San Juan de

Sabinas, two regions close to the mine, in the state of Coahuila.

More than 200 protestors, including mothers, wives, children and siblings of the dead, marched along the streets carrying banners with slogans like “rescue our relatives” and “not one more minute

underground”.

The protestors also accused the Mexican authorities and the mine's owners of having betrayed mineworkers and denounced mine conditions, which they described as precarious in many of Mexico's mines.

They chanted slogans outside the mine company's offices, calling for justice for the workers and punishment for the guilty.

MNA/Xinhua



Wearing traditional Russian costumes girls walk in the ancient Russian city of Suzdal, about 200 km (124 miles) east of Moscow, on 5 March, 2006, during a traditional carnival marking the end of Pancake week or Maslentsa ('butter' in Russian).—INTERNET



A craftsman works at a workshop on the outskirts of Raipur, capital of the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh, on 6 March, 2006.—INTERNET

British troops to quit Iraq by summer 2008

LONDON, 7 March — Britain plans to pull out nearly all its soldiers from Iraq by the summer of 2008, with the first withdrawals within weeks, a top military commander said in an interview on Tuesday.

Lieutenant-General Nick Houghton, Britain's most senior officer in Iraq,

outlined a phased two-year withdrawal plan in an interview with the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper.

“There is a fine line between staying too long and leaving too soon,” he was quoted as saying. “A military transition over two years has a reasonable chance of avoiding the

pitfalls of overstaying our welcome but gives us the best opportunity of consolidating the Iraqi security forces.”

Britain has given no firm timetable for the withdrawal of its 8,000 troops in Iraq, based in and around the southern port of Basra.

MNA/Reuters

Europe's most powerful computer unveiled in Germany

BERLIN, 6 March—The most powerful computer in Europe, 15,000 times faster than the average home PC, was unveiled at a German research centre. The version of the IBM-built Blue Gene machine at the Juelich Research Centre has managed processing speeds of 46 teraflops, equivalent to 46 trillion operations a second. The supercomputer will allow physicians, chemists, biologists and medical researchers to make highly complex calculations. IBM says possible applications are forecasting the weather or predicting the movements of stock markets. “It is a terrific tool for scientific programmes which require immense calculating power,” said Peter Schaefer, from the centre, which is situated near to the western German

cities of Aachen and Cologne.

Schaefer heads a committee which will decide which projects can use the computer at the centre, which is the biggest facility of its kind in Europe.

“All projects are welcome to apply, providing they have a peaceful aim,” he told *AFP*. Ninety percent of the funding came from the German federal state, with the remaining 10 percent contributed by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia where Juelich is situated.

According to the respected www.top500.org website, which provides a ranking of supercomputers, the Juelich-based machine beats the current holder of the most powerful computer in Europe, a machine in Barcelona.—Internet



Kashmiri men work on the road to Neelum Valley, some 25 km (15 miles) north of the earthquake-devastated city of Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir on 6 March, 2006. —INTERNET



German soccer legend Franz Beckenbauer, centre, poses for photographers with volunteers of the World Cup soccer in Germany during the FIFA team workshop in Duesseldorf, western Germany, on 6 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Chinese President underlines scientific concept of development

BEIJING, 7 March — Chinese President Hu Jintao said here on Sunday that the country must earnestly implement the scientific concept of development if it wants to attain various development goals set for the 11th Five-Year Plan period (2006-2010).

"The scientific concept of development is a guiding principle that must be adhered to for a long period in order to promote our country's reform, opening-up and socialist modernization drive," said Hu, also general secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China Central Committee, while joining in a group discussion

of lawmakers from Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

The lawmakers are here for the Fourth Session of the Tenth National People's Congress (NPC), the national legislature, which opened here on Sunday morning.

"We shall make all-out efforts to do every thing that conforms to the scientific concept of

development, and never hesitate to abandon anything that goes against the concept," stressed Hu.

While exchanging ideas with the Tibetan lawmakers, Hu, who once served as Party chief in Tibet, pointed out that development is the key to the solution of all problems the autonomous region is faced with.

MNA/Xinhua

Twin mine disasters kill 6 in N-W China

LANZHOU, 7 March — A pair of mine disasters killed six people in northwest China's Gansu Province Sunday, the local government confirmed on Monday.

The two accidents were both reported in Pingchuan District in the city of Baiyin, said sources with Gansu Provincial Coal Mine Safety Supervision Bureau.

One miner was killed in a shaft-roof collapse at Qingcheng Colliery in Guocheng Town at 11:00 am, while five others were confirmed dead in a gas blast at Jinyuan Colliery at 6:00 pm, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua

Three British climbers die in Spanish snowstorm

MADRID, 7 March — Three British climbers were found dead in Spain's Sierra Nevada mountains on Monday, police said, a day after one of the group battled blizzards and freezing temperatures to raise the alarm.

A police spokesman said the three died of hypothermia after a snowstorm battered the mountains east of Granada, in the southern region of Andalusia.

The son of one of the group left the climbers sheltering in a snow hole and went to raise the alarm on Sunday, newspaper *El Pais* said on its web site.

A police spokesman described the climbing expedition as "reckless".

"Three Britons died in Mulhacen, Sierra Nevada. They are being transferred by helicopter to the civil guard's base in Granada," he told *Reuters*.

MNA/Reuters

Armed men set on fire UN food trucks in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 March — Unknown armed men set on fire two food trucks of the United Nations' food aid organization WFP in the insurgency-hit Uruzgan Province late last week, a Press release of the body said Monday.

"On 2nd March at around 5 am (1:30 am GMT) two commercial trucks hired by the United Nations World Food Programme to deliver 29 metric tons of food aid to vulnerable communities were stopped by unidentified criminals in the area of Shpolagh Manda. The trucks were then burned and the food was destroyed," added the release.

The drivers, said the release, were beaten by the criminals.

MNA/Xinhua



An undated photo of an ancient Pharaonic statue in a newly discovered pit in Luxor, Egypt. Egyptologists have discovered 3,400-year-old statues depicting the lion-headed goddess Sekhmet, Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities said on 6 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Statues of ancient war goddess unearthed in Egypt

CAIRO, 7 March — An Egyptian-German archaeological team has unearthed six statues of the ancient Egyptian war goddess Sekhmet in the southern tourist city of Luxor, Egyptian Culture Minister Farouq Abdel-Aziz Hosni said on Monday.

The statues of the goddess, who has the head of a lioness and the body of a woman, were found at the temple of Amenhotep III of the 18th Dynasty (1580-1314 BC) on the west bank of the Nile, Hosni said in a statement.

The black granite statues showed that Sekhmet was sitting on a throne and holding the key of life in her left hand.

Three of the statues are entire, said Hourig Sourouzian, head of the archaeological team, adding that the other three statues are only partly conserved.

The goddess Sekhmet, associated with war and retribution, represented the destructive force of the sun, according to ancient Egyptian mythology.

MNA/Xinhua

Footwear giants return to Indonesia

JAKARTA, 7 March — World's leading footwear industries reportedly increase order from Indonesia due to a planned additional quota imposed by the European Union (EU) on Chinese and Vietnamese footwear products, a newspaper said on Monday.

Top footwear brands like Nike, Reebok and Adidas have increased their orders from Indonesia due to the quota, said *The Jakarta Post*, quoting an executive familiar with the business.

Indonesian Footwear Producers Association (Aprisindo) chairman Harjanto has said Adidas had opened two new factories here under the names PT Poong Won Indonesia and PT

Spotec, while global brand Puma will start producing in the country again.

This development indicated that this year the industry could perform even better than last year, Harjanto added.

Last year, Indonesia's exports of footwear increased to 1.5 billion US dollars from 1.32 billion reported in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian artists to hold art exhibition in Singapore

PHNOM PENH, 7 March — Four Cambodian artists will open an art exhibition featuring their work in Singapore on Wednesday, local media reported on Monday.

