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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Commander, Minister oversee progress of building approach railroad at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine)



Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspect approach railroad of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine).—MNA

YANGON, 15 March — Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials of Public Works inspected installation of the railings between post 64 and post 66 of the approach railroad being undertaken by Public Works at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) Construction Project on Mawlamyine bank on 13 March.

At the briefing hall, Senior Engineer U Tint Lwin from Mawlamyine side and Senior Engineer

U Myo Win from Mottama side reported on progress of their tasks, and future programmes.

The minister instructed officials to make concerted efforts for timely completion of the tasks by forming employee groups in the respective worksites, and attended to the needs.

The commander, the minister and party oversaw progress of the tasks at the approach railroad from the post MR 23 to the post YR 13.

They also viewed clearance of the motor road and the beam of the approach railroad between YR 17 and YR 18. They inspected construction tasks on

Mottama bank.

The approach road of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) will be 6,481 feet long on Mawlamyine bank, 7,498 feet long on Mottama bank, and 7,699 feet long at the main structure, totalling 21,678 feet. The railroad area including pedestrian way on either side will be 16 feet wide. It can withstand IRS 17-ton loads. At present, finishing tasks are being performed at the approach railroad on Mawlamyine bank. Efforts are being made to complete the project in time.

MNA

No foreign states can claim to have greater interest in the well-being of citizens of Myanmar than the Government and people of Myanmar

Foreign Affairs Ministry rejects US's human rights report

YANGON, 15 March — Ministry of Foreign Affairs today issued a press release rejecting the US State Department's report on human rights practices in Myanmar for 2005. Following is the press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar concerning the US State Department's Report on Human Rights Practices for 2005 dated on 9 March 2006.

The US State Department's Report on Human Rights Practices, 2005 dated on 9 March 2006 represents nothing more than a highly intrusive politically motivated document interfering in the domestic affairs of Myanmar.

With the coming into the legal fold of the majority of the various armed groups, peace and stability in Myanmar have been achieved through

the length and breadth of the country for the first time since its independence. The Government is working hand-in-hand with these groups for the all round development of the remote border regions where they reside uplifting their living standards which have hitherto been neglected due to the insurgency.

The National Convention held two sessions in 2005 achieving substantial progress in defining and adopting the principles to be embodied in the new Constitution. It was attended by over one thousand delegates representing the national races, political parties, armed groups, government personnel, intelligentsia amongst others.

The Government has been exerting all-out efforts in order to raise the living standard of the entire

people with improvements in the social services sector including health and education.

No foreign states can claim to have greater interest in the well-being of citizens of Myanmar than the Government and people of Myanmar. The report of the US State Department can only be regarded as a politically motivated attempt to maintain pressure on Myanmar and to interfere in the domestic affairs of the country. It has conveniently ignored the positive achievements scored by the Myanmar Government in the political, social and economic spheres of the country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically and totally rejects the US State Department's annual report on human rights in Myanmar. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 16 March, 2006

Realize domestic edible oil sufficiency

The government has been building economic and social infrastructures for equitable development of all parts of the Union. It has been attending to the requirements for economic and social development of the national people. Now, the nation is reaping the benefits of all its efforts.

Myanmar has vacant and virgin lands in abundance. With extensive cultivation of crops, the nation is boosting its agricultural production. Now, paddy and other crops are cultivated extensively, and as a result, the nation has enjoyed surplus food, thereby contributing to economic development.

Taninthayi Division with a large number of vacant and virgin lands and prospects for accelerating its economy is to pay serious attention to cultivation of the crops that thrive in the region.

The government has allocated lands and provided necessary assistance to national entrepreneurs to meet the target of putting 500,000 acres under oil palm in Taninthayi Division. In response to the goodwill and aim of the government, the national entrepreneurs on their part are to strive for the region to become edible oil pot of the nation and to help the nation enjoy edible oil sufficiency and to complete growing 500,000 acres of oil palm as soon as possible.

In the past, Myanmar's population was sparse, and large edible oil output of Magway Division helped meet the domestic edible oil consumption. Now, with the annual population growth, the nation has to import palm oil.

Edible oil is extracted from such seasonal crops as sesame, groundnut, sunflower and niger. However, by planting oil palm whose oil content rate is high, the nation will be able to enjoy edible oil sufficiency.

Now, 35 companies of national entrepreneurs are pursuing the aim of the government in Taninthayi Division. So far, more than 160,000 acres have been put under oil palm, and some companies have set up crude palm oil mills there.

