

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 12 March, 2006

## Four political objectives

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

## Four economic objectives

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

## Four social objectives

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

# Senior General Than Shwe bids farewell to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

YANGON, 11 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe bade farewell to the goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, who had completed his State visit, at Yangon International Airport this morning.

Present at the airport together with Senior General Than Shwe were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime

Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, the ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to India, the Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, departmental heads, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and embassy staff.

At 10.30 am, the goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam arrived at the VIP Lounge of (See page 16)



Senior General Than Shwe shakes hands with Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 12 March, 2006

**Tatmadaw shouldering national defence and nation-building tasks**

The Tatmadaw, which is leading the State, came into being during the independence struggle. Together with the people it restored the independence. From the period of independence struggles to date, the young men who joined the Tatmadaw did not seek any privileges for personal gain and joined only with the spirit of serving the State and the people.

Since its birth, the Tatmadaw has extraordinary significance. Being a capable and well-disciplined Tatmadaw, it won the love of the national people in successive eras.

Myanma Tatmadaw is equipped with the twelve noble traditions—a patriotic Tatmadaw, a disciplined Tatmadaw, a loyal Tatmadaw, a united Tatmadaw, a capable Tatmadaw, a Tatmadaw which makes heroic sacrifices, a Tatmadaw which does not seek personal gain, a Tatmadaw of noble spirit and high morale, a Tatmadaw which possesses true quality of overcoming obstacles, a Tatmadaw which can endure hardships, a tenacious and persevering Tatmadaw, and a Tatmadaw which always upholds Our Three Main National Causes.

At present, the government hand in hand with the people is making all-out efforts for the country to keep abreast of the global nations. In the meantime, the seven-step Road Map has been laid and is being implemented for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

The Tatmadaw in the best interest of the State and the people has turned nearly 61 years, while safeguarding independence and sovereignty. Engaged in nation-building endeavours, the Tatmadaw is giving priority to national defence duty, the main duty.

The Tatmadaw members are not only safeguarding the life and property of the people but also participating in the national development tasks. Together with the people, they are taking part in the construction of motor roads, railroads and bridges and building dams and reservoirs across the nation. This highlights an innate sense of the Tatmadaw members, which is based on nationalist spirit and Union Spirit.

We firmly believe that the Tatmadaw together with the people will be able to shoulder the responsibilities in building a modern and developed nation, while safeguarding independence and sovereignty.

**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

**Sixth meeting of Fifth State Central Working Committee of Sangha ends**

YANGON, 11 March —The sixth meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha continued for the final day at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.



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

Members of the State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Yugandhara of NanU Monastery in Paungde, Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Agghiya of Zayamaydani Waso Monastery in Maha Aungmye Township, Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandavamsa of Ywama Pariyatti Monastery in Insein Township, Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Sobhana of Mya Thein Dan Monastery in Pazundaung Township, and Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Maha Dharmakathika Bahujana Hitadhara Bhaddanta Sagrabhivamsa of Masoeyin Kyaung of Abhidhamma Nayupadetha Monastery in Maha Aungmye Township were elected as Ovadacariya Sayadaws.

Vice-Chairman of SCWCS Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Kamathanaçariya Bhaddanta Kesara of Aungmingalar Monastery in Thayet Township chaired the morning session of the meeting. Joint-Secretary of SCWCS Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Tejaniya of Shwetaung Pali Tekkatho Monastery in Yenangyoung, acted as master of ceremonies.

SCWCS Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita D w i p i t a k a d h a r a D w i p i t a k a K o v i d a Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa of Kalewatawya Monastery in Mayangon Township, assessed the comments on tasks carried out last year. The

meeting chairman sought the approval.

Member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vissuta of Nigayawdayon Nyaungbintha Monastery in Pathein reported on the methods for the upgrading of State Pariyatti Sasana universities supplicated by the Minister for Religious Affairs.

SCWCS Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara of Maha Withutayama Monastery in Magway presided over the afternoon session, and presented State Vinaya certificates to members of

the State Sangha Vinicchaya.

Fifteen member Sayadaws of SCWCS, the Chairman Sayadaw, the Secretary Sayadaw, and a representative each from respective Ganas, and states and divisions signed the Sasana record book regarding the election of new members, resolutions, approvals and records.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara read out Nigamana Ovadakatha, and the meeting ended later in the afternoon.

U Hla Aye and Kobasay traditional medicine house family of No 177, Wadan Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Division, offered alms food to the Sayadaws this morning. — MNA

**နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ**

လစဉ် လ၏ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံး ပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ် မနေ သွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော် ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေပြီဖြစ်သည်။

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(၁၂-၃-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့  
နှင့်  
(၂၆-၃-၂၀၀၆) ရက်နေ့



MCMWA personnel present cash and kind to parents of triplets at North Okkalapa General Hospital. — MNA

**Cash and kind for triplets**

YANGON, 11 March — A ceremony to present cash and kind to parents of the triplets was held at North Okkalapa Hospital yesterday morning.

Central Executive Committee members of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the Executive Director presented K 50,000, medicines, cloths, blankets and bottles of toilet powder to Ko Kyaw Htay Khaing and Ma Hla Hla Win, parents of the triplets.

They viewed the babies and spoke words of encouragement to the parents.

MNA

# China slams US human rights report as mistaken, hypocritical

**BEIJING, 10 March** — China on Thursday voiced its strong dissatisfaction with the United States after the State Department issued a report condemning China's human rights record. The "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005" is untruthful and crude, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said at a regular Press conference.

The report, issued Wednesday, criticized the political system of Hong Kong and its restrictions on journalism. Qin said that China's Constitution respects and safeguards human rights. The Chinese Government adheres to a policy it calls "putting people above everything else," he said, and has made many efforts toward building a democratic coun-

try under the rule of law.

Human rights in China have kept improving, he added. "China's progress in this regard have been recognized and welcomed by the whole world, and the Chinese people are satisfied with the progress," said Qin.

The spokesman said the Chinese Government has not deviated from its policy of "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong and

the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), and supports democratic development in the HKSAR in accordance with its unique circumstances.

Hong Kong citizens have enjoyed their full legal rights and basic freedoms, Qin added.

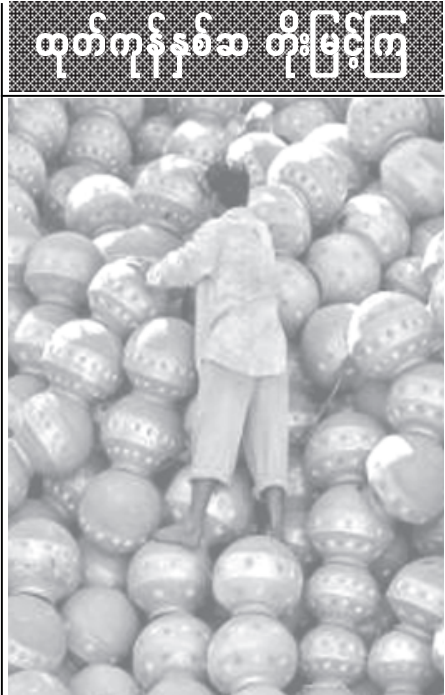
"We disapprove of any foreign governments or organizations making

wanton comments on the issue," Qin said.

Qin urged the US Government to stop interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, yet said "The US side should focus more on its own human rights problems."

"Its various human rights violations and double standards on the issue have drawn increasingly strong criticism from its own people and the international society," the spokesman said.

MNA/Xinhua



*An Indian man arranges earthen pots on a roadside shop in the central Indian city of Bhopal, 7 March, 2006.*

INTERNET



*A visitor takes a photo of a Rolls-Royce car during the imported car exhibition, opened in Shanghai, east China, on 10 March, 2006.*

INTERNET

## Floods in Malawi leave 6,000 homeless

**LILONGWE, 10 March** — Floods in Malawi's southern lakeshore district of Mangochi have left over 6,000 people homeless, forcing local authorities to close schools and use them as shelter camps for the displaced.

been submerged in water, while crops, livestock and several bridges have been swept away," the district's Director of Planning and Development, Harry Chipeni, told Xinhua Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua

The floods, caused by persistent heavy rains in the past three days, have also swept away staple maize gardens and destroyed roads that link up one of the country's prime tourist areas.

"These are the worst floods in 28 years to hit Mangochi District. Houses have collapsed, villages have

## Suicide bomber in Fallujah kills at least 11

**FALLUJAH, 11 March** — A suicide truck bomb struck a checkpoint manned by US soldiers and Iraqi security forces in the former Sunni stronghold of Fallujah on Friday, killing at least 11, including five police, police said.

There was no immediate word from the US military on the blast in eastern Fallujah, 30 miles west of Baghdad. — MNA/Reuters

## Ecuadoreans protest against proposed trade pact with US

**QUITO, 10 March** — Ecuadoreans on Wednesday staged strikes against a proposed trade deal with the United States and demanded cancellation of an oil contract with a US company.

US company. Ecuador's Civil Defence forces dispersed the crowds with tear gas

and surrounded marchers who came within two blocks of the presidential palace. — MNA/Xinhua

Demonstrators, including workers, students, peasants and members of indigenous groups, blocked main roads through central Quito Wednesday morning. They protested against the government's trade talks next Monday with US representatives on a possible free trade agreement, which has been passed by Colombia and Peru. They also asked the government to scrap a contract with Occidental, a



*Visitors crowd the Deutsche Telecom booth, where a giant pink football has been installed during the 2006 CeBIT information and telecommunication technology fair in Hanover. This year's soccer World Cup in Germany is firing up the consumer electronics market as new generation televisions offer fans the next best thing to the live experience.*

INTERNET

## US military troop death toll rises to 2,306

**WASHINGTON, 10 March**—As of Friday, 10 March, 2006, at least 2,306 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 1,807 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

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

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

## Rat-squirrel not extinct after all

**WASHINGTON, 10 March** — It has the face of a rat and the tail of a skinny squirrel—and scientists say this creature discovered living in central Laos is pretty special: It's a species believed to have been extinct for 11 million years.