It will be the first exhibition by a Singaporean art gallery solely of four Cambodian artists, *The Cambodia Daily* quoted staff member Vera Ong of the Art-2 Gallery as saying. "This will be unusual, as Singapore has so far not seen enough artworks from Cambodia," she said.

The exhibition, which will run through March, was organized by the Singaporean Embassy in cooperation with the gallery to both promote Cambodian artists and encourage exchanges between artists from the two countries, said Ambassador Lawrence Anderson. —MNA/Xinhua



A Belarussian man skis by the memorial "Stalin's line" near the village of Goroshki, about 30 km (19 miles) west of Minsk, on 5 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam wants to transform India towards Knowledge Society

The President of India, Dr Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam arrives in Yangon today for a three day official visit, first ever by an India President to Myanmar. Dr Kalam who became the 11th President of India on 25th July 2002, is one of the most distinguished scientists of India with the unique honour of receiving honorary doctorates from 30 universities and institutions. Given Dr Kalam's action oriented attitude and visionary perspectives for future, his visit to Myanmar brings forth the possibility of initiating new projects between Myanmar and India.

India today has more than 250 universities and many more R&D units, professional colleges and institutions. On an average, more than 350,000 engineers and 5,000 PhD scholars graduate from Indian universities and colleges every year. With the fourth largest reservoir of scientific manpower in the world and numerous institutions engaged in frontier areas of research and development (R&D), India is emerging as the preferred hub for knowledge-based industries. Its skills in the knowledge economy are not restricted to information and communication technology alone but spans agriculture, defence, novel drug discovery, biotech, nano-technology, missile technology and space. India's efforts to become a superpower in knowledge economy are spearheaded at the highest level by President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, an Oxford and Cambridge-educated economist.

Dr Kalam believes that knowledge can create a comprehensive wealth for the nation and also improve the quality of life, in the form of better health, education, infrastructure, and other societal needs. The ability to create and maintain a knowledge society infrastructure, develop the knowledge workers and enhance their productivity through the creation, growth and utilization of new knowledge, will be the key factor in deciding the prosperity of this knowledge society. Whether or not a nation has developed into a knowledge society is judged by the way, it creates and deploys knowledge and skills in the sectors like ICT, manufacturing, agriculture, health care and many other services.

During the 20th century, societies underwent a change from the agricultural society, where manual labour was the critical factor to the industrial society, where the management of technology, capital and labour provided the competitive advantage.

The information era was born in the last decade. In this decade, we are just entering into the knowledge society era. The uniqueness of knowledge society is enriching the information society with innovation and value addition of products. The

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knowledge also enables value addition to the other three societies. In knowledge society, knowledge is the primary production resource instead of capital or labour.

When the world was moving from the industrial to information and knowledge era, India witnessed a changing pattern in the sectoral share of GDP and the number of people employed in each sector. The sectoral share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) percentage has undergone a considerable change. Contribution of agriculture to India's GDP has reduced from 39% to 22% during the period 1979 to 2004. During the same period, contribution of manufacturing sector has moved from 24% to 27% and whereas the contribution from the services sector has increased from 37% to 51%.

There has been considerable change in the employment pattern also. The percentage of people employed in agriculture has come down from 64% to 54%. Simultaneously, the percentage of people employed in manufacturing has gone up from 15% to 19% and in the service sector from 20% to 27%. Dr Kalam wants this trend to continue and by 2020 Indian employment pattern aims at 44% in agriculture, 21% in manufacturing and 35% in service sectors.

The displacement of 10% people from agriculture sector has to be facilitated through skill enabling for undertaking value added tasks in the rural enterprises so that migration to urban area is reduced. Instead of the person from the rural areas going to urban towns in search of jobs in manufacturing and services sectors, PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) facilitates creation of employment in the rural areas itself. PURA achieves this by providing physical, electronic and knowledge connectivities to a cluster of villages thereby leading to their economic connectivity and prosperity. Knowledge creation and knowledge utilization is the key to the success of a PURA programme. PURA programme can generate many business opportunities. This model is applicable not only to India but to many other developing countries.

A new situation is emerging in India - an ascending economic trajectory, rising foreign exchange reserves, reducing inflation rates, global recognition of technological competence, energy of 540 million youth, umbilical connectivities of 20 million people of Indian origin abroad, and the interest shown by developed countries to invest in Indian engineers and scientists, including in new R&D centres. Demographics is providing another crucial advantage to India. About 20% of the world's population under the age of 24 are Indians and 70% of Indian population is less than 36 years old. The youthful workforce with its energy and enthusiasm is raring to compete at the global level. Indian President has visualized this very early as he took up the mission to ignite the young minds for national development by meeting high school students across the country.

Dr Kalam's focus on transforming India into a developed nation by 2020, is visible in his literary pursuit also. Four of Dr Kalam's books - "Wings of Fire", "India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium", "My journey" and "Ignited Minds - Unleashing the power within India" have become household names in India and among the Indian nationals abroad and are inspiring India towards that direction.

MNA

Women must take rightful place in world's decision-making, says UN Secretary-General

YANGON, 8 March — *The Following is UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's message on International Women's Day, today:*



Mr Kofi Annan

The theme of this year's International Women's Day—the role of women in decision-making—is central to the advancement of women around the world, and to the progress of humankind as a whole. As the Beijing Declaration tells us, "women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace".

The international community is finally beginning to understand a fundamental principle: women are every bit as affected as any man by the challenges facing humanity in the 21st century—in economic and social development, as well as in peace and security. Often, they are more affected. It is, therefore, right and indeed necessary that women should be engaged in the decision-making processes in all areas, with equal strength and in equal numbers.

The world is also starting to grasp that there is no policy more effective in promoting development, health and education than the empowerment of women and girls. And I would venture that no policy is more important in preventing conflict, or in achieving reconciliation after a conflict has ended.

We do have achievements to celebrate in women's representation around the world. In January of this year, the proportion of women in national parliaments reached a new global high. There are now 11 women Heads of State or Government, in countries on every continent. And three countries—Chile, Spain and Sweden—now have gender parity in Government.

But we have far, far more to do. The rate of progress overall is slow. Let us remember that in individual countries, the increase in the number of women in decision-making has not happened by itself. Rather, it is often the result of institutional and electoral initiatives, such as the adoption of goals and quotas, political party commitment and sustained mobilization. It is also the result of targeted and concerted measures to improve the balance between life and work. Those are lessons every nation—and the United Nations—need to take very seriously.

At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders declared that "progress for women is progress for all". On this International Women's Day, let us rededicate ourselves to demonstrating the truth behind those words. Let us ensure that half the world's population takes up its rightful place in the world's decision-making.—UNIC



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects the Myoma Market Project in Kanbalu. — MNA

Education, health and transport sectors, ...

(from page 1)

He met with local authorities of Katha District at the hall in Kawlin and elaborated on the education, health and transport sectors and extensive growing of physic nut.

On arrival at

Marathein Village, he inspected finding of axis for district-to-district road. He inspected progress of Bogon, Ngamigyaung, Chundaung and Wabochaung villages. Local authorities reported on the construc-

tion of the 60-mile Htigyaung-Khayangon road section. The commander gave a supplementary report.

In response, Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for ensuring an all-weather transport facility.—MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint views the physic nut nursery of departments in Kanbalu. — MNA

First Eleven FC grabs championship trophy defeating Lunpyan in Junior Knockout for 2005-2006



Champions First Eleven team seen with the trophy. — NLM

YANGON, 7 March — First Eleven grabbed a championship trophy after defeating Lunpyan with a 3-2 in the final of Junior Knockout Soccer Tournament for 2005-2006 in Padetha Sports Grounds at 3.30 pm today.

