

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 331

Fullmoon Day of Taboung 1367 ME

Monday, 13 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 and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer 'soon' to religious title recipient Sayadaws

YANGON, 12 March — Under the aegis of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, the State Peace and Development Council and Tatmadaw families offered 'soon' to State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, and religious title recipient Sayadaws at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta, here, this morning.

The ceremony was graced by Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, and religious title recipient Sayadaws and Nuns with their presence.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Com-



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer alms to a Sayadaw. — MNA

mander of Yangon Command, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor and their wives, the deputy ministers, senior military officers and their wives, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and guests.

The ceremony was opened with three-time

recitation of *Namo Tassa*.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party took the Five Precepts from Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Maha Withutayama Taikthit Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara. Members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta.

(See page 16)



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party receiving the Five Precepts from Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 13 March, 2006

Fullmoon Day of Taboung, a day of religious significance

Myanmar people are well known for their generosity and it is their lovely custom to make donations and do meritorious deeds on days of special significance. Today, the fullmoon day of Taboung in Myanmar lunar calendar, is a day of religious significance. In Myanmar, it is one of the occasions set aside for doing meritorious deeds, especially offering of alms and provisions to the monks.

It is on this day that hundreds of monks receive provisions donated by thousands of the laity so that they may be able to conveniently carry out religious tasks such as learning Pariyatti and practising Patipatti. Here it is to be noticed that the term "receive" means the act of receiving the offerings that enables the Buddhist faithful to do such offerings. The relationship between the donor and the recipient is unique, for without the recipient there can be no donor and vice versa. It must, of necessity, apply to all donors and recipients, for those who are involved in the propagation of a faith are committed to their mission. If they have to go round in search of alms and provisions all the time, the effectiveness of their mission would be diminished, or they may not be as fully capable of carrying it out.

This is the reason why the laity, individually, or in groups, or organizations, or as government departments, organize alms offering ceremonies so that those in missionary service may enable the wellwishers to donate and thus gain merits. The government organizes some of these alms-offering ceremonies almost always and also subsidizes missions and homes for the aged and the needy.

Today, the fullmoon day of Taboung, religious titles are presented to monks, nuns and lay persons on a grand scale. Indeed it is a remarkable contribution towards promotion and propagation of Buddha Sasana.

We firmly believe that all the Buddhist devotees, having reflected wisely the attributes of the Buddha, will be able to enjoy physical and mental well-being through making donations, keeping precepts, dispensing Metta and practising meditation.



In memory of late teacher U Kyaw Myint, sisters Daw Tin Tin, Daw Yi Yi and family of No (152), 3rd Floor, Bogyoke Street, Pazundaung, recently donated K 100,000 to the Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Rector Daw May Win Aung Khin, member of the Administrative Board. —H

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

Study tour group visits agricultural farms in Lashio

YANGON, 12 March — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, accompanied by members of the study tour group of Naval Training Command Headquarters of Yangon, viewed thriving summer paddy plantations in Humon region of Lashio on 9 March morning.

Shan State (North) Police Force Commander Police Col Win Naing reported on cultivation of 121

acres of summer paddy of Shan State (North) Police Force at Yepusan Village.

The commander and party looked into thriving summer paddy of Lashio Township PDC, sun-flower plantations of MPF and coffee and orange plantations of the command headquarters.

At Yantaingaug Pagoda, they paid homage to the bronze Buddha Image, and made cash donations. —MNA

Industry-1 Minister tours Chauk, Seikpyu, Pwintbyu



Minister U Aung Thuang inspects progress in installation of machines at Chemicals Factory (Hydrogen Peroxide) (Chauk) Project. — INDUSTRY-1

YANGON, 12 March —Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, accompanied by Managing Director U Nyunt Aung of Myanma Paper and Chemicals Industries, inspected construction of Chemicals Factory (Hydrogen Peroxide) (Chauk) Project in Chauk Township yesterday.

On completion, the factory will produce 30 tons of hydrogen peroxide daily. The factory is being built on 178.99 acres near Yedwin Village in Chauk Township.

The minister viewed installation of machines at the factory and water treatment station.

At Advanced Insulator Factory Project (Chauk) of Myanma Ceramics Industries, the minister in-

spected land preparations for construction of the factory.

The Advanced Insulator Factory Project (Chauk) is being implemented at the plot, four miles from Chauk. On completion, the factory will manufacture 800 tons of various kinds of insulators yearly.

The minister proceeded to Thitseint Oil Mill of Myanma Foodstuff Industries in Seikpyu, and viewed production process.

While in Pwintbyu, the minister oversaw thriving physic nut saplings at the nursery of Textile Factory (Pwintbyu), and production tasks of the factory.

MNA

General Secretary of UMFCCI leaves for Geneva

YANGON, 12 March — General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry flew to Geneva, Switzerland this evening to attend the Workshop on Practical Intellectual Property Issues for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) Support Institutions to be organized by World Intellectual Property Organization to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 14 to 16 March 2006.

He was seen off at

Yangon International Airport by President U

Win Myint of UMFCCI and Joint-Secretary-2 U

Tun Aung and officials. MNA

General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of UMFCCI seen at the airport before his departure for Geneva, Switzerland. UMFCCI



China-Russia strategic partnership at all-time high

Moscow, 11 March — Relations between China and Russia have been enjoying a strong momentum in recent years and have reached an unprecedented high level, Liu Guchang, China's Ambassador to Russia, said on Thursday.

Liu made the remarks ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Beijing this month.

Speaking to reporters in Moscow, he said the growth of Sino-Russian ties not only safeguards the national interests of both countries but contributes to global peace, stability and development.

"President Putin's visit to China, during which he will, together with (Chinese) President Hu Jintao, attend

the opening ceremony of the Year of Russia, is the most significant event in bilateral ties this year," Liu said.

Liu added that the two cultural events of the Year of China and the Year of Russia will serve as a strong boost to the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that Putin would pay a state visit to China on 21-22 March.

The ambassador said the bilateral economic and trade ties are "moving on a fast track", saying the forms of cooperation are diversifying and areas expanding. Liu noted progress in joint work in the oil and gas sector.

Russian oil shipments via railway to China have been increasing steadily and Russia's environmental authorities have cleared the planned oil pipeline that will reach China, he said.

—MNA/Xinhua



Giant panda An An plays with a "puzzle feeder" in the Ocean Park in Hong Kong, south China, on 9 March, 2006. The two-foot feeder, designed by university students in Hong Kong, is made from a plastic pipe with holes and a painted surface, in a bid to keep pandas healthy within zoological facilities.—INTERNET

GM recalls about 900,000 pickup trucks

WASHINGTON, 11 March — General Motors Corp said on Friday it is recalling about 900,000 pickup trucks worldwide to fix tailgate cables that can corrode and break when loads are placed on them.

The recall involves 1999-2000 models of the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra trucks. GM said there have been 84 injuries, most of them minor scrapes and bumps, but no crashes or deaths linked to the problem. GM, the world's No 1 automaker, said the galvanized, braided-steel support cables that keep the tailgates in place can corrode or fracture over time because of moisture seeping through cracks in the plastic sheathing of the cable or entering between the cable's metal strands.

The automaker had recalled about 4 million 2000-2004 pickups worldwide in March 2004 because the tailgates could break without warning. The recall involved a broader range of vehicles, including the Chevrolet Silverado, GMC Sierra, Chevrolet Avalanche

and Cadillac Escalade EXT trucks.

GM spokesman Alan Adler said the vehicles covered by the new recall had different materials used in the support cables and involved fewer complaints. He said the automaker decided to issue the recall after "an exhaustive investigation."—Internet



The GMC Sierra pickup truck (L) and the Chevrolet Silverado are introduced at the Chicago Auto Show.—INTERNET

Venezuela derides US human rights report

CARACAS (Venezuela), 11 March — Venezuela derided on Thursday a US State Department report that said President Hugo Chavez's government had violated human rights, calling the document "toilet paper".

The response from Caracas followed weeks of verbal jousting between the United States and Venezuela after both governments expelled diplomats in one of their worst disputes since left-winger Chavez came to office seven years ago.

"These reports are just toilet paper, exactly that, toilet paper, because US State Department officials have no authority to judge any country in the world," Venezuelan Vice-President Jose Vicente Rangel told reporters.

"If any country or any government violates human rights and is a centre of corruption, it's the US Government," he said. —MNA/Reuters



A Hollywood stunt actor dismounts a tire from a moving car at Shanghai International Circuit, on 12 March, 2006. The Hollywood stunt team started their tour of China and performed during the intermissions of the 2006 China Circuit Championship in Shanghai on Sunday.—INTERNET

Rachel Weisz to be face of Burberry

NEW YORK, 11 March — The public has seen a lot of mama-to-be Rachel Weisz lately — first at the Golden Globes in a gold Donna Karan gown and then at the Oscars in a sleek black Narciso Rodriguez gown. Now Weisz, who is seven months pregnant, is the face of Burberry's ad campaign for the new fragrance London. The ads were shot last fall.