Apart from paddy, Taninthayi Division is to extend growing cash crops such as oil palm, rubber and pepper. It should also grow physic nut, from which bio-diesel can be extracted, to strengthen its economy.

It is believed that if national entrepreneurs and local farmers strive with goodwill for sufficient domestic consumption of edible oil, the drive for extended growing of oil palm will certainly achieve success.



Joint-Secretary U Tin Maung Win of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board accepted K 100,000 donated by U Khin Maung Yi-Daw Phe and family of Mingala Taungnyunt Township 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

Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Chinese journalist delegation

YANGON, 15 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Chinese journalist delegation led by Chairman of Chinese Journalists Association Mr Shao Huaze at his office this evening.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein and departmental heads under the ministry, Chinese journalist delegation members, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and embassy staff.

During the meeting, both sides focused on cooperative measures



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Chairman of Chinese Journalists Association Mr Shao Huaze and party. — MNA

in media coverage and promotion of mutual understanding between Myanmar and China.

After the call, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented souvenirs to the

chairman and the delegation members.

MNA

Hole-in-one scored

YANGON, 15 March — While playing together with three golf partners U Ngwe Soe, U Phe Baung and Dr Htin Paw (Academy Clinic), U Ye Htut scored an ace at the 156-yard-distance hole No 5 at Ngwethawda Golf Course of Yangon City Development Committee here on 12 March.

MNA

Foreign ophthalmologists to give free treatments

YANGON, 15 March—Ophthalmologists Dr John Sandford Smith and Dr Andrew Frost and Optometrist Louise Frost from abroad under a special programme will give free medical treatments to those with eye problems at Sitagu Ayudana Hospital on Sagaing Hill in Sagaing from 17 to 24 March. — MNA

Aung Myint Aye's last-gasp goal earns above-23 selected team with 3-2 victory over Myanmar selected team (A)

YANGON, 15 March — With the purpose of participating in international tournaments and setting up Myanmar national team and age-wise youth teams, a match of second quadripartite tune-up between Myanmar selected team (A) and above-23 selected team took place in Aung San Stadium at 4 pm today.

Above-23 selected team 3
(Aung Kyaw Tun-2, Aung Myint Aye-1)
Myanmar selected team (A) 2
(Tun Min Oo-1, Hla Aye Htwe-1)
Referee U Win Htut

Both teams set up the match with several rapid see-saw attacks in

the first-half. Above-23 selected team was led by Myo Hlaing Win who showed off football tactics and maturity. Myanmar selected team (A) depended upon their speed and stamina. The match became a power game.

Aung Myint Aye's last-gasp goal earned above-23 selected team with a 3-2 victory over Myanmar selected team (A).

Above-23 selected team studded star players Myo Hlaing Win, Tin Naing Tun Thein, Aung Kyaw Moe, Min Thu, Aung Aung Oo (goalkeeper), Zaw Lin Tun-2 and Aung Kyaw Tun in its line-up. Soe Myat Min and Yan Paing were sidelined

from the line-up due to their injuries.

Myanmar selected team (A) was deployed with Myanmar League young players Tun Min

Oo, Aung Zaw Myo, Hla Aye Htwe, Htoo Kyaw and Zaw Moe Htet (goalkeeper) in the line-up.

NLM



Htoo Kyaw of Myanmar Selected Team-A blocking attack of Aung Kyaw Tun from Above-23 Team.

NLM

Syria slams US sanction on bank as politically motivated

DAMASCUS, 14 March – Syrian Finance Minister Mohammad al-Hussein on Monday blasted a US sanction against a Syrian bank, saying it was politically motivated without financial reasons.

Hussein made the remarks at the opening of an Islamic banking conference, which started in the Syrian capital earlier in the day.

The meeting was attended by representatives of banks from Arab countries as well as Britain, Pakistan, Nigeria and Bangladesh.

The US Treasury Department on Thursday barred American financial institutions from opening or maintaining an account for or on behalf of the state-owned Commercial Bank

of Syria (CBS), the country's main bank.

Washington said CBS "has been used by terrorists" to move funds and has laundered money from the "illicit sale of Iraqi oil".

Rejecting the US allegation, Hussein said the US decision and its timing were fundamentally political, adding that Syria would continue its financial reforms. "We will continue opening up our banking sector, proving that economic reform is an internal issue that we are intent on pursuing," Hussein said.

