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Wednesday, 15 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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Myogyi Dam project in Ywangan Township

YANGON, 13 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Com-

ment compound. They planted physic nut grafts and also observed physic nut oil-used millers, reapers, power tiller and tractors.

On arrival at Myogyi multi-purpose dam project near Myogyi village in Ywangan

Township, Director U Myo Tun of Irrigation Department reported on completion of foundation of the dam and measures to be taken to build diversion tunnel and outlet channel. Director U Aye Thein of Mandalay Division Irrigation Department

and the commander gave supplementary reports.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party oversaw building of seepage wall and diversion tunnel at the foot of Kyeekan Mountain.

They proceeded to Thanywa hospital in

Kyaukse Township and inspected wards, operation theater, delivery room, drug store and outpatient centre. Lt-Gen Ye Myint comforted the patients and provided cash.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into an axis between Thanywa and Naung Kham bridge, No-2 district-to-district

axis at Thindee Myaung junction and road sections at Sa Myaung and Ywakhinegyi villages.

They also inspected road section and axis at Myittha and district-to-district road junction. At Mongmao short cut road, they oversaw road section at Thayetpin (See page 10)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Myogyi Dam project in Ywangan Township.
MNA

INSIDE

Today, newspapers, newsletters and news magazines in Western countries no longer carry the dateline. They state the time such as Monday, Tuesday. So, if one wants to know the date, one will have to have a glance at the date on the front page and then at the calendar. When a news magazine is printed as Asia issue and Europe issue, its date and the dates printed in other regions are different. If newspaper cuttings are kept without front pages, they cannot be used as records. If news stories are kept as records, they should be with respective dates.

PAGE 7

TEKKATHO MYAT THU

mand Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and departmental personnel and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office arrived at Kyaukse District Forest Department on 8 March morning. They were welcomed by Chairman of Kyaukse District PDC Lt-Col Tin Ohn and officials.

Lt-Col Tin Ohn reported on measures being taken to grow physic nut in the district and the commander gave a supplementary report.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected sowing of physic nut seeds and planting of grafts at Forest Depart-



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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 15 March, 2006

For uplift of morale and morality of entire nation

Myanmar is a nation that has been civilized for thousands of years and it preserves and safeguards its traditional cultures.

Now, science and technology has made dramatic progress and the world has been like a global village. In such a situation, some big nations are resorting to various means to achieve political domination over developing nations.

Certain developed countries with superiority in wealth and technology are culturally penetrating the mass of youths in the developing countries. Such big nations are also attempting to get their music, songs, dances, ways of life, customs, ideas and concepts over other nations.

So, the youths are to be aware of Western culture that is against Myanmar's culture, way of life and customs. The people are to remain vigilant at all times so that the youths should not take alien culture and decadent costumes for modernization and to ensure that alien culture and decadent costumes are not popular among the youths.

The government has been raising the standard of national culture so as to uplift the prestige of the nation and the people. At the same time, it has been taking steps to safeguard national character.

The State is implementing the 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; and uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation.

The government is striving for moral development of new generation youths in accordance with the correct national trend. The annual holding of Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions plays an important role in the drive.

Social organizations conduct social and cultural courses yearly. Traditional costumes contest, exhibitions and educative talks are held for the women chapter. Moreover, cultural and arts activities are prescribed under the all-round development programme in basic education schools.

The entire national people including new generation youths are therefore urged to constantly preserve and safeguard national culture and to uplift the morale and morality of the entire nation as national duty to enhance the prestige of the State and the people.



Mr Gunter Volkmann of Denmark donates a digital machine for hearing test worth \$ 4,000 to Jivita Dana Sangha Hospital through U Ko Ko Gyi recently.—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

Commander makes supplications on offering provisions to members of Sangha



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win supplicates on offering provisions. — MNA

YANGON, 13 March — A ceremony to present religious titles to Sayadaws and to offer provisions to members of the Sangha was held at Maha Nayaka Kyaungdawgyi on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

It was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko 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.

The commander supplicated on offering provisions. He said Yangon Division Peace and Development

Council made arrangements for offering provisions to 319 religious title recipient Sayadaws at home and abroad, 392 members of the Sangha and religious title recipient Nuns who would attend the ceremony.

The amount of donations of various kinds are K 130,559,727.

The commander, the deputy minister and officials presented offertories to the members of the Sangha.

Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw of Ponnayayama Monastery in Nyaungdon Township Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhavivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

The commander, the deputy minister and officials offered alms to members of the Sangha.

MNA

Wood-based factory opened in Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township

YANGON, 13 March — A wood-based factory of Myanmar Teak Industries Co Ltd was opened in Industrial Zone-2 in Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township this morning.

Director-General of Planning and Statistics Department U Than Swe, Managing Director of Myanmar Timber Enterprise U Win Tun and Managing Director U Kyi Sein formally opened the factory. Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally unveiled the signboard of the factory. The minister and party inspected sawn timber, and operational work. Managing Director U Kyi Sein reported on establishment of the factory.

The factory saws wood including teak and other hardwood and exports sawn timber, furniture, parquets and lumber.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects the wood-based factory. FORESTRY

Myanmar families of China (Taipei) donate K 300,000 to the funds towards the Hninzigon Home for the Aged through the treasurer, U Aung Than.—H



ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ

Mission finds Saturn's moon spewing water vapour

WASHINGTON, 13 March—One of Saturn's moons, Enceladus, is spewing out a giant plume of water vapour that is probably feeding one of the planet's rings, scientists said.

The findings, published in the journal *Science*, suggest that tiny Enceladus could have a liquid ocean under its icy surface which in theory could sustain primitive life, similar to Jupiter's moon Europa. The plume

was spotted by *Cassini*, a joint US-European spacecraft that is visiting Saturn.

"We realize that this is a radical conclusion—that we may have evidence for liquid water within a body so small and so cold," said Carolyn Porco, *Cassini* imaging team leader at Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colorado. "However, if we are right, we have significantly broadened the diversity of solar system environments where we might possibly have conditions suitable for living organisms."

Scientists have long known that many of

Saturn's moons have water. They took an especially close look at Enceladus because it seemed to have a smooth surface — suggesting recent geological activity that, in turn, could mean liquid water.

Liquid water is a key requirement for life. Several moons have been found to have evidence of liquid water and the chemical elements needed to make life, including Europa. But scientists are far more intrigued by the plume itself, a gigantic geyser of water vapour and tiny ice particles.

MNA/Reuters



A Chinese boy pulls a tricycle loaded with plants in a rural part of Xiangfan, China's central Hubei Province on 12 March, 2006.—INTERNET

China's "Dam Street" wins top prize in France's Asian Film Festival

PARIS, 13 March—China's "Dam Street" won the best movie award in this year's Asian Film Festival at the French seaside resort of Deauville on Sunday.

The movie, which won the Lotus D'Or (Golden Lotus) prize, was directed by 33-year-old Li Yu, the only woman director taking part in the event.

The film focus on the life of a young Chinese woman who fell pregnant

as a high school student in a small, conservative Chinese town in the early 1980s.

After giving birth, the heroine in the film was told that her baby did not survive. She met her son ten years later, but neither were aware of their special relationship till they finally found the truth at the end of the film.

"Dam Street" is Li's second feature film and has already been shown at a number of other major

cinema events including Austria's Biennale and the Toronto and Rotterdam film festivals. Earlier, it also won the award for best original screenplay in a film festival in Busan, South Korea.

Li, a well-known television presenter in China before becoming a director, was not present in Deauville to receive her award, but French actor and director Jacques Weber, who headed the

festival jury, accepted it on her behalf. Another contender for the Lotus d'Or was "The Peter Pan Formula", a directorial debut by 33-year-old South Korean director Cho Chang ho, which was finally awarded this year's Jury Prize. The "Action Asia" prize for the best action film shown at this year's festival went to "Bittersweet Life" by another South Korean director, 42-year-old Kim Jee-woon.—MNA/Xinhua

US spending billions to stop Iraq IEDs

BAGHDAD, 14 March— The United States is pouring billions more dollars and fresh platoons of experts into its campaign to "defeat IEDs," the roadside bombs President Bush describes as threat No 1 to Iraq's future.

The American military even plans to build special, more defensible highways here, in its frustrating standoff with the makeshift munitions — "improvised explosive devices" — that Iraqi guerillas field by the hundreds to hobble US road movements in the 3-year-old conflict.

Out on those risky roads, and back at the Pentagon, few believe that

even the most advanced technology will eliminate the threat. "As we've improved our armour, the enemy's improved his IEDs. They're bigger, and with better detonating mechanisms," said Maj.

Randall Simmons, whose Georgia National Guard unit escorts convoys in western Iraq that are regularly rocked, damaged and delayed by roadside blasts. Lt Col Bill Adamson, operations chief for the anti-IED campaign, was realistic about the challenge in a Pentagon interview. "They adapt more quickly than we procure technology," he said of the guerillas.

Internet



US Marines inspect the remains of a vehicle destroyed by a roadside bomb which killed 14 Marines and a civilian interpreter in Barwana, near Hadiiha, Iraq, on 4 Aug, 2005.—INTERNET

Colombian Army seizes 6.5 tons of cocaine

BOGOTA, 13 March— The Colombian Army told reporters on Sunday that it had seized 6.5 tons of cocaine in Baranquilla, a city on the Andean country's Caribbean coast. The haul was made at a building materials warehouse in the industrial city in northern Colombia, said General Luis Enrique Paredes, head of the Army's Second Brigade.

The seized cocaine belonged to two drug cartels—the southeastern Valle and the eastern Meta, said the general.

The cocaine, bound for the United States, had an estimated value of around 20 million US dollars on the black market, he said. Two men were arrested during the operation, he added.

