

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 11 March, 2006

## Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam tours Mandalay

YANGON, 10 March — Visiting President of the Republic of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and party, together with Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and officials, left Yangon International Airport by special aircraft this morning and arrived at Mandalay International Airport in TadaU Township in the afternoon.

The Indian President and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win, Indian Consul-General Ms Anita Nayar, senior military officers and officials.

At the airport, Ayeya Maung elephant dance troupe of Kyaukse and schoolgrils also welcomed the Indian delegation.

On arrival at University of Traditional Medicine (Mandalay), the Indian President and party were welcomed by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, directors-general, faculty members, medical superintendents and students.

The drum troupe of the Fine Arts Department (Mandalay Branch) welcomed the Indian President by playing the drums. The Indian President cordially greeted them and posed for a documentary photo together with them.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint explained matters related to the University of Trad-



Visiting Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam offers gold foils to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay. — MNA

itional Medicine to the Indian President. Acting Rector Dr Lwin Ko presented a gift to the visiting president.

Next, the Indian President and party visited the museum of the university.

At the meeting hall, Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam explained research of Indian traditional medicines, and signed in the visitors' book.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw hosted a luncheon to the Indian President and party at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay.

After the luncheon, the visiting president and the commander exchanged souvenirs.

On arrival at Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthodaw Pagoda in Aungmyethazan Township, the Indian guests were welcomed by Director-General Dr Myo Myint of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and members of the pagoda board of trustees.

Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Dr Ashin Nāissara (D Litt) explained the salient point of the pagoda.

The Sayadaw conducted them round the pagoda and Pitakat stone inscriptions.

After signing in the visitors' book, the Indian President presented cash donations to Director-General Dr Myo Myint.

The Indian President visited Maha Muni Buddha Image, and offered gold foils to the Buddha Image. The Indian President presented cash donation to Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Maung Pu. The visiting president signed in the visitors' book.

Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and party left Mandalay for Yangon in the evening. They were seen off at the airport by Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win, senior military officers, departmental officials and students. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw welcomes Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at Mandalay International Airport. — MNA

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

# PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 11 March, 2006

## Towards further promoting mutually beneficial cooperation

A goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam arrived in the Union of Myanmar on 8 March 2006 at the invitation of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe.

Being neighbouring countries the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of India have been fostering friendly ties.

Leaders of Myanmar and India are further strengthening mutual friendship and cooperation through the exchange of visits.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe paid a goodwill visit to the Republic of India from 25 to 29 October 2004 at the invitation of President of the Republic of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

During the visit, the two leaders discussed regional and international affairs related to Myanmar and India and exchanged views on the matters. The visit promoted mutual respects and understanding between the two countries.

Now, the goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam is here in the Union of Myanmar, and the visit was accorded a rousing welcome.

During the visit, one agreement and two MoUs were signed. They are: the Framework Agreement on Mutual Cooperation in the Field of Remote Sensing between the Myanmar Government and the Indian Government, 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 and 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.

Head of State 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 in Yangon.

We firmly believe that the State visit to the Union of Myanmar by President of the Republic of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam will further strengthen the existing friendly ties between the two countries and promote mutual cooperation.

### နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ

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

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(၁၂-၃-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့  
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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 U Aung Thaung unveils signboard of Special Sale of Ministry of Industry-1. — MNA

## Special sale of Ministry of Industry-1 opened

YANGON, 10 March — To hail the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the special sale of Ministry of Industry-1 was launched in North Okkalapa Township this morning, attended by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein and Director-General of the Regional Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department U Thaik Tun formally opened the sale.

The minister pressed the button to open the archway of the special sale and viewed the sale. A total of 345 kinds of products of factories under the ministry including garment, foodstuff, medicines and household items, ceramics, stationery and electrical appliances are available at the sale.

Besides, the vocalists will entertain the visitors to the accompaniment of modern music troupe. The special sale will be kept open until 19 March from 8 am to 8 pm. — MNA

## Medical products of Bangladesh introduced

YANGON, 10 March — Organized by the Ministry of Commerce, the medical products of Bangladesh were introduced in conjunction with a medical seminar that took place at the Sedona Hotel this morning. It was attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr Mohammed Khariuzzaman and ambassadors of foreign mission in Yangon and guests.

Ambassador Mr Mohammed Khariuzzaman extended greetings. Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein gave a speech on the occasion. A medical products show followed. The minister, the ambassadors and guests viewed the booths around the show.

The medical seminar continues tomorrow and the entrepreneurs of the two nations will hold frank discussions on boosting bilateral trade.—MNA

## Amateur golfer Naing Naing Lin emerges champion



YANGON, 10 March — Naing Naing Lin won champion in the Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open 2006 at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon, Insein Township, today.

After the fourth and final round, Commercial Manager of Myanmar Brewery Ltd Mr Vactor Sech presented K 15,000 each to daily best golfers Naing Naing Lin and Bo Bo.

Deputy General Manager Lt-Col Maung Maung Sein (Retd) of Myanmar Brewery Ltd gave prizes to amateur golfers who stood from seventh to tenth positions, and General Man-

ager Mr David Teng prizes to those who stood from fourth to sixth positions.

MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) awarded K 750,000 and championship trophy to Naing Naing Lin who shot 289 strokes, K 400,000 second prize to Bo Bo who scored 294 and K 350,000 to third prize

winner Aung Win who fired 303.

Mr David Teng presented special gifts to the MPGA and MGF President and Director-General U Thaung Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department.

Mr Victor Seah also presented a gift to Secretary U Aye Cho of the Golf Club.

The golf tour was

organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, and sponsored by the Myanmar Brewery Ltd together with co-sponsors Air Mandalay Ltd, KM Golf Centre, Imperial Jade Drinking Water, Canon, Yangon Golf Club and Han Golf Master Academy. The Han Event Management performed functions of the golf tour. — MNA



MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) poses for documentary photo with prize winners. — MGF

# China issues report to criticize US for its democracy of money

**BELING, 9 March—The United States has always boasted itself as the "model of democracy" and hawked its mode of democracy to the rest of the world, but in fact, American "democracy" is always one for the wealthy and a "game for the rich", according to a report released here on Thursday.**

The report, titled the Human Rights Record of the United States in 2005 and released by the Information Office of China's State Council, says that "the democratic elections in the United States, to a great extent, are driven by money".

During the mayoral election of New York City in November 2005, billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg spent 77.89 million US dollars of his fortune for re-election.

That came to more than 100 US dollars per vote. According to a survey, in Washington DC a US senator needs about 20 million US dollars to keep the seat in the Senate.

"Decisions of the US Congress and the Administration are deeply influenced by money," the report says. In the United States, various firms and interest groups hire public relations and consulting companies to lobby the Congress and the

Administration, spending money to influence their decisions and win government contracts, it says.

On 4 January, 2006, mainstream US media carried reports on super lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleading guilty to three felony charges including a conspiracy involving corruption of public officials and agreeing to cooperate with US prosecutors in investigating members of Congress and aides sus-

pected of corruption.

The case is the largest power-for-money scandal in American politics for several decades. It was reported that 20 members of Congress and their aides have been involved in this unusual large-scale scandal.

In 2004, 2.1 billion US dollars was spent to lobbying the federal government and the Congress, and three billion US dollars for elections of the President and members of Congress in the United States, according to the report. —MNA/Xinhua

ထုတ်တုန့်နှင်းဆဲ ဘိုးမြင့်ကြ



## Chinese articles of virtue returned to be auctioned

A worker shows a jade sculpture dating back to ancient China's Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), in Beijing, capital of China, on 9 March, 2006. A batch of Chinese articles of virtue returned from foreign countries will be auctioned at the Jingguang Centre in Beijing, on 20 April.

Internet

## Burst tyres halt flights at Manila's airports

**MANILA, 9 March—**Two flat tyres on a Cebu Pacific plane brought traffic to a standstill at the Philippine capital's international and domestic airports on Wednesday, with 16 flights diverted or delayed. Officials at Ninoy Aquino International Airport, which shares its main runway with the domestic terminals in Manila, — said service was interrupted for about two hours. Eight incoming planes were sent to the international airport at Clark, a former US base about 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Manila,

and one to the central city of Cebu. Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways, Taiwan's Eva Airways, Singapore-based Jetstar Asia, South Korea's Asiana Airlines and Philippine Airlines were

affected by the diversions. "We're back to normal," said Octavio Lina, assistant general manager for operations at Manila's International Airport.

MNA/Reuters



Pieces of a tyre of a Boeing DC-9 aircraft of Philippine carrier Cebu Pacific (in background) litter the main runway of Manila International Airport, on 8 March, 2006. —INTERNET

## Man who weighed 1,000 pounds down to 400

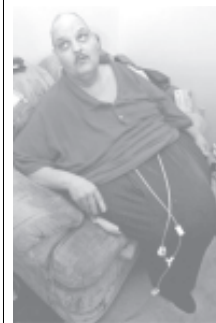
**STOUX FALLS, 9 March—Patrick Deuel,** who once weighed more than 1,000 pounds, has lost another 81 pounds in a surgery that removed a mass of fat and skin hanging from his mid-section.

"He's doing well," said Dr Fred Harris, who performed the surgery on Tuesday.

The mass, called a pannus, made it difficult for Deuel, 43, of Valentine, Neb, to walk.

Surgery to remove it had been scheduled for January, but the procedure

was postponed when Deuel got the flu.



Patrick Deuel is seen in his Valentine, Neb, home, 18 May, 2005. —INTERNET

With the surgery, Deuel now weighs about 400 pounds.

He could lose even more through exercise, said Harris.

"But if Patrick never lost another pound, I'd be a happy camper," Harris said.