First Eleven 3 (goals) (Kyaw Swa Ohn-1, Tun Tint Naing-1, Aung Zaw Lin-1)

Lunpyan 2 (goals) (Kyaw Thura-1, Nyi Nyi Tun-1)

Referee U Kan Thein

First Eleven FC seized three cups during one season. First Eleven FC and Lunpyan were held to a 2-2 draw in full time of 90 minutes. First Eleven FC won over Lunpyan through an extra time goal.

Both teams exerted all-out efforts to win

the final match. The goals scored for First Eleven FC by Kyaw Swa Ohn at 34th minute, Tun Tint Naing at 64th minute and Aung Zaw Lin at 105th minute. The goals scored for Lunpyan by Kyaw Thura at 32nd minute and Nyi Nyi Tun at 65th minute.

After the final match, Executive of Myanmar Football Federation U Tin Aung (goal-keeper) presented medals and cash prize to Baby Vita, runners-up in the Third Division and Wira, runners-up in the Second Division. Executive of Myanmar Football Federation U Than Toe Aung handed medals and cash prize to Lunpyan, runners-up in Junior Knockout Closing Cup.

Next, General Secretary of MFF U Tin Aung

presented medals and cash prize to First Eleven FC. Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Maung Win handed highest goal scorer award to Tun Naung of Wira team in the Second Division and Soe Thura of Winner team in the Third Division.

Afterwards, Director of SPED U Nyan Tun presented medals, championship shield, sub-shield and K 1 million to Winner team stood first in the Third Division. President of MFF U Zaw Zaw handed medals, championship shield, sub-shield and K 1.5 million to First Eleven FC stood first in the Second Division.

First Eleven FC won another K 1 million in Junior Knockout Soccer Tournament.

NLM

Minister inspects Bwatgyi Bridge construction

YANGON, 7 March — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun on 5 March went to Bwatgyi Bridge construction project site on Yangon Pyay-Mandalay Road (Mile Past No 211/6) and discussed the construction

tasks with officials of the project.

After hearing reports at the meeting with engineers of the project, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun attended to the needs.

The bridge will link Pyay and Aunglan.

On 4 March, the construction minister inspected extended construction of the road at mile post No 95/3 on Pyay-Padaung-Taungup Road by the Construction Group No 8.

MNA

Minister meets service personnel, local communities in Tatkon

YANGON, 7 March — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and officials held a meeting with service personnel, local authorities and townsenders at Tatkon Township Peace and Development Council office on 5 March morning.

Next, the minister inspected Tatkon Town-

ship Police Station and met police members and their families. He said that national development depended on that of wards, village-tracts and townships. So, all are to abide by rules and regulations and to ensure prevalence of law and order. It is also required to make collaborative efforts in all spheres for economic develop-

ment and to see to the five rural development tasks. He called for small scale agricultural tasks and implementation of physic nut projects.

The minister called on the families of police members to take part in the agricultural projects and to avoid situations that may cause burden to the people. — MNA

Myanmar, Korean entrepreneurs seek ways for trade promotion

YANGON, 7 March — President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and Commercial Attaché of the Embassy of Republic of Korea today discussed matters related to promotion of trade and investment and bilateral cooperation in economic sector.

At the meeting,

Myanmar entrepreneurs were invited to partici-

pate in trade fairs in ROK. — MNA



UMFCCI President U Win Myint meets Mr Jae-Ho OH and Mr Jong-Sang Kim. — UMFCFI



The second day session of the 16th plenary meeting of fifth 47-member SSMNC in progress. — MNA

Wellwishers donate cash to offer alms to members of Sangha

YANGON, 7 March—The 16th plenary meeting of the fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee continued along with the meeting of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and the presentation of cash donations for offering alms food to members of the Sangha at the religious titles conferring ceremony at Maha Nayaka Monastery on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township here today.

The occasion was graced by the presence of vice-chairmen and secretaries of the SSMNC.

The Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and U Hla Aye and Koebarsay traditional medicine house family (Wadan Street, Lanmadaw) presented K 1.2 million each; Sandi traditional medicine house (Konzaydan Street, Pabedan) and U Aung Din and family (Zaga Street, Ward 4, South Okkalapa), K 800,000 each; the Buddha Sasana Nuggaha Association and Maung Htein Lin-Ma Myat Myat Tun (Seson Street, Sangoung), K 600,000; U Tin Win-Daw Thein Thein Oo and family (Khayaymyaing Street, Thuwunna), K 500,000; Daw Myint Myint Thein and Daw Khin Win Myint and sisters (Parami Yeiktha and Kanbawza Street), K 415,000; U Tin Wan-Daw Hla Kyin and family (U Wisara Street, Dagon), K 300,000; Daw Khin Hla and family (Saya San Ward, Bahan),

K 150,000; U Hla Myo-Daw Khin Win Maw and family of (Saya San Ward, Bahan), and U Moe Thwin-Daw Nu Nu Yee and family (Inya Street), K 150,000; (U San Tha Kyaw)-Daw Khin Lay Chit (Kan Yeik Mon Housing Estate, Hline), K 250,000; U Hsan Win-Daw Yee Yee Wai and family (Hline Yadana Mon Housing Estate), K 200,000; U Tin Moe-Daw Aye Shin, U Sein Wan-Daw Myinzu Tun, U Aung Naing Tun (a) Aung Aung-Ma Soe Soe Aye (148th Street, Tamway), and U Aye Tin-Daw Kyu family (Hinth Min binding enterprising, 141st Street, Tamway), K 150,000 each; U Kyaw Nyunt (Nyunt Acid Chemical Enterprise) on Inya Myaing Street in Bahan, K 100,000; the working group of culture of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, K 50,000; Col Thet Wai (Retd)-Daw Amar Ni (a) Daw Mya Mya Win and family (Yan Aung Street 3, eastern Yankin), K 97,500; U Myint Oo-Daw Bok and family (South Okkalapa Golf Resort) 7,712,500.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Myo Myint, and Deputy Director-General Dr Myint Kyi accepted the donations.

Secretary of the SSMNC Nyaungdon Monastery Abbot

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

YANGON, 6 March—The 16th plenary meeting of fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee continued at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin, Thirimingalar Kaba Aye Hill, here for the second day and successfully ended in the evening.

Present on the occasion were member Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Maha Visutarama Taikthit in Magway Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, adviser U Aunt Maung, Director-General of Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Dr Myo Myint, officials and others.

Presiding Sayadaw of Maha Visutarama Taikthit in Magway Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara presided over the meeting, and Joint Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Kalaywa Kyaungtaik in Mayangon Township Agga Maha Pandita Dwipitakadhara Dwipitakakovida Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa acted as master of ceremonies.

Next, member of SSMNC Presiding Sayadaw of Ywama Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Insein Township Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa, member of SSMNC Presiding Sayadaw of Lewun Kyaungtaik in Thaton, Mon State Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sirinda and Presiding Sayadaw of Thitayon Kyaungtaik in Yekyi Township, Ayeyawady Division Maha Kammathanacariya Bhaddanta Sudhammisara dealt with Vinichaya affairs, religious and academic matters, and the meeting was in recess.

The meeting resumed at 1 pm and member Sayadaws of SSMNC held a discussion on suggestions of the members of State Central Working Committee for the Sangha and seeking approval for the sixth plenary meeting of fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

After that, member Sayadaws of SSMNC discussed matters on seeking approval for the list of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws and the members of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended in the evening.

MNA

Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open 2006 commences



YANGON, 7 March — Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open 2006, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Myanmar Brewery Ltd was opened at Danyingon Golf Club in Insein Township this morning.

A total of 111 golfers were taking part in the tournament. During the opening ceremony, the amateur golfers were at tees respectively. Chairman of MPGA and MGF

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa delivered a sermon.

MNA

Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department

U Thaug Htaik, General Manager of Myanmar Brewery Ltd Mr David Teng and Commercial Manager of Myanmar Brewery Ltd teed off a

ball to open the tournament in turn.

