

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 10 March, 2006

## Senior General Than Shwe meets visiting Indian President and party

### One agreement, two MoUs inked between Governments of Union of Myanmar, Republic of India

YANGON, 9 March — President of the Republic of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam met with Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe at the Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building, here, at 10.45 am today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Science and Technology U Thuang, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

The Indian President was accompanied by high-ranking officers of the Indian Government and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra. At 12.30 pm, Senior General Than Shwe and party together with Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and party attended the ceremonies to sign an agreement and MoUs between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India, at the Treaty Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, on behalf of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, and Foreign Secretary Mr Shyam Saran of the Ministry of External Affairs, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of India signed the **Framework Agreement on Mutual Cooperation in the Field of Remote Sensing between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Gov-**

*Chairman  
of the State  
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Council  
Senior  
General  
Than Shwe  
greets  
President  
of the  
Republic of  
India  
Dr APJ  
Abdul  
Kalam at  
the Creden-  
tials Hall  
of Pyithu  
Hluttaw  
Building.*  
MNA



**ernment of the Republic of India**, and they exchanged notes.

Next, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Foreign Secretary Mr Shyam Saran of Ministry of External Affairs of India inked the **Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Buddhist Studies between the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar and Indian Council for Cultural Relations of the Government of the Republic of India**, and they exchanged notes.

Afterwards, Director-General U Soe Myint of the Energy Planning Department under the Ministry of Energy and Joint-Secretary Mr Prabh Das of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India signed the **Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Petroleum Sector between the Ministry of Energy of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Government of the Republic of India**.

After exchanging the notes, the signing ceremony came to a close. — MNA



*Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe receives Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at Pyithu Hluttaw Building. — MNA*

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

# PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 10 March, 2006

## Make constant study of national and international developments

The government of the Union of Myanmar, in its drive to build the nation into a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy, places special emphasis on peace and stability and economic and human resources development. A major force of the nation, the Union Solidarity and Development Association, together with all the national people, is taking part in the nation-building work with national spirit and Union Spirit. To widen the horizons of new generations of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, the government is constantly conducting various kinds of training courses.

Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No. 11 was concluded at the training hall of the Union Solidarity and Development Association in Hmawby Township on 8 March and the closing ceremony was attended by Member of the Central Panel of Patrons of USDA Prime Minister General Soe Win. In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister expressed his belief that the trainees had learned the national and international developments of the past and the present to some extent and urged them to put into practice their knowledge, thoughts and skills gained from the course.

The trainees have studied Myanmar history, the national policy, political, economic and social developments, the Road Map for the nation's future national defence and security, international affairs and cooperation between regional organizations. Such courses and seminars will enable the trainees to hone their abilities, enhance their work proficiency, possess strong concepts and convictions and value national character and prestige of their motherland and their own race, community peace and prevalence of law and order and national unity.

The Union Solidarity and Development Association is taking an active part in political, economic and social work as well as in rural development tasks. They are also required to carry out the work on electricity supply, the opening of libraries in rural areas and cultivation of physic nut as a national duty. And finally, we would like to call on all the members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association to apply, in their everyday life, their knowledge, thoughts and skills they have gained from the course and make a constant study of national and international developments.

### နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရရေး

လစဉ် လ၏ဒုတိယပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

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## 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



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

## Sixth meeting of the Fifth Central Working Committee of the Sangha begins

YANGON, 9 March—The sixth meeting of the Fifth Central Working Committee of the Sangha took place at the Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

Members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Agghiya of Zaya Maydani Waso Monastery of Maha Withuddayon Taikhit in Maha Aungmye Township, Mandalay Division, Sayadaw Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Bhaddanta Panñasami of Ariyavamsa Monastery in Hpa-an, Kayin State, Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Sobhana of Myatheindan Monastery in Pazundaung Township, Yangon Division, Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru of Wuntho Monastery in Myitkyina, Kachin State, and Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sumangala of Maha Withuddarama Monastery in Pakokku, Magway Division, acted as Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the first day session of the meeting.

Chairman of the SCWCS Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara of Maha Withutarama Monastery in Magway Township, Magway Division, presided over the meeting. Joint-Secretary of the SCWCS Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita

Dvipitakadhara Dvipitaka Kovida Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa of Kalewa Tawya Monastery in Mayangon Township, Yangon Division, acted as MC.

The MC announced the agendas of the sixth meeting to be held from 9 to 11 March and sought the approval of the Sayadaws.

Next, Ovada Kathas (sermons) of the Ovadacariya Sayadaws were read out. The list of the State Ovadacariya Sayadaws elected, member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and SCWCS Sayadaws were read out and the approval was sought. SCWCS Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa of Ponnaramazay Monastery in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division supplicated on the report of the SSMNC on work done last year.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on religious affairs.

The report of the SSMNC on Vinaya (rules and regulations) affairs was submitted.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Canda Siri assessed the suggestions of the SCWCS Sayadaws.

Sandi traditional medicine house family offered alms food to the members of the Sangha today, and Maung Htein Lin and Ma Myat Myat Tun of No 7, Seson Street, Sangyoung Township, yesterday. — MNA

## Functions of Carpet Factory in Dawbon inspected

YANGON, 9 March — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo yesterday afternoon arrived at Dawbon Carpet Factory located between Minnanda Road and Pazundaung Creek in Dawbon Township.

Factory Manager U Kyaw Myint reported to the minister on production capacity of the factory and manufacturing of various kinds of carpets.

Managing Director U Ye Phone Myint of Myanma Jute Enterprise gave a supplementary report on tasks being carried out for meeting the target and the market demand of the products. The minister in-

structed officials to manufacture quality products.

Next, the minister discussed production of quality carpets with officials, and attended to the needs. The minister viewed various items of carpet designs displayed at the hall of the factory. The factory manufactures various sizes of carpets and tissue paper roles. — MNA

## CSSTB Chairman inspects cultivation in UDNR

YANGON, 9 March —Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun yesterday inspected the cultivation of physic nut plants, pepper and other crops in the compound of the University for Development of National Races in Sagaing.

During his tour of inspection, Dr Than Nyun also inspected construction of gymnasium of the university. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Dawbon carpet factory in Dawbon Township. — A & I



# China urges Iran to fully cooperate with IAEA

BEIJING, 8 March — China urged Iran on Tuesday to fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency to defuse a standoff over its nuclear ambitions.

The IAEA said on Monday a deal to defuse the standoff was still possible after a surge of diplomacy involving Russia and the top European Union powers.

"We hope Iran can fully cooperate with the IAEA and adopt more measures that can help boost trust,"

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing told a news conference. "There is still room for a resolution under IAEA and the international community should not give up efforts," Li said.

Li said China hoped talks on the issue could yield positive results and that all parties remained restrained and patient, demonstrated flexibility and continued to commit to diplomatic approaches to resolve the issue.

Iran has the right to peaceful use of nuclear

power as a Non-Proliferation Treaty signatory, but must fulfil its NPT obligations, Li said. Zhang Yan, China's top disarmament official, is in Vienna working on the issue, he said.

On Monday, US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said Washington wanted European and other countries to join in imposing travel and financial sanctions on Iran if Teheran refused to halt nuclear enrichment.

MNA/Reuters



An aerial acrobatic team performs in the Air Show & Aviation Expo held in Egypt's Red Sea resort Sharm el Sheikh, on 8 March, 2006. More than 50 aviation enterprises including Boeing and Airbus took part in the event.—INTERNET

# Demographers say Whites to be minority in New York area soon

NEW YORK, 8 March —The influx of immigrants to New York and its suburbs and the continuing exodus of non-Hispanic Whites to other parts of the

country have changed the demography of metropolitan New York so profoundly that Whites will become a minority within a few years, the *New York*

*Times* reported on Tuesday.

According to a recently released analysis of 2004 Census estimates by the Brookings Institute, this shift would make New York the first large metropolitan area outside the South and West in which Whites do not make up a majority. Whites have been a minority in New York City since the 1980's. But now that shift is extending to the wider metropolitan area, driven by immigration and higher birth rates among immigrants. Already, non-Hispanic Whites are a minority of the metropolitan area's population younger than 15.

"New York is still the classic melting pot, with a whole diverse array of immigrants coming in, but the suburbs are now becoming part of this bigger melting pot," said William Frey, the Brookings Institute demographer who conducted the analysis.

MNA/Xinhua



Beachgoers relax behind a sculpture by Australian artist Richie Kuhaup titled "Straight Up and Down" at Perth's Cottesloe Beach, on 8 March, 2006, which is part of the Sculpture by the Sea Exhibition. —INTERNET

# Make more money, Berlusconi tells poor Italians

MILAN, 7 March—Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's recommendation for Italians trying to escape poverty: do it my way and earn more cash.

Asked in a television interview late on Monday what the government could do to help a worker earning only 1,500 euros (\$1,793) a month, Italy's richest man said: "The answer of Berlusconi the businessman is, try to earn more."

He then launched into an account of how he scraped together his first earnings that laid the foundation for his media empire, by helping out at a local market and by collecting paper in the street, scrunching it up into balls and reselling it to people who used it to light their stoves.