The long-whiskered rodent made

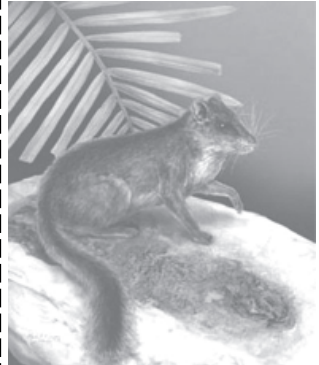
international headlines last spring when biologists declared they'd discovered a brand new species, nicknamed the Laotian rock rat.

It turns out the little guy isn't new after all, but a rare kind of survivor: a member of a family until now known only from fossils. Nor is it a rat. This species, called *Diatomyidae*, looks more like small squirrels or tree shrews, said paleontologist Mary Dawson of Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Dawson, with colleagues in France and China, report the creature's new identity in Friday's edition of the journal *Science*.

The resemblance is "absolutely striking," Dawson said. As soon as her team spotted reports about the rodent's discovery, "we thought, 'My goodness, this is not a new family. We've known it from the fossil record.'"

They set out to prove that through meticulous comparisons between the bones of today's specimens and fossils found in China and elsewhere in Asia.



*This image provided by the Journal Science shows a Laonastes, the only living representative of the otherwise extinct Diatomyidae, a family of rodents that lived in south Asia and Japan.*

INTERNET

Internet

# Iran vows to resist pressure on nuclear issue

**TEHERAN, 10 March** — Iranian Supreme Leader Seyed Ali Ali Khamenei vowed here on Thursday that Iran is fixed to resist any pressure and conspiracy imposed on the country's nuclear programme.

"During the past 27 years, we have experienced such situations for many times. Now, the Iranian nation is determined to resist any pressure or conspiracy," Khamenei was quoted by state television as saying.

"We will forge ahead with the work toward mastery of nuclear technology," Khamenei said.

Earlier in the day, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Iran would never give in to bullies on its nuclear

issue, for nuclear energy is an undeniable right of the country.

"The Iranian nation will never give in to bullies, and all of them are announcing that nuclear energy is an undeniable right," Ahmadinejad was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying in the western province of Lorestan.

Ahmadinejad said the time of bullying over the Iranian nuclear issue had come to an end, and Iran would never be forced to do anything.—MNA/Xinhua



Thousands of passengers wait at LaGuardia airport in New York, on 10 March, 2006, after their flights were delayed because the Delta Northwest Terminal was partially evacuated when a man fled a security checkpoint without his shoes, the Transportation Security Administration said.—INTERNET

## New HIV/AIDS cases on the rise in women, girls in US

**NEW YORK, 10 March** — Women and girls — get out your red ribbons. March 10th is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

As of 2004, 27 per cent of new AIDS cases in the United States were in women — and women of colour, especially African American women, made up the majority of these new cases, according to the US Centres for Disease and Prevention.

To raise awareness of this growing problem in

the US and globally, March 10th will mark the first National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Dr. Anthony S Fauci announced in a statement.

In the early days of the AIDS pandemic, fewer women were infected with HIV, Dr. Fauci, Director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases continued. However, as of 2005, 46 per cent of adults living with HIV/AIDS throughout the world were

women. These 17.5 million women represent 1 million more cases than reported in 2003.

And, according to the World Health

Organization's UNAIDS, the "vase majority" of women became infected through heterosexual intercourse.

MNA/Reuters



## 4 Iraqi soldiers killed, injured in car bomb in Baghdad

**BAGHDAD, 11 March** — A car bomb went off in southwestern Baghdad near an Iraqi Army patrol on Friday, killing a soldier and wounding three others, an Interior Ministry source said.

"A car bomb detonated

around midday near an Iraqi Army patrol in the Radhwaniyah area, killing a soldier and wounding three others," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Iraqi security forces cordoned off the area searching for attackers, added the source.

Earlier in the day, a roadside bomb hit a US convoy setting a tank on fire in eastern Baghdad, according to a source from the same ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

Polar bear cubs play on their first day out on public display at the Ouwehands Zoo in Rhenen, the Netherlands, on 10 March, 2006. INTERNET

## Woman nabbed for shoplifting for 81st time

**VILNIUS, 10 March** — Lithuanian Viktorija Raudonyte has never held a job, but police say that hasn't stopped the single mother of three from making ends meet.

Raudonyte, 25, was detained for the 81st time this week, for shoplifting cosmetics at a shopping mall near her home in Klaipeda, 186 miles from Vilnius, police said. "Stealing is like a regular job for her. There are probably no shopping centers left where she hasn't been busted," police officer Jonas Vaitkevicius said Friday.

Raudonyte, who has had little education and is unemployed, has managed to evade harsh punishment because, police said, she knows that under Lithuanian law, she can only receive a sentence of community service for stealing items worth less than 125 litas (\$43).—Internet

## US hostage Tom Fox killed in Iraq

**WASHINGTON, 10 March** — An American who was among four Christian activists kidnapped last year in Iraq has been killed, a State Department spokesman said Friday.

The FBI verified that a body found in Iraq Friday morning was that of Tom Fox, 54, of Clear Brook, Va, spokesman Noel Clay said. He said he had no information on the other three hostages.

Clay said additional forensics will be done in the United States. The US Embassy in Baghdad is investigating, he said.

Fox was the one American among four Christian Peacemaker activists kidnapped last year in Iraq.

On Tuesday, Al-Jazeera television aired footage of the three other activists purportedly appealing to their governments to secure their release.—Internet

## Peru museum has diseases on the brain

**LIMA, 10 March** — Thousands of human brains float in jars of formaldehyde at a unique museum that gives visitors to Lima an up-close view of brain diseases, from trichinosis to stroke.

More than 2,500 brains are on display in a modest museum in Lima sponsored by the National Institute of Neurological Sciences (INCN).

Visitors can see brains

of persons felled by AIDS, Alzheimers, clots, hemorrhages, heartattacks and a myriad of tumours.

The museum is the proud owner of a brain that died of Creutzfeld-Jacob disease, the human variant of "mad cow," which results in progressive dementia and loss of muscle control.

Also on exhibit: the brains of people who died of trichinosis, the most common brain disease in Peru, caused by eating undercooked meat, usually pork. One brain, donated by US physicians, is sliced in half and the right hemisphere dissected to show the skin, bone, arteries and veins.

The brains, collected since 1942, are crammed onto shelves covering the walls from floor level to the four-meter (13-foot) high ceiling.

A nearby autopsy room holds only a concrete table,

instead of a nose, and a third a brain but no skull.

Museum director Diana Rivas, a slight neuropathologist, supervises 100 autopsies each year. That allows her to consider each brain for inclusion in the collection.

"For me, cutting brains is like peeling potatoes," Rivas said as she toyed with the giant knife.

The museum also has deformed fetuses. One fetus has one eye, another a hole

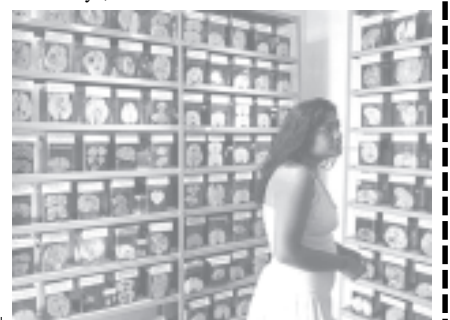
instead of a nose, and a third a brain but no skull.

Animal brains in the collection, of chickens, monkeys, cats and dogs, are distinguished by their cream color, distinct from the gray of the human brains. A healthy human brain weighs 1.2 kilos (2.6 pounds) and is like hard jelly at death, Rivas said. "One month later it dries up and becomes as tough as a (pencil) eraser," she said.

Internet



A cross-section of a human skull on display at Lima's Museum of the Brain. Thousands of human brains float in jars of formaldehyde at the unique museum that gives visitors to Lima an up-close view of brain diseases, from trichinosis to stroke.—INTERNET



Museum of the Brain.—INTERNET

## Chinese expert says Indo-China cooperation benefits Asia

NEW DELHI, 10 March — Sino-India cooperation will lead Asia to a new century of peace, stability and prosperity, said Liu Jingqin, vice-president of Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, here Thursday. The rapid economic growth in China and India will support the sustainable and steady economic growth in Asia, Liu said at the Seminar on China-India Relations held here Thursday, one of the functions for "China-India Friendship Year".

"As the two largest developing countries in Asia, the development of China and India is vital for the development of Asia," he said. Both China and India have reported remarkable economic growth in the past few years, which helped make Asia the most active economic zone in the world, Liu said.

India has maintained

an annual economic growth of 5.5 per cent in the past few years while China kept reporting 8 to 9 per cent growth in the past two decades.

The two countries

enjoy great potential in economic cooperation, he said, adding that working together instead of competition will benefit the two.

MNA/Xinhua

### Three sailors missing after ship sinks off Egypt

VALLETTA, 10 March — Three sailors were missing on Thursday but 12 were rescued after a Maltese-flagged cargo ship sank off the Egyptian coast, Maltese officials said.

The Malta Maritime Authority said it was investigating the sinking of the *Teklivka*, which Lloyds Casualty Reporting identified as a 4,168 deadweight tonne general cargo ship.

Its cargo was not known, Lloyds said in London. Earlier, Egyptian port officials said one sailor was lost, presumed drowned, but that 15 crew were rescued

after the ship sank in strong winds and high waves 75 miles from Port Said in northern Egypt.

The ship was travelling from Turkey to Port Said with a cargo of containers, they said.