An eighteen-hole event commenced for the first day. After the event, Naing Naing Lin led the tournament with 71 strokes, followed by Aung Win with 74 strokes, Bo Bo and Myo Naing with 75 strokes each as well as Kyaw Thiha and Htay Win with 76 strokes each.

The main sponsor was Myanmar Brewery Ltd and co-sponsors, Air Mandalay Ltd, KM Golf Centre, Imperial Jade Drinking Water, Accel International Co Ltd, Canon, Yangon Golf Club and Han Golf Masters Academy. Han Event Management took charge to realize the tournament.

The eighteen-hole event continues tomorrow at the same venue.

MNA



Myanmar Brewery Ltd General Manager Mr David Teng fires the ball to open the tournament. — NLM



China's new National Theatre is seen from the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 6 March, 2006. —INTERENT

Ahmadinejad says Iran will never submit to pressure

TEHERAN, 7 March — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Monday that Iran would never submit to outside pressure against its nuclear programme, state media reported.

"Pressure will have no effect on Iran's process of decision making," Ahmadinejad was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying.

The President made the remarks on early Monday morning, just hours prior to a board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN's nuclear watchdog, over Iran's nuclear issue.

Ahmadinejad warned that tough measures taken by Western countries would just run counter-productive, according to IRNA.

He reiterated that Iran's nuclear activities were carried out within the framework of related

international regulations and that Iran was expecting Western powers to respect the will of the Iranian nation.

"We want to see a peaceful and tranquil world and therefore, we want to work on the basis of international regulations," Ahmadinejad said, adding that Iran would "neither use coercion nor accept force imposed on it."

Shortly after Ahmadinejad's comments, the IAEA's board meeting began in Vienna.

Right before the meeting, the IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei said that he was hopeful a deal over Iran's nuclear programme could be reached

in the next week or so. *MNA/Xinhua*

Kuwait announces major natural gas discovery

KUWAIT CITY, 7 March — Kuwait announced on Monday that significant natural gas and light crude oil fields have been discovered in northern Kuwait.

The reserves at the discovered free gas fields in Sabriya and Umm Niqa areas were estimated at one trillion cubic metres, Kuwaiti Energy Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said.

Sheikh Ahmad said the initial studies proved that 60 to 70 per cent of the discovered volume could be utilized, the *Kuwait News Agency* reported.

Sheikh Ahmad also said that some 10 to 13 billion barrels of light crude reserves have been discovered in the same areas. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Andean women carrying their sons run to take shelter from the rain in the highlands Paru Paru town in Cuzco, Peru on 5 March, 2006. INTERNET

Sanitation, road upgrading inspected in Yangon

YANGON, 7 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin today inspected measures taken for sanitation, proper drainage and upgrading of roads in the city.

First, the commander and the mayor arrived at U Chit Maung Road in Bahan Township where they inspected

tarmacking of the road. Afterwards, they inspected repaving of pedestrian lanes and unblocking of ditches on Natmauk Street in Tamway Township and tarmacking of 17th Street between Maha Bandoola Street and Strand Road, Anawrahta Street near Lanthit Street in Lanmadaw Township and Strand Road in Kyinmyindine Township. During their inspections, the commander and the mayor gave necessary instructions to officials. — *MNA*

Industry-1 products on the market

YANGON, 7 March — Goods produced by Ministry of Industry-1 will be sold at reasonable prices at the Market Festival of the ministry from 10 to 19 March at the grounds near Melamu Pagoda in North Okkalapa Township.

The market festival is staged by the Ministry of Industry-1 as a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day.

A concert will also be staged every evening during the festival to entertain the visitors. Food

and beverages shops will also be opened at the festival. — *MNA*

Indonesia needs to monitor living of adopted kids abroad

JAKARTA, 7 March — With hundreds of Indonesian toddlers involved in foreign adoptions in recent years, the government should conduct checks into their welfare in their new homes, an official was quoted as saying by a local newspaper on Monday.

Head of the sub-directorate for children at the Social Affairs Ministry, Afrinaldi, was quoted by *The Jakarta Post* daily as saying the government's concerns were well-founded because most of the children were adopted illegally instead of through official procedures.

"We have no idea about the condition of these adopted children because we don't conduct follow-up checks on them. It's only when there is a terrible incident that we know something wrong has happened," he said. Afrinaldi characterized the adoption by some foreigners as "a hobby," and after one or two years, they become bored and want to get rid of the children.

MNA/Xinhua

Sharon could still wake up, but chances slim

JERUSALEM, 7 March — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon could still pull out of his coma but chances are slim and no one can predict his mental state should regain consciousness, the hospital treating him said on Monday.

Sharon suffered a massive stroke on 4 January and has been comatose since. Medical experts have said they do not expect the 78-year-old former general to recover.

"There is a chance the Prime Minister will wake up. The chances are not great but it is not something that can be ruled out," said Shlomo Mor-Yosef, director of Jerusa-

lem's Hadassah Hospital.

"The condition he will be in if he wakes up is still an open question," he told a medical conference in Tel Aviv in remarks broadcast by Israeli Army Radio.

Sharon is listed as being in a critical, but stable condition at Hadassah.

He underwent emer-

gency surgery last month to remove a section of a damaged intestine after a worsening in his condition that prompted doctors to say he was in immediate danger. After the successful operation, doctors said Sharon's main problem remained his continued state of unconsciousness.

MNA/Reuters

Nepal provides vaccines to children

KATHMANDU, 7 March — The Nepali Government has been providing different vaccines to the children below one year old to reduce child mortality on the country, a government official said here on Monday.

"The government, through its National Immunization Programme (NIP), has been providing different vaccines to protect them from different communicable disease in the country," Shyam Raj Upreti, Director of Child Health Division at Ministry of Health and Population, told reporters.

The Second Long-term Health Plan (1997-2017) of the country targets to reduce the infant mortality rate to 34 per every 1,000 live birth and reduce mortality of children below five years to 54

per 1,000 live births by 2007, Upreti said.

According to the latest Demographic Health Survey of Nepal, infant mortality was 64 per 1,000 live births and in children below five years old it was 91 per 1,000 children.

The vaccines being provided under the regular programme are BCG, DPT, Polio, Hepatitis-B, measles and TT. "All the vaccines are being provided compulsorily to children below one year but the TT vaccine is being given to pregnant woman only," Upreti said. *MNA/Xinhua*

China to further tap gold resources

SHANGHAI, 7 March — China is estimated to have 22,000 tons of gold and 250,000 tons of silver reserves which need further prospecting, experts say. The country will take measures to prospect gold resources across the country in the coming five years, said Ye Jinhua, a researcher with the development research centre in China Geological Survey Bureau.

The reserve figures are based on analysis and survey carried out from the 1980s to 1990s, and the evaluation on mineral resources is an important part in China's 12-year land resources survey project which started in 1999, Ye said.

Geologists have promoted survey work at the major mineral resources belts over the past seven years and pinpointed 500 mineral resources mines, which boast rich non-ferrous metal, ferrous metal, noble metal and important non-metal mineral resources.—MNA/Xinhua

Anti-cigarette campaign helps slash cigarette consumption in Turkey

ANKARA, 7 March — The Turkish Anti-smoking Fighters Foundation (SSV) said that warning messages on cigarette packets as well as a series of anti-smoking advertisements had helped significantly decrease the number of people addicted to smoking in Turkey over the past six years, local newspaper *The Turkish Daily News* reported on Monday.

SSV head Ubeyd Korbey was quoted as saying that the effects of a more concerted fight against cigarettes in Turkey were beginning to be seen and that a significant drop had been registered in the number of addicted smokers since 1999.