"When someone gave me a camera, I used it to take pictures at funerals, weddings and I took portraits," he added in an interview with northern Italian



PM Silvio Berlusconi of Italy.—INTERNET

Telombaridia.

Berlusconi's popularity has suffered as his country is struggling to pull out of an economic slump and opinion polls show his centre-right bloc trailing the centre-left coalition led by Romano Prodi ahead of a national election in April.—Internet

# Car bombs wound three in south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 8 March—Two car bombs went off separately in the city of Hilla south of Baghdad on Tuesday, wounding three

people, a police source said.

The first bomb detonated at about 9:40 am (0640 GMT) in the

northern part of Hilla, some 100 kilometres south of Baghdad, causing no casualties, the source said on condition of anonymity.

Shortly after, a second car bomb went off at a busy area, wounding three people, the source added.

Earlier, another two car bombs targeting US patrols detonated in southern and western Baghdad, killing a civilian and wounding five others, according to an Interior Ministry source.

Guerillas attack US and Iraqi security forces on highways, main roads and busy areas in and around Baghdad in a bid to cripple the country's ongoing political process.

MNA/Xinhua

# 2,303 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 8 March—As of Wednesday, 8 March, 2006, at least 2,303 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 1,803 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is one fewer than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Wednesday 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



Anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan attends a peace march as part of International Women's Day in Washington, on 8 March, 2006. The protesters collected over 100,000 signatures calling on the withdrawal of all foreign troops and fighters from Iraq. —INTERNET

# Iran insists on nuclear fuel research programme

VIENNA, 8 March— Iran will only accept a two-year moratorium on industrial-scale production of nuclear fuel if it is allowed to run a small-scale enrichment research programme, which would be monitored by UN inspectors, a diplomat close to talks between Iran and the EU said on Tuesday.

"Any moratorium of more than two years on industrial-scale production and any suspension of nuclear research activities will make it difficult to reach a deal," the diplomat said.

Russia and UN nuclear watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei are pushing the West to let Iran pursue enrichment research on a small scale under UN surveillance, diplomats say. ElBaradei, head of the

International Atomic Energy Agency, said on Monday a deal to defuse the standoff was still possible after diplomacy involving Russia and the three EU powers.

MNA/Reuters

On Friday, Iran said it could delay large-scale uranium enrichment for up to two years. European Union negotiators demand a 10-year moratorium on all enrichment activities.

The EU trio of France, Britain, Germany, and the United States, have rejected the idea of allowing Iran to run a small enrichment research programme, arguing that this risks enabling Teheran to master technology it could then use in a covert nuclear weapons programme. Iran denies seeking atomic bombs.



## ဝက်ပူစွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

### Thai economy to grow 4.5-5.5% in 2006

BANGKOK, 8 March — The National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) of Thailand said on Monday the country's economy is expected to show a growth of 4.5 to 5.5 per cent this year after having shown a growth of 4.5 per cent last

year, according to the web edition of the local newspaper *Bangkok Post*.

NESDB said that Thailand's gross domestic product (GDP) showed a slowdown and grew on a seasonally adjusted basis at 0.9 per cent in the fourth quarter as high fuel prices and rising interest rates outweighed seasonal tourism and export recoveries.

The state economic planning agency said that the fourth quarter was

Thailand's slowest expansion last year as farm output fell and lower exports hurt manufacturing, prompting the government to cut this year's growth forecast.

The agency said that it was therefore revising down its 2006 projections to 4.5 to 5.5 per cent against its past projection of 4.7 to 5.7 per cent, citing the negative impact from the rising interest rates and the higher fuel cost.

MNA/Xinhua

### Complexity causes half of product returns

AMSTERDAM, 7 March— Half of all malfunctioning products that are returned to stores by consumers work just fine, if only the customer knew how to operate the device, a scientist said on Monday.

Such product complaints and returns are often caused by poor design, but companies often dismiss them as "nuisance calls," Elke den Ouden found in her thesis at the Technical University of Eindhoven in the south of Netherlands.

A wave of versatile

electronics gadgets has flooded the market in recent years, ranging from MP3 players and home cinema sets to media centers and wireless audio systems, but consumers still find it hard to install and use them, she said.

The average consumer in the United States will struggle for 20 minutes to get a device working, before giving up, the study found. Product developers, brought in to witness the struggles of average consumers, were astounded by the havoc they created.—*Internet*

### Australian woman survives days at sea on urine

BANGKOK, 8 March — An Australian yachtswoman said on Tuesday she drank her own urine to survive five days at sea without food or water after being swept out to sea in a dinghy from a Thai island.

Dominique Courteille, 57, a mother of four from Perth, said after being rescued by a Taiwan fishing boat in Indonesian waters she held onto the little boat to shade herself from the fierce sun.

"If I want to survive, I have to manage myself," the Belgian-born Courteille said she kept telling herself.

"I swim and hold the boat in the day to avoid from the sun and I have to drink my urine," she said in a statement dictated to a hospital worker on the Thai resort island of Phuket to which the fishing boat took her.

A hospital spokeswoman said Courteille,

who had been living on her yacht at a Phuket marina for the past 18 months, appeared to be in good shape.

"Her blood tests show an electrolyte imbalance with some sunburns, but her physical appearance shows she is strong," the spokeswoman told Reuters.

"She refuses to stay at the hospital because she says she misses her friends."—*MNA/Reuters*

Visitors look at a display on the opening day of the Taipei International Cycle Show on 8 March, 2006. More than 650 exhibitors are displaying their products of high-tech bikes until 11 March.—*INTERNET*



Japanese walk past a stock quotation board in Tokyo, on 9 March, 2006. The Nikkei share average climbed 2.23 percent on Thursday morning as investors bet the Bank of Japan was likely to scrap its unprecedented ultra-loose monetary policy later in the day, putting an end to weeks of market uncertainty. *INTERNET*



A South Korean walks past a model of a Scud-B missile (R) and a model of a Nike missile at a war museum in Seoul, on 9 May, 2006. *INTERNET*

### Mankind origin museum opened in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 9 March—South African President Thabo Mbeki Tuesday opened a new museum complex to showcase the origin of mankind and bushman rock art to the general public at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg.

Mbeki said the opening of the Origins Centre was timely, following soon after the inauguration of the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) and the Cradle of Humankind Maropeng Visitor's Centre. *MNA/Xinhua*

### Man robs Cypriot bank with just a bag

NICOSIA, 7 March—Police criticized a Cypriot bank on Wednesday after it handed over money to a helmeted man armed only with a bag. "When they see someone wearing a (motorbike) helmet, it would be good if they first made sure he is a customer," Larnaca police chief Andreas Krokos said. On Wednesday morning, the man pressed the bank's buzzer—a normal procedure at the branch in

Aradhippou, near the coastal city of Larnaca — and was let in by unsuspecting employees who mistook him for a customer, police said. He ordered a teller to put the money in his bag and left, police said. There were no other customers in the bank at the time. *Internet*



## France urges Iran to suspend nuclear research

PARIS, 8 March—France called on Iran to suspend its nuclear research activities, the Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

“We are asking for a return to the full suspension of activities linked to enrichment and treatment, including research and development,” French Foreign Ministry’s spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei said.

He said it was the stand shared by the European troika, France, Britain and Germany, which commit themselves to negotiations with Iran in order that Iran’s nuclear programme is for civilian purpose and cannot lead to the building of atomic weapons.

He confirmed that representatives of the European countries had already met with Russian negotiators over the

Iranian nuclear issue, saying the meeting was held to inform the Europeans on the contacts between Moscow and Teheran.

Russian Foreign Minister Serguei Lavrov was to hand over a plan to solve the nuclear crisis on Tuesday to US President George W Bush and his American counterpart Condoleezza Rice.

MNA/Xinhua



CEO of BenQ Mobile Clemens Joos (R) and Executive Vice-President of BenQ corporation Jerry Wang pose with BenQ mobile phones at the CeBIT computer fair in the northern German city of Hanover, on 8 March, 2006. The world’s largest computer and information technology fair CeBIT runs from 9 March until 15 March, 2006.—INTERNET

## Earthquake jolts buildings in India's Gujarat State

AHMEDABAD (India), 8 March — An earthquake shook buildings in India’s western state of Gujarat late on Tuesday, a Reuters reporter and witnesses said.

An official at the Indian Meteorological Department in New Delhi confirmed the tremors but said it would take time to record the intensity and the epicentre.

“My whole building shook,” a Reuters reporter said. “The floor moved and kitchen utensils shook.”

The Reuters reporter said the tremor lasted for about a minute and caused panic all over Ahmedabad, Gujarat’s main city.

“I can see almost the entire city on the streets,” she said. “People are sitting at road crossings and there are traffic jams everywhere.”

MNA/Reuters

## Gunmen rob precious relics from Rio de Janeiro museum

BRASILIA, 8 March—Two armed men robbed a museum of some precious cultural relics in Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro on Monday afternoon, city official said.