The 35-year-old actress, who won an Oscar on Sunday for her role in "The Constant Gardener," is a fashion-industry favourite. "I love beautiful things and beautiful fashion," Weisz told *The Associated Press* in a recent telephone interview. "I like clothes that are beautifully cut that aren't too fussy." She often attends Rodriguez's show during New York Fashion Week, but it was Burberry, which shares Weisz' British heritage, that approached her about modelling. "I'm British. I grew up with Burberry being the ultimate brand in chic, elegance and history. My granny, the chicest lady I ever knew, had a Burberry raincoat. Now it's a cool and edgy fashion house, too," Weisz told the AP. "I was thrilled to be asked (to model). There was no hesitation." The fragrance is light and floral with a rich undertone. Weisz said she's particularly fond of perfumes with a sandal-wood base. Weisz said her sense of smell has been heightened by her

pregnancy, but, so far, there's nothing that's a complete turnoff. — Internet



British actress Rachel Weisz, nominated for an Oscar for best actress in a supporting role for her work in 'The Constant Gardener,' arrives for the 78th Academy Awards on Sunday, 5 March, 2006, in Los Angeles. Weisz, who is seven months pregnant, is the face of Burberry's ad campaign for the new fragrance London. The ads were shot last fall.—INTERNET

Syria ignores US sanction on its bank

DAMASCUS, 11 March — Syria on Friday brushed aside the US decision to sever links to the state-owned Commercial Bank of Syria (CBS).

The US Treasury Department on Thursday barred American financial institutions from opening or maintaining an account for or on behalf of CBS because the bank "has been used by terrorists" to move funds and has laundered money from the "illicit sale of Iraqi oil".

In a statement to the official SANA news agency, CBS Director General Dureid Dorgham said the US decision "was taken for political reasons to affect Syria" without "logical evidence". Dorgham pointed out that it has been a "binding decision" to the US banks even before the official announcement.

Meanwhile, he expressed confidence in some other friendly banks which had rejected the US decision to sanction the Syrian bank, noting that these banks would not submit to it. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese political advisers refute US human rights criticism

BEIJING, 11 March — Chinese political advisers in their annual full meeting here slashed on Friday a US State Department report criticizing human rights conditions in China, calling it “totally unfounded”, “ideology-oriented” and “a fresh example of Washington’s double standards on human rights”.

“The United States, a self-proclaimed ‘human rights judge’, has once again pointed its fingers at others while totally ignoring its own problems,” said Zhao Qizheng, a member of the 10th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China’s top advisory body, at a panel discussion on Friday.

The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005, issued by

Washington on Wednesday and involving more than 190 countries and regions including China, are full of “arbitrary charges and unreasonable words”, said Zhao, former

minister in charge of the Information Office of the State Council, the Chinese Cabinet.

Zhao said that China has been forced to make a counter-report about the

human rights record of the United States since 1997. The latest version of the report, the seventh in a row over the past years, was published on Thursday.—MNA/Xinhua

Violent storms kill two in southern US

WASHINGTON, 11 March — Violent storms hit several southern US states late Thursday, killing at least two people and injuring several more, the CNN reported Friday. Damages were

reported in Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. Wind gusts of up to 130 kilometres per hour were reported and a tornado was confirmed in eastern Arkansas, the report said.

A lightning-sparked house fire killed an 83-year-old man in the southwest Arkansas town of Ashdown. Near Memphis, Tennessee, a 48-year-old woman was killed when heavy rains caused her sport-utility vehicle to crash.—MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်မွှေးအား ခေတ်တော်ဖွား



Cartoon dogs “Duo Duo” and “Dian Dian”, mascots of the Second China International Cartoon and Animation Festival, walk with girls at the West Lake in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 11 March, 2006. The festival will be held on 28 April, in Hangzhou.—INTERNET



Shouting slogans against the US forces and carrying banners reading, ‘Stay Away, US (Army) 1st Corps,’ protesters stage a rally in front of the main gate of US Camp Zama, Tokyo’s outskirts, on 12 March, 2006. — INTERNET

Hungry Michigan wolves turning on each other

TRAVERSE CITY, 11 March—Gnawing leisurely on the remains of a moose carcass, the wolf pack’s alpha male seemed unaware that mortal danger was coming ever closer.

Suddenly the eight-member rival pack burst into view. The alpha scrambled to his feet, but too late. Howling and barking, the enemy chased him down and mercilessly attacked, killing the hapless victim within a couple of minutes.

It’s not unusual for the gray wolves on Isle Royale National Park to target each other, said John Vucetich, a Michigan Tech University wildlife biologist who witnessed the carnage from an airplane in January. But the rival pack’s brazen invasion of another’s territory was a sign—the wolves are hungry. The reason is a steady decline of moose, now at their

lowest ebb in the 48 years that scientists have studied the two species in Isle Royale’s closed environment.

“One of the ways the wolves struggle through a food shortage is to try and usurp territory from their neighbours,” Vucetich said.

He and fellow researcher

Rolf Peterson estimated the moose population at 450 this winter, down from 540 last year. Only four years ago, they totalled an abundant 1,100 in the national park, located in northwestern Lake Superior and accessible only by boat or airplane.

Internet



In this photo released by Michigan Technological University, a gray wolf is shown on Isle Royale National Park in northern Michigan. —INTERNET

Landmine kills 26 on way to wedding in Pakistan

QUETTA (Pakistan), 11 March — Twenty-six people travelling to a wedding in southwest Pakistan were killed on Friday when their vehicle hit a landmine near Pakistan’s main natural gas fields.

The blast happened in Dera Bugti District of Baluchistan Province. Provincial government spokesman Raziq Bugti blamed autonomy-seeking militants for planting the mine.

“Most of the dead are

women and children. Seven people were injured,” Bugti said.

Baluch militants have waged a low-level insurgency for greater control over gas and other resources for decades, but have intensified attacks

on government installations and infrastructure, including gas pipelines, over the past year. The wedding party was travelling on a trailer being pulled by a tractor. Bugti said militants were known to have planted mines in the area and security forces had been trying to clear them.

The violence in the province, which borders Afghanistan and Iran, is another pressing security problem for President Pervez Musharraf, whose forces are also battling Islamist militants in tribal areas on the Afghan border to the north of Baluchistan.

There has been no evidence or claim of any cooperation between the al-Qaeda-linked Islamist rebels and the Baluch nationalists, analysts say.— MNA/Reuters



A truck carrying a marriage party hit a landmine in Pakistan’s restive southwestern province of Baluchistan, killing 26 people and injuring seven, a provincial official said.—INTERNET

British soldier quits Army, accuses US troops of illegal tactics in Iraq

LONDON, 11 March — An elite British soldier has revealed that he quit the Army after refusing to fight in Iraq anymore on moral grounds because of the “illegal” tactics used by US troops on the ground.

Ben Griffin, a member of the Special Air Service (SAS) described in an interview with *The Sunday Telegraph* the experiences that led him to end his impressive army career after just three months in Baghdad.

The 28-year-old, who was discharged last June, is believed to be the first SAS soldier to refuse to go into combat and to quit the Army on moral grounds.

“I saw a lot of things in Baghdad that were illegal or just wrong,” Griffin told the weekly newspaper in his first interview since leaving the SAS.

“I knew, so others must have known, that this was not the way to conduct operations if you wanted to win the hearts and minds of the local population.

“And if you can’t win the hearts and minds of the people, you can’t win the war.” Griffin, who worked in the SAS’s counter-terrorist team, recalled joint operations to tackle insurgents with his American counterparts.

“We would radio back to our headquarters that we were not going to detain certain people because, as far as we were concerned, they were not a threat because they were old men or obviously farmers, but the Americans would say: ‘No, bring them back!’” Griffin said.—Internet

Putin to visit China on 21 March

BEIJING, 11 March — Russian President Vladimir Putin will make a state visit to China from 21 March, with meetings expected to focus on energy deals and consolidating bilateral cooperation, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

“The two sides will sign a series of agreements on cooperation...including energy cooperation, which is an important element in our mutual cooperation,” ministry spokesman Qin Gang told a regular news conference.

Relations between

Beijing and Moscow, once bitter rivals for influence in the Communist world, have warmed in recent years. Putin’s two-day visit marks the launch of a “Year of Russia” in China, with a series of cultural programmes and

visits by Russian officials and business groups designed to cement ties.

Chinese President Hu Jintao has worked hard to cultivate Putin, visiting Russia three times since becoming leader in 2003.

MNA/Reuters



A US Forest Service vehicle drives past snow-covered cactus in Joshua Tree National Park, California, on 11 March, 2006. A late winter storm brought several inches of snow to parts of Southern California, due to a cold weather system that is pushing through the region.—INTERNET

Eritrea accuses US of hypocrisy on human rights

ASMARA, 11 March—Eritrea accused Washington on Saturday of hypocrisy over the release of the annual US human rights report, saying in the wake of prison abuse scandals it had no moral grounds to criticize other nations.

The State Department report, which covered countries around the world, said Eritrea’s record on human rights had worsened and the government continued to commit serious abuses.

“The US administration has no legal or moral ground to point its fingers at other countries on human rights issues or to act as a self-appointed court,” Information Minister Ali Abdu said on Saturday.

“As far as Eritrea is concerned, this is ridiculous... and at a time when we are reading the gruesome reports from Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay,” he told Reuters, referring to charges of human rights abuses committed in US-run prisons. The US rights report, released on Wednesday, accused Eritrea of harsh and sometimes lethal treatment of military deserters and draft evaders.

Eritrea and Ethiopia, which fought a 1998-2000 war that killed 70,000 people, have been locked in a dispute over the

demarcation of their shared border since an independent commission awarded the border town of Badme to Eritrea in 2002.

Despite an agreement from both sides that they would abide by the commission’s ruling, Ethiopia rejected the decision.