When Deuel came to Sioux Falls for gastric bypass surgery in 2004, he weighed 1,072 pounds. He was so large his bedroom wall had to be cut out to extract him from his home. He was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance with extra-wide doors and a ramp-and-winch system that had to be dispatched from Denver.

Gastric bypass surgery, a stomach stapling procedure, was thought to be his best chance for permanent weight loss.

Internet

## Landslide kills 12 diggers in Indonesia's Java

**JAKARTA, 9 March—**A landslide in an unauthorised sand-digging location killed 12 workers and injured two others in Indonesia's West Java Province, a police spokesman said on Wednesday.

The workers were collecting sand in a digging area in Cipatat District that had been shut down by local authorities when an avalanche of gravel came down on them on Tuesday.

"Twelve dead victims have been identified from the incident. Officers are still finding out whether it was an accident or a crime of negligence," Bambang Kuncoko, a spokesman at the national police headquarters, told reporters.

A local official in Cipatat said the diggers lived nearby.

"The site has been closed by the local government, but residents still try to dig... to pay debts or make ends meet. Many are jobless here," Hermanto told Reuters by phone from Cipatat, located near the West Java capital of Bandung.

He added the diggers' lack of safety knowledge might have caused the incident, which occurred when the weather was clear. — MNA/Reuters

## Clocks in UK's armoury against problem gambling

**LONDON, 9 March—**Clocks will be one of Britain's weapons against problem gambling when it liberalizes the sector, allowing a new wave of large Las Vegas-style casinos across the country, the government said on Thursday.

Traditionally, casinos have avoided giving customers clues to how long they've been gambling, spurning clocks and often shutting out sunlight in the early hours of the morning. But draft gambling rules on Thursday set out measures to combat addiction and crime, including licenses for finance and managing directors, a ban on free drinks and measures to help gamblers keep track

of time.

"Casino and bingo operators must introduce measures to control continuous and repetitive play, such as designing sites and implementing

procedures to encourage breaks in play and making customers aware of the time they have spent gambling," said the Gambling Commission.

Internet



Bolivian rescue personnel gather near plane crash site in Keluyo, some 35 km (22 miles) in the outskirts of La Paz, on 9 March, 2006. —INTERNET

# Venezuela Govt, NGOs protest against US policies

**CARACAS, 9 March**—Venezuela's Government and civil society on Tuesday began a week of conferences and demonstrations protesting the US-led war in Iraq and the US hostility towards other nations, official sources said.

The events took place within the framework of International Women's Day, which falls on Wednesday.

Singer-songwriter Elena Gil will take part in an event on Wednesday at the Caracas City Theatre which will show a video of women's struggle against the US police.

On Thursday, women will lead a march against the Iraq war outside the US embassy, where they will deliver a petition demanding the with-

drawal of US soldiers from Iraq.

Venezuela's legislative committee member Gabriela Ramirez said that the Iraq war only creates profits for the US military industry.

Maripili Hernandez, Vice-Minister for North America, said Venezuela supports US citizens that are forced to go to Iraq because of nationalist blackmail, adding that the children of US citizens were being sacrificed for the economic interests of

Washington.

On Thursday, German Mudarin, a human rights activist, and Hernandez, will attend a conference on the US human rights situation.

And on Friday, there will be a conference on the right to information, liberty of expression and the situation of journalists in the United States. On Saturday, there will be a meeting on the situation of Latin American immigrants in the United States, according to the sources. —MNA/Xinhua

## Stop for directions foils alleged thief

**SMITHFIELD, 9 March**—A man accused of stealing a car was arrested after stopping to ask for directions at the car owner's father's house, authorities said.

Michael Chapman, 54, is accused of stealing a car on Wednesday morning in Hopedale, about 130 miles east of Columbus near the West Virginia state line.

Chapman drove east for three miles, then pulled off state Route 151 needing directions to a nearby town. He stopped randomly at the home of Thomas Eltringham.

Eltringham, 67, gave the directions, but when Chapman drove off, Eltringham called his daughter, fearing that the gold 2001 Buick LeSabre might have been hers, said Capt R J Myers of the Harrison County Sheriff's Office. Norma Harris told her father that she had started the car, left it running so it could warm

up and went back into her house, Myers said. A patrol officer spotted the car about 25 miles away near Smithfield and chased it. The driver

pulled into a driveway, got out and ran away, authorities said. Chapman was found hiding behind an auto sales office and arrested.—Internet



Chinese workers clean a skyscraper in Shanghai on 9 March, 2006. China's monthly data shower is likely to show an economy still firing on all cylinders, though distortions caused by the timing of the Lunar New Year holidays will make economists wary of reading too much into the figures.—INTERNET

## US has 727,304 homeless people nationwide

**BEIJING, 9 March**—Last year, the United States found 727,304 homeless people nationwide, meaning about one in every 400 Americans were without a home,

according to the Human Rights Record of the United States in 2005 issued by the Information Office of China's State Council on Thursday.

The figures came from The USA Today published on 12 October, 2005.

"The Los Angeles County has become 'the homeless capital of America', with the average number of vagabonds or people in shelters hitting 90,000 a day, including 35,000 people chronically homeless," the report quotes an article of The Los Angeles Times on June 16, 2005 as saying.

"The United States dubs the world's richest country, however, it maintains the highest poverty rate among developed countries,"

the report says, given a study of eight advanced countries by London School of Economics in 2005, which found that the United States had the worst social inequality.

On the one hand, the report says, in recent years the fortunes of the rich have continued to rise in the United States. According to two new studies by Spectrum Group, a Chicago-based wealth-research firm, and the Boston Consulting Group, millionaires house-holds (excluding the value of primary residences) in the United States controlled more than 11 trillion in assets in 2004, up more than 8 per cent from 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

## Number of billionaires up to record 793



Bill Gates (R) and Warren Buffett

**NEW YORK, 9 March**—As emerging stock markets surged during the past year, 102 wealthy people around the world won a much-coveted title along with their stellar gains — they all became billionaires.

The number of billion-

aires around the world rose by 102 to a record 793 over the past year, and their combined wealth grew 18 percent to \$2.6 trillion, according to Forbes magazine's 2006 rankings of the world's richest people.

Forbes editor Luisa

Kroll noted that Russia's stock market jumped 108 percent between February 2005 and February 2006, while India's market rose by more than 54 percent during the same period. Brazil "was another bright star" with a market gain of 38 percent, she said. Microsoft Corp founder Bill Gates was again the world's richest man for the 12th year running. Gates grew wealthier, with his net worth rising to \$50 billion from \$46.5 billion. Investor Warren Buffett, the chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Inc, again ranked second.

Internet

## 1,700-year old tomb unearthed in east China

**NANCHANG, 9 March**—Chinese archaeologists have unearthed a well-preserved tomb from the Eastern Jin Dynasty (265 AD-420 AD) in east China's

Jiangxi Province.

The tomb is located at a railway construction site in Nanchang, the capital city of Jiangxi.

The 6.7-metre by 1.75-metre tomb chamber is

about five metres underground and contains a 3.3-metre long, 0.6-metre wide and 0.5-metre-high coffin.

The remains of the body inside are airslaked amid 30-centimetre-thick silt.

The 32 objects unearthed from the coffin included a bronze mirror, a lacquer case, a silver hairpin, a wooden comb, pearls and copper coins.

Adding the 20 pottery and bronze items found around the tomb chamber, there were a total of 52 cultural relics excavated from the tomb.

MNA/Xinhua

## Dead man spends days unnoticed on highway

**VANCOUVER, 9 March**—An elderly man spent at least three days in his vehicle on the side of a busy Canadian highway before anyone—including police who checked the car's license plate — realized he was dead.

A passing motorist discovered the man's body after deciding to check the vintage-model car on the Trans-Canada Highway near Abbotsford, British Columbia, on Sunday to see if it was for sale.

The car's license number was checked by passing police on Friday and Saturday to make sure it was not stolen, but the officers apparently did not stop to inspect it because it was not impeding traffic.—Internet

## Iranian councillor accuses US of waging psychological warfare

ANAKARA, 9 March — Councillor of the Iranian Embassy in Turkey Bivan Izadi on Wednesday accused the United States of pursuing a psychological warfare against Iran.

Izadi, speaking at a panel discussion in Ankara, said that Iran would continue its nuclear activities even if the issue was referred to the UN Security Council or would lead to any sanction on Iran.

Izadi insisted that conducting nuclear activities for peaceful purposes is the right of Iran.

The Iranian diplomat criticized that the US always created public diplomacy through lies, citing the US-led invasion into Iraq in 2003.

Before the military invasion, US President George Bush had insisted that Iraq, under former president Saddam Hussein, had biological weapons,

but US troops failed to find even one milligramme of those weapons, said Izadi.

The US has long accused Iran of seeking nuclear weapons, but Teheran insists that its nuclear programme is completely peaceful, vowing not to give up its legal rights.

MNA/Xinhua

## China Statistics chief calls for curb on foreign investment

BEIJING, 9 March — Foreigners have gained a strong foothold in some sectors of China's economy and Beijing must act now to prevent more domestic firms from falling prey to multinationals, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

Li Deshui, head of the National Bureau of Statistics, called for legislation to curb "ill-willed" acquisitions of domestic companies by foreign firms and to scrap the country's decades-old preferential policies for foreign investors, notably

tax breaks.

"Initially forming joint ventures and setting up wholly owned factories, multinationals are now mounting a large-scale drive to merge with, or acquire, high-quality Chinese companies," Li said.

"Some multinationals believe it's the best time to acquire Chinese firms, because they are far cheaper than US and European companies," he told Reuters in an inter-

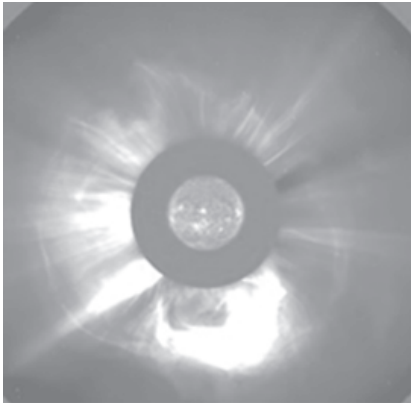
view on the sidelines of the annual session of Parliament.