The Egyptian officials said they had also received a distress signal from a Syrian ship they named as the *Rafiq* but when a Coast Guard vessel went out to investigate they found it was a false alarm.

The Coast Guard found the *Rafiq* 12 miles from the port of Damietta in the Nile Delta and brought it safely into port.

MNA/Reuters



A worker selects bad leaves of new green tea in a workshop in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 9 March, 2006. About 25,000 tea leaves picked before the Qingming Festival will be needed to produce 500-gramme new green tea.—INTERNET

### At least 26 killed in Ugandan church collapse

KAMPALA, 10 March — At least 26 people were killed in a church collapse accident overnight in a downpour in the northern suburb of Kampala, hospital official said Thursday.

"Six people died after they were rushed in among 89 injured last night,"

Ssekabira Eliphaz, the official of Mulago Hospital told *Xinhua*, bringing the death toll to at least 26, including 20 victims, on the site. "The remaining 83 injured were still under treatment, most of them in severe conditions," the official of the biggest and best equipped hospital of the

capital added. Plain clothes police restrained access to the clinic section while dozens of families waited in the hallway in anxiety. Another hospital official said the wounds seemed not serious, but they were deep cuts in most cases.

MNA/Reuters

## Mass. bottle message ends up in Africa

LYNN, 11 March — A message in a bottle launched in Massachusetts two years ago has travelled halfway around the world. In a letter postmarked from Morocco, 26-year-old Assila Ahmed wrote that he'd found a bottle thrown into the water by Genevieve Hernandez of Lynn.

Hernandez, now a 13-year-old seventh grader, was among group of fifth-graders who on 20 Nov, 2003 put messages in bottles and cast them off from Lynn's shores that stormy day.

Hernandez said she's amazed that her green Sprite bottle made it as far as it did since most of them either bounced right back to shore or ended up only as far as the Cape.

"I thought it wasn't going anywhere," said Hernandez. "Mine was stuck on the seaweed."

Students received replies from 14 people before Hernandez received hers. Most were from the Cape Cod area. One made it as far as England. But Hernandez's bottle had, by far, the longest journey, travelling 3,500 miles.

In the letter to Hernandez, Ahmed said

he found the bottle about 10:30 am on 18 Dec, 2005. Hernandez' bright orange card wrapped in plastic bore the address the Brickett School in Lynn, where she attended classes two years ago.

The only request from the African man: a letter back from Hernandez.

Hernandez's teacher fifth-grade teacher at Brickett, Sheila Thomas, said he will get one.

INTERNET



Employees of a Renault dealership and plainclothes police officers look at damaged cars in Athens, on 11 March, 2006. Dozens of cars were believed damaged in arson attacks against five French car dealerships across Athens early on Saturday, police said. Four Renault and one Citroen dealerships were targeted in the attacks in four parts of the city, in the pre-dawn attacks.

INTERNET

## Giant trade gap: no end in sight

WASHINGTON, 10 March — America's trade deficit has been setting records with such frequency that it seems almost tiresome to hear it again: Another month, another \$68.5 billion.

But the gap between what America imports and what it exports is growing so rapidly and relentlessly that it is provoking new concern about how long the

world's largest economy can play borrower and consumer to the world.

The issue may take on new urgency in a congressional election year, stoked by news Thursday that the trade deficit hit a new high in January.

The monthly record is attributed to a surge in goods from fast-rising China, a tide of imports affecting the belea-

guered US auto industry, and an exodus of dollars going to pay for OPEC oil.

The huge trade imbalance was top of mind with US lawmakers recently, when they quizzed incoming Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke about their economic concerns.

Even if a soft landing were to eventually occur, the trade deficit would be

likely to remain an important issue.

The change, when it comes, could bring a weaker dollar and higher interest rates for US borrowers as foreign willingness to lend dollars to the US ebbs. Moreover, the longer it takes for "global imbalances" to begin a correction, the tougher the adjustment could be.

Internet



A woman and daughter leave the scene as Brazilian Army soldiers take position during an operation to search for weapons at the Providencia slum in Rio de Janeiro, 10 March, 2006.—INTERNET

## Minister warns companies not to miss business opportunities in China, India

**BERLIN, 10 March** — German Economics and Technology Minister Michael Glos warned here Thursday German companies not to miss opportunities in China and India.

"We must use the chances that are offered to us in both countries," he said at a conference organized by Germany's Chamber of Trade and Industry (DIHK).

Glos said that the strong flow of investment and exports to other parts of the European Union by Germany's small-to-medium sized companies had been appropriate and

very successful so far, but "looking towards the medium term this is probably not enough".

He added that German companies need to invest in both China and India in their infrastructure development and specific sectors such as engineering and environmental technology.

DIHK president Ludwig Georg Braun

echoed him by saying that corporate Germany needed to be careful that it did lose its position at the top of international investors in research and development in China and India.

The German DIHK has been pushing for stronger business role in the two Asian countries, where economic growth has been rapid.

MNA/Xinhua



Coloured powder is applied to an Indian student during the celebration of Basanta Utsab or Spring Festival in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata, on 10 March, 2006.—INTERNET

## ICRC helicopter crashes in quake-hit Kashmir, two pilots injured

**ISLAMABAD, 10 March** — A helicopter of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) crashed Thursday in the earthquake-hit Kashmir, injuring the pilot and the co-pilot, an ICRC spokesman said.

Raza Hamdani, the spokesman, told the Geo television that helicopter was engaged in relief operations in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir when it crashed in the Bandy Fateh Jang area of Neelum Valley around 12:00 noon local time.

There was no immediate word about the causes of the crash. Pilots Dave Peterson and Mike Church from South Africa were injured, when they jumped from the chopper, the spokesman said. They were flown to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in

Islamabad by an ICRC rescue helicopter, Hamdani said. They were shifted to the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital,

he said. "Their condition is stated to be out of danger," the ICRC spokesman said.

MNA/Xinhua



The remains of a helicopter from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sits crashed in the mountain village of Chinari, some 30 km (19 miles) above the earthquake-devastated city of Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, on 9 March, 2006.—INTERNET

## India, Chile sign Free Trade Agreement

**NEW DELHI, 10 March** — India has signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Chile, Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry said here on Wednesday.

Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Kamal Nath said the agreement marks a "watershed in ties between the two countries as it will impart a new dimension to our trade relations in the times to come".

The agreement was signed by Indian Commerce Secretary SN

Menon and Ambassador of Chile to India Jorge Heine on behalf of the Chilean Government.

Kamal Nath said the PTA would take bilateral trade to a higher plan with a substantial growth in two-way trade.

In 2004-05, total trade between India and Chile were valued at 447.54

million US dollars, according to statistics.

Indian products for export include textiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, engineering and agricultural machinery, and Chilean products are mainly copper, cellulose, newsprint, iodine, fishmeal, wood boards, planks and salmon.

Both sides also discussed the draft reports of the Joint Study Group (JSG) and agreed to submit their findings to their respective governments to consider further action on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries.

Chile is one of India's major trading partners in Latin America.

MNA/Xinhua

## 14 killed in bus crash in Brazil

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 March** — At least 14 people were killed, dozens injured when then bus turned over early on Thursday morning in Brazil, local police said.

The accident occurred at a highway in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, local media reported.

The bus was carrying a total 40 passengers and was en route to a resort in central Brazil when the accident happened. The injured were taken to local hospitals.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua

## Asian Film Festival opens in France

**PARIS, 10 March** — France's annual Asian Film Festival opened Wednesday in the chic French resort of Deauville, drawing world attention to Asian film makers who will present more than 40 movies at the four-day festival. The eighth edition of the festival, which features films from China, Japan, Thailand, South Korea, Singapore and Indonesia, comprises three separate sections: "Features", "Action Asia", and "Panorama".

In the main competition section of "Features", four Chinese films—"Dam Street," "Blue Cha Cha," "Falling in Love," and "AV" will contend for the most coveted Golden Lotus award.

Three movies by Hong Kong film makers—"Mob Sister," "One Night in Mongkok" and "The Myth", will compete against South Korean movies—"A Bittersweet Life" and "General of Heaven"—in the "Action Asia" section. The festival paid tribute to Chinese director Chen Kaige, who was in Deauville for the screening of his latest feature "The Promise", which won warm applause at the opening, is a mythical epic set in ancient China featuring stunning special effects and a final message that through true love and honour destinies can be changed.—MNA/Xinhua

## Death toll rises to 16 in bus accident in Turkey

**ANKARA, 10 March** — Death toll rose to 16 after a passenger bus plunged into a river in northern Turkey on Thursday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The bus, which was en route from Istanbul to the eastern province of Van with 39 passengers aboard, drove off a road

and plunged into the Kelkit River in Resadiye Town of Black Sea city of Tokat in northern Turkey early Thursday,

said the report.

Turkish rescue teams recovered two more bodies, including that of a child, raising the death toll

to 16.

An earlier report said that at least 14 people were killed, 11 others wounded and 11 survived in the accident.

"They have been hospitalized in Resadiye, and are in a stable condition," Resadiye subgovernor Ferhat Kurtoglu was quoted as saying, adding that rescue workers were continuing to search for other missing passengers. Meanwhile, Tokat Deputy Governor Izzet Ercan, who said that there were two drivers, two stewards and 39 passengers on the bus, speculated that the accident might have happened due to high speed.—MNA/Xinhua



Rescue workers pull a body out of a bus in Tokat, Turkey, on 9 March, 2006. Earlier on Thursday the bus was submerged in the waters of Kelkit Rive, carrying 40 people, killing at least 14 passengers and injuring 11 others. 16 were still missing. INTERNET

## Malaysia eyes closer ties with Vietnam

HANOI, 11 March — Malaysia wants to boost cooperation with Vietnam, especially in the fields of oil and gas, energy and education, local newspaper *Labour Friday* quoted a Malaysian official as saying.