Colombia is the world's largest drug producer, exporting an average of 550 tons of cocaine each year, mainly to the US and Europe.—MNA/Xinhua



A woman and child walk through the drifting snow near Gorebridge, southern Scotland, on 12 March, 2006. Drifting snow and freezing temperatures brought chaos to roads in Scotland on Sunday.

INTERNET

ADB says India can grow by 10% with reforms, better infrastructure

NEW DELHI, 13 March —Asian Development Bank said India can sustain 8-per-cent economic growth but asked government to improve infrastructure and carry forward reforms to attain a higher growth of 9-10 per cent.

"Eight per cent growth is sustainable in the coming five years or more. If infrastructure is improved and economic reforms are continued, the rate of growth can be accelerated to 9-10 per cent," ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda told reporters here at a Press conference.

Considering India's high growth prospects and greater funding requirement, ADB is planning to raise 300-400 million dollars from the domestic bond market and step up lending to the country.

Kuroda said ADB's assistance to India will be about 2.25 billion dollars in 2005-06, which will go up to 2.45 billion dollars next fiscal and further to 2.65 billion dollars in 2007-08.

Internet

US Senator introduces resolution to censure Bush

WASHINGTON, 14 March — A Democratic member of the US Senate introduced a resolution on Monday to censure President George W. Bush over the President's authorization of a domestic eavesdropping programme.

Senator Russell Feingold, a Wisconsin Democrat, said at a Senate session that Bush authorized an illegal programme to spy on American citizens on American soil, and then misled the Congress and the public about the programme's existence and the legality.

"The President violated the law, ignored the Constitution and the other two branches

of government and disregarded the rights and freedoms upon which our country was founded," he said.

A formal censure by the Congress, he said, was "an appropriate and responsible first step to assure the public that when the President thinks he can violate the law without consequences, Congress has the will to hold him accountable".

With no date set for a

vote and Democratic senators holding back overt support for the resolution, there was little chance that the resolution would be passed by the Senate, where Republicans had 55 of the 100 seats.

At the White House, spokesman Scott McClellan said the senator's proposal "has more to do with 2008 politics than anything else." —MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်မပွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျပ်သွား



A security member stands behind a Pablo Ruiz Picasso sculpture at 'The Picassos of Antibes' exhibition during its inauguration at the Museum of Picasso in Malaga, southern Spain on 13 March, 2006.—INTERNET



Chinese soldiers take part in a training exercise at a military base in Hefei, eastern China's Anhui Province on 13 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Iran softens stance on enrichment moratorium

TEHRAN, 13 March — Iran on Sunday afternoon softened its stances on a uranium enrichment moratorium and a Russian nuclear compromise proposal, hours after an earlier rejection of them, the official IRNA news agency reported. "Iran is well-prepared to extend moratorium on uranium enrichment if an agreement was reached with respective states to that effect through negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)", Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi was quoted by IRNA as saying.

Meanwhile, the spokesman told state television that a Russian proposal aimed to defuse the current nuclear crisis is still negotiable if it takes Iran's right to enrich uranium on a research scale at home. Asefi's comments showed a retraction from an statement he made several hours earlier that the Russian proposal would no longer be on the agenda of Teheran due to "change of the

situation" and Teheran would also reject the requirement of resuspending the enrichment-related activities, even made by the UN Security Council.

The hardline statement was soon criticized by Moscow as a move to "radicalize" a planned discussion of the Iranian nuclear issue at the UN Security Council.

MNA/Xinhua

Two killed in Manchester pub shooting

LONDON, 13 March — Two people were killed and two injured in a shooting in a pub in Manchester, north-west England, on Sunday, police said.

A spokesman for Greater Manchester police said they were called to the Brass Handles Pub at around 2.30 pm after reports of gun shots. The spokesman said two people were found dead and two were taken to hospital but he could not give any further details.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese lawmaker urges intentional spread of "AIDS" a crime

BEIJING, 13 March — A Chinese lawmaker has urged the inclusion of a new crime, "the intentional spread of HIV/AIDS", into the country's Criminal Law, to better protect the general public from the deadly epidemic.

"The new crime will be applicable to those HIV carriers or AIDS patients who deliberately spread the virus and disease by means of biting, scratching and injecting others or through the channels like sexual intercourse, syringe sharing, blood transfusion and organ transplant," said Li Yaping, a deputy to the Tenth National People's Congress (NPC), the Chinese legislature in its annual full session here.

MNA/Xinhua

Connery not stirred by tumour

LONDON, 13 March — It's going to take more than a cyst to take down Sean Connery.

Facing off against a dastardly foe of a different kind, the original 007 has undergone successful surgery to remove a kidney cyst.

The operation took place several weeks ago in New York, and Connery has since recovered, the actor's rep confirmed.

"He had orthoscopic surgery to remove a cyst on his kidney," spokeswoman Nancy Seltzer told Reuters. She said Connery had spent a short time in hospital in New York a few weeks ago and was now back at his home in the Bahamas.

"He's perfectly fine and healthy," she said. "He's had a completely clean bill of health and he's in great form."

News of the operation first surfaced over the weekend in Britain's *Sunday Times* newspaper, when Connery, 75, revealed in an interview that he had been "opened in five places,"

including—a torture even Bond never endured—"a tube up my d—k." From doctors, uh, with love?

His brother, Neil, offered some happier news, telling the paper "as far as I'm led to believe, the tumour was benign. He seems to be quite upbeat about it."

Internet



It's going to take more than a cyst to take down Sean Connery.

INTERNET



Tourists look at the long-awaited rupture of the leading edge of the Perito Moreno glacier as the waters of Lake Argentino open a tunnel in the glacier, widening it until it collapsed in a massive explosion of ice fragments and water, near the city of El Calafate in the Patagonian province of Santa Cruz, southern Argentina, on 13 March, 2006.—INTERNET



A woman waits by a bus stop while a man clears a sidewalk as snow continued from a winter storm on 13 March, 2006 in Minneapolis. Up to a foot of snow was expected in parts of south central Minnesota.—INTERNET

China sees fast growth of NETDZ

XINING, 13 March — National economic and technological development zones (NETDZ), which have embodied China's rapid economic development over the past two decades, grew at 20 per cent year-on-year in industrial added value in 2005.

Sources attending a national meeting on NETDZ held in Xining, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region said that China's 49 NETDZ realized 428.9 billion yuan (53.6 billion US dollars) in industrial added value in 2005.

Statistics from the meeting suggested that NETDZ, which are small districts often located

within cities, employ more than 3.4 million people nationwide. Exports from the zones were worth 78.4 billion US dollars in 2005, up 41.6 per cent over the previous year and account for 14.35 per cent of the national total. They used 9.1 billion US dollars, or 21 per cent of foreign investment that flowed into China last year.

NETDZ have become magnets for assimilating highly-educated professionals and skilled workers. So far, NETDZ have accommodated 3,200 high-tech companies, which are the backbone of NETDZ. The high-tech companies accounted for 48 per cent of NETDZ's total revenue last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Digital life close to reality for Chinese people

BEIJING, 13 March — Whenever and wherever you log onto the Internet, you can use a remote control for your electronic home appliances. This picture may come true with the construction of the next generation Internet (NGI).

At the on-going session of the National People's Congress (NPC), China released its 11th Five-Year Programme (2006-2010) and NGI is a major project that China is going to push

forward in the next five years.

"When the NGI is completed, every Internet user can have an independent IP address and all the home appliances can

have their own IP addresses", said Zhang Ju, an analyst with the China Centre for Information Industry Development.

"Then, people could easily monitor their home appliances through remote control and digital life would become reality", said Zhang.

Compared with the traditional Internet, a big advantage of the NGI is that it can provide rich resources of IP addresses to feed the six billion people around the world.

The present IPv4 technology used in Internet can merely offer around four

billion IP addresses and 70 per cent of them have been used up. China has only got 60 million of them, which is about the number in two American universities.

This could not match the 110 million netizens in China, said Zhang.

NGI, based on IPv6 technology, offers enough IP addresses to satisfy people's digital life. "NGI will bring people into the real digital age and improve our quality of life", said Wu Jianping, professor of Internet technology with prestigious Qinghua University.

MNA/Xinhua



Oscar-winning Spanish film director Pedro Almodóvar (C) poses with cast members Yohana Cobo, Blanca Portillo, Carmen Maura, Penelope Cruz and Lola Duenas (L-R) during a photocall in Madrid on 13 March, 2006. Almodóvar's latest film 'Volver' will open in Spain on 17 March. —INTERNET

Oscar winners get hero's welcome in S Africa slum

JOHANNESBURG, 13 March — Cheering fans thronged the streets of one of South Africa's toughest slums on Sunday to welcome home the makers of the country's Oscar-winning film "Tsotsi", which depicted the harsh realities of township life.

Gripping the golden Oscar statue, director Gavin Hood, star Presley Chweneyagae and other cast and crew members paraded through Alexandra township near Johannesburg in an open-top bus after a rapturous welcome at the airport on their arrival from Los Angeles. "Thank you so much for the massive support," Hood said at a news conference. "The world is very excited by South Africa, and by 'Tsotsi'."

"Tsotsi" ("Gangster") won this year's Academy Award for best foreign-language film, boosting hopes that Hollywood's stamp of approval will bolster South Africa's nascent film industry.

Filmed in township slang, a mixture of South Africa's 11 official languages, "Tsotsi" is the tale of a township gangster played by Chweneyagae who steals a car and shoots its owner, only to discover a baby is in the back seat. The film takes the protagonist, himself an AIDS orphan, on a journey of redemption as he discovers the value of human life. — MNA/Reuters

Official says Indonesia's forests to disappear in 15 years

JAKARTA, 13 March — Indonesia's forests were expected to disappear in 15 years to come if the government did not make serious efforts to preserve them, Ary Sudarsono, Chairman of the Committee of National Green Archipelago, said here on Sunday.