The warning came amid a heated debate among academics and officials about the pros and cons of Beijing's policy of opening its economy to foreign investors, which has helped transform China into a global manufacturing hub but has also fuelled frictions with its trade partners.

MNA/Reuters

## Scientists foresee stronger solar storms in next 11 years

BEIJING, 8 March — Scientists announced on Monday that 'increasingly severe solar storms' are likely to take place in 'the next 11 years.'



Scientists announced on Monday that 'increasingly severe solar storms' are likely to take place in 'the next 11 years.'—INTERNET

When the solar cycle reaches its peak in 2012, it will hurl at Earth mammoth solar storms with intense radiation and clouds of high-speed subatomic particles

millions of miles across, which could short-circuit a world increasingly dependent on giant utilities and satellite communications networks, scientists warned.

The solar storms in the past have knocked out huge power grids and screwed up global electronics and data communications, but "the next sunspot cycle will be 30 to 50 percent stronger than the last one," the scientists said in Monday's statement. Monday's forecast was announced by scientists from agencies including NASA and the National Science Foundation, based on research centered at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Colorado.

There is disagreement on exactly when the new cycle will begin. One researcher predicted that the cycle will likely start in late 2007 or early 2008 while another said it could begin as late this year. But they did agree that the most severe storms won't begin popping on the solar surface for several years, but when they do, they'll be huge.

Solar storms can happen at any time during an 11-year solar cycle. However, by far the worst storms are likeliest to occur during the period known as "solar maximum," or solar max for short. The last solar max was in 2001.—Internet



A woman painted as a tiger sits in a cage on a sidewalk in New York's Times Square, on 9 March, 2006, during a protest by the group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).—INTERNET

## World's biggest high-tech expo opens in Hanover

BERLIN, 10 March — Around 6,260 companies from about 70 countries on Wednesday flocked in Germany's northern city of Hanover for the annual CeBIT technology trade fair, the world's biggest high-tech expo.

Announcing the opening of the 2006 CeBIT, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the trade fair is remarkably important as the IT and communications industries are the driving forces of the economy.

"Germany is striving to be the factory for the world in the future, and our country must spare no efforts in pursuing that," Merkel said. The CeBIT, which will be open to visitors starting from Thursday, is to run through 15 March. This year's CeBIT will feature innovations including mobile phones equipped with TV and music

services, smaller and more powerful digital cameras. It will also showcase the latest development in Radio Frequency Identification

(RFID) technology, which is slated to do away with traditional bar codes and transform the shopping experience.

MNA/Xinhua



A Panasonic hostess presents a huge 103-inch plasma TV screen during the 2006 CeBIT information and telecommunication technology fair in Hanover.—INTERNET

## 'Maria' star Moreno journeys to 'Earth'

MADRID, 9 March — Colombian actress Catalina Sandino Moreno, who received an Oscar nomination last year for playing a drug mule in "Maria Full of Grace," will star in the 19th century drama "The Heart of the Earth," producers announced on Thursday.

The story, from Spanish writer/director Antonio Cuadri ("La Gran Vida"), is set around the British-owned mines of Andalusia's Rio Tinto in 1888 and depicts the friendship of two women, one Spanish and the other British, against the social upheavals of the time. The tale is based on the true story of the arrival of Cuban anarchist Maximiliano Torner, which resulted in a strike — the first ecological demonstration in history — and a massacre.

The \$14 million film will shoot for 12 weeks in Spain and Portugal beginning 31 March. Also on board are Sienna Guillory, Hugh Dancy, Bernard Hill and Joaquim de Almeida.

Moreno's upcoming films include "Paris je t'aime," which will screen at the Cannes Film Festival in May, and "Fast Food Nation."—Internet



Actress Catalina Sandino Moreno arrives in New York on 27 February, 2006. Moreno, who received an Oscar nomination last year for playing a drug mule in 'Maria Full of Grace,' will star in the 19th century drama 'The Heart of the Earth,' producers announced on Thursday.—INTERNET

## Iran, India, Pakistan to discuss gas pipeline next week

TEHERAN, 9 March— Iran, Pakistan and India will hold the first trilateral talks here on a proposed natural gas pipeline linking Iran and India via Pakistan on 14 and 15 March, the official IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

In addition, Iran and Pakistan will hold a round of preparatory bilateral negotiations on Sunday, during which the pricing mechanism and other related points will be discussed while a draft agreement on trilateral cooperation over the gas pipeline project is expected to be reached, Deputy Oil Minister Hadi

Nejad-Hosseiniyan was quoted as saying.

The transnational gas pipeline, proposed in 1996 to meet the mounting energy needs of India and Pakistan, had been staying on paper for years due to shaky relations between India and Pakistan.

The recent thaw of ties between the two foes set the stage for the

implementation of the four-billion-US-dollar project.

Iran, Pakistan and India are hopeful to start construction of the 2,700 kilometres pipeline in 2007 which is likely to be operational by 2011.

Iran ranks second in the world with proven natural gas reserves of 27,800 billion cubic metres. —MNA/Xinhua



Dancer performs in front of the replica model of the new BMW Sauber F1.06 after its official unveiling by Mohd Hassan Marican, Chief Executive Office of Petronas inside the Petronas Twin Tower in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 10 March, 2006. Malaysia will hold the second round of the Formula 1 Grand Prix from March 17-19 after Bahrain. —INTERNET



An investor looks at a screen showing information on the Dubai financial market in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 9 March, 2006. UAE stock markets have boomed in recent months, driven by petrodollars and a spate of initial public offerings in companies. —INTERNET

### Egypt to publish investigation report on ferry disaster

CAIRO, 9 March— Egyptian Transport Minister Mohamed Lutfi Mansour said on Wednesday that the investigation report on the sunken ferry incident which claimed some 1,000 lives in the Red Sea last month will be published in four months.

The Minister told reporters that the experts in Britain were examining the A1 Salaam 98's data recorder and would issue a preliminary report within two months. The recorder, which was recovered on 21 February, stores information about the vessel's location, direction of travel and weather conditions.

The 35-year-old ferry was sailing from the Saudi

Arabian port of Dubah to Egypt's port of Safaga when it ran into trouble after a fire broke out below decks overnight in the early hours of 3 February. —MNA/Xinhua

### Gunmen kidnap 50 employees of Iraqi security co in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 March — Unknown gunmen wearing police commando uniforms stormed an Iraqi security company and kidnapped 50 employees in eastern Baghdad on Wednesday, a police source said. "Gunmen wearing police commando uniforms in more than seven vehicles attacked the Rawafid security company in Zaiyouna neighbourhood at about 4:00 pm.

MNA/Xinhua

### Austrian ski resort avalanches kill two

VIENNA, 9 March — Two avalanches on Wednesday at a ski resort in central Austria killed two people skiing off piste and injured two more, rescue services said.

The avalanches were at Praebichl, a resort roughly 150 kilometres (90 miles) southwest of Vienna in the province of Styria.

"Two people have been dug out dead. One other is seriously injured. One injured person is in hospital," a spokesman for Styria's emergency centre said. He did not give their nationality.

All four people were skiing off piste, he said.

MNA/Reuters

### 4th British soldier held over Iraq abuse video

LONDON, 9 March — British military police have arrested a fourth soldier over a video tape that appears to show British troops beating protesters during a demonstration in southern Iraq in 2004, the Ministry of Defence said on Wednesday.

A spokesman said a total of four soldiers had been arrested in connection with the video, which was broadcast around the world after it first appeared in a British newspaper last month. — MNA/Reuters

### Siberian avalanche kills two French snowboarders

MOSCOW, 9 March — Two French snowboarders were killed in an avalanche in Russia's Siberian region on Wednesday, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. A group of 19 were snowboarding in the mountains near Lake Baikal when an avalanche hit and trapped six of them. Instructors were able to pull out four people alive from under the snow and the other two buried were found dead.

The report did not give a breakdown of the snowboarders' nationalities. Local emergency officials warned avalanches in the Baikal area are frequent. —MNA/Xinhua

### Car bomb targets US patrol, wounding five Iraqi civilians

BAGHDAD, 9 March — A car bomb went off near a US military patrol in western Baghdad on Wednesday afternoon, wounding five Iraqi civilians, a police source told Xinhua.

"An explosive-laden car parking by the side of a main road near the al-Shurta tunnel detonated at about 2:45 pm (1145 GMT), wounding five Iraqi civilians," said Captain Ahmed Abdullah from Baghdad police.

It was not clear whether there were any casualties among the US troops as they cordoned off the scene, prohibiting the Iraqi police from approaching the scene. — MNA/Xinhua

## Canadian ultrarich fret about spendthrift kids

TORONTO, 9 March — Canada's wealthiest citizens fear that their children will become lazy and squander the money they've earned, according to a study released this week.

Almost one quarter of respondents to a Sensus Research Inc survey admitted they suffer from "affluenza," a term used to describe wealthy people who worry that their children or grandchildren will lose their work ethic because their family is rich. The report, entitled "Values and views of ultra-affluent individuals," questioned 165 Canadians with a net worth of more than C\$10 million (4.9 million pounds) about issues related to their wealth.

"People are very much worried about their kids and as to how much of a work ethic they'll

have," said Thane Stenner, a senior partner at wealth management advisers T Stenner Group, which commissioned the report.

Noting that many wealthy Canadians had set

up a family foundation to tackle this, he added: "A family foundation is about giving money...it assists in permeating or transferring values.