Malaysia, home to many good schools, hopes to receive more Vietnamese students, visiting Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said in an interview with the newspaper.

To promote bilateral multi-faceted cooperation, the two countries should exchange more high-level delegations and strengthen information sharing among enterprises, he said.

Malaysian enterprises

have done business in Vietnam for a long time and now they want to seek new cooperation opportunities in the country, he noted.

Albar, who arrived here for a three-day visit to Vietnam on Wednesday, met with Vietnamese State President Tran Duc Luong and Prime Minister Phan Van Khai on Thursday.

Malaysia considers Vietnam a long-term partner and hopes for closer

ties between the two peoples and a continued boost of two-way trade and investment, said the official.

The trade volume between the two countries stood at 2.2 billion US dollars in 2005.

Malaysia now ranks the 9th among countries and regions having investment in Vietnam, with projects mainly in the fields of hotel, service, construction, heavy industry, oil and gas, and banking. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Photo dated December 2005 shows Russian health officials taking samples from a contaminated river in Khabarovsk. INTERNET

## 9 found dead in Japan in suspected group suicides

Tokyo, 11 March — Japanese police are investigating two separate cases of suspected group suicide after nine people were found dead in parked cars, the latest in a series of such cases.

Five men and one woman were found dead in a station wagon in Saitama Prefecture, just north of Tokyo, a police spokesman said.

He noted that charcoal stoves were found in the car but declined to give further details, citing ongoing investigations. The charcoal generates carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas.

Separately, a man and two women were found dead in a sealed car parked in the foothills of a mountain in Aomori Prefecture, some 280 miles north of Tokyo, a police spokesman said.

In this case too, charcoal stoves were found in the car with the three, who were undergoing treatment for mental illness and may have met at hospital, an Aomori police spokesman said.

The number of Japanese killing themselves in group suicides has risen steadily in recent years, and in many cases the

people have met through the Internet, although police declined to say whether this was the case with the six people in Saitama.

In 2003, 34 died in group suicides, rising to 55 in 2004 and 91 last year.

That compares with a total of 32,325 suicides in 2004, the latest year for which figures are avail-

able — down from the record-high 34,427 in 2003 but second only to Russia among Group of Eight industrialized nations.

According to World Health Organization data, Japan's suicide rate was 24.1 per 100,000 people in 2000, compared with 39.4 in Russia and 10.4 in the United States.

*MNA/Reuters*

## Isuzu to recall trucks with exhaust pipe defect

Tokyo, 11 March — Isuzu Motors Ltd said on Thursday it will recall about 2,700 set of its trucks under three models due to possible defects on exhaust pipes, local reports said.

In its report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Isuzu said it has detected that the welding on these vehicles' exhaust pipes are not strong enough and the pipes may crack, causing exhaust leaks, *Kyodo News* said.

The possibly defective vehicles were made between June 2002 and October 2004, and were sold under model names of Isuzu's Elf, Nissan Motor Co's Atlas, and Nissan Diesel Motor Co's Condor, the report added.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## China's large aircraft dream to come true by 2015

BEIJING, 11 March — China is expected to realize its "large aircraft" dream by the year 2015, a senior aviation official said Friday in an exclusive interview with *Xinhua*.

"Large aircraft" refer to large transportation planes with a carrying capacity exceeding 100 tons, trunk liners with more than 150 seats and other derivative special-purpose planes, Liu said.

Liu Daxiang, who is a

senior official with the state-owned China Aviation Industry Corporation I and also a deputy to China's Parliament or the National People's Congress (NPC), said he was happy to learn that the development of large aircraft is listed as one of the country's 16 major development plans in the 11th Five-Year Programme for the 2006-2010 period.

"If things are going smoothly, large transport planes for military and civil purposes are expected to fly into the sky in 10 years," Liu said.

"With five more years of further development, the Chinese people are likely to travel by home-made 150-seat planes by 2020."

China has long con-

sidered building a large 150-200 seat commercial aircraft, rather than continuing to merely rely on Boeing of the United States and Europe's Airbus.

"Although China has encountered difficulties and failed in several large aircraft development plans, the experience obtained has laid a good foundation for the coming scheme," he said.

Liu, who is also an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, has submitted, together with other experts, motions to the NPC's second and third annual sessions held respectively in 2003 and 2004, calling for earlier research and development of large aircraft.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## 13 foreign sailors saved from shipwreck in N-E China sea waters

SHENYANG, 11 March — Thirteen foreign sailors were rescued from a sinking cargo ship Thursday afternoon in the sea waters near Dandong Port in northeast China's Liaoning Province.

The 13 foreigners, including eight people from South Korea and five from the Philippines, were aboard the South Korea-registered ship when it began to sink 65 sea miles from Dandong at 1:30 pm on Thursday.

Dandong's border inspection guards, who received SOS signals from the crew members, rushed to the scene for rescue along with the local maritime salvagers.

Despite strong winds and high waves, the Chinese salvagers managed to take all the 13 crew members to safety at 3:15 pm the same day.

The ship, carrying 6,100 tons of goods from Dandong to South Korea, sank entirely into the seawaters at around 5:00 pm. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Chickens await vaccination against bird flu at the settlement Peredovoi 100 km (62 miles) from the Russia's southern city of Stavropol, on 11 March, 2006. Supply of the first batches of the bird flu vaccine to Russia's Southern federal district was launched on Friday, *Iar-Tass* news agency reported. — INTERNET

**Indian  
President  
Dr APJ  
Abdul Kalam  
concludes  
goodwill visit to  
Myanmar**



*Prime Minister General Soe Win bids farewell to Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.*

MNA



*Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein bids farewell to Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. — MNA*



*Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and embassy staff see off Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.*

MNA

**Information Minister inspects functions of Photolitho Press**

YANGON, 11 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected Photolitho Press in Bahan Township yesterday.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan heard a report on printing tasks, and security and fire prevention measures presented by Press Manager U Hlaing

Win Khaung. Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Aung Nyein presented a supplementary report.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gave instructions to employees of the press on taking security measure. He also instructed officials to supervise security and fire pre-

vention measures and fire fighting drills.

Afterwards, the minister inspected functions of the press and warehouses. In giving instructions, he said that officials are to coordinate with technicians for renovation of the press building. Arrangements are to be made for repairing machines parts. Matters related to old machine parts that cannot be used are to be conducted in line with the rules and regulations.

MNA



*Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Photolitho Press of Printing and Publishing Enterprise. — MNA*

**Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship kicks off in Lashio**



YANGON, 11 March — The Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2006 was opened at Lashio Golf Club in Lashio this morning.

Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint, Design and Development Director U Tin Oo of International Beverages Trading Co Ltd and MPGA and MGF Executive U Ko Ko Lay opened the championship by teeing off before the competitions of the first round. Than Win (Muse) and Win Naing (N-E Command) shot a four-under-

par 68 each on the first round. Bala, Shwe Nann, and Hla Myint (Muse) tied at the second position by firing a three-under-par 69. Third position golfer Kyaw Thet Paing, Thang Esk, Soe Thein and Tin Win scored a two-under-par 70 each.

A total of 120 amateur golfers are taking part in the competitions.

The championship is organized by Myanmar

Golf Federation, and mainly sponsored by IBTC together with co-sponsors Air Mandalay Ltd, Crusher Club Soda, Srixon, and Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel. Han Event Management performed functions of the championship.

The second round of the championship continues tomorrow at the same venue.

MNA



## UMFCCI President hosts dinner in honour of Indian President

YANGON, 11 March — Visiting President of the Republic of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam attended a dinner hosted in his honour by President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road at 8.30 pm yesterday.

The Indian President was accompanied by high-ranking officers of the Indian Government and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and embassy officials.

Also present at the dinner were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for



Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam elaborates on industry, economy and technology at the dinner. — MNA

Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, departmental officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, vice-

presidents of the UMFCCI and CEC members, entrepreneurs and guests.

First, UMFCCI President U Win Myint extended greetings.

Next, Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

explained industries, economy and technological matters.

Entrepreneurs of the UMFCCI asked about investment opportunities between Myanmar and India. The Indian Presi-

dent replied to the questions. The Indian President and goodwill delegation members were served with dinner.

After the dinner, Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam cordially greeted the entrepreneurs.

MNA

### Measures for ensuring smooth and secure transport discussed

YANGON, 11 March — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held its coordination meeting at Yangon Command yesterday evening, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win made a speech. Afterwards, rectors and pro-rectors of universities and colleges in Yangon, officials, supervisory committee members, departmental officials, chairmen of bus-lines reported on matters related to school buses, declining traffic accidents, conversion of vehicles into CNG vehicles.

Regarding the reports, the commander attended to the needs and the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the commander. — MNA

### Progress of Pyapon Bridge construction inspected

YANGON, 11 March — Accompanied by Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun oversaw upgrading of Twantay-Kanbe-Kungyangon-Dedaye-Pyapon Road this morning.

At the site of Pyapon Bridge Construction Project, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Khin Maung Hse of the project reported to the minister on progress of the project and future tasks.

The minister gave necessary instructions, and fulfilled the requirements of heavy machinery. He also inspected progress of construction at the bridge.

MNA

### MMCWA donations for Cancer Foundation

YANGON, 11 March — A ceremony to donate medicines to U Hla Tun Hospice Cancer Foundation in Dagon Myothit (East) Township this morning.

Chairman of the Foundation U Hla Tun explained functions of the foundation.

Next, Central Executive Committee members and the Executive Director of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association handed over medicines worth K 1.5 million donated by MMCWA to Foundation Chairman U Hla Tun.

They comforted cancer patients at the building of the foundation. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye speaks at the convocation of the University for Development of National Races. — MNA

## UDNR holds 15th convocation

YANGON, 11 March—The 15th convocation of the University for Development of National Races took place along with the fourth conferring of diploma certificates at the university yesterday.