"With a destruction level of 2.8 million hectares annually, Indonesia's forests will become extinct in the next 15 years," Antara news agency quoted Sudarsono as saying in a Press statement.

He said that during the 2000-2005 period, of the 120.3 million hectares of forests in Indonesia, 59.2 million hectares were damaged.

"If the country's forests are all damaged, natural disasters such as floods,

landslides and drought will take place everywhere," he added.

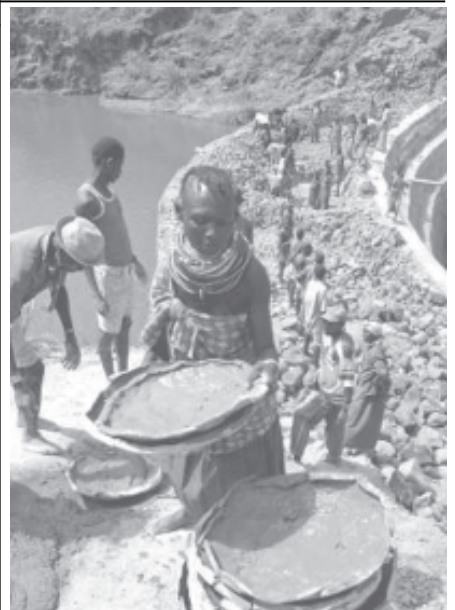
Sudarsono said that damages to forests could cause the extinction of 27,000 plant species in Indonesia, which account for 10 per cent of the

world's plant species, 1,539 bird species (17 per cent of the world's), 515 species of mammals (12 per cent of the world's) and 270 amphibious species (16 per cent of the world's).

Therefore, Sudarsono said, his committee would launch an environmental preservation campaign in any sports, arts and cultural events.

On Friday, Indonesian Environment Minister Rachmat Witoelar launched an environmental recovery programme for an area at Merapi Mountain which was severely damaged by volcanic material mining.

The Merapi Conservation Programme was held in mountainside Kemiren Village in Srumbung subdistrict in Magelang District. — MNA/Xinhua



A Turkana woman helps to build a dam at a water catchment project on the river Lokitaung in northern Kenya on 10 March, 2006. —INTERNET



A US soldier holds a weapon at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad on 13 March, 2006. Two civilians were killed and four wounded when a car bomb targeting a US military convoy exploded in southern Baghdad, police said.

INTERNET

FAO says bird flu jeopardizes global poultry trade

LUSAKA, 13 March — Recent bird flu outbreaks in Europe, Middle East and Africa have caused dramatic swings in poultry consumption, increased trade bans and sharp price declines, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has said.

The UN agency expects poultry consumption shocks this year in many countries in Europe, Middle East, and Africa that have been hit by avian influenza.

As unfounded fears of disease transmission reduce consumption and imports, lower domestic prices are forecast to limit production growth.

A steady erosion of previously expected gains in per capita poultry consumption will likely push down global poultry

consumption in 2006, currently estimated at 81.8 million tons, nearly 3 million tons lower than the previous 2006 estimate of 84.6 million tons, said FAO commodity specialist Nancy Morgan.

Up until recently, international poultry prices had been driven up by over 30 per cent because of declining exportable supplies. Developments in 2006 indicate a very different picture. Consumption

shocks are progressively lowering global import demand for broiler parts.

Poultry prices are expected to continue declining, threatening industry profitability around the world and household livelihood and rural employment opportunities in developing countries, said the FAO.

MNA/Xinhua



Twins Muriel Orbe-Brown and Gabriel Orbe-Brown of Los Angeles, California, dressed in traditional southern Philippine outfits, wait to perform during the Honolulu Festival's Grand Parade in Honolulu, Hawaii on 12 March, 2006. The annual Honolulu Festival features activities to promote understanding and cultural exchange between Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific region. —INTERNET

China Foundation raises \$321m to aid handicapped people

BEIJING, 12 March — The China Foundation for the Welfare of Handicapped People has raised 3.34 billion yuan (about 321 million US dollars) for assistance to people with physical disabilities since it was founded in 1984.

Over the past 22 years, the foundation has helped improve the situation of a large number of handicapped people.

Those who have received aid from the foundation include 4,652 poor and deaf children who have regained their hearing ability with an acousticon; 3,580 handicapped school dropouts; and a large number of others who are either blind or unable to walk.

Business people including those from Hong Kong and Taiwan have donated enormously to the foundation.

A foundation spokesman said 95 per cent of the donation that is received in a year are used for assistance to the handicapped. — MNA/Xinhua

Merkel meets Mubarak on Iran nuclear issue, Middle East peace

BERLIN, 13 March — German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday met with visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak discussing issues concerning Iran's nuclear crisis and the Middle East issue.

Mubarak, who was on a visit to Berlin, met on Friday his German counterpart Horst Koehler and former foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

He is planned to fly to Austria after meeting German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Sunday.

Mubarak's European trip came against the backdrop that the European Union trio of Germany, France and Britain had successfully had their proposal of

reporting Iran to the UN Security Council approved in the International Atomic Energy Agency.

MNA/Xinhua



A South Korean woman walks through one of Seoul's snow-covered parks in February 2006. South Koreans were advised to stay home or wear masks outside as yellow sand mixed in snow fell across the western part of the Korean peninsula. —INTERNET

German police find decomposed remains of three babies

BERLIN, 13 March — German police have found the badly decomposed remains of three babies and arrested a woman believed to be their mother, authorities in the eastern German state of Saxony Anhalt said on Sunday.

Examinations showed the bodies were apparently those of newborn children. State prosecutors will give further details on Monday, an official said.

Last year, police in the eastern state of Brandenburg found the remains of nine newborn babies buried in flower pots and buckets and arrested their mother.

MNA/Reuters



Diana, a 9-month-old dugong (Dugong dugon) who was found separated from her mother by fishermen in western Java three months ago, is fed with milk from a bottle at the Sea World in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 11 March, 2006. The dugong population in Indonesia is apparently decreasing and they are in serious danger of extinction due to habitat degradation and hunting. —INTERNET

Shanghai Electric Holding to supply world's largest CBM power plant

SHANGHAI, 13 March — The Shanghai Electric Holding Co has won the bid for supplying machineries for the world's largest coalbed methane-fuelled (CBM) power plant under construction in North China's Shanxi Province.

The Shanghai-based *Jiefang Daily* has reported that the plant will be installed with 60 units of internal-combustion CBM engines, each with a generating capacity of 1,800 kilowatts. Electricity generated by the CBM engines will account for 90 per cent of the plant's total generation.

The contract was taken by a manufacturer of environmental protection machinery under the Shanghai Electric, said *Jiefang Daily*, adding that the firm has teamed up with the US-based Caterpillar to manufacture the whole set of machineries for the project, which is worth 500 million yuan (62.5 million US dollars).

The project, to be fully completed in 2007, has been established as a demonstration project for the commercial use of CBM. — MNA/Xinhua

Peru police seizes 234 kilos of pure cocaine in Lima

LIMA, 13 March — The Peru National Police anti-narcotics squad have seized 234 kilos of very pure cocaine in Lima, Peru's National Police said on Sunday.

The haul was seized in a house in southern Lima, where two people were arrested.

Police also said they had recently seized cocaine hidden in a ship carrying sardines due to be exported to Panama from the port of Salaverry in La Libertad Department, some 550 kilometres north of Lima.

Police discovered more than 17,000 cans of cocaine in the ship. — MNA/Xinhua

Mexico arrests 97 undocumented migrants, four smugglers

MEXICO CITY, 13 March — Mexican police have arrested 97 undocumented migrants, mostly from Central America, and four suspected immigrant smugglers in a nationwide operation, Mexico's Public Security Ministry (SSP) said in a statement Sunday.

The SSP statement said that 81 of the undocumented migrants were arrested on the nation's highways in the states of Chiapas, Tabasco, Oaxaca and Veracruz, and 16 in Mexico City's international airport. Most of the detainees were from Central America.

The police also arrested four suspected immigrant smugglers in the nationwide operation.

MNA/Xinhua

From authentic news records to reliable historic pages

Tekkatho Myat Thu

I had a chat with U Tha Oo, a retired employee of the Myanmar Radio, at the ceremony to commemorate the 60th Founding Anniversary of the department, held on 22 February, 2006.

He said that he collected a lot of newspaper cuttings on important events such as internal peace talks, split of AFPFL government and political unrest, and that the cuttings would get damaged if they were in his hand. He asked me for my suggestions to which department or organization he donate them.

His collection of newspaper cuttings were important evidences historically and politically. So, I suggested he donate them to the Union Solidarity and Development Association whose membership stood at more than 23 million who are playing an active role in the discharge of national political duties. I told him that I had donated more than 10,000 copies of Botahtaung Daily, the Mirror Daily, Loktha Pyithu Daily, the Guardian and the Working People's Daily I had collected from 1987-88 to August 1999 to the USDA on 23-9-1999. Then, he accepted my suggestions.

Member of the committee for scrutinizing classical songs of the Myanmar Radio and Tele-vision U Mya Gyi (Oboe Mya Gyi-National Literary Award winner) has many diaries he has kept year-wise. He is a musician so his collection is like a knowledge bank about music. Lawyer U Maung Maung has collected gramophone records of successive eras from the first-ever one, put them on record and is doing research on gramophone records. Now, he is compiling a book on gramophone records.

The newspaper is a window on the world. So, the news items are to be factually accurate and to be

presented as soon as possible and to be the ones that should be known to the public. The code of press ethics is practised in the world as well as in Myanmar. The media are daily records (diary) of today's human beings and will be part of tomorrow's history.

News of politically, militarily, economically and socially greedy persons who conceal authentic news but invent news is called black journalism. Yellow journalism that makes people feel sexually excited to increase the circulation does not bring any benefits but are harmful to the readers. A true journalist considers presenting authentic news stories to the public to be a noble duty.