Syria has been under US economic sanctions since May 2004 for allegedly supporting terrorism.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese look at computer screens at an Internet cafe in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province on 14 March, 2006. —INTERNET



Three months old lion cub Sayana takes its first outdoor walk in the zoo of the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on 15 March, 2006. Sayana is the first lion that was born in the zoo of Krasnoyarsk. INTERNET

Kuwaiti, Qatari heads discuss Iran's N-issue, Iraqi situation

KUWAIT CITY, 14 March — Kuwaiti emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Qatari emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani discussed on Monday the Iranian nuclear issue and the situation in Iraq during their meeting in Doha.

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, who is accompanying Sheikh Sabah in his Gulf tour, was quoted by the official

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) as saying that the two leaders held consultations on the Iranian nuclear file which had "important impacts" on the Gulf region.

Concerning the situation in Iraq, Sheikh Mohammad said: "Iraq is witnessing a blessed political process. In Kuwait, we are receiving all members of Iraqi parties and tribes as Kuwait can be the home of peace and communication among the Iraqis."

On Iraq's recent sectarian violence, Sheikh Mohammad said: "Kuwait is not concerned with sectarian or tribal issues in Iraq, but concerned with Iraq's security and stability."

The top Kuwaiti diplomat also said that Sheikh Sabah's Gulf visit was aimed at expressing appreciation for Gulf Arab leaders' support and condolences on the demise of late Kuwaiti emir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — MNA/Xinhua

Venetian coins found in Cyprus

NICOSIA, 14 March—Some 300 to 400 copper Venetian coins have been unearthed during excavations in the old city of Nicosia, local Press reported on Sunday.

The coins were found near the remains of an Ottoman Bath, where new offices of the Sewage Board will be built.

The excavation site of the coins led to speculation that the bath was built during the first few years of the Ottoman period in Cyprus, when Ottoman currency may not yet have been initiated and circulating around the island.

The Venetian Period in Cyprus lasted from 1489 until 1571, when the Ottomans conquered Famagusta and brought Cyprus under the umbrella of the Ottoman Empire for the next 300 years.

MNA/Xinhua

Stroke deaths dropped after folate added to food

NEW YORK, 14 March—After folic acid fortification of enriched grain products was fully implemented in 1998, deaths due to strokes dropped rapidly in the US and Canada, according to a report in the American Heart Association's journal *Circulation*.

The main reason for folic acid fortification was to reduce the number of babies born with neural tube defects such as spina bifida. The present findings suggest, however, that there may have been an unintended benefit.

There is "accumulating, controversial evidence" that homocysteine — an amino acid in the blood — is a risk factor for stroke and heart disease, Dr Quanhe

Yang, from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, said in a statement.

Folate decreases homocysteine levels, which may help explain the drop in stroke deaths.

Yang's team compared stroke mortality trends between 1990 and 2002 in the US and Canada with those in England and Wales, where folate fortification is not required.

MNA/Reuters

WIPO conference on revision of trademark treaty opens in S'pore

SINGAPORE, 14 March—The World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Trademark Law Treaty (TLT) opened in Singapore's Suntec International Convention and Exhibition Centre Monday.

It is the first time for an Asian country to host a WIPO diplomatic conference as most of such meetings were held in European cities and two in Washington DC and Nairobi in the past. Senior officials, intellectual property (IP) policy makers as well as experts and industry observers from all the 183 members of the WIPO will discuss the basic proposals for both a revised TLT and its subsidiary regulations during the 19-day conference.

Proposed provisions concern, among others, electronic filing of trademark applications and associated communications, as well as registration formalities on the representation of all types of marks including visible and non-visible signs will be discussed at the conference, according to a joint Press release issued by the WIPO and the Singapore Government on Monday. —MNA/Xinhua



Fireworks explode over the Melbourne Cricket Ground during the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne on 15 March, 2006. A decade of meticulous planning and more than A\$1.1 billion (US\$827 million) has been spent preparing Australia's second-largest city for the 12-day event, only for the final countdown to be overshadowed by scandal. —INTERNET



A man dressed as Spiderman performs a stunt during a performance in Shanghai, China, on Sunday, 12 March, 2006.—INTERNET

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G-6 parley fails to make breakthrough in global trade talks

LONDON, 14 March — India and five other key WTO powers, which held a meeting here with an aim to break the deadlock in the global trade talks, have failed to achieve a breakthrough, but expressed commitment to meet challenges on the key issues of agriculture, services and non-agriculture market access.

Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath, who represented India at the two-day Group of Six (G-6) meeting which concluded on Saturday night, said that during the discussions he told the developed

countries clearly that "there is no question of compromising India's agriculture sector."

India has 300 million poor people earning less than a dollar per day. This round is to lift the poor people and their standard of living. There is no formula yet on the card. There is only hope," he told newsmen.

India was opposed to the question of market access which upset subsistence farming, he noted.