Chairman of the UDNR University Council Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye conferred certificates of MEd degree on three students, post-graduate degree on 53 students, and BEd degree on 92 students, Vice-Chairman of the UDNR University Council Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, certificates of BEd degrees on 157 students, and Rector U Zaw Min Thein, certificates of degree on 96 students and teachership training diploma on 68 students.

The commander in his speech said that the newly-completed students are to be convinced of the importance of the duties of education staff and to nurture youths of national races to become qualified human resources. They are also to realize the unremitting efforts the government makes to create political and economic opportunities in the drive for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation with flourishing discipline and to play a leading role in organizing local communities exerting the knowledge gained from the courses so as to raise the social-economic life of local people. He also called on them to inculcate local people and students with Union Spirit and correct outlooks.

The commander and the CSSTB chairman held a meeting with outstanding students. — MNA

## Appointments presented to UDNR graduates

YANGON, 11 March — The ceremonies to mark concluding Junior Assistant Teachership Course No 15 of University for Development of National Races and presenting the letters of appointment to graduates of No 37 BEd 4-year Course took place at the UDNR yesterday afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Rector of the university U Zaw Min Thein, representatives of state/division PDCs, faculty members of the university, heads of departments, lecturers, teachers, guests and

trainees.

First, Head of Departments (Academic Affairs) U Htay Lwin read out the report on Junior Assistant Teachership Course No 15 and Rector U Zaw Min Thein presented the completion certificates to trainees and appointments to graduates of No 37 BEd 4-year Course.

Next, the rector awarded prizes to the outstanding trainees and the ceremonies ended with the concluding remarks by the rector. — MNA



*Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects progress in construction of Yeywa hydel power project.*

MNA

## Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects summer paddy fields in Pyigyidagun Township

YANGON, 11 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and officials of the State Peace and Development Council and heads of departments inspected summer paddy fields in irrigated summer paddy special zone in Pyigyidagun Township on 6 March.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected cultivation of summer paddy. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party at-

tended a ceremony to assign duties to departments and social organizations in Mandalay Division to grow physic nut held near the Tooth Relic Pagoda (Mandalay).

Manager of Mandalay Division Myanmar Agriculture Service U Aung Kyin reported on cultivation of 500,000 acres of physic nut yearly. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented physic nut seeds to Deputy Chief Justice (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt, Deputy Attorney-General (Mandalay) U Han Shein, Deputy Director-General of Archaeology Department U Aung Kyaing and officials.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and

party inspected demonstration of the use of physic nut oil in stoves, lamps and milling machines.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and the mayor planted physic nut saplings. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party paid obeisance to the Buddha image at the Tooth Relic Pagoda (Mandalay).

They proceeded to Htonbo-Myitnge short cut road and inspected construction of dual road and the axis and cultivation of summer paddy.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on laying of culverts and proper drainage and inspected ground leveling.

They went to the site of Yeywa Hydel Electric Power Project where Deputy Director-General U Win Kyi reported on construction of diversion tunnels and others. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the progress of work.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint also inspected district to district roads in Singaung and Patheingyi Townships. He proceeded to Phyauckseipin Village in Kyaukse Township and inspected construction of Shwesayan Phyauckseipin-Naungkhanthan Road section and construction of Naungkhan Bridge (Thanywa) across Zawgyi River.

MNA

## Merits shared for Jivitadana donations

YANGON, 11 March — The 41st merit-sharing ceremony for cash donations to the fund of Jivitadana Sangha Hospital was held in conjunction with the ceremony to honour the wellwishers at the hall of the hospital this afternoon.

Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha

Pandita Bhaddanta Angisa of Palikayi Pariyatti Monastery of Thakayta Township administered the Five Precepts.

After offering alms to members of the Sangha, the Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

MNA

## Respects to be paid to title-recipient Sayadaws

YANGON, 11 March — Kayan Township Association will hold a respect-paying ceremony for Kainggon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita who was conferred Agga Maha Pandita title and Kamakalu village monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta

Ñanavamsa who was conferred Agga Maha Saddamajotika. The ceremony will take place at Ayeayawady Division Damayon on Gyadawya Street in Bahan Township at 9 am on 15 March. — MNA

## AFF Council meets

YANGON, 11 March — The 21st ASEAN Football Federation Council meeting took place at Sedona Hotel, here, this evening. It was attended by President of AFF Tengku Tan Sri Dato Seri Ahmad (Malaysia), Vice-President Mr Ibrahim Othman (Singapore) and officials, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and delegates of 11 member countries of AFF.

At the meeting, they discussed matters on holding of ASEAN Championship Women Football Tournament, ASEAN U-20 Football Tournament, ASEAN U-17 Football Tournament and ASEAN Futsal Tournament in 2006-2007.

AFF member countries, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, the Philippines, Cambodia, Brunei and Timor Leste are attending the meeting.

MNA



*Lt-Gen Ye Myint oversees construction of Naungkham Bridge (Thanywa) crossing Zawgyi River. — MNA*

## Special sale of Industry-1 Ministry continues

YANGON, 11 March — To hail the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the special sale of Ministry of Industry-1 continued in North Okkalapa Township today.

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 reasonable price at the sale and it was packed with the public.

Besides, the artistes entertained with the songs to the visitors and the restaurants are also being opened at the sale. The special sale will be kept open daily from 8 am to 8 pm.

MNA



*21st ASEAN Football Federation Council Meeting in progress at Sedona Hotel — MNA*

## Top cleric says Iran never be frightened on nuclear issue

TEHRAN, 11 March — A top Iranian cleric said on Friday that Iran would never be frightened by the UN involvement in the country's nuclear case, the official IRNA news agency reported. "The Iranian people are not afraid of the threat posed by the United Nations Security Council," Hojjatolislam Ahmad Khatami, substitute Friday prayers leader, was quoted as saying in a speech to worshippers.

"Patience and resistance are the two major factors that definitely thwart all plots of enemies," Khatami said.

Khatami also cited a frustrated hostage rescue operation of the United States in 1980, hinting any activity against Iran were doomed to fail.

"During those days, the sands of the Tabas

Desert acted like forces of God Almighty and killed them (US troops)," Khatami said.

In November 1979, five months after Iran's Islamic Revolution, a group of Iranian students took over the US Embassy in Teheran and held 52 people hostages for 444 days.

In April 1980, an

aerocade of US aircraft, which was sent secretly by the White House to Iran to rescue the hostages, landed in the Dasht-e Kavir Desert near the eastern Iranian city Tabas for refuelling. But a strong sandstorm caused crash of two helicopters and a C-130 transport plane, which killed several American soldiers and

finally led to the abortion of the mission.

Khatami's comments came two days after the International Atomic Energy Agency handed over the Iranian nuclear file to the UN Security Council.

The Security Council is scheduled to convene next week to deliberate on the next move on the Iranian nuclear issue.

Iranian Supreme Leader Seyed Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Thursday that the Islamic Republic would never give in under pressures and bullies, vowing to forge ahead with the development of nuclear energy. — MNA/Xinhua



Technicians perform checks on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter in July 2005, in the Payload Hazardous Servicing Facility at Kennedy Space Centre, Florida. A US spacecraft moved into a "perfect" orbit around Mars, NASA said, putting the most advanced mission ever sent to another planet in search of water and life.—INTERNET

## Philippines rejects US human rights report

MANILA, 11 March — Philippine Government on Friday rejected a report by the United States criticizing human rights situation in the Philippines, saying its portrayal of human rights violations in the Philippines is vague and unfair.

"The country's democracy has been as healthy as ever, with our public institutions operating within transparent, lawful bounds. Cases of human rights violations are squarely being handled by an independent commission with which the national government has been working closely in the investigation of specific cases, as well as in the proper education of the uniformed services," said the presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye.

He added that the government has also taken steps to tackle the problems of jails, such as overcrowdedness and the mixture of minors with adults.

"The Justice Department has already taken cognizance of this problem... to improve the current situation. Since last year, the Department of

Social Welfare and Development has been gradually moving children-in-conflict-with-the-law from different prisons into their facilities with social workers as guardians," he said.

"This problem of overcrowded jails has been with us for a long time, even before the President's term began in 2001. Certainly, more resources are needed for us to be able to build bigger

jails and separate rehabilitation facilities for minors," he added.

A US 2005 human rights report on the Philippines severely criticized the country, blaming the government for failing to enforcing the rule of law and checking corruption among government officials and accused "some elements of the security forces" of committing human rights abuses.

MNA/Xinhua

## US Interior Secretary Gale Norton steps down

WASHINGTON, 11 March — US Interior Secretary Gale Norton said on Friday she was stepping down after serving five years overseeing federal lands, in a tenure in which she often clashed with environmentalists.

In her resignation letter, a portion of which was released to the news media, Norton said she would be moving to the private sector at the end of March.

The Interior Department manages national parks, wildlife refuges and other federal lands,

which make up a fifth of the acreage in the United States.

She is the first woman to head the 156-year-old department and one of the original members of Bush's Cabinet.

Her departure comes as Congress is looking

## Over 100 terrorists killed in recent operations in N-W Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 11 March — Pakistani security forces during recent operations in northwestern Pakistan have killed over 100 terrorists and arrested nine with foreigners among them, the country's intelligence said on Friday.

The official APP news agency quoted the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) as saying that huge cache of arms and ammunition had also

been seized during the operations in Miranshah and Mir Ali in North Waziristan Agency (NWA), bordering on Afghanistan. But the mastermind and chief of the involved group Maulvi Abdul Khaliq who has close relations with Abdullah Mahsud, a wanted terrorist, flew away, according to the ISPR.

It said that the arms captured by the security forces included mortars, rocket launchers, grenades, fuses, anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, improvised explosive de-

vices as well as huge quantity of ammunition, explosives with electric improvised circuits, communication gadgetries, commando uniforms, foreign residential cards, training pamphlets, CDs, medicines and food items.