Internet



A man helps an injured person after an explosion in the southeastern city of Van, Turkey, Thursday, on 9 March, 2006. A bomb set off by suspected Kurdish guerrillas killed three people and injured 18 others in Turkey's Kurdish-dominated southeast, the local chief of police said. —INTERNET

# For perpetual existence of Myanmar's fine arts

Article by Nwe Nwe Kyi (MNA) &  
photos by Thaung Myint (MNA)

Yangon State School of Drama and State School of Fine Arts were established in 1952 and Mandalay State School of Drama and State School of Fine Arts in 1953.

The State schools of drama and State schools of fine arts under the Research and Training Division of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture, established with two objectives — to ensure flourishing of Myanmar's fine arts and to preserve and safeguard cultural heritage and national character — have been producing new generation youth artistes yearly.

Many students from those schools have become household

(basic), painting (creative), painting (professional), Myanma traditional painting, sculpture (basic), statue (man and animal), and Myanma traditional floral motif.

Anyone at the age between 14 and 20 who have completed middle school education can apply for the courses. The students from the towns away from the schools are provided accommodation.

The students have to learn fine arts, painting and sculpture for three years and after completing the courses, they are conferred completion certificates and appointments. They can run their private businesses if they do not want to serve for a government department. If they pass



Girl students presenting entertainment programmes at the conclusion of the courses (2005-2006 academic year) of Yangon State School of Drama and Yangon State School of Fine Arts under the Research and Training Department of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture held at the National Theatre on Myomakyaung Road in Yangon on 1 March, 2006.

new generation youth of talent in various parts of the nation.

Each nation and people have own culture

and they value and preserve their own culture and hand down it to the posterity.

Many scholars define the word "culture" variously. In general, culture of a people means combination of its own utensils, costumes, language, profession, way of life, belief, traditions, customs, culture and fine arts.

Various national races have been living in the Union of Myanmar from time immemorial with flourishing culture, costumes, cultural heritage and fine arts. Myanmar's cultural heritage can draw the atten-

tion of tourists around the world.

Actually, the culture of a nation and its people is their impression. Now, owing to globalization the relationship between the nations causes their cultures mix one another. The world has witnessed rapid changes in culture. Myanmar is a nation that has been able to safeguard and preserve its culture and fine arts.

The Ministry of Culture has given a special attention to the implementation of one of the four social objectives — Uplift of national

prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character — so that every citizen adheres to it. The courses being conducted by the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture contribute towards that drive.

It is very heartening that new generation youth artistes have been helping the nation and the people to have good reputation for the traditional fine arts.

Translation: MS  
Myanma Alin:  
10-3-2006



The works of the students displayed at the concluding ceremony of the courses (2005-2006 academic year) of Yangon State School of Drama and Yangon State School of Fine Arts.

names nationwide. The schools accept new students with the aim of handing down fine arts to them.

The State schools of drama conduct courses on dancing, and playing harp, piano, xylophone, violin, traditional orchestra and oboe, and the State schools of fine arts, courses on painting

matriculation exam, they can join the University of Culture. Applications for the courses are to be sent to respective schools by 31 May, and the applicants may contact the Fine Arts Department (Yangon) and (Mandalay) or respective State/Division, District and Township Peace and Development Councils. That is a good opportunity for

**Myanmar is a nation that has been able to safeguard and preserve its culture and fine arts.**

**It is very heartening that new generation youth artistes have been helping the nation and the people to have good reputation for the traditional fine arts.**



Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam strikes the Bell at Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthodaw Pagoda. (News on page 1) — MNA



Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam views round University of Traditional Medicine (Mandalay). (News on page 1) — MNA



Pro-Rector Dr Tun Khin of Yangon University accepts books from Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. (News on page 9) — MNA



MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win accepts K 500,000 donated by Chairperson Dw Myint Myint Soe of WAO of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

## Cash donated to MMCWA

YANGON, 10 March — Chairperson of Women's Affairs Daw Myint Myint Soe and members donated K 500,000 to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association with ceremony at MMCWA (Central) yesterday afternoon, attended by MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win and CEC members.

MNA



Director Dr Tin Nyunt of Health Department accepts Oxygen Concentrators worth US\$ 45,500 donated by Rev Salvatore Pennacchio. — HEALTH

## Oxygen Concentrators for Yangon Children's Hospital

YANGON, 10 March — An Apostolic Delegation of Thailand made an offering of Oxygen Concentrators to Yangon Children's Hospital this morning. Rev. Salvatore Pennacchio explained the offering and he presented the Oxygen Concentrators (40-Units) worth US\$ 45,500 to Director Dr Tin Nyunt of Health Department.

Later, Superintendent Dr Chit Ko Tin of the hospital expressed thanks for the donation.

MNA

## Renovation of Yanaungmyin Pagoda completed in Monesi of Tarmoeyne Township

YANGON, 10 March — A ceremony to share merits gained for all-round renovation of Yanaungmyin Pagoda on Zinamanaung Hill in Monesi Village of Tarmoeyne Township was held at the pagoda on 6 March morning.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Abbot of Wailuwun Pariyatti Monastery of Monesi Village Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijaya and members of the Sangha.

It was also attended by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife Daw Khin Thant Sin, departmental officials, wellwishers and local people.

Head of Tarmoeyne Township General Administration Department U Htin Kyaw supplicated on the history of the pagoda. The commander and party offered rice, edible oil and alms to the Sayadaw.

Next, the cash donation ceremony followed. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and

wife Daw Khin Thant Sin and family presented K 1 million to the trust funds of the pagoda through local Tactical Operations Commander Col San Shwe Tha.

Likewise, local authorities, departmental personnel and local wellwishers donated K 10.2 million.

The commander and wife and party planted Gangaw trees (Mesua ferrea) near the pagoda. They offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, the commander delivered an address at the ceremony to present school uniforms and stationeries to teachers of Basic Education High School (Branch) of Monesi Village.

Headmaster U Kyaw Swe reported on academic matters of the school. The wife of the commander presented

1,000 ballpoint-pens to the headmaster.

While in Monesi Village, the commander inspected the rural health care unit. He also attended the ceremony to close ploughing for summer paddy cultivation in Monesi Village-tract. Next, the commander oversaw thriving physic nut saplings and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the commander gave a speech at the coordination meeting on regional development at the cultural hall of Tarmoeyne.

After that, the commander inspected 4,400 acres of Hsinshweli high yield summer paddy plantations in Hsenwi and the physic nut nursery of the Township Peace and Development Council. The commander gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

MNA



Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board accepted K 100,000 donated by U Myint Soe-Daw Sein Sein Myint (Soe San Family) of 116/1, Meedon Road, Thuwunna, recently. —H



# India, Myanmar exchange views on academic matters

YANGON, 10 March— The visiting Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and members of his entourage, accompanied by Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and officials, visited the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township here this morning.

They were welcomed there by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt, Deputy Director-General of the Higher Education Department



Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam holds discussions on academic matters. — MNA

(Lower Myanmar) U Sein Win, Yangon University Pro-rector of Tun Khin and departmen-

tal officials.

Waving miniature flags of the two countries, teachers and students gave a warm welcome to the Indian visitors.

The Indian President and party were briefed by the deputy minister on the improvement of the education sector of the nation and the pro-rector, on the brief background history of the university of Yangon and conducting of masters degree courses and doctoral courses.

The Indian President said that there has been relationship between Yangon University and Calcutta University of the Republic of India for many years. He elaborated on

academic matters of the universities and colleges of India, digital library, prescribing syllabuses for the universities in accordance with nature of work site, and science and technological research.

Dr Abdul Kalam replied to the queries raised by heads of department of Yangon University.

Minister Dr Chan Nyein presented the book on academic facts compiled by the Ministry of Education to the Indian President.

The Indian President briefed deans, associate professors, lecturers, faculty members and students of the universities and colleges in Yangon on educa-

tional functions of Indian universities, research, application of IT, taking measures for students to become exemplary ones, life long learning, e-Learning, tele-education, digital libraries, and academic matters of international universities.

He answered the questions put by the students. He presented educational books to the pro-rector.

The pro-rector presented a photo of Yangon University to the Indian President.

Indian President Dr Abdul Kalam signed the visitors' book and cordially greeted the teachers and students.

MNA



Dr Abdul Kalam presents educational books to Minister Dr Chan Nyein. — MNA

## Minister receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 10 March — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw received Executive Director of China Telecom Mr Leng Rongquan and party at his

office in Ahlon Township yesterday morning. It was also attended by officials of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

MNA

## Village library, post-primary school, monastery building donated in Htanbinkan village, Mahlaing township, Meiktila District

YANGON, 10 March — A merit-sharing ceremony took place for the opening of a village library, a post-primary school and a building of the village monastery donated by U Tu Maung and wife Daw Htar Htar Aye and family in Htanbinkan village, Mahlaing township, Meiktila District, on 5 March morning.

First, the donor, U Tu Maung, and Mahlaing Township Peace and Development Council U Myo Than formally opened Aung Mingala Library worth K 4.5 million. Meiktila District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw May Soe Thu donated 200 books of various kinds to the library. The family also donated K 500,000 to Mahlaing Township MCWSC and a 21-inch TV and furniture to the village library.

Afterwards, U Tu Maung and Meiktila District PDC Chairman

Lt-Col Lu Tin formally opened the new school building constructed at a cost of K 4.5 million and handed over documents related to the building to the township education officer. After that, Col Myo Lwin of the local battalion and the donor formally opened the two-storey building of Aung Myin Yadana Monastery and Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin formally unveiled the stone plaque of the building. Then followed the merit-sharing ceremony for the donations. Meiktila Arthawkayon Yele Monastery Abbot State Ovadacariya Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Labavata and 108 members of the Sangha attended the ceremony. The monastery building cost K 120 million.