News items are daily records on the day they are

period to date are stored on CD-ROMs, it will contribute to the nation as well as to researchers. And they will be reliable historic evidences.

Today, newspapers, newsletters and news magazines in Western countries no longer carry the dateline. They state the time such as Monday, Tuesday. So, if one wants to know the date, one will have to have a glance at the date on the front page and then at the calendar. When a news magazine is printed as Asia issue and Europe issue, its date and the dates printed in other regions are different. If newspaper cuttings are kept without front pages, they cannot be used as records. If news stories are kept as records, they should be with respective dates.

Today, newspapers, newsletters and news magazines in Western countries no longer carry the dateline. They state the time such as Monday, Tuesday. So, if one wants to know the date, one will have to have a glance at the date on the front page and then at the calendar. When a news magazine is printed as Asia issue and Europe issue, its date and the dates printed in other regions are different. If newspaper cuttings are kept without front pages, they cannot be used as records. If news stories are kept as records, they should be with respective dates.

presented to the public. And later, they become historic records. So, the scope of collecting important news items should be expanded. Data and pictures in 15 Myanmar encyclopedias and 20 thick books of annual reports can be stored on a CD-ROM. If the newspapers published in Myanmar from Yadanabon

Myanmar history can be recorded in further detail if news records are stored in modern computers and technologies year-wise.

Translation: MS

Kyemon: 14-3-2006

Ancient gold coins, rings presented to Culture Ministry

YANGON, 13 March — Gold coins and gold rings of Akyay Bagan region found at old Myaungmya in Ayeyawady Division were handed over to Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung at the ministry today.

The minister thanked the local authorities who discovered and protected the artifacts — eight gold

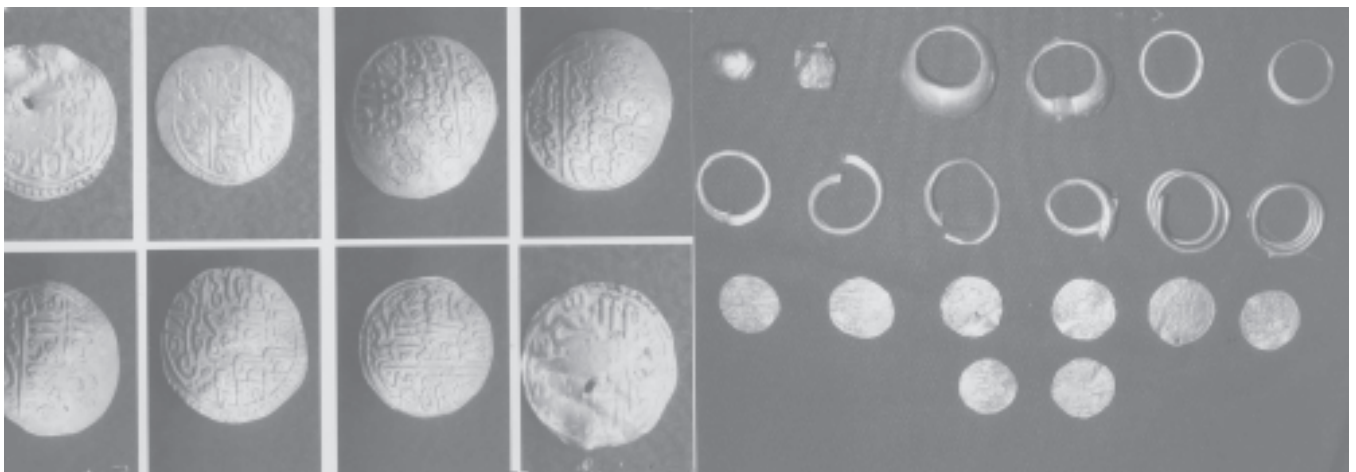
coins bearing embossed pictures and letters, 10 gold rings and two pieces of gold.

A civilization flourished in old Myaungmya, once famous as Akyay Bagan, said the minister. A study team of Archaeology Department found many firm evidences including religious buildings with de-

signs of Bagan era, terra cotta Buddha images of Bagan era, and ancient brick roads indicating to the past existence of the town, he added.

Plans are under way to systematically record, study, preserve and keep the finds of the old town.

MNA



Gold coins and gold rings of Akyay Bagan region found at old Myaungmya in Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint goes on inspection tour of Thazi-Tatkon No 2 district-to-district road section

YANGON, 14 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence together with Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win, officials concerned of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads went on an inspection tour of Thazi-Tatkon No 2 district-to-district road section on 9 March.

At the briefing hall, Chairman of Meiktila District PDC Lt-Col Lu Tin and Director U Kan Hla presented reports to Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on progress in land preparation and measures being taken for paving the road. In this regard, Lt-Gen Ye Myint made arrangements to fulfil the needs.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected Thazi-Tatkon No 2 district-to-district road section and land preparation at Pyawbwe Phaya Ngahsu road and No 2 dis-



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects progress in construction of No 2 Thazi-Hlaingtat-Tatkon road. — MNA

trict-to-district road.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into land preparation by the use of heavy machinery and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party later inspected Yamethin-Shwemyintin road section and Hlaingtat-Kintha road section. At the meeting hall of the local battalion, Director U Kan Hla presented reports to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on progress in building of Shwemyintin-Bwat-Paininn-Nattaung-

Baw-Kintha road section. In connection with the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint made arrangements to fulfill the requirements.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into maintenance of the canal near Myinna creek, west of Myinna village. Chairman of Yamethin District PDC Lt-Col Aung Kyi Shein and Assistant Director of Irrigation Department U Tin Won presented reports to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on maintenance of canal and water supply to Kyeni Lake.

Upon arrival at Makyeeakon village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the road sections.

At the briefing hall of Tatkon-Kintha, Director U Kan Hla reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on the remaining tasks to be carried out in Warkon-Twinya, Baw-Kintha and Naung Kham village. In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on measures to be taken for building the remaining road sections with concerted efforts. — MNA

Physic nut growing ceremony takes place in Myaungmya Jute Factory compound

YANGON, 14 March — A fuel-substitute physic nut growing ceremony took place in an area of five acres of land which belongs to Myaungmya Jute Factory on 5 March morning.

Factory Manager U Than Win of Myaungmya Jute Factory together with over 1200 service personnel collectively grew physic nut plants. They grew 1200 physic

nut plants on one of the five acres which belongs to the factory.

The factory manager and service personnel carried out land preparation and growing of physic nut plants on the remaining four acres of land. Arrangements are being made for growing a great number of physic nut plants to be finished during March.

MNA

Eye specialists give free medical treatment to patients in Thaton District

YANGON, 14 March — Under the arrangement of the Ministry of Health, an eye specialist team led by Prof Dr Kan Nyunt from Yangon Eye Specialist Hospital went to Thaton in Mon State and gave free medical treat-

ment to patients with eye complaints from 8 to 10 March.

The team comprised Dr Aye Aye Khine, Dr Nila Thein, Dr Soe Win Htay, Dr Nyo Nyo Min, Dr Saw Thwin Mon Thein, Dr Sanda Myint, nurses

Naw Ma Shee Tar Oo, Daw Khin Than Myint, Daw Yu Wah Maung. Free medical treatment was given to a total of 1877 eye patients.

Necessary assistance was given to the team by Shweparamitawya

Ashin Chandadhika, Chairman of Thaton District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Thaw Zin, Chairman of Township PDC U Chan Nyein Aung, Head of Thaton District Health Department Dr Myo Win, specialists, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women's Affairs Organization, members of Red Cross Society, members of 'Alinsa Taman' and wellwishers.

Shweparamitawya Sayadaw Ashin Chandadhika and disciples donated medicines necessary for eye operation and so did pharmaceutical companies Alcon, Ashford, Ciba, Cipla and Fourteen Star Network.

MNA



An eye specialist giving treatment to a patient at Thaton District Hospital. — MNA

Ministry of Industry-1 holds special sales to hail 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 14 March — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Ministry of Industry-1 held its special sales for the fifth day at the opposite compound of Melamu Pagoda in North Okkalapa Township.

Textiles, foodstuff, medicines, cosmetic, household goods, ceramics, paper and chemical

products, sewing machines, bicycles, leather, rubber, all kinds of personal goods totalling 345 are on sale. The special sales was packed with buyers.

The artistes entertained the shoppers with songs and music. The restaurants and shops were kept open. The sales will continue daily from 8 am to 8 pm. — MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeared

Industry-1 Minister visits factory projects in Magway Division



Industry-1 Minister U Aung Thuang inspects Daw Pauksama Dam in Lema-Thazi region. — MNA

YANGON, 14 March — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang visited the dyeing and printing factory of Myanmar Textile Industries in Magway, Magway Division on 11 March and inspected production process at the factory and gave necessary instructions to officials.

At Magway Win Thuza Shop, he inspected sale of goods produced by the ministry. He also looked into goods at Shwe Myanmar Farm and Electrical Goods Shop of the Ministry of Industry-2.

The minister later visited Myanmar Umbrella Factory (Magway) where he inspected production

line and left necessary instructions there. Afterwards, the minister visited Magway Soft Drink Factory of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries, and Magway Soap Factory of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries and inspected production process at the factories.

On 12 March morning, Minister U Aung Thuang went to the briefing hall of the cotton cultivation project in Lema-Thazi region where he heard reports by the project in-charge on cultivation of cotton and supply of water for cultivation. Myanmar Textile Industries Managing Direc-

tor U Oo Thein Maung presented a supplementary report. After inspecting cotton plantations and cotton warehouses and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Later, the minister visited the corn product factory project (Yanpel) in Taungdwingyi Township and inspected installation of machinery. The minister next inspected the feedstuff factory and the physic nut plant garden. At the factory project briefing hall, Myanmar Foodstuff Industries Managing Director U Soe Hlaing reported to the minister on progress in construction work and ar-

rival of machinery. Then the minister proceeded to the horse and sheep breeding project (Yanpel) where he inspected the raising of 132 horses and 500 sheep. The minister also visited the cotton grinding factory and left necessary instructions.