According to investigations, the same kind of weapons and ammunitions were used in various terrorist acts elsewhere in the agency.

It said that the terrorists had been using these weapons indiscriminately that often fall on civilian population.

MNA/Xinhua



Klien ride : Austrian Red Bull driver Christian Klien steers his car during the first practice session of the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix at Sakhir race-track in Manama. —INTERNET

## Vietnam to upgrade northern airport

HANOI, 11 March — Vietnam will invest some 33.3 million US dollars to upgrade an airport in northern Dien Bien Province from now to 2025, Vietnam News Agency reported on Friday.

Under a master plan worked out by the Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam, 140 billion Vietnamese dong (VND) (9.3 million US dollars) will be used to upgrade aviation standard of the Dien Bien Airport till 2015 so that it can annually serve 200,000 passengers.

From 2016 to 2025, some 382 billion Viet-

namese dong (over 24 million dollars) will be spent on expanding the airport to 120.8 hectares for both civil and military purposes. It is scheduled to handle 200,000 passengers annually in the period.

Now, the airport conducts 10-14 flights a week between Dien Bien and Hanoi capital. It is expected to offer flights to

China's Kunming City, Thailand's Chiang Mai Province, and some other destinations in the Greater Mekong Sub-region in the future time, the report said.

The Dien Bien Airport served over 4,000 passengers and thousands of tons of cargo in the first two months of this year.

MNA/Xinhua

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Win Mu Tin  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.  
for Schering-Plough Ltd.  
P. O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 12 March 2006.

**Britain buries its last female Great War veteran**

LONDON, 10 March — Britain buried its last known female veteran of World War I on Thursday, as 107-year-old Alice Baker was laid to rest in Norfolk. Baker, who died last week, was one of a number of women who maintained aircraft for the Royal Flying Corps, which later became part of the Royal Air Force.

"Without the work of Alice and her colleagues repairing aircraft, the Royal Flying Corps would have been unable to operate on the front line," said Veterans Minister Don Touhig in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

**WHO recommends Merck, Gilead AIDS drugs**

GENEVA, 10 March — The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday that it had added anti-retroviral drugs made by Merck Sharp & Dohme and by Gilead Sciences to its list of recommended drugs.

The United Nations agency said that Merck's Efavirenz, in two strengths, and Gilead's Tenofovir were "crucial products" in the treatment of AIDS.

It also included anti-malaria treatment Artemotil, also in two strengths, made by Dutch concern Artecef.

The WHO's prequalified list of medicines, which totals more than 70 anti-AIDS drugs, is designed to make it easier for developing countries to choose which medicines to buy.

Drugs are added after

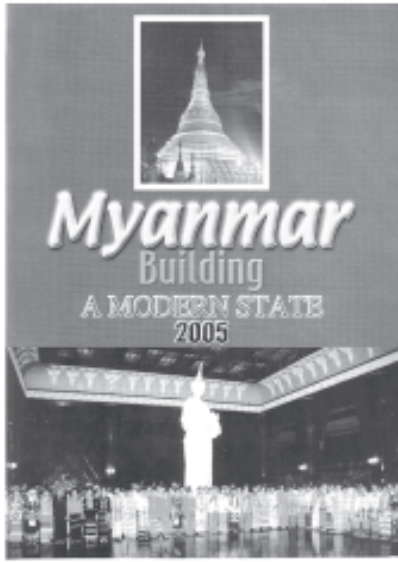
being submitted for testing by companies.

"Tenofovir and Efavirenz ... and Artemotil ... will considerably boost the choice of therapy in resource-poor countries," the WHO said in a statement.

Malaria kills more than one million people a year, more than 75 per cent of them African children under five years of age.

Over three million people died from AIDS last year, and more than 40 million are living with the virus.

MNA/Reuters



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**China needs law on Press supervision**

BEIJING, 10 March — A lawmaker from Northeast China's Jilin Province has called for the enactment of a law on Press supervision to curb the rampant violation of journalists' right to make investigative reports as well as prevent malpractices of "corrupt reporters".

"A mature and complete supervisory system is needed by every society, but such a system is not fully established yet in China," said Wang Weizhong, a deputy to the 10th National People's Congress (NPC), the Chinese legislature which is holding its annual full session in Beijing.

The enactment of the Press supervision law is conducive to strengthening public supervision on social evils and other problems, and can also help regulate the supervision practice by the country's journalists, said Wang.

"I frequently learned about incidents in which journalists doing investigative reports or trying to expose social evils encountered various kinds of obstructions and were even beaten savagely.

Meanwhile, there are also cases in which some immoral reporters try to blackmail individuals or companies with threats of 'negative exposures,'" Wang noted.

According to Wang, the Press supervision law he proposed shall make

explicit stipulations to guarantee the journalists' right to be informed of and cover news events, as well as to make investigations — sometimes by secret means.

"Those who try to prevent the journalists

from reporting the truth, especially those who resort to violence, should be severely punished on charges of obstructing public supervision and denying the people the right to know," said Wang.

MNA/Xinhua

**Time to boost EU-Russia energy ties**

BRUSSELS, 10 March — The European Union should improve its energy cooperation with Russia as part of the bloc's general review of its ties with Moscow, European Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso said on Thursday.

Barroso said his planned meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on energy issues will take place on March 17 in Moscow, about a week before the EU's 25 leaders gather to debate, among other issues, the bloc's future energy policy.

"Now is the time to rethink the future shape of EU-Russia relations and to explore all the options for a closer and more effective cooperation," Barroso said in a statement.

"At the heart of our relations will be a new energy partnership with Russia." Russia is a major energy exporter to the EU and the bloc grew worried over the stability of supplies when Moscow cut off gas supplies to Ukraine temporarily this year over failure to agree a new pricing and supply deal. The dispute resulted in lower supplies to Europe as most Russian gas passes through

pipelines crossing Ukraine. Partly in response to the snag, the Commission, the EU executive, unveiled proposals on Wednesday to coordinate the bloc's fragmented energy

policies. The EU will have an opportunity to reshape ties with Moscow after its current 10-year partnership agreement with Russia expires next year.

MNA/Reuters

**Migrating birds could bring bird flu to US in months**

WASHINGTON, 10 March — Migrating wild birds could transmit the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu to the United States in the next few months, said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff on Thursday.

"There will be a reasonable possibility of a domestic fowl outbreak" as migrating birds mix with ducks, chickens and other birds in the US he said, speaking to newspaper editors and publishers.

He said the US Agriculture Department has years of experience in dealing with infections of other strains of bird flu, and that it is able to tackle situations caused by H5N1, which the World Health Organization said has caused at least 95 human deaths. Scientists fear the H5N1 strain would mutate quickly to be easily transmissible among humans, leading to a global flu pandemic.

Chertoff said he "certainly have to say that we should be prepared for the possibility that at some point in the next few months, a wild fowl will come over the migratory pathway and will be infected with H5N1".

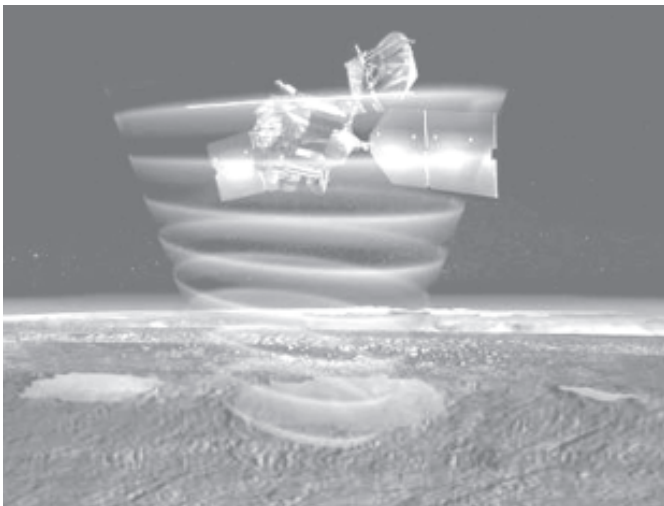
MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi soldiers aboard a tank patrol a street in Baghdad, on 10 March, 2006.

INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်ပီပွင့်ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့



An artist's conception of the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter using the SHARAD radar during its final approach to Mars, released by NASA on 10 March, 2006. NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter has begun its final approach to the red planet after activating a sequence of commands designed to get the spacecraft successfully into orbit. —INTERNET

Airports in New York area to get "invisible fences"

NEW YORK, 10 March— Airports in New York will get an extra layer of protection by adopting a comprehensive new security system that have been used in countries like Iraq and Israel, said airport officials Wednesday.

A web of fibre optics, radar, infrared imaging, motion detectors and surveillance cameras, also known as "invisible fencing", will be installed in Newark, Kennedy, LaGuardia and Teterboro airports within two years, said officials of the Port Authority, the agency that operates these airports in the area.

Authority will cover the cost of the system, which has a price tag of some 138 million dollars, but expect to get some federal aid, he said.

Security at airports at Greater New York has been greatly beefed up

after the 11 September terror attack in 2001. Authorities have pooled greater personnel and other resources to strengthen the security of airport, a likely target in another possible terror attack. —MNA/Xinhua

The purpose is to pump up existing security features at local airports, said a Port Authority spokesman. The Port

Dubai Ports has no plans to sell US operations

LONDON, 10 March— Port operator Dubai Ports World has no plans to sell its newly acquired operations managing six

US ports, despite a fierce political dispute in Washington, its head said in an interview published on Thursday.

DP World Chief Executive Mohammed Sharaf said his company would take all "humanly possible" measures to counter fears its takeover of the ports threatens US security.

"We have not even thought of that (selling the port management operations) yet," he said in an interview with Britain's Financial Times newspaper. "We have a business to run — the USA is part of it."