The stolen relics in the Rio de Janeiro City Museum include a gold-studded walking stick, a sword studded with ivory, a sword decorated with gold and silver, two medals and a vase made of coral.

The pieces are cultural relics dating back to the era of the Brazilian Empire in 19th century, according to the officials.

In addition, the robbers snatched the museum

staff’s purses and gold ornaments.

This is the second museum robbery the city has witnessed for the last 10 days.

MNA/Xinhua

## Genes determine coffee-related heart attack risk

NEW YORK, 8 March — A genetic mutation that slows the rate that the body metabolizes caffeine increases individuals’ risk of having a heart attack if they drink

much coffee, investigators report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Caffeine is metabolized primarily in the liver by the cytochrome P450 1A2 (CYP1A2) enzyme, Dr Ahmed El-Sohemy and colleagues note.

They explain that mutation in the gene that codes for this enzyme alters the rate of caffeine metabolism. This may explain why studies looking at the association between coffee consumption and heart attack risk have been inconclusive.

To test the effect of the CYP1A2 mutations on heart attack risk, El-Sohemy, from the University of Toronto, and his team mapped out the genes that result in slow metabolism and those that result in rapid metabolism for 2,014 patients who had a first nonfatal heart attack and for 2,014 healthy controls.

The study was conducted between 1994 and 2004 in Costa Rica.

The team’s results showed that only carriers of the gene mutation for slow caffeine metabolism were at increased risk of heart attack associated with drinking coffee.

MNA/Reuters

## Students create plant that glows when thirsty

SINGAPORE, 7 March—Some people like to talk to their plants. Now, students at Singapore Polytechnic say they have created a plant that can communicate with people — by glowing when it needs water.

The students said on Tuesday that they have genetically modified a plant using a green fluorescent marker gene from jellyfish, so that it “lights up” when it is stressed as a result of dehydration.

The light is hard to detect with the naked eye but can be seen using an optical sensor developed in collaboration with students at Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University.

The development of such plants could help farmers to develop more efficient irrigation of crops.

Internet

## Fire at Dhaka sweater factory kills three in stampede

DHAKA, 8 March—Three workers of a sweater factory died in a stampede and an unspecified number of workers were injured on Monday evening after it caught fire at Board Bazar, 25 kilometres north of Dhaka, private television channel Ntv reported on Tuesday.

Ntv said the stampede was created after the factory caught fire from a burst of electric bulb. The nervous workers rushed to the exit, creating the stampede that killed the workers.

MNA/Xinhua

## Two explosions hit Ethiopian capital

ADDIS ABABA, 8 March—Two explosions rocked the southern part of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa around noon on Tuesday, severely injuring four people, police said.

One blast hit the Lalibela Hotel near the capital’s airport, extensively damaging the building and injuring four people, police said.

The other explosion struck a market. Police said the device was hidden in a rubbish bin. There were no injuries.—MNA/Reuters

## “AIDS” kills three million in sub-Saharan Africa last year

LUSAKA, 8 March — Three million people died last year of HIV/AIDS-related illnesses in sub-Saharan Africa, *Times of Zambia* reported on Tuesday.

Southern Africa has a 25-per-cent AIDS infection rate and one in every four pregnant women are infected with AIDS, the report quoted Zambia’s National AIDS Council specialist Jubra Muyanga as saying.—MNA/Xinhua

## Gunmen kill three policemen in northern Iraq

TIKRIT, 8 March — Unknown gunmen shot dead three policemen and wounded three others in a drive shooting attack on Tuesday near the northern Iraqi oil refinery town of Baiji, a local police source told *Xinhua*.

“Unidentified armed men opened fire at a police patrol travelling on the main road near Baiji, killing three policemen and seriously wounding three others,” said Lieutenant Mukhallad Mazin from Baiji, some 200 kilometres north of Baghdad.

The attackers fled the scene in their cars, leaving the victims stained in blood in their police vehicles, he added. —MNA/Xinhua



Cars drive through the snow on a highway in Frankfurt, central Germany, on 8 March, 2006 after heavy snowfalls started again in southern Germany.

INTERNET

## Cambodia, Vietnam to further strengthen bilateral relations

PHNOM PENH, 8 March — Cambodian and Vietnam on Tuesday reaffirmed to consolidate and expand the good neighbourliness and close cooperation between the two countries as the Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai wrapped up his two-day visit here.

In a joint statement, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and his Vietnamese counterpart Phan Van Khai expressed their satisfaction with expanding and deepening bilateral cooperation in recent years, particularly following the exchange of visits by the top leaders of the two countries in 2005.

They briefed each

other on the development efforts in their respective countries and reviewed a wide range of bilateral and regional issues during the meeting.

Bilateral and regional issues including the trade and economic cooperation were on the top of the agenda of the two Prime Ministers' discussion.

Several cooperation

agreements were signed during Phan's visit, including the production of border markers, health and information cooperation and the facilitation of cross-border transport.

"Our two countries want to boost their bilateral trade to one billion US dollars, it is not difficult for us," Prime Minister Hun Sen said at Tuesday's business forum to promote the trade and economic cooperation between Cambodia and Vietnam.

Hun Sen said that "Vietnam has lots of product, but lack the market, while Cambodia has a market, but has not enough goods." He urged the Vietnam to increase its investment in Cambodia. — MNA/Xinhua

## Fitch forecasts economic growth in Asia to slow down this year

SINGAPORE, 8 March — Fitch Ratings, a world leading credit rating agency dual-headquartered in New York and London, forecasts Tuesday that the economic growth in Asia is to slow down moderately in the second half of this year as the American economy eases.

According to Channel NewsAsia report, analysts at Fitch Ratings expect the economic growth in the region, which "is highly leveraged to global growth and to US growth", to drop half a percentage point this year from 7.5 per cent last year.

They were quoted as saying at Fitch's Asian Sovereign Hot Spots conference held Tuesday in Singapore that higher interest rates in the mid to long-term and a turning in the housing market in the United States will hurt its domestic consumption.

Analysts also said that emerging markets world-

wide, especially in Asia, are attracting longer-term investors and widening the region's investor base to include insurance and pension funds companies. — MNA/Xinhua

## 6,000 Vietnamese women, children trafficked abroad in 2005

HANOI, 8 March — Vietnam reported 6,000 local women and children were trafficked abroad mainly for disadvantaged marriage, child adoption, and labour and sex slavery in 2005, a local official told Xinhua on Tuesday.

The victims were sent overseas mainly in the forms of touring and working abroad, and illegally crossing borders through border gates, the official from the Ho Chi Minh City Children Sponsoring Association said, declining to be named.

Many victims were trafficked to Cambodia, some of them, using fake passports, were eventually sent to a third destination like Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, she said.

The Vietnamese Government has recently adopted four projects on combating trafficking of children and women in the 2005-2010 period, which focus on four areas, namely strengthening propaganda and education on preventing children and women trafficking in the community, intensifying fights against human trafficking, building up legal documents on the issue, and giving stronger support to victims. — MNA/Xinhua



Russian President Vladimir Putin, front centre, and members of the Russian Olympic team pose in the Kremlin in Moscow, on 6 March, 2006. President Putin said at a meeting with Russian athletes who took part in the Olympic Games in Turin, that each of Russia's Olympic medalists will be presented with a Toyota car.—INTERNET

## Indonesia to raise LNG price for industry soon

JAKARTA, 8 March — Indonesia's state oil company PT Pertamina would soon raise the price of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for industrial use in a bid to cut shortage, company spokesman Muchamad Harun said here Tuesday.

The hike would range from 6,000 to 7,000 rupiah (about 70 US cents) per kilogramme, from the current price of 4,250 rupiah per kilogramme, said Harun.

Currently, Indonesia bought the gas from the international market at a price of 700 US dollars a metric ton, he said.

"For industry, we have a plan to increase price, we will adjust the hike to market price. The price of gas in international market is 700 US dollars per metric ton, one kilogramme is about 70 cent, or about 6,000 to 7,000 rupiah," said Harun.

The spokesman said Pertamina would wait for a signal from the government, the major stakeholder of the company, when the hike would kick off.

When asked when the hike would begin, he said "the sooner the better, that means cutting our shortage".

However, he said Indonesia would not raise the gas price for household this year.

MNA/Xinhua



A Standard Missile — 3 (SM)—is launched from the USS Lake Erie (CG 70) in a Missile Defence Agency and Japan Defence Agency joint test in the Pacific in this photo released by the US Defence Department, on 8 March, 2006.—INTERNET

## US experts discover huge impact crater in Egypt

CAIRO, 8 March — Experts from the US' Boston University have discovered a giant crater made by a meteorite impact millions of years ago in Egypt's western desert, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported on Tuesday at its website.

"Boston University experts found the 31 kilometres wide crater while studying satellite images of the area," said the BBC report.

It is more than twice the size of the next largest Saharan impact depression and more than 25 times the size of Arizona's famous Meteor Crater.

The American team that found it said its sheer size and water and wind

erosion might have helped it escape detection all these years.

The structure, which has an outer rim surrounding an inner ring, has been named "Kebira", which means "large" in Arabic and also relates to the crater's physical location on the northern tip of the Gifl Kebir region in southwest Egypt.