MNA

State Ovadacariya Sayadaw passes away

YANGON, 14 March — Member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Minkyaung Monastery in Mindan Village in Myaung, Sagaing Division, Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Obhasa, aged 95, vassa 75, passed away at 8.10 pm on 12 March (Sunday). — MNA

Foreign Minister receives Japanese guests

YANGON, 14 March — Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Win this afternoon received Mr Nobutaka Machimura, member of the House of Representatives of Japan, Chairman of Foreign Policy Coordination Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and party who were on a goodwill visit to Myanmar, at the Zezawa Yeiktha of the ministry. The two sides discussed matters of mutual interest between the two countries. Mr Nobutaka Machimura and party were accompanied by Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano and Counsellor Mr Ichiro Maruyama. — MNA



Foreign Minister U Nyan Win receives Mr Nobutaka Machimura, member of the House of Representatives of Japan. — MNA

Speedy repairing and production of coaches, wagons stressed

YANGON, 14 March — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thuang Lwin inspected the coach and wagon shed in Myitnge, Mandalay Division, on 8 March.

The deputy minister gave instructions on 30 per cent increase in major repair to coaches monthly.

On 9 March, he inspected the construction of a new shed in Myohaung

yard and discussed swift operation of the functions. On 10 March, he inspected Ywahtaung diesel locomotive shed and held discussions on improvement of productive forces, conducting on-job training courses, carrying out tasks with goodwill and growing physic nut on vacant lands.

On 11 March, the deputy minister looked into the functions in Mandalay

Central Railway Station and provided assistance for the tasks.

He also inspected renovation of locomotives in Mandalay Locomotive Shed. In meeting with staff of Division (3) Mandalay, he made clarification to the guidance of the Head of State and instructed them to shoulder duties with conscientiousness and goodwill. — MNA



Deputy Minister Thura U Thuang Lwin inspects Ywahtaung diesel locomotive shed. — RAILWAYS

Minister visits examination centres in Pyinmana

YANGON, 14 March — Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt and Director-General of the Education Planning and Training Department U Bo Win visited No 1 Basic Education High School matriculation examination centre for 2006 academic year in Pyinmana this morning.

The minister instructed the officials to take systematic measures so that the students could sit for the exams in peace in adherence to the rules

and regulations.

The minister held a meeting with the education officers of Mandalay Division and Pyinmana Township and officials at the golden jubilee library of the school. He instructed the officials to supervise the examination functions and local authorities to contribute towards systematization of the exams.

He also visited Pyinmana BEHS No 2 examination centre and inspected examination

rooms and instructed examination supervisors and assistant supervisors to enforce the examination rules and regulations.

Next, the minister and party inspected the examination rooms in Pyinmana BEMS No 1 and gave instructions on renovation of the school buildings.

Students are sitting for the matriculation exams (2006) at 1209 examination centres at home and 14 examination centres abroad starting today.

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Myogyi Dam...

(from page 1)

Kanswe village-tract, construction of earth road near Myodwin village in Myittha Township, Kinnta main canal bridge and road at the junction of Kinnta main canal and Pwelonkyaw village. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into Kinnta main canal bridge linking Htainkangyi village in Myittha Township and Gon village in Wundwin Township.

On arrival at Gon village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint

heard reports on completion of Gon village-Hlaingtat earth road of No 2 district-to-district road and other road sections by Director U Kan Hla and fulfilled the requirements.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint met local people and urged them to grow physic nut.

Later, They proceeded to Hlaingtat village and heard reports on building of upper Pongloun dam and road section, and other road

sections of No 2 district-to-district road in Mandalay Division at the briefing hall. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended to the needs.

They spent the night at Meiktila.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with Tatmadaw men and their families at Mandalay station today and urged them on poultry rearing, taking part in regional developments and growing of physic nut.

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Thanywa Hospital in Kyaukse Township.

MNA

Wellwisher donates cash to title recipient Sayadaws



Shwe Myaing Construction Managing Director U Aung Lin makes cash donations for the title-recipient Sayadaws through Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung. — MNA

YANGON, 14 March — A wellwisher today donated cash to religious titles recipient Sayadaws through Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

At the cash donation ceremony held at Ministry of Religious Affairs, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted over K 1 mil-

lion donated by wellwisher U Aung Lin (a) Maung Kaung, Managing Director of Shwe Myaing Construction Company.

Member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manita Sri Bhivumsa of Maha Visuddha Monastery in Maha Aungmyay

Township, Mandalay Division, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung and officials also attended the donation ceremony.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung also presented a certificate of honour to the wellwisher. — MNA

US confirms third case of mad cow disease

WASHINGTON, 14 March — The United States Agriculture Department confirmed on Monday a new case of mad cow disease, which is the third such of its kind reported in the country.

A routine test last week suggested a possible case, and further tests of different types confirmed a positive result for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), said John Clifford, the agriculture department's chief veterinary officer.

He meanwhile stressed that the infected animal had not entered the human food chain.

The new case was found in a dead beef cow. Clifford said the cow, which appears to

have been at least 10 years old, spent the past year at a farm in Alabama. The authorities are investigating where the cow was born and raised.

"I want to emphasize that human and animal health in the United States are protected by a system of interlocking safeguards, and that we remain very confident in the safety of US beef," Clifford said.

"This animal did not enter the human food or animal feed chains."

The United States

reported its first case of BSE, or mad cow disease, in December 2003 in a Canadian-born cow in Washington State. The second case was confirmed in last June in a cow born and raised in Texas.

People who eat BSE-infected beef can develop the human version of the brain-wasting disease, which is called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. There is currently no cure for the deadly disease.

MNA/Xinhua

Winners of essay, poem, article competitions to mark 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day announced

YANGON, 14 March — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, essay, poem, article competitions and extempore talks at university, college and institute level, basic education high school level, basic education middle school level and professional level were held by the organizing committee and winners were announced.

In university, college and institute level essay competition, cadet Ye Phone Kyaw (Third Year in Computer of Defence Services Academy in PynOoLwin) secured first, Ma Win Thu (Forth Year in Sagaing Institute of Education), second and cadet Chan Nyein Thu (Final Year MBBS (Part-2), Defence Services Medical Academy). The consolation prizes went to Maung Zaw Htet Lin (First Year in Myanmar Maritime University), Ma Moh Moh Lwin (Second Year in Science Combination, Mawlamyine Institute of

Education), Ma Su Le Yi Aung (Third Year in English Major, Patheingyi University), Maung Ye Naing Htoo (Third Year in BDS, Institute of Dental Medicine Yangon), Ma Hnin Oo Ye (Second Year in BED, Yangon Institute of Education).

In university, college and institute level poem competition, cadet Chan Nyein Thu (Final Year MBBS (Part-2), Defence Services Medical Academy) clinched first, Maung Thiha Tun (Final Year in MBBS, Part-2, Institute of Medicine-2, Yangon), second, Maung Saw Maung (Teachership Diploma Course, University for Development of National Races, Sagaing), third. The consolation prizes went to cadet Tun Pyae Aung (Second Year in Electronic, Defence Services Academy, PynOoLwin, Ma Su Wadi Nwe (Second Year in Computer Science, Yangon University of Computer Studies, Maung Min Kyaw Swa (First Year in Science

Combination, Patheingyi Education College, Ma May Ein Si Oo (Second Year in Painting, University of Culture, Yangon) and cadet Naing Tun Aung (Final Year in Mechanical, Defence Services Technological Academy, PynOoLwin).

In basic education high school level essay competition, Ma Shwe Zin (Ninth Standard in BEHS 1 South Okkalapa claimed first, Ma May Kyi Myint Thein (Ninth Standard in BEHS-1 Bago, second, Ma Phyto Thinza Khin (Eighth Standard in BEMS-1 Patheingyi. The consolation prizes went to Ma La Won Thawda (Ninth Standard in BEHS-2 Thaton), Ma Ohnma Sein (Eighth Standard in BEHS-8 Aungmyaythasan), Ma Thet Htar Swe Nwe (Eighth Standard in BEHS-1 Pyay, Maung Htet Paing Kyaw (Eighth Standard in BEHS-2 Kalaw) and Ma Nan Wai Wai Phyto (Eighth Standard in BEMS-3 Myintkyina).—MNA



Craftsmen add finishing touches on a puppet during the last preparations ahead of "Fallas" festival in Valencia on 13 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Malaysia to raise airport tax

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 March — Malaysia will raise airport tax for both international and domestic flights soon, local media reported on Monday.

The Malaysian Government is expected to give the go-ahead to airport operator Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (MAHB) to raise the tax as early as Wednesday, the *New Straits Times* (NST) quoted an unnamed source as saying.

For international flights, a traveller is expected to pay between 60 ringgit (15.95 US dollars) and 65 ringgit (17.28 US dollars) while on domestic flights, the tax will be between 10 ringgit (2.66 US dollars) and 12 ringgit (3.19 US dollars), said the report.

The present rate is 45 ringgit (11.96 US dollars) for international flights and 6 ringgit (1.59 US dollars) for domestic departures.

The source added many other airports in neighbouring countries have been raising their tax rates since 2001 but Malaysia has maintained the rate despite rising costs up to now.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh to change colours, sizes of currency notes

DHAKA, 14 March — Bangladesh Bank (BB), the central bank, has decided to change the sizes and colours of currency notes in a bid to halt note forgery.

"The central bank will do this job by April this year," a senior official of BB said on Monday.