Later, the donor family offered alms to the monks. The family also contributed to the construction of a K-40-million tar road linking Leikkhwe village and Htanbinkan village. — MNA

## Myanmar, India sign communication agreement

YANGON, 10 March — A ceremony to sign an agreement on communication cooperation between TCIL (Telecommunications Consultants India Limited) and Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications under Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs of Myanmar took place at Grand Plaza Park Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Communications, Posts and

Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Director of Signals Maj-Gen Thein Tun, e-national task force member U Aung Myint and guests.

Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Technical Director Mr P Ganesh of TCIL of India explained matters on communications, signed the agreement and exchanged the documents. Later, they posed for a documentary photo.—MNA



Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin and Mr P Ganesh sign the agreement.—MNA



The second-day session of the sixth meeting of Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha in progress. — MNA

## Sixth meeting of Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha continues

YANGON, 9 March— The sixth meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha went on for the second day at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

Members of the State

Ovadacariya Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kosalla of Sinkyon Monastery in Waso Ward, Yamethin, Mandalay Division, Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta

Nipuna of Panhlaing Monastery in Bago, Bago Division (East), Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Indakajiva of Catubhumika Maggan Yeiktha in Bogyoke Village, Thanlyin, Yangon Division, Sayadaw Agga

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Candobhasa of Hman Monastery in Northern Kammayaik Village, Kawkareik Township, Kayin State, and Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Dhamma Siri of Ngagar Hnakaung Monastery in Tachilek, Shan State (East) were elected as Ovadacariya Sayadaws for the second day session.

Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Panñindabhivamsa of Maha Aungmye Bonsan Monastery in Bahan Township, Yangon Division,

presided over the meeting. Joint-Secretary of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kitti of Zeyalankara Monastery in Myingyan, Mandalay Division acted as MC.

Chairman of the committee for construction of the Maha Vijaya Pagoda Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win supplicated on the building of the pagoda and all-round development.

The report of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was

discussed.

The meeting continues tomorrow.

U Aung Din and family of No 609, Zarga Street, Ward 4, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Division, offered alms food to the Sayadaws this morning.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, Prorector (Admin) of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Dr Myint Kyi and officials also attended the meeting. — MNA

## Functions of MRTV, Yeku Transmission Station inspected



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects a studio of Myanmar Radio and Television. — MNA

YANGON, 10 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of the Myanmar Radio and Television and officials, inspected functions of the news gathering and outdoor shooting unit, the master control room, the news studio and news studio control room, the radio master control room, the radio news studio and the records archive of MTRV on Pyay Road, here, on 8 March evening.

The minister instructed officials to install security equipment, make supervision for security measures, purchase necessary materials for the fire prevention, and practise fire fighting drills.

Next, the minister proceeded to Yeku Transmission Station in Mayangon Township. Head of the station Deputy Chief Engineer U Myo Win and officials reported on preparations for taking fire prevention measures at the station, security arrangements and digging of fish ponds. In his instructions, the minister stressed the need to systematically supervise security functions and take fire prevention measures. He spoke of the need to dig fish ponds properly.

The minister and party oversaw fire prevention measures, vegetable plantations of staff families, functions of radio transmission through medium and short waves, antenna towers and fish ponds. — MNA

## Minister inspects GTC Press, Sarpay Beikman Press, Aung San Press

YANGON, 10 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Managing Director U Aung Nyein of Printing and Publishing Enterprise and officials, arrived at GTC Press in Insein Township yesterday afternoon.

Deputy General Manager (Printing) U Kyaw Thu, factory managers and officials welcomed the minister.

Managing Director U Aung Nyein reported to the minister on the condition of the presses, progress of printing works, and distribution

of exercise books.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions that printing of school textbooks is to be completed at the end of March, and tasks are to be coordinated with ministries concerned for distribution of the textbooks to the students in time.

Presses are to be maintained, and arrangements are to be made for storage of spare parts. And work orders are to be placed to local industrial entrepreneurs to manufacture spare parts.

Next, the minister gave instructions on security and fire prevention measures of the Press.

Afterwards, the minister inspected printing and maintenance tasks.

The minister proceeded to Sarpay Beikman Press and Aung San Press.

He oversaw printing of school textbooks and other works and preparations for taking security and fire prevention measures of the presses.

MNA

## FM denies of saying Japan might need nuclear arms

**TOKYO, 10 March — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso denied on Thursday having said that Japan — the only nation to suffer an atomic bombing — should possess nuclear arms to counter North Korea.**

Without specifying the sources, the weekly magazine *Shukan Bunshun* wrote that Aso made the remarks in a meeting with US Vice-President Dick Cheney in December.

"If North Korea carries on with its nuclear development, then Japan would have to have nuclear arms," the magazine quoted Aso as saying in the meeting which it said was held at

Cheney's office in the White House on 2 December.

Aso, a candidate to succeed Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi when he steps down in September and who has in the past found himself in the hot seat with comments that upset China and South Korea, denied making the comments.

"There is no truth that such comments were

made," he said in a statement released through his office.

The magazine also said Aso made similar remarks to Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in their meeting the following day. "If China and North Korea were to become a security threat, should (Japan) not arm itself with nuclear weapons," Aso was quoted as saying.

MNA/Reuters

## Ahmadinejad says West will suffer more than Iran

**TEHERAN, 10 March — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Thursday Western countries were vulnerable and would suffer more than Iran if they continued to try to impede its attempts to develop nuclear tech-**



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

nology, local media reported.

Speaking a day after it became clear that the UN Security Council would take up Iran's nuclear case, Ahmadinejad said Teheran would not be bullied or humiliated.

"They (Western countries) know that they are not capable of inflicting the slightest blow on the Iranian nation because they need the Iranian nation," the semi-official *ISNA* students news agency quoted him as saying in a speech in western Iran. "They will suffer more and they are vulnerable," he said, without elaborating.

A senior Iranian security official warned on Wednesday Iran could inflict "harm and pain" to match whatever punishment Washington persuaded the Security Council to mete out for Iran's refusal to heed calls that it halt atomic fuel research.

Iran says it wants to master nuclear fuel cycle technology to feed atomic reactors generating electricity. Washington and its allies believe Iran wants nuclear fuel to make atomic bombs.

Some Iranian officials have warned that if pressured further over the nuclear case Teheran could restrict its vital oil exports to push prices even higher.

They have also hinted Iran could use its influence with militants in regional hotspots such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Palestine to stir up trouble for the United States and Israel.

"Our enemies will never succeed in forcing the Iranian nation to step back on its rights over peaceful nuclear technology because it never accepts humiliation," state television quoted Ahmadinejad as saying on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters

### Bikini islanders to sue US nuclear tests

**WELLINGTON, 10 March — Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands is preparing to file a lawsuit in the United States courts in the next few weeks asking for more than 500 million US dollars in compensation.**

Radio New Zealand said Thursday two other islands, Enewetak Atoll and Rongelap Atoll are also hoping for compensation following the series of 67 (US) nuclear weapons tests which took place on the islands between 1946 and 1958.

In 1986, the United States paid 270 million US dollars in compensation to the Marshalls under previous agreements, but as health problems are said to be far more devastating than expected, the Marshall Islands is now seeking further support.

But Washington held it does not support claims for more compensation. — MNA/Xinhua

## World Kidney Day observed in Nepal

**KATHMANDU, 10 March — With the kidney problems increasing alarmingly throughout the world, the concerned specialists in Nepal is taking to a campaign of promoting awareness of the people in connection with marking the World Kidney Day on Thursday.**

There are about 2.5 million people in Nepal suffering from one or another kind of kidney problem at present, a news release issued by Nepal Society of Nephrologists and Healthcare Foundation Nepal National Kidneys Treatment Centre said.

The World Kidney Day is observed

on the second Thursday of March every year.

About 10-per-cent population of the world has kidney problem, according to the available statistics.

The centre is holding a free kidney check-up camp in the capital city of Kathmandu Thursday on the occasion of the World Kidney Day.

Some 2,500 new kidney patients are added every year in Nepal, and about 500 kidney patients have had new kidneys transplanted so far, according to the release.

MNA/Xinhua

## S Africa regrets no conclusion on Iran nuke issues

**JOHANNESBURG, 10 March — South Africa on Wednesday regretted the inability of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to conclude that there are no undeclared nuclear materials or activities in Iran.**

"We regret the fact that the agency is not yet in a

position to conclude that there are no undeclared nuclear materials or activities in Iran," Abdul Minty, the country's representative on the IAEA, said in a statement issued by the South African Foreign Ministry.

However, Minty said South Africa welcomed

the reconfirmation by the agency that all the declared nuclear material in Iran had been accounted for and that the agency had not seen any diversion of such material to nuclear weapons.

Two critical issues of contamination and centrifuge programmes "still require further clarification in order to enable the agency to provide the necessary assurances regarding the nuclear programme in Iran", said Minty, who attended a special meeting of IAEA, the United Nations (UN) atomic watchdog, Wednesday in Vienna.

The United States, Britain, France and Germany are seeking a referral of Iranian nuclear issues to the UN Security Council, which has the power to impose economic sanctions.

Washington believes the Iranian nuclear programme is hiding efforts to make an atomic bomb. Teheran insists its research is peaceful.

MNA/Xinhua

## China should independently develop civil aircraft

**BELING, 10 March — China should independently develop civil aircraft since "real core and key technologies cannot be purchased" from world market, said Liu Gaozhao, general manager of the China Aviation Industry Corporation I, one of China's top two aero-makers.**

"We must strive to increase our capacity for scientific innovation," said Liu, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), which is holding its annual session in Beijing.

China used to have a cooperation plan with the McDonnell Douglas Corporation (MDC) to assemble MD82 and MD90

passenger planes, aiming to raise the country's R&D capability in this sector, but the scheme aborted after MDC merged with Boeing, Liu said.