The G-6 meeting was attended by the US, Brazil, the European Union, Japan and Australia, besides India, to discuss issues relating to the ongoing Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations of the World Trade Organizations (WTO).

European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, who chaired the talks, noted they had a

"good meeting so far — Our job is to build consensus. We don't expect to make a breakthrough."

He claimed they had made progress in a number of areas but declined to elaborate.

We remain committed to meet the challenges we set in Hong Kong (talks) on key issues of Agriculture, Services and Non-Agriculture Market Access," Mandelson said.

Brazilian Foreign Minister and chairman of G-20, Celso Amrion, said he did not see at the meeting the "click" to make an agreement possible.

The US Trade Representative Robert Portman said "we continue to be very focussed on the question of Non-Agriculture Market Access for developing countries."

MNA/Xinhua

Apology note to Japan theft victim leads to arrest

Tokyo, 14 March — A letter of apology sent to a robbery victim spelled arrest for a Japanese man after police investigating the case identified him from the handwriting.

NHK television said the man had pushed his way into the house of a 78-year-old woman in the town of Misato, western Japan, and stole 15,000 yen (125 US dollars) after threatening her with a knife.

He later wrote the victim a letter saying he was sorry and returning the cash. — MNA/Reuters

Man busted with billion dollar bills

LOS ANGELES, 14 March — The counterfeit money looked good, but there was one flaw. There's no such thing as a one billion dollar bill.

US Customs agents in California said on Tuesday they had found 250 bogus billion dollar bills while investigating a man charged with currency smuggling.

Tekle Zigetta, 45, pleaded guilty to three federal counts of trying to bring cash, phoney bills and a fake \$100,000 (57,000 pound) gold certificate into the United States in January.

Further investigation led agents to a West Hollywood apartment where they found the stash of yellowing and wrinkled one billion dollar bills with an issue date of 1934 and bearing a picture of President Grover Cleveland.

"You would think the \$1 billion denomination would be a giveaway that these notes are fake, but some people are still taken in," said James Todak, a secret services agent involved in the probe. —Internet



This photo provided by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shows counterfeit Federal Reserve notes seized on Friday, 10 March, 2006, in the Los Angeles area and photographed on Monday, 13 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Chinese farmers still need clean drinking water

BEIJING, 14 March — Chinese political advisers and lawmakers have called on the improvement of drinking water safety in the vast countryside, as approximately 320 million rural residents are suffering a shortage of clean drinking water.

The figure revealed by the Ministry of Water Resources indicated the protruding problem in drinking water supply amid various pollution incidents in many key rivers, which presses government institutions to give top priority to the drinking water safety programme in the 11th Five-Year (2006-2010) Plan for national economic and social development, Li Yangbin, an official with the ministry, has urged.

Li, also a member of the Tenth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) which concluded its annual session here on Monday, called for boosting comprehensive investment in the rural areas in line with the drive of building a socialist new countryside, in an effort to basically solve the drinking water problem in 10 years.

Citing a number of river pollution incidents last year, including the Songhua River case in November that forced many riverine cities to suspend water supply for a few days, Xu Xiuyu, a Chinese lawmaker, blamed China's water resource deficiency more on pollution caused by industrial discharge rather than the amount of reserve. Linking the environment protection results to the examination of officials is necessary to improve their sense of responsibility and performance, Peng Jiarou, a CPPCC National Committee member and a health expert with the prestigious Beijing University, proposed. — MNA/Xinhua

NPC deputy calls for legislation to protect Yangtze River

BEIJING, 14 March — A Chinese lawmaker on Monday called for an immediate legislation to blueprint development along the Yangtze River valley with a focus on curbing ecological deterioration.

"We still face a grave situation in protecting the Yangtze River though progress has been made in containing ecological and environmental deterioration along it during the past years," said Ding Haizhong, a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) from Ma'anshan City by the river.

The Yangtze River valley, which has developed into an economic powerhouse of the country, covers an area of less than one-fifth of China's land territory, is home to one-third of

China's 1.3 billion population.

One-third of the country's grain output and gross domestic product comes from the valley. — MNA/Xinhua



A rescuer views a destroyed rail coach following a collision of the Malpensa Express airport shuttle and a local train near the northern Italian town of Garbagnate on 14 March, 2006. One person was killed and several wounded, according to police.—INTERNET

Kids may get excess fluoride from beverages

NEW YORK, 14 March — While fluoride protects against cavities, some children may be getting too much of it via fluoridated beverages, and have the telltale white streaks on their teeth to prove it.