Consumption of cigarettes in Turkey, which was registered as 1,610 cigarettes per capita six years ago, dropped to 1,490 per capita in 2005, according to the report. —MNA/Xinhua



Kashmiri youths perform martial arts exercises outside the Jalalabad refugee camp in the earthquake-devastated city of Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir on 5 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Cambodia, Vietnam sign agreements to strengthen friendship

PHNOM PENH, 7 March — Cambodia and Vietnam on Monday signed four documents aimed to further strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The four documents were signed by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai after their two-hour long meeting.

The four documents included the agreement on Vietnam's Assistance to Produce Border Markers for Cambodia; the Agreement on Border Health Quarantine; the Cooperation Plan on Information and the memorandum of understanding on the Initial Implementation of the Agreement for the Facilitation of Cross-Border Transport of Goods and People at the Bavet-Moc Bai Border Crossing Point.

The two leaders underscored the importance of these agreements in providing substantial benefits to businesses

and travellers and further expanding bilateral economic linkages.

Phan Van Khai said that his government attaches importance to develop the friendly relations between the two countries and hoping to strengthen the cooperation on various fields including electric supply, agriculture, health, culture and education.

Phan Van Khai said that with the increase of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, he hope the bilateral trade in 2006 will reach to 1,000 million US dollars.

Phan Van Khai arrived here on Monday morning to pay a two-day official visit to Cambodia at the invitation of his Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen.

MNA/Xinhua

Putin signs new anti-terrorism legislation

MOSCOW, 7 March — Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed into law an anti-terrorism bill that allows the shooting down of hijacked planes under certain circumstances, the Kremlin said on Monday.

The new legislation, whose concept was worked out after a series of terrorist attacks in Rus-

sia in 2004, replaced the federal law on fighting terrorism that had been in effect since 1998.

The document keeps the provision under which secret services may tap telephone conversations and control electronic communications in the area of an anti-terrorist operation. The law gives the Federal Security Service the leading role in anti-terrorist operations, but the military may be called in to stop aircraft or ships being used for terrorist attacks or hijacked by terrorists.

Under the law, the Armed Forces are allowed to shoot down aircraft if terrorists seize the plane to strike "vital facilities or tensely populated areas". —MNA/Xinhua

China to build 4 trunk oil, natural gas pipelines in 5 years

BEIJING, 7 March — China will build four major pipelines for oil and natural gas transport in the next five years, said a development blueprint submitted Sunday to the national legislature.

The trunk lines include two for petroleum transport, one from the west to the east and the other from north to south, said the draft plan of national economic and

social development for the 2006-2010 period.

The country will also build a second west-east natural gas pipeline and a pipeline for oil and natural gas import into the country's inland areas, said the blueprint submitted for examination and approval by deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC).

China will develop its oil and natural gas

transport network in the next five years to offset the energy disadvantage of some areas caused by imbalanced geographical distribution, the draft plan said.

The annual full session of the Chinese Parliament opened in Beijing on Sunday morning, with the presence of more than 2900 deputies from all over the country.

MNA/Xinhua



A group of Japanese businessmen walk by the Bank of Japan headquarters in Tokyo on 6 March, 2006.

INTERNET



Venezuelan Army snipers draped in foliage exercise at a remote military base on the outskirts of Caracas in Macarao on 4 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Singapore to take new measures to prevent bird flu outbreak

SINGAPORE, 7 March — The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore announced in a statement Monday that it will implement bio-segregation and emergency vaccination of poultry in local farms to prevent a possible outbreak of bird flu here.

The bio-segregation measures, which include no sharing of equipment among local poultry farms and separating egg collection areas from production areas, would minimize inter-farm contact so as to prevent spread of bird flu virus if it were to be found in any of the farms.

Minister of State for National

Development Heng Chee How said in Parliament on Monday that Singapore's poultry farms can be grouped into five clusters, and effective bio-segregation and bio-security measures may save the poultry in unaffected clusters from being culled and ensure continued supply of eggs in the city state.

MNA/Xinhua

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Zimbabwean Govt releases funds for more jobs

HARARE, 6 March — Zimbabwean Minister of Industry and International Trade Obert Mpofu has said that the government has resolved to pump an initial 1.5 trillion Zimbabwean dollars (10 million US dollars) in a move that could restore thousands of jobs.

Minister Mpofu was quoted by the *Sunday Mail* as saying that "the ministry is currently looking at a strategy aimed at mobilizing resources to bail out companies that closed down or are facing severe challenges".

MNA/Xinhua

Expert calls for strict birth control over rich people in China

BEIJING, 6 March —More measures should be adopted in addition to monetary penalty to prevent China's wealthy people from having more children, which runs counter to the national policy of one child, a population expert said here Sunday.

Business tycoons and show business celebrities are joining rural people to challenge China's family planning policy by paying the punitive "social maintenance fee" to have two or more offspring.

"Simply imposing fines or administrative punishments would not produce an ideal result," said Yang Kuifu, vice-chairman of the Committee of Population, Resources and Environment under the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), which is in a ten-day session. Yang said he had presented a proposal to the annual session of the top advisory body, namely the CPPCC National Committee, to invite reasonable and effective ideas to tackle the problem.

Statistics showed that at least 84 multi-baby cases were registered between 2002 and 2005 among affluent citizens in Shanghai, China's commercial hub. And there was a growing trend of the cases. In Shenyang, capital of Northeast China's Liaoning Province, 76 wealthy people were punished for having extra babies in 2000.—MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese farmer shepherds sheep in the suburbs of Langfang, northern China's Hebei Province on 6 March, 2006.—INTERNET

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China to cut energy consumption by 4% in 2006

BEIJING, 6 March — China will strive to chop down its energy consumption rate by 4 per cent this year, a new key index to guide economic and social development, Premier Wen Jiabao announced here Sunday. "Energy consumption per unit of GDP should fall by about 4 per cent in 2006," said Wen while delivering a report on government work at the opening meeting of the Fourth Session of the Tenth National People's Congress (NPC), the top legislature.

It is the first time that China combines energy-efficiency with the indexes of economic growth, price, employment and balance of payments for macro-control of its economy. "Energy-efficiency is indeed a key economic index, but few governments have made it a national policy," Jiang Xinmin, an expert with the Energy Institute under the State Development and Reform Commission.

MNA/Xinhua

UNDP/ICDP VACANCIES

The Integrated Community Development Project is one of the projects in Myanmar funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under its Human Development Initiative (HDI) IV. The project is currently providing assistance on social infrastructure and livelihood activities to poor rural communities in a number of selected townships in Myanmar. The assistance is delivered to the communities by township based project teams. Currently ICDP/UNDP is seeking applications from qualified Myanmar Nationals for the following posts:

- Posts:** 1. Technical Specialist (Health and Sanitation) 2. Technical Specialist (Education) 3. Technical Specialist (Social Infrastructure) 4. Agriculture Consultant 5. Livestock Consultant 6. Forestry Consultant and 7. Fishery Consultant

Duty Stations: For Posts 1, 2, and 3, the duty station will be Yangon with frequent travel to project townships and for Posts 4, 5, 6 and 7, the duty stations will be ICDP field offices in Boglay, Magway and Kalaw with frequent travel to project townships and villages within the zones.

2. Responsibilities: Working under the direct supervision of the Agency Project Manager or person assigned by the Agency Project Manager the respective Technical Specialist's and Consultant's responsibility will include:

1. Provide technical advice to the Agency Project Manager and Area Coordinators in relation to project's activities in respective sectors with a view to ensuring their appropriateness, viability, and quality assurance.
2. Assist the Agency Project Manager to review the requirements of technical service providers in the respective sectors and develop terms of reference to acquire their services
3. Advise the Agency Project Manager on training matters.
4. Facilitate the timely provision of required technical inputs in support of Township Plans.