"We have made a lot of efforts in the cooperation project," he said, "It cost us dearly".

"Experience shows that any country that hopes to develop civil aircraft must adhere to the

path of independent innovation by relying on its own intellectual property rights," he said.

Liu suggested that China's civil aircraft industry can follow the example of military aircraft development and he attributed the success of China's military aircraft to adherence to the path of innovation.

MNA/Xinhua



Washington's Jamaal Williams (C) goes up for a shot as Oregon's Malik Hairston (L) and Chamberlain Oguchi defend during the 2006 PAC-10 Men's Basketball Tournament in Los Angeles, on 9 March, 2006. Oregon won 84-73. —INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOYNO (097)N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOYNO (097)N are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.3.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.P 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 PREMIER SPECTRUM

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RATU VOYNO (227)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATU VOYNO (227) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.3.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၂၉-၃-၂၀၀၆ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီ ဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံတစ်ခုလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင် တိတိ)နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့် ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ဖွဲ့စည်းဝယ်ယူချောင်းချေးရေး ဌာနစုတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အခေါင်းစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်- ၃၈၈၇၃၂ သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

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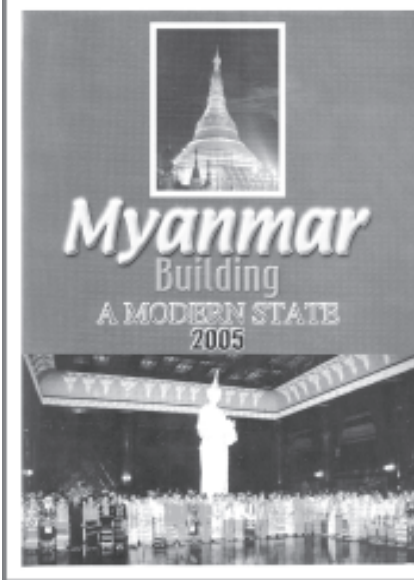
Int'l laser, photoelectricity tech trade expo to open in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 9 March —The first international laser and photoelectricity technology trade fair in China will be held in Shanghai on 21 March, according to sources with the exposition organizing committee.

An official with Munich international exposition group said that more than 100 Chinese and foreign enterprises will participate in the three-day exposition, which covers 6,000 square metres of floor space and is expected to attract more than 5,000 visitors.

With laser application as its theme, the expo aims to provide an exhibition platform for the growing photoelectricity tech market. The exhibits will range from optics production technology and optics measurement systems to imaging technology.

MNA/Xinhua



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Annan urges US to cool rhetoric over Iran's N-programme

UNITED NATIONS, 9 March — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Wednesday urged the US Government to cool its rhetoric one day after Vice-President Dick Cheney warned of "meaningful consequences" if Iran refused to halt its nuclear programme.



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

In an interview with a public TV programme "Charlie Rose Show", Annan also mentioned Washington's recent nuclear agreement with India, which allows India's access to US civilian nuclear technology. Iran could use the agreement to argue that Western powers were relying on a double standard, Annan said.

needs to know that it stays on its present course, the international community is prepared to impose meaningful consequences," Cheney said.

Asked about Cheney's remarks, Annan noted that efforts were still under way to reach a negotiated settlement with Iran over the limits of its nuclear programme.

"We should all try to lower the rhetoric and allow for calm, serious discussion on this issue," the UN chief said.

"But the Iranians will also have to understand what the world expects of them,"

he added. The United States has been accusing Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons under the cover of civilian nuclear programmes. However, Iran has insisted that its nuclear programmes are for peaceful purposes only.

The United States wants to refer Iran's nuclear issue to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions. But Russia, an important broker, has proposed transferring Iran's uranium enrichment programme to Russian territory to alleviate international concerns.

MNA/Xinhua

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Bank Holiday All Banks will be closed on 13th March (Monday), Full Moon of Tabaung 2006, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act. Central Bank of Myanmar

Ethiopia benefits from agricultural exports to Somalia ADDIS ABABA, 10 March—Ethiopia said on Wednesday it has garnered over 36 million US dollars from the export of various agricultural products to neighbouring Somalia in the past eight months since July last year. Amare Gebremariam, senior official with the Ethiopian Customs Authority, told journalists that the stated sum of revenue is collected from the export of live animals, animal products and khat. Amare said over 24,000 live animals, 589,000 litres of milk and over 11 million kilogrammes of khat have been exported to Somalia via the eastern border town of Jijiga. MNA/Xinhua

France to release first white paper on domestic security

PARIS, 9 March — French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin presided over a ministerial meeting on Tuesday, focusing on the imminent release of a government document aimed at preventing and responding to terrorist attacks. Diplomats said

relevant departments spent about a year writing the 141-page document, the first white paper on domestic security and terror threats in the country's history. France faces its greatest threat ever from terrorism, de Villepin wrote in the preface of the document.

The country has been under threats from international terrorist groups like Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network many a time since 1998, especially after the 11 September attacks on the United States, said the document.

MNA/Xinhua

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### High-speed rail to use local technology



The magnetic levitation rail line in Shanghai.—INTERNET

BEIJING, 9 March. — Foreign technology will not be used to build the high-speed rail link between Beijing and Shanghai, it was announced yesterday. "We have already reached a consensus on the

issue: the high-speed railway line will be fully based on our own technology," Minister of Railways Liu Zhijun told China Daily. "We are confident and capable of completing the

railway through the efforts of our engineers and technicians."

The minister did not specify what technology would be used but stressed "our technology is a re-innovation on the basis of assimilating advanced technologies of foreign countries."

He disclosed that the project may start as early as the end of this year after securing approval from the State Council, China's Cabinet.

Liu made the remarks on the sidelines of the ongoing annual session of the National People's Congress, the top legislature.

It is the first time that a high-ranking Chinese official has specifically ruled out the use of foreign technologies in building the 1,300-kilometre railway. The 200-billion-yuan (US\$24.7 billion) project was first proposed in 1994 and originally scheduled for completion before the beginning of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing or the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai.

The express railway designed for a speed of up to 300 kilometres per hour is expected to shorten travel time between the two cities from 13 hours to less than 5.—Internet

### WHO chief says Indian Ocean fever fears exaggerated

PORT LOUIS, 10 March— The media is overreacting to a crippling mosquito-borne disease currently sweeping across the Indian Ocean region, the World Health Organization (WHO) said, adding that the disease is rarely fatal.

"Chikungunya" fever, a painful disease for which there is no cure or vaccine, has infected more than 180,000 people, mostly in Reunion but also in Mauritius, Seychelles, Mayotte and Madagascar, all located off the southeast coast of Africa.

"I think it is

exaggerated. It is less alarming than what is being painted in the media," WHO director-general Lee Jong-wook told a news conference late on Tuesday. "If it was a real issue, we would go in the hospitals and see people are dying."

Lee, visiting Mauritius to launch a global report on chronic diseases, said he did not believe the Chikungunya virus was generally fatal.

But he urged local populations to protect themselves by using repellent and removing mosquito breeding areas such as stagnant water pools and rubbish.

The tropical virus, first recognized in Tanzania in 1952, is marked by high fever and severe rashes and can be extremely painful, leaving its victims in a stooped posture. Symptoms can last from seven days to a few months.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters



A four-day-old spotted seal pup swims with its mother at the Siam Ocean World in Bangkok, on 10 March, 2006. A newborn spotted seal usually has white fur over its body and feeds on its mother's milk for six months. The pup's gender is still unidentified and it has not yet been named.—INTERNET

### Singapore company delivers first ultra deep drilling jack-up rig

SINGAPORE, 9 March — PPL Shipyard, a Singapore-based rig builder, delivered its first ultra deep drilling jack-up rig to its customers Wednesday.

Christened "Deep Driller 1", the rig is capable of operating in water depth of 375 feet (about 114 metres) and is equipped to drill high pressure and high temperature wells of more than 30,000 feet (about 9,140 metres).

"This is the first jack-up rig to be built based on PPL Shipyard's in-house proprietary design, the Baker Marine Pacific Class 375 deep drilling rig," said Lim Hwee Hua, Singapore's Minister of State for Finance and

Transport, at the christening ceremony held Wednesday.

The design enables the rig to withstand storms without the use of a Rack Chock System.

MNA/Xinhua

### Chinese aerospace expert calls for unified management of space programme

BEIJING, 9 March — China should set up a governmental agency as a leading body of the nation's space programme, a former chief designer of spacecraft said during the annual session of the country's top political advisory body.

China needs a unified leading organ to plan the country's programme of manned space mission,

satellites and lunar exploration as a whole, said Qi Faren, chief designer of China's first five Shenzhou spaceships and a National Committee member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

The annual session of the top advisory body opened in Beijing last Friday.— MNA/Xinhua

### Study finds Americans getting older and better

WASHINGTON, 10 March — The face of America is changing and it is going to be considerably more wrinkled, according to a report issued on Thursday.

The number of people 65 and over is expected to double within the next 25 years. By 2030, 72 million people, or nearly one out of every five Americans, will be 65 or older, according to the report from US Census Bureau and the National Institute on Aging.

"We are getting older," C Louis Kincannon, director of the US Census Bureau, told reporters in a telephone briefing.

"The boomers began turning 60 this year. In fact, nearly 8,000 people are now turning 60 every day. The aging of our society will have profound consequences on our future. We can expect a major wave of retirements starting

in 2011." But older people will also work longer, the report predicts.

"Companies will need to face the challenge of having to mobilize and retain older workers," said Kincannon.

Considerations will include ergonomic office equipment, "the lighting, the print size, all kinds of things that make it easier for people to continue to work", he said.