"Kebira may have escaped recognition be-

cause it is so large," Dr Farouk El-Baz, director of the Boston University Centre for Remote Sensing, told BBC. "Also, the search for craters typically concentrates on small features, especially those that can be identified on the ground. The advantage of a view from space is that it allows us to see regional patterns and the big picture," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Flamingos are seen in Fuente de Piedra natural reserve in Fuente de Piedra, southern Spain on 6 March, 2006. —INTERNET



## Top Chinese leaders join lawmakers in group discussions

**BELING, 9 March** — President Hu Jintao, top legislator Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen Jiabao joined lawmakers from all over the country in group discussions on Wednesday, calling for hard work to boost economic and social development and build a harmonious society.

The 10th National People's Congress (NPC), the Chinese legislature, is holding its annual full session in Beijing, bringing together more than 2,900 lawmakers.

"We shall seize opportunities to readjust

economic structure and change the mode of economic growth to improve economic efficiency," Hu, also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), said while exchanging

views with NPC deputies from Heilongjiang Province, an old industrial base in the northeast.

Hu said it is imperative to build an industrial structure with the high-tech sector acting as a leading driving force, where the traditional manufacturing and tertiary sectors should enjoy overall development.

During the discussions with legislators from Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Wu Bangguo, chairman of the 10th NPC Standing Committee, said that to build a new countryside is a task of historical significance. "We shall make all efforts to increase rural people's income," Wu said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Iran terms ElBaradei's report as contradictory

**TEHERAN, 9 March** — Iran dismissed as contradictory the latest report on the Iranian nuclear issue submitted by Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mohamed ElBaradei to the agency's board of governors on Wednesday.

"Although ElBaradei reiterated that the IAEA witnessed no deviation from peaceful means or towards military purposes in Iran's nuclear activities, his report emphasizes that Iran has to answer some questions on its nuclear programme which still remain unanswered," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying.

ElBaradei's report says that the IAEA has no proof that Iran is seeking nuclear weapons, at the same time, it does not rule out the possibility of clandestine nuclear activities due to insufficient information.

IAEA's 35-nation board of governors started to discuss the report presented by ElBaradei in the third day of its regular meeting which kicked off in Vienna on Monday.

After the meeting, ElBaradei's report will be immediately handed over to the UN Security Council.

The emergency meeting of IAEA board of governors voted on 4 February to report Iran's nuclear case to the UN Security Council but called on the world body to withhold punitive actions.

Meanwhile, Asefi blamed the United States for the current deadlock on the Iranian nuclear issue, saying that "the Americans have politicized the atmosphere in which no expert work can be done".

"The world will witness how the agency can defend its identity," Asefi said. "Washington is making efforts to weaken international organizations, including the IAEA, so that it could advance its policies in the world."

MNA/Xinhua



China's Synchronise Swimming team perform during the Team Free Routine in the Synchronise Swimming competition, on 8 March, 2006 in Singapore during the 7th Milo Asia Swimming Championships. China won the competition beating teams from Malaysia and Singapore who came in second and third respectively. — INTERNET

## Russia's FM says UN sanctions will not work on Iran

**UNITED NATIONS, 9 March** — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday that imposing UN Security Council sanctions on Iran would be ineffective in convincing Tehran to curb its nuclear ambitions.

Lavrov, speaking to reporters after talks with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, also ruled out a military solution to the Iran crisis.

"We are convinced that there is no military solution to this crisis," Lavrov said, saying that British and German officials had publicly stated they shared that view.

"I don't think sanctions as a means to solve a crisis have ever achieved a goal in the recent history," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Astronauts Marcos Pontes of Brazil (R) and Jeffrey Williams of the US (C) and Russian cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov sit in front of a training module of the Soyuz space capsule in the Star City space centre near Moscow, on 7 March, 2006. — INTERNET

## Helicopters carrying US, Filipino troops attacked in S Philippines

**MANILA, 9 March** — Suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen fired at low-flying military helicopters carrying US and Philippine troops in southern Philippines late Tuesday, but no one was hurt in the attack, according to military reports and US Embassy here on Wednesday.

Military reports reaching here said the incident happened when the helicopters were conducting aerial survey over war-scarred Sulu Island.

Some US special forces and Filipino troops were aboard two US-made UH-1H Bell helicopters when a volley of rifle fire from rugged village of Buanza, Jolo, hit one of the choppers, said the reports.

But no one was hurt when the bullets pierced through a helicopter's main rotor blade, the reports added.

The US Embassy here

confirmed the report, saying US troops will not be pulled out from Sulu despite the attack.

The US Embassy spokesman Matthew Lussenhop said US humanitarian missions in Mindanao will go unhampered amid security threats.

He said about 250 US soldiers are temporarily assigned to Sulu and the nearby city of Zamboanga to conduct humanitarian missions under a joint military operation in Mindanao called Bayanihan, which was launched by the two countries two years ago.

MNA/Xinhua

## Afghan President calls on people to protect women's rights

**KABUL, 9 March** — Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai on Wednesday called upon the religious leaders and social figures to support women's rights and help forced and underage marriage.

"I wish this year that our religious leaders, notables, elders and social figures to rise their voice against forced marriage, underage marriage and

other practice that violates women's rights," he told an audience of some 1,000 women who gathered to mark International Women's Day.

He also stressed the importance of raising literacy rate among the women and called on people to send their children, especially girls, to school.

In Afghanistan, especially in the countryside, the forced marriage is still

common. Women, subject to violence in the vast rural areas, are even sold like goods or paid as compensation to reconcile feud. More than 100 cases of women's suicide have been reported since last year, most of which were caused by domestic violence. It is the 5th International Women's Day celebrated in the post-Taliban Central Asian state. — MNA/Xinhua

## Myanmar, India sign framework agreement, MoUs

Senior General Than Shwe and Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam attend ceremony to sign the MoU on Cooperation on Buddhist Studies between the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Myanmar Government and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations of the Indian Government. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam attend ceremony to sign the Framework Agreement on Mutual Cooperation in the Field of Remote Sensing between the Myanmar Government and the Indian Government.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam attend ceremony to sign the MoU on Cooperation in Petroleum Sector between the Ministry of Energy of the Myanmar Government and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Indian Government.

MNA

## TV quiz marks 61st Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 9 March — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, TV quiz for higher education level took place today at Myanma Radio and Television here.

A total of 12 students from universities and colleges participated in the quiz. Maung Win Kyaw Thu of Institute of Nursing won the first prize; Maung Ever Kyaw of Yangon West Technology Institute the second and Maung Tin Htoo Naing of Institute of Paramedical Sciences (Yangon) the third. Prize winners will be awarded at the prize presentation ceremony of the 61st Armed Forces Day. — MNA



## Winners in Painting and Sculpture Contest announced

YANGON, 9 March — To mark the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2006, the Painting and Sculpture Contest Organizing Sub-committee under the Work Committee for Organizing the Poem and Arts Competitions chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung announced winners in the Painting and Sculpture Contest yesterday.

A total of 1,037 entries were submitted to the painting contest, and 137 works to the wooden and plastic sculpture contest. Winners in the two contests are to contact Secretary U Thit Lwin Soe of Painting and Sculpture Contest Organizing Sub-committee, Lecturer (Painting), University of Culture (Yangon), Tel: 01-590260, 01-590265: Ext 116, and 01-545082.

MNA

## 187 pearl lots sold at 20th Pearl Sale

YANGON, 9 March — Local pearl merchants purchased a total of 187 pearl lots through tender system at the 20th Pearl Sale (2006) which con-

cluded today.

The Pearl Sale organized by Myanmar Pearl Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines kicked off on 7 March at the

ministry here attracting over 70 pearl merchants.

A total of 190 pearl lots were put on sale and displayed at the sale.

MNA

## Cash donated to MAAF

YANGON, 9 March — Chairperson of Women's Affairs Organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Daw Myint Soe and members donated K 500,000 to Myanmar Women's

Affairs Federation at a ceremony at MAAF this afternoon, attended by MAAF President Daw Than Nwe, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint and others. — MNA

## Naing Naing Lin sets aim to secure amateur champion



under-par 215 total in the Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open 2006 at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon, here, this morning.

Bo Bo staying at the second position produced his first birdie in the Open for a seven-over-par 223 total and he was just eight strokes adrift of the leader. Kyaw Thiha and Aung Win shared the third posi-

tion. While Kyaw Thiha scored an eight-over-par 80 on the third round for a 12-over-par 228 on aggregate, Aung Win shot a three stroke over Kyaw Thiha's 80 strokes with a total of 228 for three rounds.

The fourth and final round of the Open continues at the same venue tomorrow. — MNA



# Indian President and party visit Shwedagon Pagoda, People's Park, Dagon BEHS No 1, Myanmar Info-Tech, King Zafar Shah's Tomb

YANGON, 9 March — The Indian goodwill delegation led by Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam visited Shwedagon Pagoda, here, this morning.