He said the proposal for the changes has been sent to the Finance Ministry and the ministry put the proposal before the Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting on Sunday. The standing committee gave clearance to the BB to take appropriate steps in a bid to stop the forgery and remove the sufferings of the people with forged notes, the official said, adding that many people were being victims of currency forgery and being harassed in the hands of police.

People very often are falling prey of the currency forgery because the difference between the real notes and fake was very close and most illiterate people cannot recognize which one is real and



Singapore's Commonwealth Games swim team play a game as they sit in a circle during training in Melbourne on 13 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Vietnam to slash tariffs on ASEAN poultry parts

HANOI, 14 March — Vietnam will reduce the import taxes on poultry's thighs, wings and livers from ASEAN members to 10 per cent during 2009-2011 period and 5 per cent in the next two years, local newspaper *Investment* reported Monday.

Under a recent decision of the Vietnamese Finance Ministry, the move is in line with the roadmap of the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (CEPT) for the ASEAN Free Trade Area.

The decision also regulates that the tariff on processed food, drinks, tobaccos and tobacco alternatives from mem-

bers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) will be lowered to 5 per cent in 2013 from 50 per cent in 2006.

At present, Vietnam imposes import tax rates of zero per cent on live animals, 5 per cent on meat from the ASEAN, including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malay-

sia, Myanmar, Laos, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

Astronomer terms "UFO" observed across Thailand as meteor

BANGKOK, 14 March — The recent sighting of what appears to be an unidentified flying object (UFO) over Thai central province of Ayutthaya has left witnesses scratching their heads over what exactly it might have been while some astronomer and experts thought it was something like a meteor.

Morakot Areeya, head of an astronomy learning centre, was quoted on Monday by the *Bangkok Post* as saying that he saw a burning object speeding across the sky at about 6:20 pm (1120 GMT) on 4 March in Ayutthaya's Nakhon Si Ayutthaya District. Some other witnesses also reported they have seen the unidentified object that night.

Worawit Thanwutibandit, a cosmic adviser to the Thai Astronomical Society, said the object might have been a large meteor.

Dr Sarun Posayajinda, deputy director-general of the National Astronomical Research Institute, said it was possible

that the object was some kind of space debris which had burst into flames on entering the earth's atmosphere.

Morakot took a photograph of the object, which he first thought was an airplane that had burst into flames. However, he was surprised to see the object continue to streak across the sky in an easterly direction before disappearing from sight.

Morakot said it did not appear that the object had struck the earth, rather it had travelled almost horizontally.

He said some locals felt the object may have been some form of UFO.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore urges parents to vaccinate their children against MMR

SINGAPORE, 14 March — All parents in Singapore are urged to have their children vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), Channel NewsAsia report quoted the Ministry of Health (MOH) as saying on Monday.

The MOH warned that a lower-than-95-per cent vaccination rate could lead to a possible outbreak of measles, a childhood disease with a death rate of 3 per thousand.

It had been reported that a small but increasing number of parents in the city state chose not to vaccinate their children because of either

fear for autism caused by MMR vaccine or worries about their children's immature immune system when encountering viruses in the vaccine. The MOH said that the purpose of the immunization is to protect children and there has been no scientific proof of possible links between MMR vaccine and autism.

One in a million children might get vaccine damage by the MMR jab, according to statistics.

A total of 33 measles cases were reported in Singapore last year, as compared with more than 2,000 cases recorded in 1985 when the measles vaccination had not been made compulsory, the ministry said.

MNA/Xinhua

Widespread thunderstorms hit Thailand

BANGKOK, 14 March — Thailand's Meteorological Department has warned of summer thunderstorms country-wide, and the greater Bangkok metropolitan area is expected to experience thunderstorms tonight, the *Thai News Agency* reported Monday.

The weather department said an intense high pressure front, which passed into Thailand from China, now covers the eastern portion of the northeast, causing severe thundershowers, strong winds and even hail in some areas.

The northeast is the first region to be hit by storms, which will spread to north, the east and central Thailand.

The weather centre forecasts widespread thunderstorms in the south and heavy seas with two- to three-metre high waves in the Gulf of Thailand from 14-16 March.

It warned that boatmen must take note of local weather service warnings when they put to sea.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese farmer works on her land in a rural part of Nanjing in eastern China's Jiangsu Province on 13 March, 2006. — INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENTS

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MV GATI ZIPP VOY NO (0601)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI ZIPP VOY NO (0601) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S K.M INTER TRANS CO LTD.

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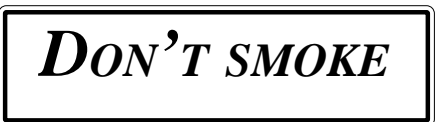
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST

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Used in respect of:-
 "Pre-recorded CDs, video tapes, laser disks, software, and DVDs featuring musical, dramatic, animation, mixed media, and/or multimedia performances in International Class 9."

(Reg. No. 4/264/2006)

Used in respect of:-
 "Publications, namely pamphlets, posters, and newsletters in International Class 16."

(Reg. No. 4/265/2006)

Used in respect of:-
 "Beverages, namely, drinking waters, flavored waters, mineral and aerated waters; and other non-alcoholic beverages, namely, soft drinks, energy drinks and sports drinks; fruit drinks and juices; syrups, concentrates and powders for making beverages, namely, flavored waters, mineral and aerated waters, soft drinks, energy drinks, sports drinks, fruit drinks and juices in International Class 32."

(Reg. No. 4/266/2006)

Used in respect of:-
 "Providing information regarding consumer beverage choices and health, wellness, fitness and lifestyle issues via the internet in International Class 35."

(Reg.No.4/267/2006)

Used in respect of:-
 "Educational services, namely, providing classes, seminars, and workshops relating to consumer beverage choices and health, wellness, fitness and lifestyle issues in International Class 41."

Any unauthorized use, infringements, imitation or fraudulent intentions of the said trademark will be dealt with according to law.

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(For. Eccles & Lee, Patent and Trademark Attorneys, Hong Kong)

Dated. 15 March 2006

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Notice is hereby given that REPSOL PETROLEO, S.A. a Joint Stock Company, organized and existing under the laws of Spain, of Paseo de la Castellana 278, 280, 28046 Madrid, Spain, are the Owners and Sole Proprietors of the following Trademark:-



The said trademark is used in respect of the description of goods, that is to say:-

"Chemicals derived from petroleum for use in industry, agriculture, horticulture and forestry, manures and fertilizers, synthetic, resins, plastics, chemicals used in tanning industry; antifreeze; anti-rust products; anti-puncture products; water for batteries, antiair-pollution products, water decalcifying products, all included in Class 1.

Industrial oils and greases; coating oils; fuels; lubricating oils and greases; oils and liquids for brakes, for hydraulic suspensions and for cushion, oils for tanning industry, isolating oils, fire oils for motors; all included in Class 4."

Any imitation or fraudulent use of the said trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Hsin Lin Oo (LL.B) Advocate
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 Intellectual Property House
 31 South Bank Road
 Chennai 600 020
 Aksharika Building
 16 Nepean Sea Road
 Mumbai 400 030
 India. 15 March 2006

Donate blood

Argentina, Uruguay agree to suspend mill project

SANTIAGO, 13 March— The Presidents of Argentina and Uruguay agreed on Saturday to temporarily halt construction of two controversial pulp mills that have caused a diplomatic crisis between the two countries.

The 1.7-billion dollar project to build two mills along the Uruguay River, which is shared by the two countries, is Uruguay's biggest industrial investment.

Under the agreement, reached in Santiago before Chile's presidential inauguration, Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez agreed to stop construction on the mills for 90 days.

At the same time, Argentine President Nestor Kirchner agreed to suspend months of roadblocks across the river from a proposed mill site that Uruguay has said are badly hurting the economy. The presidents will meet twice in the interim, once in Colonia, Uruguay and once in Mar del Plata, Argentina, an official source with the Kirchner delegation said on condition of anonymity. The agreement came a little over a week after Uruguay rejected a plea by Kirchner to suspend construction of the pulp mills, which has led to demonstrations by Argentines and environmentalists worried about contamination and the impact on the regions tourism and fishing.

MNA/Reuters

Egypt unveils sum of compensation to sunken ferry victims

CAIRO, 13 March— The victim of the sunken ferry *Al-Salaam 98* will be compensated 36,000 Egyptian pounds (6,316 US dollars) each, a spokesman for Egyptian Government said on Saturday.

Magdi Radi said that survivors of the ferry disaster will receive 18,000 Egyptian pounds (3,158 dollars) of compensation each. He said there were 1,300 Egyptians aboard the ferry, of whom 913 were dead or missing and 387 survived the disaster.—MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်သစ်ပညာရေးတိုးတက်ရေး နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖွဲ့

Google wants to sell online access to books

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 March — Google Inc wants to partner with publishers in the United States and United Kingdom to sell online access to their books, the company said on its Web site on Monday.

Google Book Search would allow publishers to set the prices for their books and make them available through a reader's Web browser.

Consumers would not be able to save a copy on their computer or copy pages from the book. "It's a way for publishers to experiment with a new method of earning money from their books in

addition to those that already exist," the company said.

Five major publishers sued Google last year seeking to block the company's plans to scan copyrighted works without permission and derail its push to make many of the world's great books searchable online.

Legal experts characterized that dispute

as a new front in the battle over digital duplication of media including music, movies and books. Currently, Google users can view parts of books or entire books if the copyright has expired or a publisher has given permission to do so.

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANG PA KAEW VOY NO (52)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG PA KAEW VOY NO (52) are hereby notified that the vessel arrived on 12.3.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Costa Rica police raid gambling billionaire's home

SANJOSE (Costa Rica), March 13 — Dozens of police barged into the Costa Rican home of Calvin Ayre, a Canadian online betting mogul featured on the cover of *Forbes* magazine's annual billionaire issue, Ayre said on Saturday.