The good news is that it is not, as the Rolling Stones sang, such a drag getting old any more. "Today's older Americans are very different from their grandparents, living longer with lower rates of disability, with higher rates of

education and garnering more wealth," Kincannon said.

While 14 million Americans over the age of 65 reported they were disabled in 2000, the proportion of people with a disability fell from 26.2 per cent in 1982 to 19.7 per cent in 1999. Most were linked to a chronic condition such as heart disease or arthritis.

But this trend may not continue. "We are seeing a very troubling increase in disability rates for younger Americans, partly driven by the epidemic of obesity," said Dr Richard Hodes, director of the National Institute on Aging.

MNA/Reuters



A student from the Agriculture Institute of Bogor, displays boxes of a new Bird Flu vaccine for chickens on 9 March, 2006 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Agriculture Institute and Japanese company Shigetec can produce 180 million doses per year and by July 2006, when their new factory is completed will be able to produce 2.1 billion doses per year of the vaccine using the reverse genetics process.—INTERNET

# SPORTS

## Yakubu penalty seals Boro win over Roma in UEFA Cup

LONDON, 10 March — Nigerian Aiyegbeni Yakubu stroked home a first-half penalty to hand Middlesbrough a 1-0 win over AS Roma in the first leg of their UEFA Cup last 16 tie on Thursday.

Yakubu sent Italy Under-21 keeper Gianluca Curci the wrong way from the spot after 10 minutes at a rain-lashed Riverside Stadium.

Curci, standing in for injured Brazilian Doni, was penalized for his challenge on Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink after the Dutch striker had burst into the area from Gaizka Mendieta's pass. Roma, forced to play Brazilian winger Mancini as a lone frontman with strikers Francesco Totti, Vincenzo Montella and Shabani Nonda injured, offered little threat.

Boro, who lost to Portugal's Sporting in the last 16 last season, wasted chances for a bigger lead, Curci saving well from Hasselbaink and Mendieta firing wastefully high with a clear sight on goal 10 minutes from time.—MNA/Reuters



Middlesbrough's Gaizka Mendieta, left, challenges Roma's Philippe Mexes during their UEFA Cup round of 16 first-leg match at the Riverside Stadium in Middlesbrough, England, on Thursday, 9 March, 2006.—INTERNET

## Lyon fire strong warning to Champions League rivals

Lyon (France,) 10 March — Olympique Lyon fired a strong warning to their rivals in the Champions League by qualifying in style for the quarterfinals.

The French champions, inspired by two-goal midfielder Tiago, demolished a solid PSV Eindhoven 4-0 on Wednesday and 5-0 on aggregate to reach the last eight for the third consecutive year.

"I'm proud of what the players did tonight. Not only did they have a great match but they proved that they are one of the best sides in Europe," coach Gerard Houllier said.

"Our qualification is deserved and it has nothing to do with luck. We reached the quarterfinals last year and the year before. To me, it means something," he said.

It certainly confirmed that Lyon can no longer be taken lightly with the Ligue 1 leaders unbeaten since the

start on the Champions League.

They have scored no less than 18 goals in eight matches and conceded only four.

Lyon have never been

beyond the quarterfinals, having been eliminated by PSV on penalties in 2005 and Porto in 2004 when the Portuguese champions were en route for the title.—MNA/Reuters



Taj Burrow of Australia rides the waves during a Men's ASP (Association of Surfing Professionals) World Championship Tour event in Gold Coast, Queensland, on 10 March, 2006. Burrow finished runner-up in the event featuring the world's top 45 surfers and a \$280,000 prize.—INTERNET

## Arsenal defeat brings the curtain down on Galactico era

MADRID, 10 March — Real Madrid's Champions League defeat by Arsenal has ended their "Galactico" era, with the club facing the prospect of a third successive season without a major trophy.

Not since 1954, when the Real ended a seven-year run without silverware, has the club suffered such a poor spell.

Former club president Florentino Perez has already abandoned ship to avoid watching his grandiose project sink. The knives are now out for the players, coach and remaining directors deemed responsible for the failure.

"Madrid buries an era at Highbury," was El Pais' verdict on the Arsenal defeat, while sports daily AS commented that it was "The end of the galaxy".

Marca called for immediate elections to choose a new president, saying that Perez' chosen successor Fernando Martin could no longer continue in his post, while El Mundo said that the defeat would precipitate a revolution at the club.

Coach Juan Ramon Lopez Caro was blamed for his decision to field the old guard of Ronaldo, Raul and Zinedine Zidane against Arsenal instead of the new signings the club had made this season.

Ronaldo was slammed for his lack of spark and fitness, David Beckham

was criticized for his failure to perform on his first return to England in a Real Madrid shirt, while Raul came under fire for an anonymous performance against the Londoners.

There was more criticism for Ronaldo and Zidane for their failure to heed Raul's request and thank the Real Madrid fans who had travelled to support their team at Highbury.

The decision of the two heavyweights to ignore the captain's wishes was seen as symptomatic of rifts within the squad.

Eliminated from the Champions League, out of the King's Cup and 10 points adrift of Barcelona in the Primera Liga, Real are now likely to undergo a root-and-branch reconstruction.

"We've suffered two very heavy blows in the Cup and the Champions League," keeper Iker

Casillas told reporters.

"Now we have to be realistic and make sure we assure ourselves of second place in the league.

"Now is the time to remain united and at the end of the season the decisions will be made as to what happens with the team."

Whether elections are

held or not, a "Galactico" clear-out looks inevitable.

Ronaldo has already made clear he wants to leave, Zidane is expected to retire after the World Cup and Roberto Carlos is likely to come under pressure to move on.

MNA/Reuters



Slalom leader Italy's Giorgio Rocca passes a gate in the World Cup Ski men's slalom event on Mount Yakebitai in Shiga Kogen, central Japan, on 10 March, 2006.—INTERNET

## Spurs still seeking breakthrough win over top five team

CHIGWELL (England), 10 March — Tottenham Hotspur visit Chelsea on Saturday still looking for their first win over a top five team since Martin Jol took over as manager.

The Dutchman has moulded his squad into a formidable force this season and drawn admirers as they stand fourth in the Premier League with a chance of Champions League football.

However, Jol knows they have to beat one of the big boys to gain respect among the country's top echelon, even though a trip to Stamford Bridge

is hardly the easiest place to achieve it.

Spurs have not beaten Chelsea in the league since February 1990 — a remarkable run that now stretches to 31 matches since Gary Lineker and David Howells gave them a 2-1 away win.

Asked what a victory over one of the big clubs would mean for his young side, Jol told reporters: "That will be a big step. If we win against Chelsea or Arsenal it would help."

Spurs lost 2-0 at home to Chelsea this season but were reduced to 10 men for 70 minutes after striker Mido was sent off for elbowing Asier Del Horno with the score at 0-0.

They have also drawn 0-0 with Liverpool and 1-1 with Arsenal at home and 1-1 against Manchester United away as well as losing 1-0 at Anfield courtesy of a stunning Harry Kewell volley.

"When we played United away we were satisfied with a draw.

MNA/Reuters

## Injured Beckham out of Saturday's game against Valencia

MADRID, 10 March — Real Madrid midfielder David Beckham will miss Saturday's Primera Liga game at Valencia after straining his groin before the Champions League match at Arsenal.

"I won't be able to be with the team for the next five or six days," the England captain told the club's website on Thursday.

"I felt something in the warm-up (for Wednesday's match against Arsenal) but I carried on as best I could."

Beckham played the whole game against Arsenal, his first for Real in England, but failed to exert his normal influence as his side drew the first knockout round second leg tie 0-0 to go out 1-0 on aggregate.

A spokesman for Beckham said the injury became worse as the match wore on.

Medical staff have told the player he should rest for a week before resuming full training.

MNA/Reuters

# Vietnam rejects US human rights report

HANOI, 10 March — Vietnam absolutely rejects erroneous and prejudiced comments on its human rights record in the 2005 Human Rights Report of the US Department of State, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday.

The report cites “unilateral and distorted information that failed to reflect the reality in Vietnam”, said spokesman Le Dung at a regular Press briefing.

Vietnam respects and protects citizens’ right to freedom of belief and religion, and the right to freedom of non-belief and non-religion, and the Vietnamese people are participating in society governance and voicing their will and aspiration in the

country’s major events more and more actively, Dung said.

“Vietnamese people from all walks of life throughout the country and in other countries are contributing their comments to draft reports of the 10th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, an important social-political event,” Dung stated.

Vietnam has issued numerous legal regulations to facilitate belief and religion activities, and there is no religious repression or ethnic discrimination in the country, he said.

“No one is detained for having different political views or for religious reasons. Only violators of laws are dealt with in accordance with legal regulations,” he said.

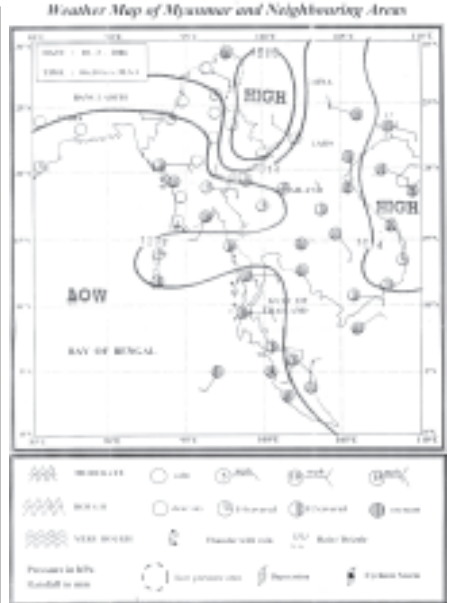
As a result of difference in political systems, development levels, history and culture, there exist different views and approach toward human rights among countries, including Vietnam and the United States, “it is unacceptable for one country to impose its view and approach on other countries”, he said.