3. Qualification and requirements: The candidate will have a minimum of a degree in (a) Medicine, public health, or sanitation for Post 1 (b) Education or a closely related discipline for Post 2 (c) Engineering, architecture, or a closely related field for Post 3 (d) Agriculture for Post 4 (e) Veterinary science or related field for Post 5 (f) Forestry or related subject for Post 6 and (g) Agriculture with specialization in Fishery for Post 7.

At least *ten years of practical experience* in the implementation of relevant sector programs is a requirement. Candidates should also have a proven background in training and skills transfer in the respective sectors preferably within a rural development context and committed to the project's poverty alleviation goals and its demand driven approaches. He / she will be a Myanmar national.

Applications should be addressed to: The Agency Project Manager, ICDP office, No. 6 Natmauk Road, P.O. Box 650 Yangon and submitted during office hour not later than 24 March 2006.

Note: UNDP practice relating to recruitment prohibits hiring of persons currently engaged by Government services or who left Government service during the past six months. Only those candidates in whose qualifications and experience the organization has further interest will be contacted for subsequent interviews. ICDP regrets its inability to reply individually or attend to telephone queries on the advertised post.

France to sign pact to develop Libya's nuclear energy

PARIS, 6 March —France will sign a pact with Libya in the next two to three weeks to help develop the North African country's civilian nuclear energy programme, a top French legislator said on Sunday on his return from Tripoli. "An agreement on cooperation in civilian nuclear power will be signed the next two to three weeks," Patrick Ollier, president of the French National Assembly's economic affairs committee, told Reuters. "The governments have already given their approval." France, home to the world's largest maker of nuclear reactors, Areva, and top nuclear power producer EDF, expressed interest last May to develop peaceful atomic energy in Libya, after it had voluntarily agreed to give up internationally banned weapons.

MNA/Reuter

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်သစ်ပညာရေးတိုးတက်ရေး နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေး

C American leaders to discuss energy issue in Panama

PANAMA CITY, 6 March — Central American leaders will attend a three-day meeting here on Tuesday to discuss energy issues, Panama's Vice-President and Foreign Minister Samuel Lewis Navarro said on Sunday.

Among those attending are Costa Rica's President Abel Pacheco, Guatemala's President Oscar Berger, Honduras' President Manuel Zelaya, Belize's Prime Minister Said Musa and El Salvador's Vice-President Vilma Escobar.

They will discuss a proposed petrol refinery that supplies energy to the region.

The summit, initiated by Panamanian President

Martin Torrijos, will be held to coincide with the 24th Panama Commercial Expo (Expocomer). Panama now holds the presidency of the Central America Integration System (SICA) during the first half of 2006.

"We have invited the leaders to attend an event in the framework of Expocomer because the trade fair is ... emblematic of what this country

represents — a centre of global commerce", Navarro said. Foreign ministers from SICA nations will also join the meeting.

They will present an agenda that the SICA brings to the meeting between the European Union (EU) and Latin American nations in May. SICA plans to launch negotiations for a free trade deal with the EU.

MNA/Xinhua



Japanese electronics giant Toshiba's employee Hiroko Mochida displays a portable DVD player 'SD-P2800', equipped with a 9-inch wide LCD display and TV/FM tuner on its slim body, priced at 70,000 yen (600 USD), at the company's headquarters in Tokyo recently. —INTERNET



An Indonesian man poses for a photo in front of the legendary World Cup trophy on 6 March, 2006 in Jakarta, Indonesia. —INTERNET

Tanzania predicts storms with possible flooding

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 7 March — Stormy downpours battered most parts of the country on Friday and Saturday when Dodoma in central Tanzania posted 60.1 millimetres of rain while Handeni in northeastern Tanzania got 59.1 millimetres of rain, local media reported on Sunday.

The heavy rains came amid prolonged drought since last November that had caused failure of crops and famine in some parts of the country.

The Tanzania Meteorological Agency

has warned that the heavy rains might cause flooding and advised people in flood-prone areas to move to high grounds in advance.

Mohammed Mhita, director-general of the meteorological agency, was quoted as saying that the downpour was a result of a cyclone named "Diwa" that has hit the coast of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean close to the African continent.

The chief meteorologist said that rains had been experienced almost throughout the country but he maintained that the country's annual long rainy season was yet to begin for real.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese State Councillor meets Japanese guests

BEIJING, 6 March — Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan met with visiting Vice-President Hiromasa Ikeda of the Soka Gakkai of Japan here on Saturday.

Tang said the Soka Gakkai, a Buddhist organization in Japan, has persevered in China-Japan friendship for a long time and made contributions to promoting bilateral exchanges in various fields and enhancing the friendly ties between the two peoples.

Tang praised Honorary President of Soka Gakkai Daisaku Ikeda, saying he is "an old friend" of the Chinese people who has devoted himself to the cause of China-Japan friendship.

MNA/Xinhua

Huge funds earmarked to improve China's township health service

BEIJING, 6 March — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Sunday pledged to spend at least 20 billion yuan (2.4 billion US dollars) in improving township health service in the next five years.

To give the people an easier and cheaper access to medical service, China needs to step up building rural health service system and improve the service networks covering county, township and village levels, said Wen while delivering a government work report at the opening meeting of the Fourth Session of the Tenth National People's Congress (NPC), the top legislature.

China has more than 900 million rural population. Rural health is the weakest and most unbalanced part in the country's health development, Health Minister Gao Qiang said

late last month.

"The move shows the strong commitment and resolution of the central government in improving the lagging-behind rural health service system in the approach to build socialist new country-side," said Mao Qun'an, spokesman of the Ministry of Health, in an interview with Xinhua.

Township health centres are a connecting link between county hospitals and village clinics in the overall rural health service system, said Mao.

The central government has been raising financial support to this part over the past few years. — MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe acquires new electrical equipment from China

HARARE, 6 March — The Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (Zesa) has acquired electrical equipment from China to replace the power utility's obsolete infrastructure in Harare and to light new suburbs in the city.

The move is expected to improve electricity distribution in different parts of the city, whose supplies were, in some instances, being affected by ageing infrastructure.

The Zesa Holdings board of director, the parastatal's chairman, Sydney Gata, was quoted by Sunday Mail as saying that 166 service vehicles were also part of the consignment.

He said the equipment, which was financed through tobacco exports, was brought into the country over the past three weeks and would this week be officially handed over to the Zimbabwe Electricity Distribution Company.

Among critical components are transformers,

switchgears, circuit breakers and meters. The equipment will be dispatched for installation immediately after this week's hand-over ceremony. — MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua



Staff of Wuhan Baiji Dolphin Aquarium hold an eight-month-old finless porpoise before doing a physical examination in Central China's Hubei Province on 6 March, 2006. This finless porpoise is up to 111cm long, about 40cm longer than when it was born, and weighs 32kg. —INTERNET

SPORTS

England to play friendly with Netherlands in November

LONDON, 7 March— England announced on Monday the details of a friendly to be played against the Netherlands in November.

The game will take place on Wednesday November 15 at the Amsterdam Arena and will come directly after a string of Euro 2008 qualifiers throughout September and October.

Kick-off time has yet to be confirmed and the Football Association say that details of ticketing arrangements will be revealed after the World Cup finals.

England last faced the Netherlands at Villa Park in February 2005 and historically The Three Lions have the edge over the men from the Netherlands, boasting a 5-4 lead in the 16 games that the sides have contested to date. —MNA/Xinhua



Tiger Woods holds the trophy after winning the Ford Championship at Doral golf tournament for the second consecutive year in Doral, Fla on 5 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Blatter criticizes World Cup organizers over tickets

BERLIN, 7 March— FIFA president Sepp Blatter has criticized Germany's World Cup organizers for using a confusing ticketing system, saying world soccer's governing body would take over sales in 2010.

In an interview with the *Neue Zuercher Zeitung* newspaper published in Zurich, he said the German Football Federation (DFB) had opted for a sales system based on a series of lotteries because demand far outstripped supply.