The newspaper's website (www.ft.com) reported that private equity groups had approached DP World about buying its US operations. The report, citing unnamed people familiar with the matter, gave no more details.

DP World's takeover of British ports operator P&O, which previously managed the US ports, has created a political crisis for US President George W Bush.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

Belgium's Zaventem, Denmark's Copenhagen are Europe's best Airport

BRUSSELS, 10 March— Belgium's Zaventem Airport in the capital of Brussels has been crowned the best airport in Europe by the Airport Council International (ACI), news agency Belga reported on Wednesday.

However, Zaventem was awarded equal first place with the Copenhagen Airport in Denmark.

Zurich Airport of Switzerland and Helsinki Airport in Finland were ranked second and third.

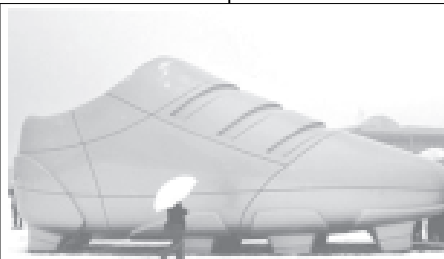
The Airports Excellence Awards are awarded based on a broad survey among passengers.

In total, passengers filled in 100,000 surveys, spread over 66 airports.

"The main objective is to improve the provision of services of the airports," ACI spokeswoman Nancy Gautier was quoted as saying.

Korea's Incheon Airport was named the world's best airport, with second place honours

awarded to Hong Kong Airport and Singapore's Changi Airport, it was reported. —MNA/Xinhua



A sculpture, 'The Modern Football Shoe' sits in a park in Berlin's government district on 10 March, 2006. The sculpture is one of six sculptures forming the 'Walk of Ideas' for the soccer World Cup, a walking tour of inventions from Germany. Adi Dassler, the founder of the Adidas sports shoe brand, had developed football shoes that provided firm grip on soft ground that was soaked with rain by using his idea of the flexible screw-in stud shoe in 1953, which helped Germany to win the World Cup in 1954. —INTERNET

Canadian women get married less, divorce more

OTTAWA, 10 March— Canadian women are getting married less, divorcing more and outliving the men they do live with, said Statistics Canada on Wednesday.

In 2001, more than 1.5 million women — 14 per cent of Canadian women over the age of 15 — lived solo because of dropping marriage rates and increasing divorce rates, according to a study released by the Statistics Canada as the world celebrates the International Women's Day.

That is more than double the number compared with 30 years before, according to the study. Coupled with the fact that men still have shorter lifespan than women, the study found that more women aged 65 and over are also living alone these days.

The number of women with post-secondary education is also on the rise — climbing to 15 per cent in 2001 from 3 per cent in 1971.

MNA/Xinhua

Ciba building Asia's largest antioxidant plant in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 10 March— Ciba Specialty Chemicals, a Swiss company, is building Asia's largest antioxidant plant on Jurong Island, Singapore's petrochemical centre, according to Channel NewsAsia report Wednesday.

To be completed by 2008, the plant worth 100 million US dollars is Ciba's single largest investment in the region.

Antioxidant is a petrochemical derivative used extensively in the manufacture of plastic products, the report said, adding that the demand for plastic-related products is estimated to double in two decades.

The new facility will help increase the company's revenue generated from Asia, which accounted for about 30 per cent of its total global sales last year.

Ciba has invested more than 382 million US

dollars in Asia over the past decade and its revenue has grown 50 per cent since 1997.

MNA/Xinhua

Survey shows most Japanese worry about population decrease

TOKYO, 10 March— An overwhelming majority of Japanese regard the issue of population decrease as serious, according to a recent survey conducted by one of the country's leading newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun.

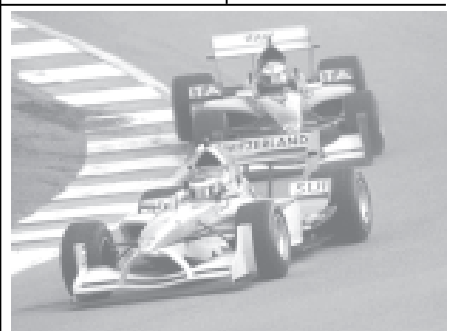
The survey, carried out among 3,000 people at 250 locations, showed that 87 per cent of the respondents concerned that a society with such a dwindling population will not be able to maintain the social security system and they took the issue seriously, while only 11 per cent said

they did not.

Ninety-four per cent said they were concerned that the current social security system, including pensions, medicine, and nursing care, would not be able to be maintained as society aged, and 76 per cent of respondents said Japan was not a good

place to raise children.

In answer to a multiple-answer question over the cause of the declining birth rate, 63 per cent said it was too expensive to raise children and 49 per cent said the authorities did not provide enough support to those having and raising children. —MNA/Xinhua



Switzerland's Giorgio Mondini is pursued by Italy's Max Papis during a practice session of the A1 Grand Prix auto race in Monterey, Calif, on 10 March, 2006. —INTERNET

# SPORTS



China's Bai Lili (R) vies the ball with a player of the United States in the first round match of Group B at the Algarve Cup 2006 held in the Algarve region of Portugal on 9 March, 2006. The match ended with a 0-0 draw.—INTERNET

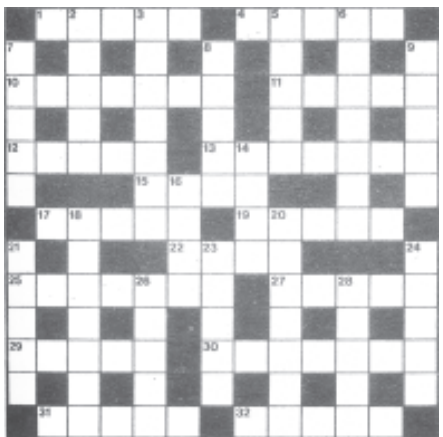
## Vietnam considers allowing soccer betting

HANOI, 11 March— The Vietnamese Government is expected to approve a soccer betting plan, which is designated to prevent illegal betting and foster the state budget, an official from Vietnam's National Sports and Physical Training Committee said here on Friday.

"After drafting a scheme on running soccer betting in June, we'll gather recommendations of relevant agencies to complete the scheme and submit it to the government for approval in the fourth quarter of this year," a senior official from Vietnam's National Sports and Physical Training Committee told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

If soccer betting services are allowed in Vietnam, they will annually contribute to the state budget to the tune of hundreds of billion Vietnamese dong (tens of million US dollars), the official stated.—MNA/Xinhua

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 1 Manchester-based orchestra
- 4 Truths
- 10 Echo
- 11 River of Europe
- 12 Synchronized
- 13 Throw into shade
- 15 Nobleman
- 17 Ill-bred, surly fellow
- 19 Watchful
- 22 Ebb and flow of sea
- 25 Type of cigar
- 27 Main artery
- 29 Narrow inlet
- 30 Vacation
- 31 Sluggish
- 32 Hind-part of ship

### DOWN

- 2 Fire-raising
- 3 Wash clothes
- 5 Month
- 6 Excursionist
- 7 Grid
- 8 Viper
- 9 Delay
- 14 Clothed
- 16 Highest male voice
- 18 Country-dance
- 20 Tract
- 21 Jeer
- 23 Having skin irritation
- 24 Wood-god; half-man, half-goat
- 26 Command
- 28 Horseman

## Benitez says Arsenal can win Champions League

LIVERPOOL (England), 11 March— Rafael Benitez believes Arsenal can repeat Liverpool's feat of last season by winning the Champions League despite struggling in the Premier League.

Arsenal, the only English representatives left, were drawn against Juventus in the quarterfinals of the Champions League in Friday's draw. Arsene Wenger's team are fifth in the Premier League, five points behind fourth-placed Tottenham Hotspur.

"Arsenal are now looking at winning the Champions League as a real target and they can do what we did last season," Benitez told reporters.

Benitez's Liverpool finished fifth last season although they beat AC Milan on penalties to win the Champions League final. Liverpool travel to Highbury on Sunday.

"Our league season was not too good and their's is the same this season," Benitez said. "But we won the trophy when not doing well in England and I believe they can do the same."

Liverpool's own Champions League bid was ended by Benfica on Wednesday when failings in front of goal cost them dear.

Benitez's side have scored four goals in their last nine games and of the club's strikers, only Peter Crouch has registered a goal in 2006.

"I cannot decide on just two strikers to play each week because we are not scoring," Benitez said.

"If some strikers do start scoring then maybe I can say they will stay together in the side, but for that they must start scoring first.—MNA/Reuters



Third-seed Maria Sharapova, of Russia, returns to opponent Jamea Jackson, of the United States, during action at the Pacific Life Tennis Open in Indian Wells, Calif, on 10 March, 2006.—INTERNET

## Benfica's Koeman confident of beating Barcelona

LISBON, 11 March— Benfica's Dutch coach Ronald Koeman is confident his team can overcome favourites Barcelona in the Champions League quarterfinals.

Koeman, who played for the Spanish club for several years, made his mark in Barca's history by scoring the only goal in their only European Cup success when they beat Sampdoria in the 1992 final at Wembley.

"Barcelona are one of the favourites to win. They have great players like Ronaldinho, (Samuel) Eto'o and Deco but I'm pleased to face them because I played (for) and coached them (as assistant manager) for many years," he said on Friday.

"I know the atmosphere at the Nou Camp with its 100,000 seats is something special but I must remind people that we play the first leg at the Stadium of Light where the climate is equally intense," Koeman added on the Benfica website.

The Dutchman said his team will have to get a good result in the first leg to have a chance of reaching the semifinals.

"When we play the first game at home we must keep our goal intact. From then on any result is good, even a 0-0 draw"—MNA/Reuters

## Rooney signs record book deal

LONDON, 11 March— Manchester United's 20-year-old England striker Wayne Rooney has signed one of the biggest sports book deals in publishing history, agreeing to write five books over the next 12 years.