The visiting Indian President planted a tree in commemoration of the State visit at the People's Park. The Indian President and delegation visited Basic Education High

School No 1 in Dagon Township, and Myanmar Info-Tech Building. Later, they paid homage to King Zafar Shah's Tomb.

Accompanied by Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and officials, the Indian President and party ar-

rived at Shwedagon Pagoda at 9.50 am. They were welcomed by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and members of the pagoda board of trustees.

At the southern prayer hall, alternate member of the pagoda board of trustees U Ba Shwe explained facts about the pagoda to the Indian delegation.

Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam signed the visitors' book and presented cash donations towards the funds of the pagoda through the minister.

They went round the pagoda and viewed the Jade Buddha Image, and the Royal Bell of King Thayawady. They cordially conversed with pilgrims and posed for a documentary photo.

At 10.30 am, the Indian delegation led by Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam proceeded to the People's Park where they were welcomed by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials.

President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam planted a Gangaw tree (Mesua ferrea) in commemoration of his visit.

At 1 pm, they went to BEHS No 1 in Dagon Township. Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, directors-general and officials of Departments of Basic Education,

Headmaster U Kyaw Kyaw and teachers welcomed the Indian delegation. Students welcomed the Indian President by waving miniature flags.

The guests visited the computer lab where students of seventh and eighth standards were learning ICT-based lessons. The Indian guests also viewed software application of fifth and sixth standard students at the multi-media teaching lab.

At Dagon Thiri Hall, students' band presented Indian songs to the Indian President and party. Next, the Indian President posed for a documentary photo with students of the band.

Eighth standard student Ma Soe Kaythari reported on the history of the school.

The Indian President gave an advice on pursuing education to the students, and replied to the questions.

Afterwards, the Indian President presented the photo of Milky Way, 10 sets of computer and books on computer technology to Headmaster U Kyaw Kyaw, and signed the visitors' book.

Eighth standard student Maung Win Min Thu presented a portrait of the Indian President as a gift to the Indian President.

The visiting President cordially greeted the headmaster, students and students.

At 3.45 pm, the Indian guests arrived at Myanmar Info-Tech Building in Hline Township where they were welcomed by Minister for



Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam donates cash to the Shwedagon Pagoda funds through Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.—MNA



The Indian President pours water on a Gangaw tree in People's Park planted to mark his visit.—MNA



The Indian President visits Zafar Shah's Tomb. MNA



The Indian President visits Myanmar Info-Tech. MNA



The Indian President replies to the questions asked by school boys and girls at Dagon Township No 1 BEHS.—MNA

Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Vice-Chairman of the e-National Task Force U Aung Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Info-Tech U Thein Oo and BOD members.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw extended greetings and explained ICT progress in Myanmar and functions of Myanmar Info-Tech.

Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam also explained Internet use of the whole India and ICT development of neighbouring countries. Next, they exchanged views. Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw replied to the questions raised by the guests.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presented a portrait of Myanmar Info-Tech Building to the Indian President.

The guests viewed the scale model of the building and the Indian President signed the visitors' book.

They visited the e-Learning Centre of Myanmar Computer Federation and software companies at the building.

On arrival at the King Zafar Shah's Tomb in the evening, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for the Tomb Deputy Commissioner of Yangon West District General Administration Department U Aung Myint and officials welcomed them.

The guests paid homage at the Tomb and, the Indian President signed the visitors' book.

The Indian President presented cash donation to the funds of the tomb. The Supervisory Committee Chairman accepted the donations and gave a certificate of honour and gifts to the Indian President. Later, the guests had a documentary photo taken together with the supervisory committee members at the tomb. — MNA

# Service personnel urged to fully cultivate goodwill for regional development

## Lt-Gen Ye Myint holds meetings with service personnel in Katha District

YANGON, 9 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 went on their inspection tour of Sagaing Division on 4 March.

They visited Katha Township People's Hospital and inspected the physic nut farm, plantations and nurseries of Katha District Union Solidarity and Development Association, township development affairs committee, and departments.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint held a meeting with district and township level service personnel. Also present were Chairman of Kachin State PDC Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, local authorities and departmental officials.

Local authorities



Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets departmental officials at district and township levels in Katha District. — MNA

reported on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, local food sufficiency and requirements of education and health sectors. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged concerted efforts to accomplish the five rural development tasks, construction of roads linking one district and another and one village and another and extensive growing of physic nut, calling on departments concerned to fully cultivate goodwill for regional development.

He inspected

paddy fields and the roads at the junction of Ywathit Village, roads and bridges on Katha-Inndaran-NgaO Road, the stone-filled concrete retaining walls of Shweli Bridge (NgaO) on Bhamo-Mabein Road, and Great Wall sugar mill in Htigyaing Township.

He visited the public health care centre of Mya Taung model village. The medical officer reported on conditions of the health care buildings and giving medical treatments to the people. Director Dr Tin Min and Commander Maj-Gen

Tha Aye gave supplementary reports. Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into wards, operation theatre, medical store, staff quarters and X-ray room under construction.

He also inspected the construction of a building in the compound of Mya Taung model village basic education high school (branch). The health care centre, the school and the building were constructed with the donations made by U

Thaung Nyan and Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Hla Tin and family.

On arrival at the regiment in Thabeikkyin Township, he saw over physic nut plants on the 8.82-acre land and gave instructions on agricultural tasks.

At 7 am the same day, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with servicemen and their family members at Katha Township local regiment and gave instructions on agriculture

and livestock breeding tasks, growing of physic nut, and participation in the regional development undertakings.

He viewed the growing of 36,000 physic nut plants and nurturing of 91,000 saplings.

Director of the Health Department Dr Tin Min who accompanied Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected NgaO People's Hospital in the afternoon the same day.

MNA

## Minister urges service personnel to strive for improving meat and fish sector in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 9 March — Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on 5th March morning went to Mandalay Division Office of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department where he met with service personnel and urged them to strive for development of meat and fish sector.

Next, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation (Central) Dr Mya Han and Chairman of Mandalay Division MLBF U Win Myint addressed an annual meeting, the fifth of its kind, jointly-organized by Mandalay Division Office of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation (Mandalay Division).

Also present on the occasion were Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and members, the director-

general of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and officials, Mandalay Division Commissioner of General Administration Department U Kyin Lin and members, departmental heads at division level, executives of MLBF (Mandalay) and entrepreneurs and guests.

Afterwards, the commander, the minister and the chairman of MLBF(Central) formally opened the booths of Livestock Breeding Medicine and Medical Products Exhibition and Seminar displayed by local and foreign medical products companies and viewed round there.

The minister and party later paid homage to Maha Aungmyay Kantalu Pagoda in Sagaing Division and went on an inspection tour of Shankan Pasture of LBVD and made arrangements to fulfill the needs.

The following day the minister and party visited the farm of livestock breeding entrepreneur U Maung Maung Lwin who raises 300 cows in Kangyi village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Division and made arrangements to fulfill the requirements. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects the bridge on Katha-Inndaran-NgaO Road. MNA

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





South Korean protesters shout slogans at a rally against the free trade agreement (FTA) talks in Seoul on 6 March, 2006. South Korea started on Monday its first preparatory talks on a free trade agreement deal with the United States, local media reported. The slogan on the headband and placard read, 'Oppose the FTA talks between South Korea and the United States to the death'. —INTERNET

### Classic Chinese mythologies to be adapted into cartoons

BEIJING, 9 March — China has given the go-ahead to the first batch of cartoon adaptations of classic Chinese mythologies and historical novels for 2006. On the list of the 220 approved cartoons, totalling 193,867 minutes, are classic mythologies and historical novels such as the Creation of Gods, the Pilgrimage to the West and Three Kingdoms, all of which take place in ancient China.

The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) said in the approval that the cartoons must not fabricate or distort the original work and must not advocate superstition.

MNA/Xinhua

## Private sectors encouraged to invest in GMS

SINGAPORE, 9 March — The private sectors in Singapore are encouraged to invest in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Wednesday when the Mekong Development Forum was held in the city state.

"In this Forum, we hope to be able to share with you the remarkable transformation of the Greater Mekong Subregion, to apprise you of the many excellent opportunities for you to take part in its progress, and to find ways to work with you as development partners to further improve the subregion's economic prospects," said Jin Liqun, Vice-President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), to representatives from more than 80 Singapore companies attending the forum.

The forum was co-organized by the ADB, the

International Enterprise Singapore and the International Organizations Business Association.

Both Jin and Cambodian Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh, who delivered the opening remarks at the forum, stressed the important role of the private sectors in the development of the region.

"However, the private sectors in most of the GMS countries is still in its teens. The challenge is to have the strong private sectors elsewhere in our region to help accelerate the development of their fledgling counterparts in the Me-

kong," Jin noted.

According to Prasidh, investment requirements for building new infrastructure and raising people's living standards in the subregion are huge, which are estimated to be dozens of billions of US dollars.

Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, the six nations bound together by the Mekong River, launched a GMS Economic Cooperation Programme in 1992 with the help of the ADB to re-establish historical trade and strengthen economic relations among them. — MNA/Xinhua

## Australia, Bangladesh sign work, holiday visa agreement

CANBERRA, 9 March — Australia and Bangladesh on Wednesday signed a work and holiday visa agreement, which will enable young professionals from the two nations to work in each other's countries, announced an Australian minister.