"The Germans picked a system I can't understand at all," said Blatter on Sunday. "I don't know how many meetings we've

had about that.

"We simply aren't making any progress with the DFB. It would probably have been better if we had taken over the ticketing ourselves.

"I had my reservations about it from the start but in the end I'll be blamed for everything. In South Africa in 2010 we will take over control of the ticketing again."

MNA/Reuters

Man United beat Wigan thanks to late own goal

LONDON, 7 March— Manchester United fought back to beat an unfortunate Wigan Athletic 2-1 thanks to a stoppage time own goal by Pascal Chimbonda in the Premier League on Monday.

The win took United back above Liverpool into second place with 57 points from 27 games although they trail leaders Chelsea by 15 points, albeit with a game in hand. Wigan stay 10th.

Last month's League Cup finalists were meeting for the third time this season but Wigan gave a far better performance than they had in a heavy defeat at the Millennium Stadium last month.

Sprightly Wigan had taken the lead through

Paul Scharner after a goalmouth scramble just before the hour but United levelled 14 minutes later through Cristiano Ronaldo. Wigan were desperately unlucky not to take something from the game as Chimbonda turned the ball into his own net after Louis Saha's shot came back off the bar and hit the full back.

"I don't think we have had a harder game away from home this season," United manager Alex Ferguson told Sky Sports.

"They (Wigan) were brilliant. We've had a bit of luck."

Dejected Wigan manager Paul Jewell added: "We have pushed Man United — second in the league — right to the end but the best teams always get the luckiest."

Wigan had been outplayed in their first major final when United destroyed them 4-0 to lift the League Cup. They also lost 4-0 in the league at Old Trafford.

It was a different story

at the JJB Stadium, though, as they dominated possession from the start.

Gary Teale, Jason Roberts and Graham Kavanagh all came close with long-range efforts in the first half but Henri Camara was nearest 10 minutes before the break when his left foot snap shot flew just wide.

United looked more dangerous after the break and England forward Wayne Rooney missed a glorious chance when he headed over the bar from a Gary Neville cross.

Wigan took the lead when Scharner fired home from close range after Ryan Giggs had twice blocked the ball on the line from Arjen De Zeeuw's header and a Roberts shot.

United introduced substitute Ruud van Nistelrooy for Park Ji-Sung and the Dutchman almost immediately changed the game as his miscued shot fell into the path of Ronaldo. The Portugal forward responded superbly to steer the ball past John Filan from eight metres after 73 minutes, giving United a lifeline they barely deserved.

MNA/Reuters



James Blake, right, shakes hands with Lleyton Hewitt, left, of Australia, after their final match of Tennis Channel Open tennis tournament in Las Vegas on 5 March, 2006. Blake won the final match, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3.—INTERNET

Pitch to help Arsenal beat Real Madrid

LONDON, 7 March— Arsenal midfielder Gilberto Silva claimed that Real Madrid will meet problems playing them at the narrow Highbury pitch in Wednesday's Champions League match.

"Real's style might create some difficulties for them at Highbury," the Brazilian international said.

"They will not have a lot of space to play, let alone the fact we will be at home and with the crowd on our side. It is a great opportunity for Arsenal."

The Arsenal star is not underestimating Real, insisting they are still a very dangerous side, though a 1-0 home defeat in the Primera Liga side on the brink.

"They are intelligent players — not just Ronaldo but the whole team. We need to be aware of our jobs," Gilberto continued.

"They want to win the game because they want to go to the next stage.

"We will see a completely different Madrid and we do not expect an easy game. I know we are at home, but it will be

harder than it was in Madrid.

"They need a victory, and they will work very hard. It will be a big battle — we need to be dominant and play with confidence and play our game.

"We want to win again, but we can not afford to be complacent."

MNA/Xinhua

Nearly 8,000 women participate in Addis Ababa's 5km race

ADDIS ABABA, 7 March— Nearly 8,000 females took part in the 5 kilometres women's race organized for the third time here on Monday under the theme "Let women decide for themselves," the organizing committee said.

Rehima Kedir of the Muger Club finished first clocking 15:42.77, while Kornji Jali of the Defense Club and Makda Harur of Prison Police placed second and third respectively.

Haile Gebreselassie and Meseret Defar as well as other renowned athletes attended the race. Haile wins four world athletics championships at 10,000 metres, as well as two Olympic gold medals, while Meseret wins women's 5,000m gold medal in the Athens Olympics.

Various segments of the society, including a four-year-old child, disabled citizens and a number of mothers as well as foreign diplomats took part in the race.

Ethiopia has a long tradition of an excellent and winning athletics programme that has produced among the finest and most remarkable long-distance runners the world has yet seen.

Despite difficult situations, Ethiopian athletes have brought a good name to their country and hosted the national tri-color, the Green, the Yellow and the Red in every major world athletics meet.

MNA/Xinhua

Chelsea appeal against Robben's red card

LONDON, 7 March— Chelsea have submitted an appeal against Arjen Robben's red card in their 2-1 win at West Brom.

The Dutchman was sent off for lunging at West Brom midfielder Jonathan Greening at The Hawthorns on Saturday afternoon.

Chelsea players confronted referee Mark Halsey in the wake of the sending off claiming Robben had been harshly dealt with.

The decision incensed Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho who got involved in a touchline scuffle with West Brom counterpart Bryan Robson.

The sending off was Robben's second dismissal of the season following his red card against Sunderland.

A Football Association statement read: "Chelsea have notified The FA of their intention to claim for wrongful dismissal in relation to the sending-off of Arjen Robben for serious foul play against West Bromwich Albion on 4 March.

"The case will be heard by a disciplinary commission on Tuesday." —MNA/Xinhua



Chelsea's Frank Lampard (L) stretches with Eidur Gudjohnson during a training session at the Nou Camp stadium, Barcelona on 6 March, 2006.—INTERNET

India, Australia boost economic, defence cooperation

NEW DELHI, 7 March — India and Australia on Monday signed a trade and economic framework (TEF) to expand bilateral commercial ties in sectors like mining, infrastructure, education, tourism and bio-technology.

"The TEF will encourage closer strategic cooperation in key sectors with outstanding potential like energy and mining, infrastructure development and information technology," said Australian Prime Minister John Howard at the Australia-India Business Forum Meeting held here Monday. The trade and economic framework will provide an avenue to inter-

act in a more focused manner and to identify the areas where we could harness the complementarities of the two countries," said Kamal Nath, Indian Commerce Minister, at the same occasion.

The framework eyes industries such as energy, mining, infrastructure development, education, tourism, entertainment, bio-technology as well as

traditional areas of textile and agriculture. The framework will assist private companies of both countries to seek business opportunities in these fields.

Howard, who arrived here Sunday on a four-day visit, is accompanied by a high-profile business delegation from industries like finance, renewable energy and infrastructure

that will explore investment opportunities in India. He will also visit Mumbai and Chennai.

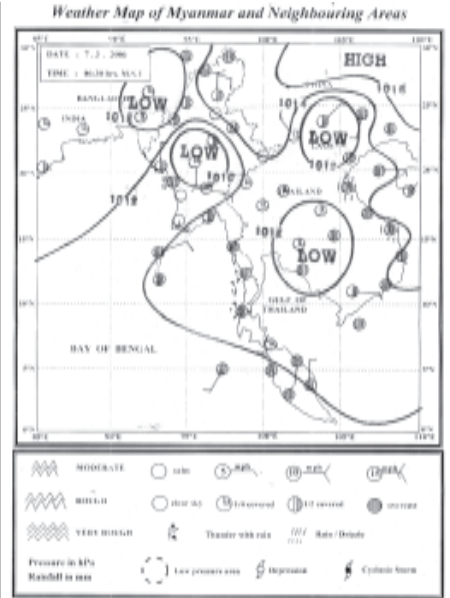
The Australian delegation will also sign pacts in the aviation sector and a memorandum of understanding in the field of Customs.