As agreed by the leaders of Vietnam and the United States on “developing constructive partnership, friendship and multi-faceted cooperation of equality, mutual respect and benefit” and “continuing frank and open dialogue on matters of mutual concern”, the two countries have resumed dialogue on human rights between the two foreign ministries.

MNA/Xinhua



Photo taken on 9 March, 2006 shows part of Hohhot, capital of north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, cloaked by a sand storm. A strong sand storm hit Hohhot on the afternoon of 9 March. —INTERNET



## WEATHER

Friday, 10 March, 2006

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were about normal in Mon and Kayin States, (5°C) above normal in Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu, Pyay, Shwegyin, Thayawady and Patheingyi (40°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.94) inch.

Maximum temperature on 9-3-2006 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 10-3-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 10-3-2006 was (84%). Total sunshine hours on 9-3-2006 was (8.6) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 10-3-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from West at (21:30) hours MST on 9-3-2006.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the Nouth and West Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 11-3-2006:** Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of slight increase of Day temperatures in Central Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Pymmana and neighbouring area for 11-3-2006:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-3-2006:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-3-2006:** Fair weather.

**Weather outlook for third weekend of March 2006:** During the coming weekend, weather will be fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

### Earthquake report

(Issued at 10:30 hours MST, Today)

A Slight earthquake of intensity (4.9) Richter Scale with its epicentre outside Myanmar (over the sea, near Andaman Islands, India Region) about (360) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory, was recorded at (07) hrs (43) min (42) sec MST on 10 March, 2006.

**TV Myanmar**

**Saturday, 11 March**  
View on today

<p><b>7:00 am</b></p> <p>1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပဏာန ရုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပဏာနအဖွဲ့ ဇောတိတံ၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘူတဂါရိတ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p><b>7:25 am</b></p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p><b>7:40 am</b></p> <p>4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p><b>7:55 am</b></p> <p>5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>8:05 am</b></p> <p>6. ဟင်းရွက်ရေညှော်စင်</p> <p><b>8:15 am</b></p> <p>7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>8:30 am</b></p> <p>8. International news</p> <p><b>8:45 am</b></p> <p>9. Grammar Made Easy</p> <p><b>11:00 am</b></p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p><b>11:15 am</b></p> <p>2. Musical programme</p>	<p><b>11:30 am</b></p> <p>3. News</p> <p><b>11:40 am</b></p> <p>4. Games for children</p> <p><b>12:00 noon</b></p> <p>5. Round up of the week’s TV local news</p> <p><b>12:40 pm</b></p> <p>6. နိုင်ငံခြားတက္ကသိုလ်များတွင် “Doraemon”</p> <p><b>12:55 pm</b></p> <p>7. ကြားမြင်သူတို့အား ဓာပဒေသာ</p> <p><b>1:05 pm</b></p> <p>8. Dance of national races</p> <p><b>1:20 pm</b></p> <p>9. ရန်ကုန် ဒဂုံတက္ကသိုလ်ရထားလမ်းသစ်နှင့် ဒဂုံတက္ကသိုလ်ဘူတာသစ်အောင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>1:30 pm</b></p> <p>10. “အန္တရာယ်ကင်းစင် ဆေးရုံစင်” (လူမင်း၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)</p> <p><b>1:40 pm</b></p> <p>11. ရွှေလောင်းတံတား</p> <p><b>1:50 pm</b></p> <p>12. မြတ်ဗုဒ္ဓ၏ မဟာဗုဒ္ဓဝင်</p> <p><b>2:45 pm</b></p> <p>13. International news</p> <p><b>4:00 pm</b></p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p><b>4:15 pm</b></p> <p>2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p><b>4:30 pm</b></p> <p>3. English for Everyday Use</p> <p><b>4:45 pm</b></p> <p>4. တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ</p>	<p><b>4:55 pm</b></p> <p>5. အစားအသောက်ထိခိုက်မှုမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန် သတိပေး (သတ္တဓမ္မ)</p> <p><b>5:05 pm</b></p> <p>6. Musical programme</p> <p><b>5:15 pm</b></p> <p>7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>5:25 pm</b></p> <p>8. မြင်းခြံခရိုင်နှင့် ဆိုင်းဆွဲ၊ နေပြည်တော်</p> <p><b>5:40 pm</b></p> <p>9. “စက်မှုတပ်ဆင် လုပ်ငန်းတွင်” (အကယ်ဒမီစိန်မင်း၊ အကယ်ဒမီမင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ အကယ်ဒမီနီနီမြင့်အောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းထွန်း)</p> <p><b>5:50 pm</b></p> <p>10. Musical programme</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b></p> <p>11. Evening news</p> <p><b>6:30 pm</b></p> <p>12. Weather report</p> <p><b>6:35 pm</b></p> <p>13. အရေးကြီးပွဲ</p> <p><b>6:45 pm</b></p> <p>14. ရုပ်မြင်ရသ တေးစုကဏ္ဍ</p> <p><b>7:00 pm</b></p> <p>15. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>7:15 pm</b></p> <p>16. (ဝေ)နှစ်မြောက် တစ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p><b>7:30 pm</b></p> <p>17. Musical programme</p> <p><b>8:00 pm</b></p> <p>18. News</p> <p><b>8:05 pm</b></p> <p>19. International news</p> <p><b>8:10 pm</b></p> <p>20. Weather report</p> <p><b>8:15 pm</b></p> <p>21. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်မိပြီဆိုရင်” (အရိုင်း-၂၉)</p> <p><b>8:20 pm</b></p> <p>22. The next day’s programme</p>
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**Radio Myanmar**

**Saturday, 11 March**  
Tune in today

**8:30 am** Brief news

**8:35 am** Music:  
-As long as you love me (BSB)

**8:40 am** Perspectives

**8:45 am** Music:  
-Can we talk (Code Red)

**8:50 am** National news, 12 Objectives & People’s Desire

**9:00 am** Music:  
-Secret (Madonna)

**9:05 am** International news

**9:10 am** Music:  
-I’ll be there for you (Solid Harmonie)

**1:30 pm** News & Slogan

**1:40 pm** Music at your request  
-Even the nights are better (Air Supply)  
-We are on the race track (Precious Wilson)  
-Time for love (Ronan Keating)

**9:00 pm** ASEAN review

**9:10 pm** Article

**9:20 pm** Myanma culture

**9:30 pm** Souvenirs  
-Is it really over (Jim Recues)  
-Speedy Gonzales (Pat Boone)  
-Subterranean Homesick Blue (Bob Dylan)

**9:45 pm** News & Slogan

**10:00 pm** PEL

**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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

## Emergency Receiving Centre opened at Mandalay General Hospital

YANGON, 10 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, and officials, attended the ceremony to open the emergency receiving centre at Mandalay General

members, the band of No 16 Basic Education High School, the dance troupes of No 11 BEHS and local people.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Daw Thauang, on behalf of wellwisher U Sa Gyi-Daw Tin, formally opened the emergency receiving centre.

After unveiling the signboard, Lt-Gen Ye

At the cash donation ceremony held at the hall of the hospital, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint accepted K 100 million for construction of a new ward for the MGH donated by Daw San San, U Maung Maung Swe, Daw Khin Yi and Daw Khin Si Nyunt of 88, 79th street between 28th and 29th streets in Mandalay.

Medical Superintendent Dr U Maung Win



Lt-Gen Ye Myint formally unveils Emergency Receiving Centre at Mandalay General Hospital in Mandalay. — MNA

Hospital on 5 March morning.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Chief Justice (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt, Deputy Attorney-General (Mandalay) U Han Shein, departmental officials, social organization

Myint inspected the centre.

The newly-opened emergency receiving centre measuring 90 feet by 50 feet is a two-storey building. The centre consists of the operation theatre, the X-ray room, the medical store and the intensive care unit. It was built at a cost of K 120 million.

thanked the wellwishers for their donations and explained all-round renovation at the hospital and its functions.

After the cash donation ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party cordially greeted the wellwishers.

MNA

## Farmers in Bago Division (East) urged to exert greater efforts for monsoon paddy cultivation

YANGON, 10 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, on 6 March urged local people in Htantabin Township, Bago Division (East), to make more efforts joining hands with local authorities for extended cultivation of 3 million acres of monsoon paddy in the division.

He arrived at Htantabin Township accompanied by Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also called for cultivation of ten major crops, coffee and physic nut plants. Next, he went to the physic nut nursery in Htantabin Township where 70,000 physic nut saplings are being nurtured.

During his inspection tour, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the 25-bed hospital in Htantabin.

He also inspected the Seikkyi Village-tract's

thriving summer paddy fields which are irrigated by the river water pumping station. The village-tract set its target of 800 acres of summer paddy in the summer, and so far, 300 acres have been put under paddy using the irrigation water of the river water pumping station. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected 500 acres of summer paddy at Nyaungpingyi Village-tract in Ottwin Township.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to River Water Pumping Station in Wati Village in Ottwin Township and fulfilled the requirements of the station.

The station is equipped with eight 25 horse power motors and two transformers to supply irrigated water in the summer.

Over 163,045 acres of land have been put under paddy in the summer for 2005-2006 in Bago Division (East) and the division exceeded its target of 142,850 acres.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party at 11 am arrived at the nursery in Toungoo where they sowed physic nut seeds and planted grafts.

There are 200,000 physic nut saplings and grafts at the nursery. — MNA

### INSIDE

*Actually, the culture of a nation and its people is their impression. Now, owing to globalization the relationship between the nations causes their cultures mix one another. The world has witnessed rapid changes in culture. Myanmar is a nation that has been able to safeguard and preserve its culture and fine arts.*

PAGE 7 ARTICLE BY NWE NWE KYI (MNA) & PHOTOS BY THAUNG MYINT (MNA)