The diplomatic stalemate has created military tension along the 1,000-km (600-mile) border. Eritrea — whose population is only one-twentieth the size of Ethiopia’s — has become one of the most militarized countries in the world.

Internet

Another WWII bomb found in Budapest

BUDAPEST, 11 March—Another unexploded WWII bomb was found in Budapest on Friday after two other bombs had been discovered and successfully dis-

assembled last month. The bomb was found in the capital’s first district at the site of the historic Rac thermal baths, which are currently under recon-

struction. A major artery into Budapest was closed off by police on Friday morning during operations to defuse the 50-kilo bomb.

MNA/Xinhua



Two million euro gem stolen at workshop in Belgium

BRUSSELS, 11 March — A diamond worth two million euros was stolen from a diamond polishing

workshop near Belgium’s port city Antwerp on Thursday, local news service VRT reported on Friday.

According to VRT’s report, an armed robber entered the workshop at about 1:30 pm (1200 GMT). He threatened the diamond polisher before locking him up in the workshop’s safe.

However, the robber was unable to lock the safe properly and the 54-year old diamond polisher was able to free himself not long after the robber had left.

MNA/Xinhua

A US soldier aboard a tank talks to Iraqi children while on patrol near the scene of a roadside bomb attack targeting Iraqi soldiers in Baghdad, on 12 March, 2006.

INTERNET



Chinese dancers perform at the opening ceremony of 2006 China-Japan tourism exchange year in Tokyo, capital of Japan, on 10 March, 2006. — INTERNET

Canada’s lost, lonely whale feared killed by boat

VANCOUVER, 10 March—A lonely killer whale that became the object of a well-publicized tug-of-war between biologists and Natives on Canada’s Pacific Coast was feared dead on Friday.

Officials said the orca, nicknamed Luna by scientists, appeared to have been hit by the propellers of an ocean tugboat in Nootka Sound, off Vancouver Island, where it had lived since 2001 after getting

separated from its family pod.

The young male whale, which often played with boats in an apparent search for companionship, may have miscalculated the tug’s power and was pulled into the blades, a

Department of Oceans and Fisheries biologist said.

Scientists were headed to the area to investigate the accident, a department official said.

The 1.8-tonne whale was the focus of a circus-like battle on the water in 2004 between scientists, who wanted to capture it for relocation, and Native Indians, who used canoes to lure Luna away from the scientists’ pen.

Whales normally spend their entire lives with their families, and it was not known how Luna got separated from his pod, which summers in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, off Washington state, about 200 km (130 miles) south of Nootka Sound.

Internet



Luna the Orca Whale flips his tail behind a Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans boat of Bligh Island on the west coast of Vancouver Island. — INTERNET

International horticultural exposition to be held in Thailand

CHIANG MAI (Thailand), 11 March — An international horticultural exposition will be held here at the end of this year to celebrate the King's 60th anniversary to the throne and his 80th birthday in 2007.

Named "Royal Flora Ratchaphruek 2006", the exposition is the first world-class expo ever organized in Thailand.

It has been recognized as the highest-ranking of horticultural exhibition by the International Exhibitions Bureau (BIE) and the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH).

The show will be conducted on 80 hectares

of land at Mae Hia subdistrict in the northern Chiang Mai province from 1 November, 2006 to 31 January, 2007.

Some 30 countries are expected to participate in the exhibition which are estimated to attract about 2 million visitors.

The exposition is composed of several key elements, namely "Royal Pavilion", "International Garden", "Corporate Garden", Ekachon

Worapatrahirunyas from the Project Management Office in Chiang Mai said on Thursday.

Besides those elements designed to pay tribute to the King, the exposition will also feature a zone called "Thai Tropical Garden" that will boast of the widest variety of tropical plants, including 2,200 species and 2.5 million trees.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indonesian boy watches sharks in an aquarium at the Sea World in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 11 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Tremor kills man, injures 16 in Pakistani Kashmir

ISLAMADAD, 11 March — An aftershock measuring 5.2 killed one man and injured 16 other people in Pakistan-held Kashmir on Friday, five months after a huge earthquake devastated northern Pakistan, officials said.

The 8 October quake killed 73,000 people, but a massive relief effort and mild weather has prevented a feared second-wave of deaths among millions of survivors living in the open during the normally harsh Himalayan winter.

Friday's aftershock was felt in North West Frontier Province, Punjab and Kashmir, according to the Meteorological Department.

One man was killed when a wall collapsed on top of him in Mirpur, a southern district in Pakistani Kashmir that was largely unaffected by

the original quake.

"Many people tried to jump out of their homes and got hurt," said Khalid Chohan, a superintendent of police in Mirpur, adding that several houses were damaged by the tremor.

MNA/Reuters



Urami, right, and Mupae, both from South Korea, wreathe in the annual bullfighting festival in Cheongdo, southeast of Seoul, South Korea, on 12 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Brazil leading effort to boost ethanol use

SAO TOME, 10 March — In an agroindustrial complex ringed by fields of 12-foot-high sugarcane, a giant mechanical claw dumps stalks by the tons into an even larger crushing machine. Here's where the renewable fuel used to power seven of every 10 new Brazilian cars gets its start.

Sugary slurry flows into a row of gleaming stainless steel distilling tanks, transforming cane harvested only hours earlier by machete-wielding farm labourers into ethanol, the

alternative fuel now promoted by President George Bush to end what he calls America's addiction to imported oil.

While Bush set 2025 as the target date for replacing three-fourths of the oil imported from the Middle East with American ethanol, Brazil already satisfies nearly half of its domestic passenger vehicle fuel demand with ethanol.

After decades of government intervention and subsidies, the industry here is a thriving free market business, complete with ethanol pumps at every filling station in Latin America's largest country. Millions of cars run on either ethanol, gas or any combination of the two. And there's plenty more land available for sugar cane cultivation as the planet's biggest sugar

producer gears up to become its undisputed long-term ethanol supplier. Brazilian ethanol producers and international energy experts agree that the United States will probably never come close to reaching Brazil's potential as an ethanol superpower. But they say Brazil offers clear lessons on how to boost domestic ethanol use.

What the United States needs most, they say, are more cars that run on the fuel, and filling stations that offer it.

"Petroleum is almost history," warned Celso dos Santos, commercial director of the Cocamar farmers cooperative that owns the Sao Tome distillery. "People stopped using wood for fuel and replaced it with coal. Then came petroleum, but we're getting to the end of the petroleum era." —Internet

Series of earthquakes hit Wanganui, NZ

WELLINGTON, 11 March — A string of feeble earthquakes rattled Wanganui, north area of New Zealand, on Saturday morning.

The first quake measured 4.1 on the Richter Scale and struck the area 30 kilometres southwest of the city at 00:55 am local time (1255 GMT on Friday), the others struck in the same place, with the second one at 3:17 am (1517 GMT) measuring 4.5, a third at 5:27 am (1727 GMT) measuring 3.8 and a fourth at 8:10 am (2010 GMT) measuring 4.2. A police spokeswoman said there had been no calls to the station in regard to the quakes. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, Australia sign MoU on agriculture

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 March — Malaysia and Australia have inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to boost cooperation in agriculture, food processing, livestock and fisheries trade, local media reported on Friday.

Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Peter McGauran, and Malaysian Minister for Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Muhyiddin Mohamad Yassin, signed the MoU Thursday in Canberra, Australia, according to Bernama

news agency. McGauran said the agreement would strengthen the links of private and government sector between the countries.

"The MoU recognizes the importance of private sector links between our countries. It also reflects the strong, bilateral agricultural relationship between Australia and Malaysia, and the willingness of both countries to further strengthen that bond," McGauran was quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

Six Argentine military killed in plane crash

LA PAZ (Bolivia), 11 March — Six Argentine military officials were killed on Thursday when their plane crashed as it was taking off from El Alto Airport near La Paz, a Bolivian Air Force official told local radio.

The official said all six people on board the executive jet were killed when the plane disintegrated soon after leaving the runway at about 3.30 pm local time (1930 GMT). — MNA/Reuters



A Kashmiri earthquake survivor walks through the University Ground refugee camp in the Kashmiri earthquake-devastated city of Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir on 12 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Rice offered to Sayadaws at Buddha Pujaniya of Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 12 March — The rice offering ceremony to mark the 2549th Buddha Pujaniya of Shwedagon Pagoda, organized by the Pagoda Board of Trustees of Shwedagon Pagoda, was held at its platform, here, 5 pm today.

Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of the pagoda board of trustees, members of the Sangha and nuns went round Shwedagon Pagoda clockwise.

Member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, over 60 religious associations, and wellwishers offered rice and alms worth K 18 million to the Sayadaws and nuns. — MNA



The rice offering ceremony of 2549th Buddha Pujaniya of Shwedagon Pagoda in progress. — MNA

Food and danger of toxic chemical

Tin Hlaing (Health)

Now, the world has witnessed development in various spheres with growing world population. So, man has to innovate constantly to fulfil the requirements of increasing population. In order to ensure food security, man has transformed the conventional agricultural and livestock breeding methods into modern ones and used specific inputs in these sectors.

The inputs include chemicals such as anti-fungus, pesticides, weed killers, urea and fertilizers used for boosting agricultural and livestock breeding production, rapid growth and seasoning foods. Use of these substances boosts production and enhances growth of the produce.