Ayre, founder of the Costa-Rica-based bodog.com gambling site, told *Reuters* a television company was filming a party at his mansion as part of a celebrity poker tournament, but police thought unlicensed gambling was taking place there. "They came in like they were raiding Al Capone's lair," said Ayre, 44.

Police seized a laptop computer and small files containing organizational material for the shoot in Friday's raid, said Peter Karroll, head of bodog.com's entertainment division.

Ayre said no one was arrested. Police were unavailable for comment.

Raised on a pig farm in Saskatchewan, Ayre founded bodog.com 10 years ago and runs it out of Costa Rica, where gambling laws are less strict than in North America. He was featured on *Forbes'* newly released annual list as Canada's newest billionaire. The website takes bets on sports events and runs online poker games. Ayre's profile on bodog.com describes him as an "online entrepreneur, jetsetter, maverick, industry leader".

MNA/Reuters

India exporters eyeing Russian market

LUDHIANA, 13 March — Eyeing Russia as a potential market for products like tobacco, leather, tea, coffee, meat, fruits and auto parts, Indian traders will organize exhibitions there to capitalize on the tremendous scope for exports.

The Federation of Indian Export Organization (FIEO) will organize multi-product exhibitions at Moscow and St. Petersburg during May-June '06 to reach out to the Russian market for selling alcoholic beverages, wheat, fish, perfume, toiletries and cosmetics, automobiles, drugs and pharmaceutical products, chemical, beet sugar, electrical appliances, transmission equipment for radio telephony etc.

MNA/PTI



Snow covers the village of Dunblane in Scotland on the 10th Anniversary of the Dunblane Primary School massacre on 13 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Chinese political adviser proposes 2007 as "Year of Reading"

BEIJING, 13 March — The government should make efforts to cultivate people's interest in reading by naming 2007 the "Year of Reading", a Chinese political adviser said on Saturday at the ongoing annual session of the country's top advisory body.

Effective measures are to be taken to encourage people to read books for overcoming a "reading crisis" among the world's largest population, said Xi Shu, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Fewer Chinese people are reading books nowadays despite there is a rise of literacy rate among Chinese population, said Xi, a board chairman of a publishing company based in Beijing. — MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters



Two girls play in front of a structure decorated for a ritual at Sheung Shui Heung in the rural New Territories, Hong Kong in this photograph taken on 11 March, 2006. —INTERNET

India to be made global manufacturing hub in textiles, leather

NNEW DELHI, 13 March — Replicating the revolution in auto industry, the Indian Government on Friday said it will make India a global manufacturing hub in other sectors like textiles, leather, petroleum, food processing and handicraft.

"We will become a global manufacturing hub for small cars in the next 3-5 years," Finance Minister P Chidambaram said adding "we would emulate this success story in other sectors to become top global three manufacturing centres."

Winding up the discussion in the Lower House on the general budget, Chidambaram said one talks of Industrial

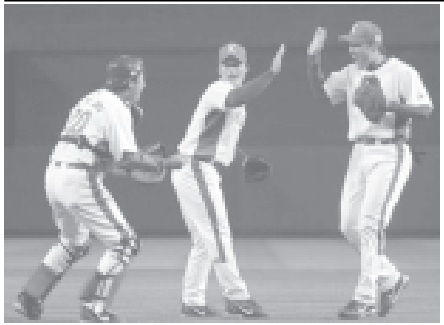
and French revolutions but the auto revolution that is unfolding in the country has gone unnoticed for many.

"If every second toy and third shoe in the world are made in China, why can't we emulate these examples," he said asking people to throw away "ideological and political blinkers" while promising all help in this endeavour. — MNA/PTI



An operator prepares Brazilian astronaut Marcos Pontes (L) for a training session in a centrifuge accommodation module in the Star City space centre near Moscow, on 13 March, 2006. —INTERNET

SPORTS



Team South Korea's Kab Yong Jin, left, Seung Hwan Oh, centre, and Seung Youp Lee, right, celebrate after South Korea beat Team USA 7-3 on Monday, 13 March, 2006 at Angel Stadium in Anaheim, Calif in the second round of the World Baseball Classic.—INTERNET

Mourinho seeks more influence for outsiders Chelsea

LISBON, 14 March— Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho believes his London side are still outsiders among the traditional footballing powers and the club needs to develop to exert an influence.

"Chelsea still needs to grow a lot as a club," the coach, who took Chelsea to their first league title for 50 years last season, told Portuguese sports daily *Record* in an interview published on Monday.

"It doesn't even have a seat on the G-14; it doesn't have a voice where decisions are taken and it also has no influence among the European disciplinary bodies," Mourinho said.

Chelsea, who need four more victories to guarantee a second title in a row,

have been rejected as members by the influential G-14 group, which includes European heavyweights such as Barcelona, Manchester United and Juventus.

Mourinho has had several run-ins with soccer authorities, notably last season after a spat with Barcelona when he was fined and suspended by European governing body UEFA.

He has frequently lamented that his nouveau riche club, bankrolled by billionaire Russian owner Roman Abramovich, does not wield the sort of influ-

ence enjoyed by soccer's aristocracy either in England, where he believes fixtures are rarely scheduled in Chelsea's favour, or in Europe.

Barcelona, beaten by the Londoners last season, earned revenge by knocking Chelsea out of the Champions League last week.

"The club has grown

because of the financial muscle of its owner and through the people who work there from managers to coaching staff and all the support staff," he said.

"It has established itself as a force in English football but it still needs to grow a lot as an institution," he told *Record*.

MNA/Xinhua

Lyon's Juninho says Kaka is AC Milan's mastermind

PARIS, 14 March— Olympique Lyon and Brazil midfielder Juninho says compatriot Kaka will be AC Milan's main threat in their Champions League quarterfinal tie later this month.

Juninho, who was booked in Lyon's 4-0 thrashing of PSV Eindhoven in the previous stage, will be suspended for the first leg to be played at the Stade Gerland on 29 March.

"No one is irreplaceable... But Kaka in Milan,

who represents to me 80 per cent of his team's potential," he told French sports daily *L'Equipe* on Monday.

"He is a real number 10, he has a comprehensive game. He is one of the last proper playmakers. Every ball or

so has to go through him," the Brazil international added.

"He is quick, he has a wonderful technique, he can score, pass and always goes forward. He is AC Milan's master."

Juninho accepts Kaka is first choice for Brazil.

"I have to accept I'm his substitute. The ideal would be to play alongside him," he said.

MNA/Reuters



AC Milan's Gennaro Gattuso, left, and Juventus' Emerson of Brazil challenge for the ball during an Italian top league soccer match between Juventus and AC Milan in Turin, Italy, on 12 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Barthez out of Zenit tie with calf injury

PARIS, 14 March— Olympique Marseille goalkeeper Fabien Barthez will miss his side's

UEFA Cup third round second leg against Zenit St Petersburg with a left calf injury, the Ligue 1 club said on Monday.

"He felt a pain in his calf. We will know more about it tomorrow but it will also be hard for him to play against Lille (next Sunday)," coach Jean Fernandez told the club's website.

Barthez will be replaced by Marseille's number two goalkeeper Cedric Carasso.

Marseille, who lost 1-0 at the Stade Velodrome in the first leg, will also be without suspended midfielders Wilson Oruma and Franck Ribery.—MNA/Reuters

Swiss keeper Jakupovic heads for Moscow

BERN (Switzerland), 14 March— FC Thun goalkeeper Eldin Jakupovic has completed a move to Lokomotiv Moscow after the Russian club agreed undisclosed terms with both Thun and fellow Swiss side Grasshoppers Zurich.

The 21-year-old keeper, who recently received his first call-up to the Swiss national squad, has been on loan from Grasshoppers this season and played a key role in Thun's surprise qualification for the Champions League.

"Lokomotiv Moscow is one of Europe's top clubs and offers me a chance to play international football," Jakupovic told Swiss news agency *ATS* after signing a four-and-a-half year contract.

The chance of further international exposure is looking less likely for Thun however, with Jakupovic just one of four big names to have left the club since the winter break.

Thun, who finished a creditable third in their Champions League group despite a budget of just 5.5 million Swiss francs (4.18 million US dollars), have also lost top scorer

Mauro Lustrinelli to Sparta Prague and impressive left back Jose Goncalves to Scottish side Hearts. Coach Urs Schoenenberger was sacked last month by the club after the team's domestic performances failed to match their European exploits.

MNA/Reuters



Maria Sharapova of Russia blows a kiss to the crowd after defeating Lisa Raymond of USA, 6-4, 6-0, during the second round match of Pacific Life Tennis Open in Indian Wells, Calif on 12 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Donald claims title at Honda Classic golf tournament

WASHINGTON, 14 March— Britain's Luke Donald Sunday won the Honda Classic title by two shots at the Country Club at Mirasol in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Donald, 28, tied for the overnight lead with American Billy Mayfair, claimed the second PGA Tour title of his career with a three-under-par 69. He birdied three of the last six holes to finish at 12-under 276.

Australia's Geoff Ogilvy took second place by closing with a 69. World number eight David Toms,

the highest-ranked player in the field, fired a 69 to finish a further shot back in a tie for third place with Mayfair (72).

Donald became the third Englishman, after Nick Faldo and Tony Jacklin, to win at least twice on the PGA Tour. He made his Tour breakthrough at the 2002 Southern Farm Bureau Classic.—MNA/Xinhua

Facchetti warns Inter not to underestimate Ajax again

ROME, 14 March — Inter Milan president Giacinto Facchetti has warned his players not to underestimate Ajax a second time when they meet for a place in the Champions League quarterfinals on Tuesday.

Facchetti's fears are based on their first knockout round, first leg tie on February 22, when Inter went 2-0 down in the opening 20 minutes before staging a second-half fightback to grab a 2-2 draw.