Australian Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Amanda Vanstone said

that university-trained Australian and Bangladeshi travellers aged between 18 and 30 will be able to work and holiday for up to 12 months.

"The work and holiday visa agreement means young people from the two countries wishing to travel and experience different lifestyles and cultures will now be able to work to subsidize

their holiday," Vanstone said in a statement.

"The work and holiday visa is different to a working holiday maker visa arrangement, in that it requires an applicant to have the support of their government, hold post-secondary qualifications, or have successfully completed two years of undergraduate studies, and have some English ability," she said. — MNA/Xinhua

## Beijing pledges to harshly punish hospitals rejecting AIDS patients

BEIJING, 9 March — Chinese capital Beijing pledges to harshly punish medical institutions that reject patients contracted with AIDS virus, said the Municipal Health Bureau.

HIV carriers and AIDS patients who are denied medical treatment can lodge complaints by dialling five hotlines, some of which opened Wednesday at the local bureau and its county-level health inspection divisions and diseases control centres, respectively.

Patients can dial two hotlines, one in the day and the other at night, to reach the health inspections divisions 24 hours a day. — MNA/Xinhua

## WHO urges more studies on bird flu infections in cats

GENEVA, 9 March — Reports that a cat contracted bird flu and has not fallen ill could mean the virus is adapting to mammals and poses a potentially higher risk to humans, a World Health Organization (WHO) official said on Tuesday.

Michael Perdue, a

A Brazilian Army soldier runs during an operation to search for weapons at the Mangueira slum in Rio de Janeiro, on 8 March, 2006. —INTERNET



## Bangkok set to be user-friendly city for women

BANGKOK, 9 March — The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) will cooperate with women's organizations to promote the Thai capital as a safe and user-friendly city for women, Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin said here.

Apirak on Wednesday signed a cooperation agreement with representatives from women's organizations including the Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women, the Friends of Woman Foundation to promote Bangkok as a safe city for women.

The BMA and women's-related organizations would also jointly fight against all type of violence towards women and children, Apirak was quoted by the Thai News

Agency as saying.

The governor said the BMA has already initiated a "help line" to tackle problems of violence against women and children.

Wednesday the Bangkok Municipality also observed International Women's Day by recognizing outstanding women who take leading roles in varied aspects of city development, including the environment, community funding, cultural conservation, social welfare and narcotic suppression.

Meanwhile, Thailand's Ministry of Social Development and Human Security on Wednesday awarded seven outstanding women, a foundation and the mediator to recognize their hard work, which has brought changes to society. — MNA/Xinhua

**ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။**

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scientist with the WHO's global influenza programme, said more studies were needed on infections in cats, including how they shed the virus.

But Perdue said there was no current evidence that cats were hidden carriers of a virus which can wipe out poultry flocks in the space of 48 hours and occasionally infects people. Austria said on Monday that a cat in an animal sanctuary in the southern city of Graz had tested positive for the H5N1 bird flu virus but had yet to show any symptoms of the disease.

However, the virus can take up to a week to strike and perhaps the cat in Austria could still develop clinical signs, according to Perdue.

MNA/Reuters

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV PRECIOUS RIVER VOYNO (603)N**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PRECIOUS RIVER VOY NO (603)N are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.3.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING  
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M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,  
for Johnson & Johnson  
P.O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 10 March 2006

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Dated 10 March 2006

**Iran said to be stepping up plans for "Shahab" missiles**

BERLIN, 8 March—As Iran pursues a nuclear programme the West fears is aimed at producing bombs, Teheran also appears to be stepping up development of missiles capable of carrying atomic warheads, diplomats citing intelligence say.

According to an intelligence report given to Reuters by a non-US diplomat, a covert Iranian programme run by people closely linked to Iran's military includes plans to arm its Shahab-3 missiles, which experts believe have a maximum range of around 2,000 kilometres (1,240 miles), with nuclear warheads.

MNA/Reuters

**Australia opens door for uranium to India**

CANBERRA, 8 March—Australia has opened the door to future uranium sales to India but would not want to consider the issue for several years and not until Australia has locked in lucrative sales to China, a leading analyst said on Tuesday.

"Australia doesn't need to sell to India at the moment. It has everything to gain by first signing an expanded agreement with China," said Michael McKinley, from the Australian National University's school of international relations.

Prime Minister John Howard has discussed uranium sales with his counterpart Manmohan Singh during a visit to India just days after India and the United States signed a landmark nuclear cooperation agreement.

MNA/Reuters

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**Russia's atomic compromise offer to Iran ruffles West**

VIENNA, 8 March—Russia has offered to let Iran do some atomic research if it refrains from enriching uranium on an industrial scale for 7 to 9 years, diplomats said on Tuesday, cracking big-power unity on how to stop Teheran getting the bomb.

Moscow's proposal emerged after an official close to feverish Iranian diplomacy to avert UN Security Council action said Teheran could compromise on how long it would renounce industrial fuel production — if allowed to pursue research.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei seemed to allude to the formula when he held out hope on Monday for a deal soon to defuse the crisis without Security Council intervention. Iran is to be reported to the Council after an IAEA

board meeting now in its second day in Vienna.

But the United States swiftly rejected any concession to let Iran feed uranium gas into a small centrifuge enrichment cascade as a trojan horse for bomb-making. EU allies Britain and France agreed but Germany may be amenable to the idea, diplomats said.

Iran says its nuclear programme aims solely at generating electricity. But it concealed atomic research from the IAEA for 18 years and calls for Israel's destruction, alarming the West.

"Russia has circulated a proposal to the (EU and US) capitals that would let Iran conduct limited enrichment research if it suspends industrial-scale efforts for 7 to 9 years," said a diplomat from one of the three EU powers. — MNA/Reuters

**Chinese FM pledges good protection of citizens abroad**

BEIJING, 8 March—Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said on Tuesday the government will do its best to protect its citizens abroad in accordance with law, and he advised them to better protect themselves in the meantime.

He suggested Chinese citizens learn local laws, customs and abide by them when travelling overseas, and keep in mind the phone numbers of Chinese embassies and consulates in foreign countries.

"Serving the people is the essence of China's diplomacy. It foremost serves peace, development and cooperation and meanwhile safeguards the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens and legal entities abroad," said Li at a Press conference held on the sideline of the annual session of China's National People's

Congress.

Last year, more than 31 million Chinese citizens made trips abroad, and China's embassies and consulates handled nearly 30,000 consular cases, Li said.

In the road accident in Egypt and the attack of three Chinese engineers in Pakistan, China's

ministries of Foreign Affairs and Commerce and relevant diplomatic organs acted quickly to help the Chinese citizens involved.

"Some Chinese overseas told me that these feel proud of being a Chinese," said the Foreign Minister.

Li said the safety of

Chinese citizens travelling abroad is mainly the responsibility of the countries they are travelling in. Like the old Chinese saying goes: When you are at home, you rely on your parents. When you are outside, you have to rely on your friends.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi boy holds a debris from the wreckage of a vehicle used as a car bomb after an attack in Baghdad, on 8 March, 2006. Six civilians were wounded in the attack targeting a police patrol, police said. — INTERNET



ပညာရေးနှင့် ဓာတ်သိပ္ပံ၊ ပြိုစီးတိုက်ခတ်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ခဲ့

### Study says air pollutants may warm winter nights in China

LOS ANGELES, 8 March — Human-generated air pollution particles may alter the temperature cycle in China's industrialized region, and lead to nighttime warming in winter of about 0.7 degrees per year, scientists said on Tuesday.

Human-generated aerosols, tiny particles such as those found in car exhaust and soot, can affect the climate indirectly by acting as seeds around which condensation can coalesce and form raindrops and snow-flakes.

The aerosols can also absorb long-wave radiation, through which the Earth cool itself at night, said Yan Huang, a Chinese researcher at the Georgia Institute of Technology, adding that more aerosol pollutants could result in higher nighttime temperature.

Based on climate models, Huang calculated that in some industrialized regions in China, nighttime temperature in winter could increase by 0.7 degrees Celsius, and the daily temperature range could decrease by 0.7 degrees every year because of

more aerosol pollutants.

This study was published in the latest issue of US scientific journal *The Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences*. The researchers' models suggested that aerosols had the greatest effect during wintertime and over highly industrialized parts of China.

"The most affected

regions include the Guangdong Province and the Yangtze River Delta," Huang told *Xinhua* in a telephone interview, "the most industrialized regions in China".

The aerosols increase the number of clouds over the region as well as the amount of liquid water contained within them, Huang explained.

MNA/Xinhua



Indonesian workers stand on steel bars at a construction site in Jakarta, on 8 March, 2006. — INTERNET



An aircraft from Malaysia's budget carrier, AirAsia, taxis at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 9 March, 2006. Malaysia said on Wednesday its low-cost budget terminal, Asia's first, would begin operations in two weeks, just days before neighbouring Singapore is scheduled to open its own low-cost terminal. — INTERNET

### New test on Austrian cat shows negative for H5N1

VIENNA, 8 March — An Austrian cat which has twice tested positive for the H5N1 bird flu virus did not show the virus in a third probe on Tuesday, Austria's Health Ministry said, adding to uncertainty about the infection in cats.