However, there is a Myanmar saying that urges moderation in everything. Nowadays, a wide variety of chemicals are used indiscriminately without limitation. Unsystematic use of such substances is harmful to man.

I would like to present a true story that took place about 30 years ago. At the time, I was a health assistant in the Yayzin Dam Project. Paddy, sugarcane and vegetables were grown around Yayzin. One day, my wife prepared a dish of water cress. She also prepared a dish of boiled fish, bean and water cress for our nine-month-old son. About an hour after we had had our lunch, our son got sick and began to vomit with a stomach ache. We applied lotion on his stomach, but his situation was getting worse. So, we had to rush him to Pinyinmana hospital.

At the hospital, his vomit was tested to find out the cause. The result showed "endrin seen". The owner of the vegetable patch failed to wait for two weeks after spraying endrin over the water cress plantation and sold the produce. A child was not resistant enough to such amount of endrin. We were fortunate my wife washed the water cress with water several times and so it was not very serious.

Chemicals are now used widely in the world especially for the agricultural purposes. Some substances of organo chlorine group such as endrin, aldrin, lindane, dieldrin and DDT and some substances of organo phosphorus group such as fanitrothion, malathion, fanthion and phosmet are used as pesticides. Moreover, paraquat and arsenic trioxide are used as insect killers, and urea, T super and many kinds of growth hormone as fertilizers.

If such hazardous substances get into human body more than the amount man can be resistant, brain,

nerves, liver, kidney, heart and skin are damaged immediately. In Myanmar, almost all the foods are not free from chemicals. But, people of developed countries prefer foods free from chemicals.

Today in Myanmar, some prefer vegetables and fruits bigger and brighter than normal. For instance, consumers prefer bamboo shoot, chilli powder and turmeric powder with bright colours to those with original colours. Therefore, such products are dyed very bright for sale.

And bigger-than-normal fruits grown with the use of various types of fertilizers are more attractive. Recently, I accompanied my wife to the market. At a fruit shop, I noticed a big papaya. I examined it and found that it was still green, so I put it aside. Then, the shop assistant said to me, "Uncle, do you think it is still green? It will be ripe this evening. I can do it right if you want to have it this afternoon. Look!"

She dipped a tiny stick into a bottle of chemical liquid and touched it on the papaya at three or four different places, and said to us, "This chemical liquid is very effective. It can make any fruits ripe immediately".

I had heard of such chemicals but never seen it. That was the first time I experienced that and was

used to grow such crops".

"I do not mean so".

"Oh, I am confused".

"No, you are not. I mean radish or long bean can be grown overnight".

While I was taken aback, she continued to say, "Supposing, radish, long bean and beans and pulses are going to be sold in the market, they are wrapped up with a piece of jute cloth that is wet with urea liquid for a night. In the morning, they have grown twice. A sale assistant shared me with this method".

I was surprised again. In reality, fertilizers are a compound of nitrogen. If so, the vegetables absorb phosphorus, sodium, potassium, manganese and ammonia. As soon as such vegetables are consumed, the poisonous chemicals get into the stomach. Ammonia belongs to nitrogen group. It is poisonous, so it is drained together with urine. Urine has bad smell due to ammonia content. If such fertilizers get directly into the stomach, brain, stomach, liver and kidney are damaged.

Therefore, preventive measures are to be taken against the use of such chemicals. But, it will be found it difficult to expose unscrupulous persons who use toxic chemicals. Sellers respond to the

In reality, fertilizers are a compound of nitrogen. If so, the vegetables absorb phosphorus, sodium, potassium, manganese and ammonia. As soon as such vegetables are consumed, the poisonous chemicals get into the stomach. Ammonia belongs to nitrogen group. It is poisonous, so it is drained together with urine. Urine has bad smell due to ammonia content. If such fertilizers get directly into the stomach, brain, stomach, liver and kidney are damaged.

worried. So, I decided to get a bundle of radish and string beans instead of choosing papaya. Getting home, I saw my nieces from the countryside.

I said, "It is just right. I will serve you pork and long bean pie, and boiled radish".

"Uncle, these long beans are grown with the use of fertilizers".

"You're right. Urea and T-super fertilizers are

demand of customers. So, all the customers are to be aware of the dangers of the vegetables and fruits carrying pesticides and fertilizers and to avoid buying them. If so, sellers will not sell such vegetables and fruits. Thus, the entire people are to be aware of such harmful vegetables and fruits.

Translation: MS
(Myamma Alin: 12-3-2006)

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer 'soon' to religious title recipient Sayadaws



General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay The offer alms to a Sayadaw. — MNA

(from page 16)
Secretary Nyaung-
don Sayadaw Abhidhaja
Maha Rattha Guru
Bhaddanta Osadh-
abhivamsa delivered a
sermon, and the Senior

General and wife and
party shared merits
gained.

The ceremony
ended with three-time
recitation of Buddha
Sasanam Çiram Titthatu.

After the cer-
emony, Senior General
Than Shwe and wife
Daw Kyaing Kyaing and
party offered 'soon' to
members of the Sangha.
MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donate provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Paddy husk-fired power plant launched in Sittway

YANGON, 11 March —
Chairman of Rakhine
State Peace and Develop-
ment Council Commander
of Western Command
Maj-Gen Khin Maung
Myint attended the cer-
emony to launch the paddy
husk-fired power plant in
Rupa North Ward of
Sittway on 8 March morn-
ing.

Chairman of Town-

ship Peace and Develop-
ment Council U Aung
Htut and Power Supply
Committee Chairman
U Win Shwe Maung for-
mally opened the plant.
The commander unveiled
the signboard of the power
plant, and started the sup-
ply of power.

The power plant was
built at a cost of K 9 mil-
lion. In the compound of

the power plant, the com-
mander inspected No 1
physic nut nursery of
Rakhine State Cooper-
ative Syndicate.

Next, the commander
delivered an address at the
opening ceremony of
Rakhine State PDC Chair-
man's Shield Inter-Town-
ship Sepak Takraw Tour-
namat at the gymnasium
in Sittway. — MNA



Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, donates alms to a Sayadaw.

MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe present offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Culture Minister visits Archaeological Training School

YANGON, 12 March
— Minister for Culture
Maj-Gen Kyi Aung ac-
companied by Director-
General U Kyaw Win of
Archaeology Department
arrived at Archaeological
Training School in Pyay
on 10 March.

The minister met
the trainees who are
attending Applied
Archaeological Diploma
at the training school and
fulfilled the requirements.
The minister also
inspected around the

training school. In the
evening, the minister
oversaw Sari Kesttra Ar-
chaeological Museum
and left instructions.

Minister Maj-Gen
Kyi Aung visited ancient
Baw Baw Gyi Pagoda and
held discussion on all-
round renovation task of
the pagoda with the tech-
nicians and engineers.

Yesterday, Minis-
ter Maj-Gen Kyi Aung
and Minister for Reli-
gious Affairs Brig-Gen
Thura Myint Maung

attended Htidaw hoisting
ceremony of Mya Thein
Dan Pagoda in Thegon,
Pyay District.

At first, Sayadaw
Dr Ashin Nanissara
administered the Nine Pre-
cepts to the congregation.
Later the ministers fixed
Seinbudaw and
Hnagmyatnada atop the
Pagoda. Minister
Maj-Gen Kyi Aung of-
fered cash donation to the
Sayadaws to the
ceremony.

MNA



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung visits Sari Kesttra Archaeological Museum in Pyay. — CULTURE

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of archway of Sanda Muni Pagoda in Aungmyethazan Township

YANGON, 12 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 Office and departments inspected construction of the archway of Nanmye Bonthasan Nandawya Sanda Muni Pagoda in Aungmyethazan Township on 7 March.



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects laying of gravel on Taungthaman Lake ring road.—MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and

party presented fruits, flowers, water and light to the Buddha images at the pagoda. They went to Lawkamarazein Kutho-

daw Pagoda and inspected stone inscriptions known as the world's biggest book. They paid obeisance to the Buddha images at

the pagoda.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected renovation of the stone inscriptions and construction of ring road and paving of roads.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the seven-storey Zegyo Plaza. They also inspected construc-

tion of Mandalay Zegyo Shopping and 25-level Condominium being undertaken by Mann-Myanmar Construction Co. Chairman of the company U Than Win reported on the project.

Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han gave

a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on worksite safety and fire prevention measures. He inspected laying of gravel on Taungthaman Lake ring Road, paving of roads Chanmyathazi Township.—MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects paving of road in Mandalay.—MNA

Village dispensary opened in Mahlaing Township

YANGON, 12 March — The opening ceremony of dispensary took place in Okpo Village in Mahlaing Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Division on 7 March.

It was attended by

Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Lu Tin and members, District Women's Affairs Organization Chairperson Daw Nan Mya Ein, District Maternal and Child Wel-

fare Supervisory Committee member Daw Phyu Phyu Nwe, District USDA Secretary U Saw Htay, the chairman of Mahlaing Township PDC and members, chairperson of Mahlaing Township MCWA, departmental heads and wellwishers.

Lt-Col Lu Tin and donor Dr Myo Myint formally opened the dispensary. Afterwards, the chairman of District PDC and the chairman of township PDC made speeches.

Next, the donor explained the purpose of donating dispensary and a villager expressed thanks. Later, wellwishers Dr Myo Nyunt-Daw Min Min handed over the documents related to the building of dispensary to District Medical Superintendent Dr Myo Thant.