The bilateral trade stood at over four billion US dollars last year, with an annual growth of 20 per cent, while India ranked as Australia's 6th biggest export market.

Australia is the eighth largest investor in India with a net investment of one billion US dollars.

The two sides also signed a memorandum of understanding about defence cooperation here Monday. It covers cooperation in exchange of views on security and defence related matters, training, maritime cooperation, defence industries and defence research and development.

MNA/Xinhua



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, right, and Australian Prime Minister John Howard shake hands before a meeting in New Delhi, India, on 6 March, 2006. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Tuesday, 7 March, 2006

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

Maximum temperature on 6-3-2006 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 7-3-2006 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 7-3-2006 was (77%). Total sunshine hours on 6-3-2006 was (7.9) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 7-3-2006 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 Southwest at (15:20) hours MST on 6-3-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-3-2006: Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of light increase of day temperatures in the Central Myanmar and Deltaic areas.

Forecast for Pyinmana and neighbouring area for 8-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-3-2006: Partly cloudy.



Wednesday, 8 March
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော် ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မေယျာရဋ္ဌ ဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မေယျာသဒ္ဓမ္မ ဓမ္မာတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် တက္ကသိုလ်တက္ကသိုလ်သစ်၊ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
- 5. အထီးမြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:05 am
- 6. မြူးမြူးမြူး ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 8:15 am
- 7. အရေးမြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:25 am
- 8. ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း မဟာရာ ရေသောက် တံခါး
- 8:30 am
- 9. International news
- 8:45 am
- 10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm
- 4. တပီဇာတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေး သီချင်းမြိုင်ပွဲ ဆရာတော်များ (၂၀၀၃) ခုနှစ်
- 4:55 pm
- 5. အစေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြိုင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ရက္ခဏာအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဏာ)
- 5:05 pm
- 6. Song of national races
- 5:20 pm
- 7. Classical song
- 5:30 pm
- 8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:40 pm
- 9. "အိန္ဒိယာမေတ္တာတော်" (မင်းအုပိရီ၊ ဂုဏ်ပျော့ကြော် မြတ်တော်အောင်၊ နန်းပတ်ရည် သောင်း၊) (ဒါရိုက်တာ မင်းအုပိရီ)

- 5:45 pm
- 10. ရွှေယံရုံလင် အာဆီယံ အစီအစဉ်
- 6:00 pm
- 11. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 13. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညက်ရှင်
- 7:00 pm
- 14. အထီးမြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:10 pm
- 15. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက် တပီဇာတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 7:25 pm
- 16. ကြားမြိုင်သုတပြည် ဝေရာ စာပဒေသာ
- 7:40 pm
- 17. ရန်ကုန် ဒဂုံတက္ကသိုလ် ရထား လမ်းသစ်နှင့် ဒဂုံတက္ကသိုလ် ဘူတာသစ်အောင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 pm
- 18. News
- 19. International news
- 20. Weather report
- 21. ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် (၅၉)နှစ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ တိုင်းရင်းသား ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုပဒေသာကဏ္ဍ (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 22. The next day's programme



Wednesday, 8 March
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Stay the same
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Evergreen
- 8:50 am National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Because of you
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Show me love
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music -Until you come back
- 9:00 pm Variations on a tune -A taste of honey
- 9:15 pm Article/Music
- 9:25 pm Music at your request -Take your chance
- 9:45 pm News & Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

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

Commander inspects GTC (Myeik) construction

YANGON, 7 March — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe on 1st March inspected the construction of Government Technology College in Myeik and urged officials concerned to complete the construction project meeting the set standard.

He also inspected the construction of the road along the coast in Myeik and jetties.

During his inspection tour of Myeik, the minister also inspected the construction of the wood based factory of the Wood World Co Ltd and the cold storage factory.

Afterwards, the commander went to the new town in Myeik and attended to the needs for construction of roads in the new town.

MNA



Gem merchants examining lots of pearls at the 20th Pearl Sale (2006).

MNA

20th Pearl Sale (2006) commences

YANGON, 7 March—The Myanmar Pearl Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines launched its 20th Pearl Sale (2006) at Thiri Mingala Hall of the ministry at 90, Kanbe Road, Yankin Township, here, this morning.

More than 40 local gem merchants will purchase the pearl lots through tender system.

At the sale, 11,249.30 mommes of 190 pearl lots (20,174 pieces) will be sold in Myanmar currency.

The merchants examined the lots from 10 am to 5 pm today. Managing Director of the MPE U Maung Toe, General Manager U Sein Lwin and officials supervised the tasks.

The sale will be held on 8 and 9 March from 10 am to 5 pm. — MNA

Energy beat Home Affairs 3-2, MAPT and Kanbawza draw 1-1 in Myanmar League

YANGON, 7 March — Myanmar League's remaining matches for 2005-2006 continued in Youth Training Camp (Thuwunna) and Aung San Stadium at 3.30 pm today. Energy beat Home Affairs with 3-2 while MAPT and Kanbawza were held to a 1-1 draw.

(Thuwunna)

Energy 3 (goals)

(Yan Naing Soe, Aung Kyaw Myo and Wai Yan Maung)

Home Affairs'1 (goal) (Nay Thu Hlaing) Referee U Tun Shin

Energy was out of rhythm in the first-half and conceded one goal. After the break, Energy regained their regular stylish play and took hold of three points after leveling the match and further winning goals.

The win put Energy under the threat of second placed Commerce because the former had 30

points and one point deficit behind the latter. Home Affairs took the lead in the first half and it could not defend its score in the second half.

On the stroke of the first half, Home Affairs duo striker Nay Thu Hlaing wearing captain armband and Sithu Win could drill the defensive line of Energy. Nay Thu Hlaing scored the opening from a bounce off goalkeeper Kyaw Min Hling

blasted by Sithu Win at 17th minute. In spite of Energy gearing up its teamwork, it was out of rhythm in the first half.

After the break, Energy regained their regular form. Yan Naing Soe took the equalizer for Energy and Aung Kyaw Myo added second and Wai Yan Maung, third respectively. The match ended with 3-1. Energy had nine wins, three draws, two losses in 14 matches and it remained third place on 30 points. Home Affairs had five wins, three draws and six losses in 14 matches and it stood ninth place on 18 points.

(Aung San) MAPT 1 (goal) Kanbawza 1 (goal)

Kanbawza had six wins, three draws and five losses in 14 matches and it stayed seventh place on 21 points while MAPT had three wins, four draws and seven losses and it was at thirteenth place.

Tomorrow's Fixtures (Aung San)

Commerce Vs F&R (Thuwunna)

Forestry Vs Sunye

NLM



Striker Naing Win of Energy (C) trying to carry the ball past Ne Thu Hlaing (L) and Chit Ko Ko of Home Affairs.

NLM

INSIDE

Bio-diesel derived from physic nut can be used in tractors, water pumps and generators. Moreover, crushed physic nut can be used as natural fertilizer. Therefore, cultivation of physic nut contributes not only to agriculture work but also to electric power supply to villages.

PAGE 2

PERSPECTIVES

KNU terrorist who detonated bombs in Toungoo arrested

YANGON, 7 March—A bomb went off near No 1 Basic Education High School in Ward 19 and another near EPC Transformer Station in Ward 20, Toungoo on 2 March 2006. The incident was reported in the newspapers on 3 March.

In connection with the case, members of the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and the people exposed and arrested the terrorist who planted the bombs in Ward 20, Toungoo at 4 pm the same day.

The bomber was identified as Saw Gay The Mu (a) Saw Nay La (a) Saw Baw Shwe He, 24, a private of KNU Brigade-5 Headquarters, and investigation into the case continues for further information.

MNA