The cat is one of 170 that were kept in an animal sanctuary in southern Austria close to a cage of fowl which had been infected with H5N1. Three cats tested positive for the virus in saliva tests last week, Austria said on Monday.

A subsequent test of the three cats' faeces confirmed H5N1 in only one of the samples, in a very low concentration. A third faeces test taken on Tuesday was negative for all of them, a health ministry spokeswoman said. However, the spokeswoman added the ministry was still waiting for the results of tests on the cats' blood.

MNA/Reuters

### Book claims drink tea, keep healthy

NEW DELHI, 8 March — Tea — Drinking how much is too much? The question has for long baffled tea lovers but experts say six to 10 cups per day can help in lowering the risk of a number of chronic diseases, claims a book.

"Six to ten cups per day may be a useful dietary habit to assist in lowering the risk of a number of chronic diseases, especially as part of a health promoting nutritional diet, low in total fat and salt, with adequate vegetables and fruits, bran cereal insoluble fibre and sources of soluble fibre," says Dr N Ghosh Hajra, Project Director, Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre in his book *Tea and Health—Science behind the myths*.

"Total fluid intake in adults might be about 2.5 litres, of which tea can contribute 0.7 to 1.4 litres," says Dr Hajra.

Nearly 650 millilitres of tea provides over half of the total requirement of dietary flavonoids; nearly

16 per cent of the daily requirement of calcium; almost 10 per cent of the daily requirement of zinc, over 10 per cent of folic acid need; besides other nutrients, says the book.

The inhibitory action of components of black and green teas against cancer initiation has been demonstrated in different animal models involving different organ sites in many laboratories. Black tea has also been shown to inhibit tumorigenesis in lung, colon and skin, says the book.

Concern regarding caffeine in tea is not an issue as long as tea is consumed in moderation as suggested by Canadian and other health authorities, it says.

MNA/PTI

### Russian official says "Arabsat" satellite can still reach orbit

MOSCOW, 8 March — The Arabsat satellite Russia launched on 28 February but failed to put into its designated orbit can still be delivered to an operational orbit, Russia's space agency chief said on Tuesday.

"Our experts think it is possible to bring the Arab satellite to an operational orbit, where it can function for up to two years," Anatoly Perminov, head of the Federal Space Agency, was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as telling a Press conference.

The Arabsat-4A telecommunication satellite lifted off atop a Proton-M

booster rocket on 28 February from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The *Bриз-M* upper stage on the rocket did not function properly and failed to deliver the satellite to a designated orbit.

"The launch cannot be described as a total failure, as the rocket functioned in a regular way," Perminov said.

MNA/Xinhua



A Maasai man passes near a zebra carcass near Isinya in Kenya, on 7 March, 2006. Hundreds of people and tens of thousands of livestock have died from hunger and thirst across a vast region in east Africa, encompassing some of Africa's poorest and most arid zones. — INTERNET

### Greece to invest in Romania's telecom sector

ATHENS, 8 March — Greece is strongly interested in making big investments in the telecommunications as well as other sectors of Romania, Greek Transport and Communications Minister Mihalis Liapis told his Romanian counterpart Zsolt Nagy, currently on an official visit to Athens, on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the Greek minister said Hellenic Telecommunications Organization (OTE) has invested around one billion euros (1.2 billion US dollars) in Romania, while it planned to invest another 500 million euros (605 million dollars) for modernizing Romtelecom.

MNA/Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Chelsea charged over West Brom referee incident

LONDON, 9 March — Champions Chelsea were charged by the English FA on Wednesday after their players surrounded referee Mark Halsey in Saturday's Premier League game against West Bromwich Albion.

Knocked out of the Champions League by Barcelona on Tuesday, Chelsea were charged with "failing to ensure that their players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion". The incident followed a foul by a West Brom player in the 43rd minute of Chelsea's 2-1 Premier League win. Dutch winger Arjen Robben was sent off later in the game and was subsequently banned for four games.

Before the start of this season the FA said it was seriously concerned at the increasing incidence of players swarming around match officials in an attempt to influence their decisions.

FIFA said last Saturday after a meeting of the law-making International Football Association Board that players guilty of intimidating the referee at this summer's World Cup finals would immediately be booked for their actions.

MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's forward Peter Crouch (L) and Benfica's defender Anderson jump for the ball during their UEFA Champions League second leg match at Anfield, Liverpool. A 2-0 win for Benfica sent the Portuguese champions into the last eight 3-0 on aggregate.—INTERNET

## China makes clean sweep at Asia Swimming C'ships

SINGAPORE, 9 March — Chinese swimmers continued their dominance at the 7th Asia Swimming Championships here on Wednesday, sweeping all golds from the day's seven finals.

In the men's 200m breaststroke, Xie Zhi finished first in 2:14.74. Yu Cheng won the men's 400m freestyle in 3:54.27, and the Chinese quartet clocked 3:22.60 to take the men's 4x100m freestyle relay.

Ji Liping and Zhao Jing won their gold medals in the women's 50m breaststroke and backstroke in 31.71 and 28.50 respectively.

Qu Jing triumphed in the women's 100m butterfly with a timing of 59.46.

Hu Ni, who won her first gold medal in the solo technical routine on Monday, struck the gold again in the free solo routine in 93.83 points on Wednesday.

Organized by the Singapore Swimming Association (ASS) and the Singapore Sports Council (SAC), the championships is being held from 5 to 10 March at the Singapore Sports School, drawing some 300 swimmers from 19 countries and regions.

MNA/Xinhua



Third seed Maria Sharapova of Russia serves during a practice session at the Pacific Life Open in Indian Wells, California, on 8 March, 2006.—INTERNET

## Rangers fans arrested amid violence in Spain

MADRID, 9 March — Spanish police arrested eight Britons in the seaside resort of Benidorm after violence flared before Tuesday's Champions League second-leg match between Villarreal and Rangers, local media reported. Police were not immediately available to comment.

Reports said groups of Scottish fans hurled stones, bottles and glass at police.

In a separate incident, one of the windows in the Villarreal team bus was broken as supporters threw bottles and shouted insults as the Spanish team approached the Madrigal Stadium.—MNA/Reuters

## Craig Bellamy arrested for assaulting woman

LONDON, 9 March — Blackburn footballer Craig Bellamy has been arrested in connection with an alleged assault on a young woman in a Cardiff city centre nightclub, according to local reports.

Bellamy was born in Rumney, Cardiff, and returns regularly to visit his parents and other family members, BBC said.

A South Wales police spokesman said: "We are investigating the alleged assault of a 19-year-old woman.

"A 26-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of assault and has been released on police bail pending further inquiries." The alleged victim complained of suffering bruising to her arm and neck.

Blackburn Rovers declined to comment, saying it was not a club issue.

MNA/Xinhua

## Barca claims two victories over Chelsea

BARCELONA, 9 March — Barcelona can claim two victories over Chelsea after knocking the Londoners out of the Champions League on Tuesday.

Not only did the Catalans give the runaway Premier League leaders a footballing masterclass on the pitch, but Barca coach Frank Rijkaard gave opposite number Jose Mourinho a lesson in sportsmanship off it.

Barca provided an exhibition of skill, discipline and maturity to outclass the Londoners.

"It was a great game and a great victory," said Ronaldinho, scorer of a magnificent solo goal that helped Barca to the 1-1 draw that put them into the quarterfinals 3-2 on aggregate.

"Nothing beats winning a game like this and I'm delighted to have helped the team with my goals."

Barca deprived Chelsea of possession in the first half at the Nou Camp stroking the ball around the midfield

and probing for gaps in their iron-clad back four.

Although they enjoyed a handy 2-1 advantage after the first leg, they still showed more ambition than Chelsea.

Chelsea sat back and waited to pounce, hoping to trap Barcelona in midfield and then hit them on the break or manufacture a goal from a set-piece, but unlike last season Barca refused to take the bait.

Barca proved that they had learnt more from last year's defeat by Chelsea than the Londoners had from their victory.

The Catalans still possess devastating power in attack, but they now have a more steely midfield and defence which showed that it was more than a match for Chelsea's much-vaunted back four.

MNA/Reuters

## Bulgaria names shortlist for European Weightlifting Championship

SOFIA, 9 March — Bulgaria's top weightlifters, Athens Olympic champion Milen Dobrev (94 kilos) and bronze medallist Velichko Cholakov (105 kilos up) have been named to the team for the European Weightlifting Championship slated for May in Polish city of Vladislavovo.

Chief coach of the Bulgarian national weightlifting team Neno Terziiski announced the list to local newspaper 24 Hours on Monday. Also included in the shortlist are Sevdalin Minchev (62 kilos), Demir Demirev (69 kilos), Mehmed Fikretov (69 kilos), Georgi Markov (77 kilos) and Ivan Stoitsov (77 kilos).