At the ceremony, wellwishers Dr Myo Myint-Daw Min Min donated K 2.7 million for dispensary and Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Tin Tin presented K 100,000 as a fund of the association. A total of K 302,500 was donated by wellwishers to medical trust fund.

MNA

River water pumping station, paper mill inspected in Maubin

YANGON, 12 March — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo arrived at Kyonsok river water pumping project in Maubin Township yesterday morning.

Deputy Director of Water Resources Utilization Department U Moe Oo reported to the minister on construction of the pumping station and digging of canals.

Director-General U Win Shwe briefed the minister on matters related to irrigated area, canal No 1 and No 2, and water supply facilities.

The minister met with local authorities, agricultural coordination committees at different levels, and local farmers.

He gave instructions on boosting production and per-acre yield, minimizing wastage and loss, declining of cost for agricultural production, extended cultivation of high yield paddy strain, and growing of physic nut plants.

Kyonsok river water pumping project has one 2,700-foot-long main canal and three branch canals to supply water to 9,000 acres of farmlands from nine village-tracts.

At Maubin Paper Mill, the minister viewed

production of paper with the use of dry jute.

The mill manager reported on production capacity of the mill, collection of raw materials and yearly manufacturing of 5,000 tons of paper. Managing Director U Ye

Phone Myint of Myanmar Jute Enterprise gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, the minister left instructions on running of the mill at full capacity and boosting production.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects paper mill in Maubin.—MNA

Sayadaws, nuns arrive

YANGON, 12 March — Sayadaws and nuns of Sri Lanka, Laos, Thailand, the USA, Nepal and China arrived here by air yesterday to attend the religious title offering

and rice offering ceremonies.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Advisor U Ant Maung, Director-General Dr Myo

Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, ambassadors of foreign missions concerned in Yangon and officials.

MNA



A religious title recipient Sayadaw from abroad being welcomed by officials at the airport. — MNA

SPEI (Mandalay) gets new gymnasium

YANGON, 12 March — A ceremony to open a new gymnasium was held at Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) yesterday afternoon.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han cut the ribbon to open the gymnasium.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, the minister and the mayor sprinkled scented

water on the bronze plaque.

The commander and the minister gave speeches.

The minister presented sports gear worth K 1.3 million to Mandalay Division Wushu and Boxing Sub-committees, sports equipment worth K 1.5 million to youth football teams of SPEI (Mandalay), and sports gear worth K 280,000 to seven townships of Mandalay District.

U Chan Tha of Asia Hi-Tech Construction Co Ltd handed over documents related to the gymnasium to Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung of the Sports and Physical Education Department.

The newly opened gymnasium measuring 120 feet long, 90 feet

wide and 36 feet high was built at a cost of K 75.6 million. — MNA

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets with employees of Press Scrutiny and Registration Division. — MNA

Press Scrutiny and Registration Division plays pivotal role in printed media Minister urges division to cooperate with literary world

YANGON, 12 March — “The tasks of press scrutiny and service personnel of Press Scrutiny and Registration Division are discharging heavy duties and reforms on its policies have been made,” said Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan in meeting with personnel of the division of Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Bahan Wingaba Road in Bahan Township yesterday.

The minister said the government is building a knowledge based society introducing the knowledge based economy in knowledge age in accord with the guidance of the Head of State and efforts are to be made for intellectual development of

the people and human resource development through the media.

He said the press scrutiny and registration division plays a pivotal role in the printed media. He urged the personnel of the division to scrutinize fine literature for the people in accord with the policies laid down.

Internal axe-handles and anti-government organizations from abroad are attacking the government. The division in cooperation with those from literary world is to safeguard the national interest and to carry out the tasks for wider development of the literature preserving Myanmar cultural heritage and national characters within the framework of the

policy, he added.

He urged the personnel to strictly observe the four objectives laid down for the division, to cooperate with those from literary world and to serve the interest of the nation and the people effectively through literature.

Director of the division U Tint Swe reported on the history of the division, change of organizational set-up and present functions.

The minister gave instructions on appointment of personnel, issuing permits to new printers and publishers in accord with the policy, arrangements for future tasks, supervision on accepting registration fees and others.

MNA

Special sales to be held in states, divisions

YANGON, 12 March — In honour of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, special sales of the Ministry of Industry-1 will take place at the Sports Ground in Monywa, Sagaing Division as of 17 March 2006. The special sales will sell a full range of items produced by the ministry at reasonable prices.

The first special sales took place at the ministry compound in Yangon from 1 to 7 February and the second in Mandalay. The third special sales has kept taking place at North Okkalapa Township in Yangon. Arrangements are being made for holding the special sales in various townships in states and divisions.

MNA

Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles checked on dry day

YANGON, 12 March — Dry Day Inspection Supervisory Committee Chairman Yangon Station Commander Brig-Gen Myint Soe, accompanied by Leader of Inspection Supervisory Committee Police Brig-Gen Than Han of Myanmar Police Force (Headquarters), committee secretary Yangon Police Force Commander Police Col Aung Daing, Joint-Secretary Wireless

and Traffic Police Force Commander Police Lt-Col Aung Naing and members, supervised the functions of dry day inspection teams at the main points of Yangon this evening.

Inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver's licence, wheel tax bill of Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles and wearing of the respective uniforms and breaking of traffic rules. — MNA

Development tasks in Kayin State inspected

YANGON, 11 March — Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Southern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko together with officials arrived at 16-bed station hospital in Leiktho in Thandaung Township, Kayin State on 9 March.

Afterwards, the commander proceeded to Leiktho BEHS and Township Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise. After hearing reports by officials, the commander attended to the needs.

Next, the commander inspected 18-mile Leiktho-Thandaunggyi earth road construction and Toungoo-Leiktho-Yado-Loikaw Road construction and fulfilled the requirements.

Toungoo District Public Works will undertake construction of 69 miles long Toungoo-Leiktho Road and up to now, 25 miles and 2 furlongs in length has been constructed.

MNA

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

Hu Jintao calls for reviving up Army building to safeguard sovereignty

BEIJING, 12 March — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday called on the Chinese Army to enhance national defence and step up Army building to safeguard national sovereignty, unification, territorial integrity and security.

"We should strive to

improve the capability of the Armed Forces to deal with crisis, maintain peace, contain wars and win victory in possible wars," said Hu when he joined in the panel discussion of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to the Fourth Session of the Tenth National People's Congress (NPC) here on Saturday afternoon.

Hu is also General Secretary of the Central

Committee of the Communist Party of China and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

After hearing the PLA deputies' views, Hu said the next five years are crucial to China's drive for building a comparatively prosperous society in an all-round way. It is also "an important period" for the modernization of national defence and Army building, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Clean, competent village cadres key to building new countryside

BEIJING, 12 March— It is an urgent task to have the country's five million village cadres trained to be honest, clean and competent if China wants to fulfil its ambitious goal of turning the vast rural regions into a "new socialist countryside", a female lawmaker from a famous village in North China's Shanxi Province has said.

"The key to building a more developed, civilized and democratic

countryside lies in the competence as well as personal integrity of the village cadres," Guo Fenglian, village chief of Dazhai Village, Xiyang County of Shanxi, told *Xinhua* in an exclusive interview.

The 60-year-old Guo is a deputy to the 10th National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature now convening its annual full ses-

sion in Beijing.

According to a central government budget report, in 2006 alone, China will spend a total of 339.7 billion yuan (42.46 billion US dollars) on rural development, triggering worries among some NPC deputies that the huge funds might be misused or intercepted by cadres at various levels before reaching farmers.

MNA/Xinhua

Number of HFMD cases increasing in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 12 March — The number of the hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) cases has been increasing in Singapore in the past few weeks, according to Channel NewsAsia report on Friday night.

A total of 314 cases were reported last week while the average weekly number of cases is about 162, Ministry of Health was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



A man rides a horse near the pyramids in Cairo on 11 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Landslide hits evacuated village in southern Philippines

MANILA, 12 March — A landslide hit a village in Tarragona, Davao Oriental in southern Philippines on Friday, but all the villagers were evacuated beforehand and there were no reported casualties, the local television network ABS-CBN reported on Saturday.

Authorities said continuous rains that weakened the area's soil structure caused the landslide,

which damaged crops and about 100 million pesos (2 million US dollars) worth of infrastructure, including a village hall, a school and several houses.

Some 160 families were evacuated from the village since Wednesday following a warning of possible landslide from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia cripples 4 pirate gangs in Malacca Strait

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 March — Malaysian police have crippled four pirate gangs preying on ships in the Malacca Strait in their ongoing operations to maintain security in the waterway, local reports said on Saturday.

Police had made quite a number of arrests and the enforcement had reduced piracy attacks in the strait, Malaysia's national news services *Bernama* quoted the country's Deputy Police Inspector-General Musa Hassan as saying.

Some of the arrests were not unveiled to the public as the operations were going on, Musa told reporters during a post-disaster crime prevention meeting near Kota Kinabaru, capital of Malaysia's eastern state of Sabah.

Malaysian marine police were also providing escorts to tug boats or ships travelling through the strait upon their requests, the Malaysian deputy police chief said during the four-day meeting.— MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to relax rules on citizenship

JAKARTA, 12 March — The Indonesian House of Representatives and the government have agreed to ease procedures for people from other countries to acquire Indonesian citizenship or permanent resident status, local media reported Saturday.