British media reported the deal with HarperCollins was worth at least five million pounds (8.7 million US dollars) but a spokeswoman for the publishers would only say it was a "substantial figure".

HarperCollins said the first book would be released in July and cover this year's World Cup in Germany. The following books will cover the rest of his career.

Rooney emerged as one of the outstanding players at Euro 2004 and will carry the hopes of a nation once more when he lines up for the start of the World Cup in June.

His colourful off-pitch antics — including visits to brothels — have also made him a regular fixture on the tabloid front pages, where he is often pictured with his girlfriend Coleen.

"The last few years have been brilliant for me and I'm very excited about bringing out my first book this year and all the other books that will follow," he said in a statement.—MNA/Reuters

## United's Queiroz points to Chelsea flaws

MANCHESTER, 11 March— Manchester United want teams to lose their awe of Chelsea and exploit emerging weaknesses they perceive in the champions, United assistant manager Carlos Queiroz said on Friday.

Chelsea are 15 points clear of United and well on course to retain the Premier League title but they have lost one and drawn two of their last six league games and gone out of the Champions League to Barcelona. "We knew that they weren't invincible because we beat them (in November). It was not necessary for the game against Barcelona to know that," Queiroz told reporters.

"I hope that other teams in the league start to believe that. I think, watching Chelsea play against a couple of teams especially in the last four or five games, that things are starting to change. "Some teams are starting to believe that they can do something, although we must also pay our respects

because they have got 72 points.

"If you transfer the number of points they have from the number of games in all the different leagues in Europe it is fantastic."

Queiroz believes United's points tally puts them on a par with most teams across Europe.

He attributes United's failure to get closer to Chelsea to an injury list that at times this season has deprived the team of Paul Scholes, Gary Neville, Ryan Giggs, Gabriel Heinze, Louis Saha, Quinton Fortune and Roy Keane prior to his move to Celtic.

Taking those problems into account Queiroz believes United can still end the season on a high note with the prospect of better to come next season.—MNA/Reuters



Syracuse Orange guard Gerry McNamara (3) and forward Matt Gorman (24) force Georgetown Hoyas guard Ashanti Cook (R) to lose the ball late in the second half of their Big East tournament semi-final game in New York's Madison Square Garden, on 10 March, 2006. Syracuse won 58-57.—INTERNET

# 15,000 disabled orphans receive rehabilitation treatments in China

**BEIJING, 11 March** — A total of 15,000 disabled orphans in China have received surgery and rehabilitation over the past two years, thanks to a programme launched by the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA).

The "Tomorrow Plan — Operations and Rehabilitation for Disabled Orphans," launched in May 2004, has promoted medical care for orphans suffering from congenital

heart disease or lordosis. "By the end of June, it is expected that 20,000 disabled orphans will benefit from the plan," said Dou Yupei, the Vice-Minister with MCA.

"These efforts not only bring health to the disabled orphans, but confidence towards life too," said Dou.

The ministry planned to raise a total of 600 million yuan (about 74 million US dollars) through issuing welfare lotteries, government financial support and public donations to help disabled orphans.

In order to ensure these

children enjoy sound medical treatment and services, MCA also appointed eight first-class hospitals to offer surgery for the kids.

Meanwhile, China has about 66,000 orphans and abandoned babies living in various welfare organizations nationwide and about half of them are disabled.

MNA/Xinhua



In memory of late U Tint Hlaing, wife Daw Yee Yee Khin and family of No 33 (C) in Kyaukwaing Pagoda Road, Mayangon Township, Yangon, recently donated K 170,000 to Hnizigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of the Administrative Board. — H

## Venezuela denies US charges on handling of drug problems

**CARACAS, 11 March** — Venezuela has complained to UN chief Kofi Annan about a United States report which discredited Venezuela's efforts in curbing drug trafficking, local media reported on Friday.

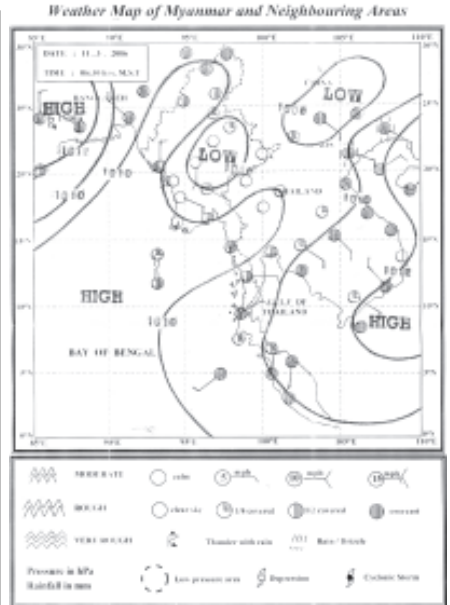
Venezuela has pro-

vided a detailed account of Venezuela's anti-drug actions and the increasing quantity of drugs it has seized, all of which, it said, challenged the credibility of the US report.

The emphasis in the fight against drug trafficking should be placed on countries which see wide drug use, such as the United States, it noted.

Data supplied by a Venezuelan mission has indicated that some 9 per cent of the US population is addicted to drugs, it said.

MNA/Xinhua



### WEATHER

Saturday, 11 March, 2006

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Mandalay Division, (7°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Monywa, Minbu, Magway, Aungmye and Pyaw (40°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 10-3-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 11-3-2006 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 11-3-2006 was (80%). Total sunshine hours on 10-3-2006 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 11-3-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 10-3-2006.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 12-3-2006:** Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Chin and Northern Shan States and upper Sagaing Division 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 Pyinmana and neighbouring area for 12-3-2006:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-3-2006:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-3-2006:** Fair weather.



Sunday, 12 March  
View on today

- 7:00 am**  
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**  
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**  
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**  
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**  
5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ပြာမဂ်လာ
- 8:05 am**  
6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am**  
7. လမ်းတံတား
- 8:20 am**  
8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am**  
9. International news
- 8:45 am**  
10. Say it in English
- 11:00 am**  
1. Martial song
- 11:10 am**  
2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am**  
3. Round up of the week's international news

- 11:40 am**  
4. နိုင်ငံခြားတာထွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "Doraemon"
- 12:15 pm**  
5. သွင်းကုန်အစားထိုး စော်ဖျက်ကွက် (မူဆယ်)
- 12:25 pm**  
6. Myanmar video feature: "မေတ္တာပြိုင်ပွဲ" (နေထက်လင်း၊ မြသဉ္စာလီ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဒယ်နီ)
- 2:00 pm**  
7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:15 pm**  
8. "သတိတစ်ချက်တစ်သက်အမှား" (ကျော်မင်းမောင်၊ ကြည်လှလှိုင်၊ နန်းကလျာလှိုင်၊ သကြံနီအောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စောဇွန်လှိုင်)
- 2:25 pm**  
9. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:35 pm**  
10. လစွမ်းပြိုင်ပွဲဆောင်စာ
- 2:45 pm**  
11. International news
- 4:00 pm**  
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**  
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**  
3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:40 pm**  
4. တစ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်)
- 4:50 pm**  
5. အခမ်းပတ်တော်အဖွဲ့အစည်းများ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယအပိုင်း (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

- 5:05 pm**  
6. Song of national races
- 5:15 pm**  
7. လက်ဆိုင်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတအား
- 5:20 pm**  
8. Musical programme
- 5:30 pm**  
9. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm**  
10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**  
11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**  
12. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 6:45 pm**  
13. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက် တစ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 7:00 pm**  
14. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:15 pm**  
15. Musical programme
- 7:30 pm**  
16. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:40 pm**  
17. Agricultural sources country's development
- 8:00 pm**  
18. News
- 19. International news**
- 20. Weather report**
- 21. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မိမိဆိုရင်" (အပိုင်း-၃၀)**
- 22. သီတဂူဆရာတော် အရှင် ဉာဏိသာရ၏ ဓမ္မဋ္ဌိ-အောင်မြင်လောကီလောကီ (အပိုင်း-၁)**
- 23. The next day's programme**



Sunday, 12 March  
Tune in today

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: -Sweet love
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: -Left 2 right
- 8:50 am** National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music: -Back for good
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Cultural images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am** Music: -All I want is you
- 1:30 pm** News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Children's delight -Story for children -Songs for children
- 9.00 pm** Weekly news review
- 9.10 pm** Article
- 9.20 pm** Music: -Big Big world -Until the time is through
- 9.45 pm** News & Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

**Senior General Than Shwe bids farewell to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam...**

*(from page 1)*

Yangon International Airport. They were welcomed by Senior General Than Shwe and party.

Senior General Than Shwe presented a documentary photo album on the State visit and VCD as gifts to the Indian President.

Likewise, Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam presented books on the Republic of India as gifts to Senior General Than Shwe.

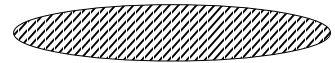
Senior General Than Shwe and party bade farewell to the Indian goodwill delegation at the ramp of the special aircraft.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe shook



*Senior General Than Shwe presents a documentary photo album and VCD tape to Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.*

MNA



*Vice-Senior General Maung Aye bids farewell to Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at the airport.*

MNA



*General Thura Shwe Mann bids farewell to Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at the airport.*

MNA



hands with the Indian President.

When the special aircraft carrying the goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam left Yangon International Airport at 11 am, Senior General Than Shwe and party waved them from the VIP Lounge of the airport. — MNA

**INSIDE**

*The Tatmadaw members are not only safeguarding the life and property of the people but also participating in the national development tasks. Together with the people, they are taking part in the construction of motor roads, railroads and bridges and building dams and reservoirs across the nation. This highlights an innate sense of the Tatmadaw members, which is based on nationalist spirit and Union Spirit.*