Stanimir Demirev (62 kilos) and Marin Pashov (94 kilos) are the alternates as only a maximum of eight players can run off to Poland, Terziiski said. Besides prize money from the country's Youth and Sport Agency, the national federation of weightlifting also plans to encourage the medallists with premiums of BGN 7,000 (4,320 US dollars), 4,000 (2,469) and 3,000 (1,852).—MNA/Xinhua



Arsenal's Jens Lehmann from Germany (L) is congratulated by Real Madrid's David Beckham after their Champions League first knockout round second leg soccer match at Highbury Stadium in London, on 8 March, 2006. The match ended in a 0-0 but Arsenal advanced to the next round.—INTERNET

## Ballesteros pulls out of Masters of Masters

LONDON, 9 March — Severiano Ballesteros has pulled out of the Masters in April.

"To the media and the sporting Press in particular, my Spanish fans and followers, I would like to inform them that I have notified the board of directors of the Augusta National that I will not be taking part in the 2006 Masters," the Spaniard said in a statement on Wednesday. "My sole reason for not taking part is that I am not as well prepared as I need to be to compete in such a magnificent tournament."

Last month, Ballesteros said he planned to play the British Open and the Masters as well as 10 to 12 European Tour events this year.

"I feel more sorry than anyone about having to take this decision, but I have thought it through carefully and believe that to play in Augusta with the elite of world golf requires a different level of form to that which I can offer," he said.

The five-times major winner was bedridden with back pain two years ago before returning to action in October. Ballesteros said last month he planned to retire in 2011 when he is 54.

MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Thierry Henry (L) is challenged by Real Madrid's Raul Bravo in their Champions League round of 16 second leg match in London. Arsenal's goalless draw completed a 1-0 aggregate victory over Real Madrid. Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger believes his young Gunners team has the potential to be a great side.

INTERNET



# Racial discrimination in US serious

BEIJING, 9 March — Racial discrimination in America's justice and law enforcement, health service, employment and occupation is serious, says a report on the Human Rights Record of the United States in 2005 released Thursday by the Information Office of the State Council of China.

In America, Black criminals tend to get heavier penalties than their White counterparts, the report says.

According to the State of Black America 2005 issued by the National Urban League, Blacks who are arrested are three times more likely to be imprisoned than Whites once arrested, Blacks are sentenced to death four times more often than Whites, and a Black person's average jail sentence is six months longer than a White's for the same crime.

Although Blacks are just 12.2 per cent of the American population, 41 per cent of American pris-

oners detained for more than one year are Blacks and 8.4 per cent of all Black men between the ages of 25 and 29 are behind bars.

According to reports issued by the Human Rights Watch and other organizations, following the 11 September attacks, at least 70 people, all but one Muslim, were held as "material witnesses" under a narrow federal law that permits the arrest and brief detention of "material witnesses".

Violent crimes against ethnic minorities have also been increasing in America, says the report.

According to an FBI report issued in October

2005, of the 9,528 victims of hate crimes in 2004, 53.8 per cent were victims of racial prejudice, and 67.9 per cent were Blacks. Among the hate crime offenders, 60.6 per cent were Whites.

Statistics show Blacks are twenty times more likely than Whites to be a victim of hate crimes. In Los Angeles, 56 per cent of hate crimes were targeted at Blacks.

More than 80,000

American Blacks die annually due to lack of health insurance and the mortality rate of middle-aged Black males is twice that of the same White group, says the report.

The uninsured rate was 19.7 per cent for Blacks and 32.7 per cent for Hispanics, that is to say nearly one of every three Hispanics in America had no health insurance, it says.

MNA/Xinhua

## World largest tourism fair opens in Berlin

BERLIN, 9 March — More than 11,000 exhibitors from 183 countries and regions arrived in the German capital on Wednesday to attend the world's largest tourism fair, which marks its 40th anniversary this year.

China is represented by 144 firms and institutions at the fair with an area of more than 400 square metres.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel also visited the five-day fair.

The fair, or International Tourism Exchange (ITB), is a forum for establishing new customer con-

tacts and conducting business. Organizers say the event guarantees high-quality customer contacts.

In recent years, the ITB Berlin has evolved from simply renting out display space to become a modern centre for the travel industry. German Economics Minister Michael Glos said his country expected a turnover of 27 billion euros (about 32 billion US dollars) from tourism this year.

"In recent weeks the signs of an economic recovery have become more evident and the mood among consumers continues to improve. This gives a boost to the ITB Berlin 2006 and will no doubt be reflected by positive commercial results," said Dr Christian Goeke, an official of Messe Berlin.

MNA/Xinhua



### WEATHER

Thursday, 9 March, 2006

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Minbu (40°C).

Maximum temperature on 8-3-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 9-3-2006 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 9-3-2006 was (82%). Total sunshine hours on 8-3-2006 was (7.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 9-3-2006 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 Southeast at (13:30) hours MST on 8-3-2006.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 10-3-2006:** Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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


**Forecast for Pinyinmana and neighbouring area for 10-3-2006:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-3-2006:** Generally fair.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-3-2006:** Generally fair.



Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board accepted K 130,000 donated by Latha Township Education Officer and educational staff recently. — H



**Friday, 10 March**  
View on today

**7:00 am**

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ ဗောဓိပုဏ္ဏားအစိုးရအဖွဲ့အစည်း ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ ရုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတ ဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် တက္ကသိုလ်တက္ကသိုလ်သစ် ဝန်ထုပ်တက္ကသိုလ်

**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. ရိုးရာကျေးလက်ကဏ္ဍကဏ္ဍ

**8:00 am**

6. အထီးမြိုင်ပွဲ

**8:10 am**

7. The mirror images of the musical oldies

**8:20 am**

8. အထီးမြိုင်ပွဲ

**8:30 am**

9. International news

**8:45 am**

10. English for Everyday Use

**4:00 pm**

1. Martial song

**4:15 pm**

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

**4:30 pm**

3. တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဝန်ထုပ် တေးသီချင်းမြိုင်ပွဲ ဆရာတော်များ (၂၀၀၄) ရန်ကင်း

**4:45 pm**

4. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ညာရေး ရုပ်မြိုင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအဖွဲ့ပြု) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

**4:50 pm**

5. Song of national races

**5:05 pm**

6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

**5:15 pm**

7. လက်ဆောင်ကမ်း အမွေ

**5:20 pm**

8. Song of yesteryears

**5:30 pm**

9. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဝန်ထုပ်အစီအစဉ်

**5:40 pm**

10. "တန်ခိုး" (ညီညီနောင်၊ လှိုင်ဖြူဖြူလွန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)

**5:45 pm**

11. သူတစ်ယောက် နေ့ညာထိုင်

**6:00 pm**

12. Evening news

**6:30 pm**

13. Weather report

**6:35 pm**

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရောင်စဉ်မေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၂)

**7:25 pm**

15. "တို.တစ်စုလုံးရမ်းသားပြီ" (အနီး:ထွန်း၊ သုသုလ်သော၊ အကယ်ဒမီစောင့်ဦး၊ မိုးဒီ) ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်ရွှေ (သုတေသီ)

**8:00 pm**

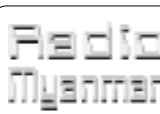
16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နင်းဆီဆီမက်" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)

20. The next day's programme



**Friday, 10 March**  
Tune in today

**8.30 am** Brief news

**8.35 am** Music:

**8.40 am** Perspectives

**8.45 am** Music:

**8.50 am** National news / Slogan

**9:00 am** Music:

**9:05 am** International news

**9:10 am** Music:

**1:30 pm** News / Slogan

**1:40 pm** Lunch time music

**9:00 pm** WOM

**9:15 pm** Article

**9:25 pm** Music at your request

**9:45 pm** News & Slogan

**10.00 pm** PEL

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**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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



*Senior General Than Shwe and party and Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and party pose for a documentary photo. (News on page 1)*

MNA

**Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host dinner in honour of Indian President and party**

YANGON, 9 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted a dinner in honour of visiting President of the Republic of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and goodwill delegation members at the Reception Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road, here, at 7.30 pm today.

Also present at the dinner were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura

Tin Aung Myint Oo of the Ministry of Defence and wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives, ministers and their wives, the Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, the Dean of Diplomatic Corps the Philippine Ambassador and ambassadors of foreign missions in Yangon, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.

The Indian President was accompanied by high-ranking officers of the Indian Government and the Ambassador of the Republic of India

to the Union of Myanmar.

First, the State Band played the national anthems of the Republic of India and the Union of Myanmar.

Before and during the dinner, vocalists presented variety songs to the accompaniment of Myanma Athan modern troupe.

After the dinner, artistes of the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture entertained the Indian delegation with cultural dances.

Later, Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam presented gifts to the artistes. — MNA



*Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host a dinner in honour of the Indian goodwill delegation led by Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. — MNA*

**INSIDE**

*The government of the Union of Myanmar, in its drive to build the nation into a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy, places special emphasis on peace and stability and economic and human resources development.*