"Basically, we agreed to ease the procedures for foreigners who believe they are entitled to Indonesian citizenship or permanent resident status," legislator Boy W Saul of the Democrat Party was quoted by the *Jakarta Post* as saying.

The move is expected to boost foreign investment to Indonesia, the legislator said.

Legislator Bomer Pasaribu of the Golkar Party said that the people affected by the regulation would be "those who can improve the country such as researchers or investors".

"To get Indonesian citizenship, they are required to have permanent resident status first, just like other countries," he said.

Foreigners who are married to Indonesians can

be "given a chance" to get the status regardless of gender, he added.

The existing law does not allow an Indonesian woman to sponsor a non-Indonesian husband for permanent resident status. At present, foreigners can only be sponsored by companies that employ them here. Permanent resident status only lasts for five years and is subject to extension. Non-Indonesians can only apply for permanent resident status five years after they are given a limited stay permit.

MNA/Xinhua

US "killer nurse" gets 12th life sentence

WASHINGTON, 12 March — A judge in Pennsylvania added on Friday a 12th life sentence against a former nurse who killed at least 29 patients in two states.

Charles Cullen, the "killer nurse" who was sentenced last week to 11 consecutive life terms in New Jersey, has admitted that he gave lethal overdoses to dozens of patients at nursing homes and hospitals in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, in one of the worst murder sprees ever discovered in the US health care system.

Cullen, 46, has claimed that he killed 40 patients over a 16-year nursing career and that he did so out of mercy. Many of his victims were old and very sick.—MNA/Xinhua

India, China seeking closer ties

NEW DELHI, 12 March — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said here on Saturday that it is an important part of India's foreign policy to develop good-neighbourly, friendly and cooperative relations with China.

Singh made the remarks when he met with Dai Bingguo, special representative of Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, who arrived here Friday for the seventh round of Indian-Chinese border talks.

During the meeting,

Singh also said developing friendship between India and China will make great contribution to peace and prosperity not only in the two countries but also in Asia and the world.

Affirming the progress of India-China border talks, the Indian Prime Minister said both sides should speed up their work for the final settlement of the border issue.

Dai, who is Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister, said China will work for developing its strategic partnership with India and

the Chinese side will make positive efforts together with the Indian side for early settlement of the border issue. The seventh round of border talks started here Saturday between Dai and Indian Special Representative MK Narayana, who is India's national security adviser. It will be moved to Kerala, India Sunday. In 2003, China and India decided to appoint special representatives on either side for the talks of settling their boundary problem.

MNA/Xinhua



Elena Dementieva of Russia returns a shot to Anastasiya Yakimova of Belarus during the Pacific Life Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, California. Dementieva won 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.—INTERNET

Russian FM calls for international meeting on Iran

Moscow, 11 March— Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has called for an international meeting which will include Russia, the United States, China, the European trio and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to resolve Iran's nuclear issue.

Speaking in an interview on Russian television, transcripts of which were posted on its Foreign Ministry's website Friday, Lavrov described the situation surrounding the dispute over Iran's nuclear programme as "critical... But it does not mean that now everybody has to go to the Security Council and start to make calls and threats and fulfil such threats," Lavrov said.

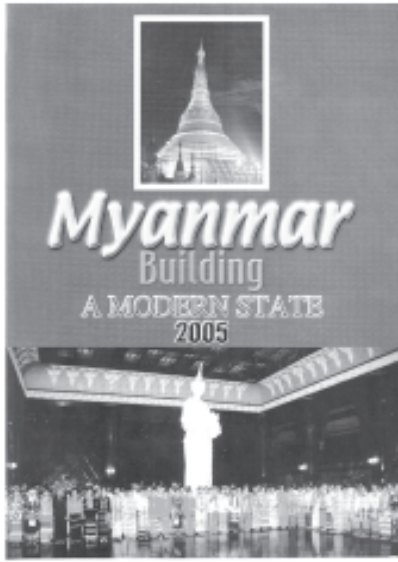
"It only means that we all have to get together again to find a new consensus regarding our strategy at the current stage," he said. "We are ready for that."

On Thursday, a day after the IAEA wrapped up its meeting in Vienna with discussions on IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei's latest report on Iran's nuclear

programme, Russia urged Iran to consider the outcome of the meeting and cooperate fully with the UN nuclear watchdog.

The Iran nuclear standoff escalated after Teheran resumed nuclear fuel research in January, which prompted the IAEA decision last month to report its case to the UN Security Council.

MNA/Xinhua



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Russia to strengthen strategic partnership with Algeria

ALGIERS, 11 March— Visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Russia hopes to further strengthen its strategic partnership with Algeria.

Algeria was the first Arab nation to sign a strategic partnership deal with Russia, Putin told reporters after meeting with his Algerian counterpart Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Putin, the first Russian leader to visit Algeria, underscored the long-standing friendship between Russia and the North African country, saying he and Bouteflika had reached consensus

on the development of bilateral ties in the future.

The outlook of Russia-Algeria relations were promising, he added.

The two leaders also exchanged views on ties between Palestine and Israel, the situation in Iraq, and other international and regional issues of common concern.

MNA/Xinhua

Japanese man wins \$500,000 for Bahamas jailing

NASSAU (Bahamas), 11 March— A Bahamian court has ordered the government to pay a Japanese man 500,000 US dollars for keeping him in prison eight years without a trial.

The Court of Appeal ruled on Thursday that Atain Takitota was unlawfully imprisoned in August 1992, after arriving in Nassau from Osaka, Japan, and being granted permission to stay in the Bahamas for one week.

The only reason given for his detention was that

he was an "undesirable and his presence was not conducive to the public good," the judgment said.

While being held at Fox Hill Prison and Carmichael Road detention centre, he attempted suicide three times, according to court documents.

MNA/Reuters

Mexican radio journalist killed in drug war city

NUEVO LAREDO (Mexico), 11 March— A part-time radio reporter was shot to death at dawn on Friday in what could be the latest effort by drug traffickers to silence

journalists along the notoriously violent Mexican border.

Ramiro Tellez, 41, was shot at close range by one or two gunmen as he approached his pickup

truck outside his house, a police spokesman said.

"His son called (emergency number) 066 and he was taken by ambulance to San Jose hospital, but sadly, he died 10 minutes after he arrived," spokesman Hector Valle said.

Witnesses said Tellez, who also worked for a police-run office that coordinates emergency telephone calls, was shot in the neck, chest and leg.

MNA/Reuters

Nigeria, South Korea sign accords on energy, transport

Lagos, 11 March— Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and his South Korean counterpart Roh Moo-hyun have signed cooperation agreements on energy and transport, according to a statement issued by the State House on Friday.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corp and the Korean National Oil Corp also signed a product sharing agreement for two highly prospective deepwater oil blocks, the statement said.

The two oil blocks are Block 323 with a signature bonus of 310 million US dollars and Block 321 with a signature bonus of 176 million dollars.

"Obasanjo assured his guest that all agreements signed during the visit will be scrupulously implemented and thanked him

for encouraging Korean firms to invest in Nigeria's oil and gas sector as well as in power generation," the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua

UN emergency fund opens with half needed pledges

UNITED NATIONS, 11 March— The United Nations' new global emergency fund began work on Thursday with slightly more than half the 500 million US dollars its director had hoped for.

The first grants from the Central Emergency Fund went to drought-stricken northeastern Africa and western Ivory Coast, where angry mobs recently burned down UN aid offices. The dollar

amounts of the grants were not given.

The fund opened for business with pledges totalling just 256 million US dollars from 36 donor governments. Canada, Australia, Spain and the United States were among governments announcing pledges at the launch.

The goal had been to raise 500 million US dollars, but UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland said the response nonetheless amounted to "a big step" forward as the sole source of emergency funds had previously been a UN standby loan facility of just 50 million US dollars.

But international relief group Oxfam has argued the fund would need one billion US dollars to ensure an adequate UN response.

"The fund will make us quicker, more flexible and predictable" in dealing

with both man-made humanitarian disasters like the crisis in Sudan's western Darfur region and with natural disasters like the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Egeland said.

He had asked for the fund after the tsunami, and the 191-nation UN General Assembly approved it last December.

The idea is to give the world body the ability to quickly send emergency supplies to an affected area without having to wait for international donors to send checks or make good on pledges.

The money in the fund would be continually replenished as contributions later poured in for each individual disaster. Some 11 million people face famine in the Horn of Africa due to a long drought in the region, with Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia the hardest-hit countries.—MNA/Reuters



A US Navy submarine, is seen docked at Pearl Harbour, on 10 March, 2006 in Honolulu. By 2010, Pacific ports will be home to 60 percent of the nation's attack submarines. — INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်သစ်ပညာရေးတိုးတက်ရေး နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Calcium deficit common during pregnancy, lactation

NEW YORK, 11 March — Women who have habitually low levels of calcium in their diet undergo significant changes in bone calcium turnover during pregnancy and lactation, according to the results of a new study.

Dr Janet C King of Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute, California, and colleagues examined calcium levels during pregnancy and early lactation in 10 Brazilian women. The average level of dietary calcium was 463 milligrams per day, the researchers report in the American Journal of

Clinical Nutrition.

The women were given a form of calcium that could be easily detected as it moved through the body, so bone calcium turnover could be monitored in different compartments.

Evaluations were performed during early pregnancy (10 to 12 weeks), late pregnancy (34

to 36 weeks), and early lactation (7 to 8 weeks after birth). A significant increase in the rate of bone calcium deposition was observed from early to late pregnancy, the researchers found.