"The first leg has taught us two things," Facchetti told Italian radio on Monday.

"If you go out on the pitch convinced that you're facing an easy team, you will find yourself 2-0 down.

"But if we go out like we did in the second half at Amsterdam, we can progress to the next round."

Facchetti, who won back-to-back European Cups in 1964 and 1965 as an Inter player, also said the team would be wrong to rely too heavily on the advantage of their away goals.

"We must not, under any circumstances, think that a 0-0 draw would be the best result," he said.

"Ajax are a young side, with quality players, who have come up through the youth teams and who are used to playing with each other and are skilled at keeping possession."

MNA/Reuters



Heather O'Reilly, left, of the United States, crosses the ball past France's Sabrina Viguier during their Algarve Cup women's soccer match on 13 March, 2006, at the Algarve Stadium, outside Faro, southern Portugal. The US defeated France 4-1 to advance to the final of the tournament.—INTERNET



Members of England's cycling team train at the velodrome in Melbourne, Australia, on 13 March, 2006. The team is preparing for the Commonwealth Games which begin on 15 March.—INTERNET

EIB to provide Turkey with 3 bln euros to boost business in 2006

ANKARA, 14 March — The European Investment Bank (EIB) will provide Turkey with a project credit of 3 billion euros in 2006, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Sunday.

The report said that the EIB would contribute important sums of financial assistance to Turkey and that the majority of the EIB assistance will go to small and medium-sized business enterprises in Turkey. The EIB provided a

credit of 655 million euros in 2004 and 730 million euros in 2005 to Turkey, according to the report. The European Union (EU) is expected to provide at least 7 billion euros of financial aid during Turkey's harmonization process, said *Anatolia*, adding that the funds would be available for use between 2007 and 2013.

The EIB is the EU's financing institution. Its task is to contribute toward integration, balanced

development and economic and social cohesion of member countries.

The EIB also raises large volumes of funds which help to finance capital projects.

Turkey started talks with EU over its entry into the pan-Europe bloc last October. The negotiations are expected to last at least a decade and Turkey is required to carry out reforms in various fields in order to meet EU demands.—MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia shuts all kindergartens in Sarawak indefinitely

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 March — All kindergartens and daycare centres in Sarawak State in eastern Malaysia have been ordered to close indefinitely to curb the spread of the hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD), local media reported on Monday.

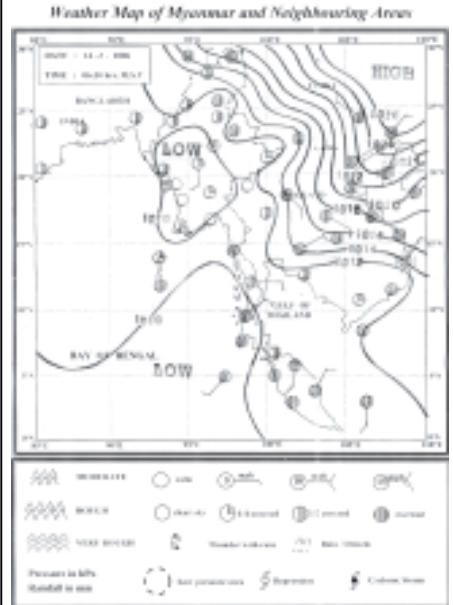
When the outbreak of the disease first surfaced, all the 488 kindergartens and 534 pre-schools were ordered to be shut for two weeks, but the closure has become "indefinite" now, said Deputy State Chief Minister George Chan on Sunday.

However, there has been a drop in the number of new HFMD cases reported in Sarawak over the last 24 hours, the *New Straits Times* (NST) quoted Chan as saying.

Ever since the HFMD outbreak was reported in Sibu at the early beginning of this year, the state has reported 4,121 cases with six children killed.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Health Minister Chua Soi Lek said children in Sarawak under the age of 10 were discouraged from visiting Peninsular Malaysia or participating in school holiday activities there.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Tuesday, 14 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin and Rakhine States, Magway, and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Magway, Aungmye and Pyay (40°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Machanbaw (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 13-3-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 14-3-2006 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 14-3-2006 was (67%). Total sunshine hours on 13-3-2006 was (8.9) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 14-3-2006 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 (12) mph from West at (00:15) hours MST on 14-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 15-3-2006: Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin, Chin and Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Pyinmana and neighbouring area for 15-3-2006: Partly cloudy.


Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-3-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

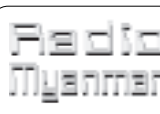
EARTHQUAKE REPORT

(Issued at 15:00 hours MST, Today)

A Strong earthquake of intensity (6.8) Richter Scale with its epicentre outside Myanmar (Seram, Indonesia) about (2,500) miles Southeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (13) hrs (27) min (34) sec MST on 14th March, 2006.



Wednesday, 15 March
View on today

<p>7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p>7:15 am 2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မ ဓမ္မဉာဏ်ဂါရီတ၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တ သိရိဗဟိဒ္ဓိသ(ဇောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်</p> <p>7:25 am 3. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 4. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am 5. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:50 am 6. အတိတ်ပြန်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:00 am 7. မြန်မာ့အလင်း ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက</p> <p>8:10 am 8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p>	<p>8:20 am 9. ဘော်ဘော်ရေလှောင်တစ်</p> <p>8:30 am 10. International news</p> <p>8:45 am 11. Let's Go</p> <p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေး သီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်)</p> <p>4:40 pm 4. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (သရုပ်ဆောင်: အေးလှ) (သရုပ်)</p> <p>4:55 pm 5. Song of national races</p> <p>5:05 pm 6. အတိတ်ပြန်ပွဲ</p> <p>5:10 pm 7. Classical song</p> <p>5:20 pm 8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား</p> <p>5:35 pm 9. "အနိုင်အရှုံး" (စိန်၊ ဘေး၊ မြတ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့မူ)</p>
<p>5:40 pm 10. ရွှေဖွဲ့စုလင်အာဆီယံအစဉ်</p> <p>5:50 pm 11. ရင်းမြစ်ရေထိန်းတံခါး</p> <p>6:00 pm 12. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm 13. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm 14. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေဘုံဂုဏ်</p> <p>7:00 pm 15. "သတင်းကောင်း" (သွားညို ဆုပန်ထွာ၊ ပွင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ညိုမင်းလွင်)</p> <p>7:20 pm 16. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p>7:30 pm 17. ဆင်းရွှေလီရေပေါ့ (အပိုင်-၂)</p> <p>7:40 pm 18. ကြားမြင်သုတပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပဒေသာ</p> <p>8:00 pm 19. News</p> <p>20. International news</p> <p>21. Weather report</p> <p>22. "တိုက်စစ်ရှာလုံးချမ်းသာပြီ" (ဆန်းထွန်း၊ သုညယံသာ၊ အတယ်ဒီမိုကရေစီ၊ မိုးဒီ၊ ဓနုကောင်း၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဂွမ်းပုံ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်ရွှေ) (သုတေသီ)</p> <p>23. The next day's programme</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Wednesday, 15 March Tune in today</p> </div> <p>8:30 am Brief news 8:35 am Music: 8:40 am Perspectives 8:45 am Music: 8:50 am National news & Slogan 9:00 am Music: 9:05 am International news 9:10 am Music: 1:30 pm News & Slogan 1:40pm Lunch time music 9:00 pm Variations on a tune 9:15 pm Article/Music 9:25 pm Music at your request 9:45 pm News & Slogan 10.00 pm PEL</p>

Minister inspects maintenance of Yangon-Mandalay Highway (Htaukkyant-Bago section)

YANGON, 14 March — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein inspected maintenance of six-lane Yangon-Mandalay Highway (Htaukkyant-Bago section) on 12 March.

The minister also inspected upgrading of the road in Bago. The minister and party went to the site

of Sittaung Bridge (Moppalin) where senior engineer U Kyaw Lin reported on installation of the main truss on Moppalin side, construction of approach bridge and tasks to be undertaken.

The minister gave instructions on works and attended to the requirements.

MNA

Myanma Gems Emporium Central Committee meets

YANGON, 14 March — Patron of Myanma Gems Emporium Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint visited the 43rd Myanma Gems Emporium at Myanma Gems Mart here today.

The minister was welcomed there by Chairman of the Myanma Gems Emporium Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, vice-chairmen Deputy Minister for Transport Brig-Gen Nyan Tun Aung and Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Secretary Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enter-

commercial, utility and imperial jade blocks in the Myanma Gems Emporium. —MNA



Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint addresses the second meeting of Myanma Gems Emporium Central Committee. — MNA

compound of the mart and gem and pearl lots on the first floor.

At the committee

Officials explained the replies the committee has received so far from

New caps to be chosen for Myanmar national team, age-wise youth teams

YANGON, 14 March — With the purpose of participating in international soccer tournaments and setting up Myanmar national team and age-wise youth teams, a quadripartite tune-up match was held in Aung San Stadium at 4 pm today.

ing and the match became uninteresting for the spectators. Myanmar selected team (B) was fragile in teamwork but it made all-out efforts and so it won over U-23 selected team.

Today's Match
Aung San Stadium
Myanmar selected team (A)
Vs
above -23 selected team—NLM

Myanmar selected team (B) 2
(Kyaw Thiha)
Vs
U-23 selected team 0
Referee U Win Cho

Both teams started the match with slow mov-



Players struggle for grabbing the ball. — NLM



Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint views gems and jade blocks. — MNA

prise U Thein Swe and committee members.

Accompanied by officials, the minister inspected jewellery shops and jade mosaic painting shops on the ground floor,

meeting held at the mart, the minister gave a speech.

Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and Secretary Managing Director U Thein Swe presented suggestions and requirements

invited foreign merchants, security arrangements and information functions, display of jade, gems and pearl and other preparations. The minister made arrangements for success-