Compared with early pregnancy, the rates of bone calcium resorption were higher during late pregnancy and early lactation.

They also observed a

positive relationship between bone calcium turnover and dietary calcium from early pregnancy to early lactation. Dietary levels of calcium and levels of insulin-like growth factor 1 explained 68 to 94 per cent of the variability in bone calcium balance.

MNA/Reuters



Zhou Chun-xiu from China raises her arms as she crosses the finish line in the women's race of the Seoul International Marathon at Olympic Stadium in Seoul, on 12 March, 2006. Zhou won the race in time of 2 hours, 19 minutes, 51 seconds.—INTERNET

Switch to diet soda may help teens shed pounds

NEW YORK, 11 March — A new study shows that adolescents who regularly consume sugar-sweetened soda have no trouble switching to sugar-free soda if provided the

opportunity—and making the switch may lead to weight loss, especially among heavier teens. The role of sugar-sweetened beverages in promoting obesity is hotly debated. With this study, "we think there now is a very strong case that sugar-sweetened beverages are playing a

strong role in weight gain among adolescents", Dr David S Ludwig from Children's Hospital Boston noted in an interview with Reuters Health. The findings also provide additional support for the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations to limit intake

of sugar-sweetened beverages, Ludwig and colleagues note in the journal Pediatrics.

The study involved 103 high school students who regularly drink sugar-sweetened beverages. For 25 weeks, 53 of the teens in the intervention group were provided with a variety of alternative beverages that did not contain sugar such as bottled water and diet beverages including soft drinks, iced teas, lemonades and punches.

The beverages were delivered right to the teen's homes. The other 50 control teens received no intervention.

All of the teenagers completed the study. Consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages fell by 82 per cent in the intervention group but did not change in the control group.—MNA/Reuters

France assists Laos in rehabilitating world heritage site

HANOI, 11 March — France has pledged to offer Laos one million euro (nearly 1.2 million US dollars) to improve the world heritage site of Vat Phou in the next three years.

The fund will be used to conduct a field study into how best to improve the site for tourism, upgrade infrastructure, and train people in charge of conserving and managing the Vat Phou Temple, a world heritage recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Lao newspaper Vientiane Times reported Friday.

Earlier, France

helped Laos rehabilitate the ancient capital of Luang Prabang, a world cultural heritage also recognized by the UNESCO. The Vat Phou Temple in northern Champassak Province is of great spiritual significance, since its structures and items displayed there express intense religious conviction and commitment, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Macao to have 3G cellphone services in 2007

MACAO, 11 March — Macao is likely to have the third-generation (3G) mobile-phone services in 2006, local media reported Thursday.

Macao Post Daily quoted sources from the government as saying that the bidding process is to start later in March and the granting of the licenses is to be completed by the end of 2006. Two or more 3G licences will possibly be granted, the sources told the newspaper.

MNA/Xinhua



Lazaro's 2006 spring collection of bridesmaid dress (2).—INTERNET



Japanese monkeys bathe in a hot spring in a snow-covered valley in Yamanouchi town, central Japan, on 12 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Belgian Cabinet approves proposal to ban forced marriages

BRUSSELS, 11 March — Belgium is to become the world's second country after Norway to ban forced marriages after the Cabinet approved a legislative proposal from Justice Minister Laurette Onkelinx on Friday.

Currently, forced marriages are combated in the country by laws against physical and mental abuse, rape and threats. However, the government said these laws are insufficient to fully combat forced marriages.

According to the proposal, forced marriages will be punishable with a jail term of one month to two years or maximum fines of 500 to 2,500 euros (one euro equals about 1.2 US dollars). An attempted forced marriage is prosecutable with a jail term of 15 days to a year or a fine of 250 to 1,250 euros. The legislative proposal outlines the right to enter a marriage willingly and gives public prosecution authorities the ability to annul a forced marriage. Currently, only the married partners can apply for an annulment.

Forced marriages are not uncommon in Belgium. A survey conducted between December 2003 and June 2004 found that 73.4 per cent of respondents said forced marriages still occur and 23 per cent said they had personally come into contact with the practice.—MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Celta lose 2-0 at Espanyol

MADRID, 12 March—Celta Vigo missed their chance to move up into the Champions League places on Saturday when they lost 2-0 away to 10-man Espanyol in the Primera Liga.

The defeat meant the Galicians, who had won four of their five previous games, remain in fifth place in the table, a point behind Osasuna who host leaders Barcelona on Sunday.

Espanyol took the lead early in the first half when Raul Tamudo steered into the open net after fellow striker Luis Garcia controlled a long pass with his toe and cut the ball back from the byline.

The Catalans, who are coached by former Celta boss Miguel Angel Lotina, looked to have landed themselves in trouble when defender Armando Sa was controversially sent off as he tangled with Daniel de Ridder on the edge of the area midway through the half.

MNA/Reuters



German boxer Felix Sturm shows the champion's belt after beating Maselino Masoe from New Zealand during their WBA Middleweight Champion fight on Saturday, 11 March, 2006 in Hamburg, northern Germany. Sturm won by decision of the scoring judges.—INTERNET

Bayern, Werder in Champions League hangovers

BERLIN, 12 March—Bayern Munich and Werder Bremen suffered hangovers in the Bundesliga on Saturday after their painful Champions League exits.

Leaders Bayern were held to a 0-0 draw at VfL Wolfsburg while second-placed Werder were thrashed 3-0 at home by Hertha Berlin. Bayern, dispatched from European club soccer's premier event by a 4-1 defeat by AC Milan on Wednesday, at least avoided their second successive league setback after losing 2-1 at home to Hamburg SV last weekend.

"It was very difficult for the team after Wednesday's defeat and all the criticism that followed," said Bayern coach Felix Magath. "We played pretty well but lacked confidence and were not dangerous enough in front of goal." The champions extended their lead on Werder to nine points courtesy of a spectacular burst from Hertha.

The capital club, who badly needed a win after 13 competitive matches without victory, scored

second-half goals by Kevin-Prince Boateng, Marcelinho and Yildiray Basturk.

Werder were beaten by Juventus on the away goals rule on Tuesday after a dreadful late blunder from goalkeeper Tim Wiese, who experienced another nightmare on Saturday and was to blame for Hertha's first goal.

"We never found our way into the game," said Werder coach Thomas Schaaf. "We were far too passive and never showed the aggression we would have needed."

Bremen stay level on points with third-placed Hamburg SV, who could

move into second with just a draw at home against Kaiserslautern on Sunday. Bayern started in promising fashion against

Wolfsburg, Peru striker Paolo Guerrero hitting the back of the net after 57 seconds, only to be ruled offside.—MNA/Reuters



Germany's World Cup leader Tobias Angerer on his way during the 50 km Cross Country skiing event in Holmenkollen, Oslo, on Saturday 11 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Gallas strike wins London derby for Chelsea

LONDON, 12 March—William Gallas, who struck a long-range shot in stoppage time to earn Chelsea a 2-1 win over Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, said the victory helped to make amends for the team's midweek Champions League exit.



Chelsea's Didier Drogba, left, of Ivory Coast goes for a header with Tottenham Hotspur's Michael Dawson during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge, London, on Saturday, 11 March, 2006. Chelsea won 2-1.—INTERNET

The France defender, mobbed by teammates and manager Jose Mourinho in an exultant celebration two minutes into injury time, said it was the best goal he had scored.

The late winner also strengthened Gallas' case for a new contract after persistent rumours in the British and French media that he might move at the end of the season because he felt undervalued by the Premier League champions.

"Everybody said something about Chelsea after the (midweek) game in Barcelona and today we showed everyone we have a great team," Gallas told reporters.

The win sent Chelsea 18 points clear of second-placed Manchester United and extended their unbeaten league run against London rivals Spurs to 32 games over 16 years.

Mourinho, slammed by the Spanish and British media as a bad loser after the 3-2 aggregate defeat by Barcelona in the first knockout round of the Champions League, did not appear for the regular post-match news conference.

MNA/Reuters

Adriano ends goal drought as Inter beat Sampdoria

ROME, 12 March—Inter Milan striker Adriano ended a 10-match goal drought when he snatched the winner in a 1-0 victory over Sampdoria on Saturday.

Adriano's goal, his first since scoring twice in a 3-2 triumph over Cagliari on January 15, left Inter third in Serie A with 62 points from 29 matches, 11 behind leaders Juventus who meet second-placed AC Milan on Sunday. It will also lift Inter's spirits ahead of the second leg of their Champions League last-16 tie

with Ajax Amsterdam on Tuesday.

Brazil striker Adriano looked lively from the start at the San Siro Stadium, heading against the post from a corner midway through the first half.

Sampdoria also created chances, midfielder Sergio Volpi unleashing a fierce 30-metre drive that Francesco Toldo tipped

wide at full stretch.

Adriano scored five minutes before the interval when he nodded in the rebound after keeper Francesco Antonioli had tipped his header from Luis Figo's cross on to the bar.—MNA/Reuters

Ronaldo misses penalty as Real, Valencia draw

MADRID, 12 March—Real Madrid had to settle for a 0-0 draw at Valencia in the Primera Liga on Saturday after substitute Ronaldo spurned a golden opportunity to give his side victory when he missed a last-minute penalty.

The Brazilian, who was dropped to the bench by Real coach Juan Ramon Lopez Caro, earned the spot-kick after he was fouled by Santiago Canizares but the Valencia goalkeeper atoned for his error when he saved Ronaldo's low shot.

"Things aren't going well at the moment but I can only get out of this situation with enthusiasm and hard work," the striker told reporters after the game.

The draw played into the hands of leaders Barcelona, who have an opportunity to extend their nine-point lead at the top when they travel to fourth-placed Osasuna on Sunday.

Barca top the table on 61 points, Valencia and Real have 52 and Osasuna are six further back with 46.

Earlier, Celta Vigo missed their chance to move into the Champions League places when they lost 2-0 at 10-man Espanyol.

The defeat meant the Galicians, who had won four of their last five games, remain fifth a point behind Osasuna.

Real Sociedad eased their relegation worries by taking their first points in five games with a 1-0 win at Deportivo Coruna, whose last victory at the Riazor was three months ago.—MNA/Reuters



Valencia's Miguel Angel Angulo duels for the ball with Real Madrid's Raul Bravo Sanfeliu, from Spain, during their Spanish league soccer match in Valencia, Spain, on Saturday, 11 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

	H	A	L	L	E		F	A	C	T	S		
7	G	R	A		A		P	R		D			
10	R	E	S	O	U	N	D		R	H	I	N	E
	A	O	N		D		I	P		F			
14	T	U	N	E	D		E	C	L	I	P	S	E
	E			E	A	R	L			E		R	
17	C	H	U	R	L		A	L	E	R	T		
21	S	O					I	D	E			S	
25	C	H	E	R	O	O	T		A	O	R	T	A
	O	D	R	O	C		F	I	T				
29	F	I	O	R	D		H	O	L	I	D	A	Y
	F	W	E	Y			E	E		R			
	I	N	E	R	T		S	T	E	R	N		

S Africa wins 2006 Miss Tourism Model of World

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 12 March — Henri van Schalkwck from South Africa stole the limelight on Saturday by winning the 2006 pageant of the Miss Tourism Model of the World in Dar-es-Salaam.

Miss South Africa was rated better than 76 of her peers from 55 countries who displayed their national costumes, swim wears and evening gowns. Oceania did not participate in Saturday's page-

ant. Tanzanian First Lady Mama Kikwete conferred the crown from reigning Miss Tourism Model of the World Alina Ciorogariu of Romania to Henri van Schalkwck.

The four runner-up positions went to Miss Angola Karina Silva (first), Miss Mongolia Gantogoo Bayarkhuu (second), Miss Poland Renata Nowak (third), and Miss Croatia Paula Tomic (fourth) respectively.

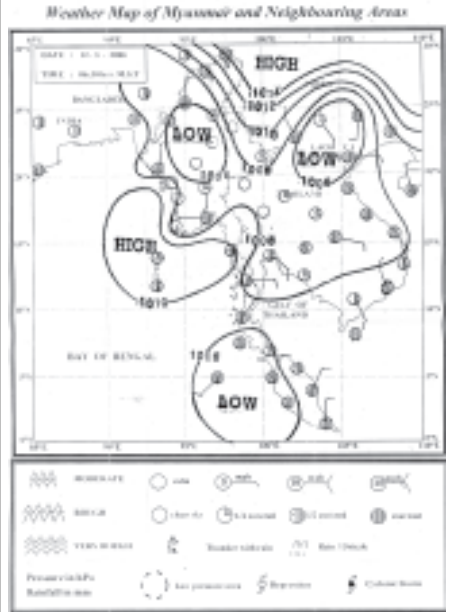
The Mongolian model got two titles of a runner-up placing and a best national costume award.

Martha Kamalata from Zambia was crowned Miss Tourism Model of Africa; Linda Hudson of Jamaica was crowned Miss Tourism Model of Americas; China's Mao Yuanyuan was crowned Miss Tourism Model of Asia; and the title of Miss Tourism Model of Europe went to Miss Spain Carla Puente.

The pageant also offered such titles as Best Evening Gown, Best Hair, Best National Costume, Face of Net, Personality, Platinum Model, Photographer, Press and Team Model. — MNA/Xinhua



Silvia Cavalleri, of Italy, tees off on the fourth hole during the second round of golf's LPGA MasterCard Classic, on Saturday, 11 March, 2006, in Huixquilucan, Mexico. — INTERNET



WEATHER

Sunday, 12 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been widespread in Kachin State, isolated in upper Sagaing Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Minbu, (42°C), Monywa, Myingyan, NyaungU, Magway, Pakokku and Pyay (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao and Machanbaw (0.20) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 11-3-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 12-3-2006 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 12-3-2006 was (77%). Total sunshine hours on 11-3-2006 was (8.7) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 12-3-2006 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 West at (15:00) hours MST on 11-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 13-3-2006: Likelihood isolated light rain in Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan, northern Rakhine States and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight rain in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Pyinmana and neighbouring area for 13-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-3-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

More than 50% of New York teens smoke

NEW YORK, 12 March — Smoking among teenagers in New York City public schools has plummeted by more than 50 per cent during the past decade.

Today, one in 10 city high school teens smoke, according to a

survey by the city's Department of Health. The figures also showed that more girls than boys light up, and that the highest concentration of teen smokers is on Staten Island, where 23 per cent of them smoke.

The healthiest young lungs are to be found in Brooklyn, where just 9 per cent of teens light up.

MNA/Xinhua



Monday, 13 March
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am
- 2. တိပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိဏ၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တ သိရိန္ဒာဝိသ(ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
- 5. ထေးသရုပ်ဖော်အစီအစဉ်
- 8:05 am
- 6. Song of national races
- 8:15 am
- 7. Cute little dancers
- 8:25 am
- 8. အချိန်ပြင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am
- 9. International news
- 8:45 am
- 10. Grammar Made Easy

- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. Practice in Reading
- 4:40 pm
- 4. တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေး သီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်)
- 4:50 pm
- 5. အထေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနံပါတ် (သရုပ်ဖော်)
- 5:05 pm
- 6. Dance variety
- 5:15 pm
- 7. ဓမ္မပူဇော်တော်အစီအစဉ်
- 5:25 pm
- 8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာတေး
- 5:35 pm
- 9. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ တေးမလေ့ တေးလက် တေးသံများ
- 5:45 pm
- 10. "အားဆေး" (မိုးဒီ၊ အော်တက်အောင်၊ ဆောင်အိမ်ဖြူကုန်း) (ခါရိုက်တာ စောစန္ဒာထွိုင်)
- 5:50 pm
- 11. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 6:00 pm
- 12. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 13. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 14. နိုင်ငံခြား ဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရယ်ရယ်ဆွယ်ဆွယ် ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်မိတ်လေး" (အပိုင်း ၇၁)
- 6:55 pm
- 15. Industrial achievement
- 7:05 pm
- 16. (ဝေ)နှစ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 7:20 pm
- 17. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:35 pm
- 18. Musical programme
- 7:45 pm
- 19. ကြည်ညိုဦးနီကံ ဖူးလိုက်နီ တူဇော် မနဲရွှေစက်တော်
- 8:00 pm
- 20. News
- 21. International news
- 22. Weather report
- 23. နိုင်ငံခြား ဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ပျော်ရွှင်ပွယ် နေ့ကလေးများ" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)
- 24. သီတဂူဆရာတော် အရှင် ဉာဏိသာရ ၏ နေ့ဦးဆောင်း နှောင်းလတပေါင်း (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 25. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်း ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီးဦးစိန်စွာသာရာ ဘိဝံသ ၏ အရပ်ရပ်မျက်နှာ ဓမ္မဏ္ဍာ ဘာဝနာပွားမြင်းတေးတော်
- 26. The next day's programme



- Monday, 13 March
- Tune in today
- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Eye of tiger
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Come and see about me
- 8:50 am National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Into my dreams
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:20 am Music: -Crystal Gayle
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40pm Lunch time music -Wonderful life -Yes you do -Cassablanca
- 9:00 pm Spotlight on the star -Crystal Gayle
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Radio Magazine/ Drugs Elimination -Women Affairs
- 9:35 pm Vocal Gems/ Golden Land melody -Blessed Myanmar
- 9:45 pm News & Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, and religious title recipient Sayadaws—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer 'soon' to religious title recipient Sayadaws

(from page 1)

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing donated eight requisites to the Chairman Sayadaw.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offered eight requisites to Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa of Nyaungdon.

Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, presented eight requisites to State Ovadaçariya Shwekyin Sasanabaing Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Agghiya; General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, eight requisites to Agga Maha Pandita title recipient Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gannissara of Sri Lanka; Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, eight requisites to Agga Maha Pandita title recipient Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Mahavichit of Laos; and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, eight requisites to Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika title recipient Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sirindhara of Kaba-Aye Monastery of Pathein.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence,

the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, the commander, ministers, and senior mili-

tary officers donated provisions to members of the Sangha.

(See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer 'soon' to the Sayadaws.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer alms to a Sayadaw. MNA

INSIDE

Preventive measures are to be taken against the use of hazardous chemicals. But, it will be found it difficult to expose unscrupulous persons who use toxic chemicals. Sellers respond to the demand of customers. So, all the customers are to be aware of the dangers of the vegetables and fruits carrying pesticides and fertilizers and to avoid buying them. If so, sellers will not sell such vegetables and fruits. Thus, the entire people are to be aware of such harmful vegetables and fruits.