A study of 408 Iowa children found that more than one in three showed such signs of dental fluorosis. Their fluoride sources included different types of beverages, such as infant formula and 100 per cent fruit juice.

In light of the findings, parents should "beware of the potential for the risk of fluorosis", study author Dr. Teresa A Marshall, an assistant professor at the University of Iowa's College of Dentistry, told Reuters Health.

Combining the fluoride in such beverages with the fluoride in toothpaste, supplements, and other sources may, in some cases, lead to mild fluorosis, such as that seen in the current study. "Parents should be educated as to how much toothpaste their children are using and whether (fluoride) supplements are necessary," Marshall said.

Marshall, a registered dietitian at the college,

and her team conducted the study to examine associations between dental fluorosis of the permanent incisor teeth and children's beverage consumption during infancy and early childhood.

The 10- to 13-year-old participants were followed from birth as part of the Iowa Fluoride Study. The researchers reviewed parents' three-day diaries of the children's beverage consumption at 6, 9 and 12 months and every four months later up to 3 years of age. They also analyzed the fluoride concentration of well waters and various purchased drinks. The children had their teeth examined by a dentist when they were 7 to 12 years old.

The findings were presented during the annual meeting of the American Association of Dental Research.

Overall, nearly 36 per cent of the children had white streaks on their teeth

or other signs of mostly mild dental fluorosis. These children consumed more 100 per cent juice at 16 months and less milk at 9 months than did those without fluorosis, the researchers note.

Children with fluorosis also consumed more fluoride from various beverage sources, including infant formulas at 6 and 9 months and 100 per cent juice at 12, 16, and 20 months than did those without any signs of fluorosis. — MNA/Reuters



Archaeologists excavate part of a fortified citadel dating back to 450 BC in Bangladesh, on 14 March, 2006.—INTERNET

18 more bodies recovered in accident in central Nepal

KATHMANDU, 14 March — The ill-fated bus which plunged into Trisuli River in central Nepal six days ago killing over two dozen passengers was extracted from the river on Sunday with the help of locals and security men. As many as 18 more bodies trapped in the bus have been recovered. According to Inspector Suresh Malla of Dhading District Police Office, the final report on the incident will be available by Sunday evening as the

doctors are engaged in the post-mortem of the bodies at the accident site.

A total of 27 bodies have so far been recovered from the river which includes 19 males, 6 females and 2 children. Over a dozen passengers are still missing.

According to state-owned Nepal Television, the accident occurred when the bus collided with a private car coming from the opposite direction Tuesday afternoon.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia to establish secure sea lanes

MANILA, 14 March — The Philippine Navy and its counterparts in Indonesia and Malaysia are set to establish secure sea lanes in a bid to strike terrorists, pirates and international criminals in international waters, Defence Secretary Avelino Cruz said on Monday.

Cruz told reporters that a "close watch south"

programme will be launched in the next few months, using the traditional sea routes linking Mindanao Island, southern Philippines to Indonesia and Malaysian archipelagos.

MNA/Xinhua

More swans in Greece test positive to H5N1 virus

ATHENS, 14 March — The Greek Government announced Sunday that two more samples from dead swans tested positive for the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, bringing the number of infected wild birds to 32.

The Agriculture Ministry said in an announcement that both birds were found in northern Greece, adding that protective measures had already been in place in the related areas.

Four cases of fatal H5N1

virus were also announced on Saturday in dead swans in northern Greece.

No cases of bird flu have occurred in farm poultry but sales have declined by as much as 85 per cent since avian flu was found early February. — MNA/Xinhua

Strong quake jolts Indonesian Island

JAKARTA, 15 March — A 6.4-magnitude earthquake rocked Indonesia's eastern province of Maluku on Tuesday, no immediate reports of damage or injuries, according to local meteorology office.

The quake jolted Seram Island, 83 kilometres west of Ambon, capital city of Maluku Province, at 15:57 local time (0857 GMT), an official of the Ambon Meteorology and Geophysics office told Xinhua by telephone.

The epicentre of the quake was located at 3.171 degrees southern Latitude and 127.41 degrees eastern Longitude, at a depth of 33 kilometres under the sea, said the official who did not give his name.

MNA/Xinhua



An insole made of pure gold is displayed during the unveiling of jewellery store Ginza Tanaka's new collection of gold training goods in Tokyo on 15 March, 2006. The insole, weighing 1kg, is priced at 2,530,000 yen (\$21,524).—INTERNET

Dominicans protest US Army reinforcements in their country

HAVANA, 15 March — Dominicans in the regions of Baoruco and Barahona staged protests as a new contingent of US soldiers arrived in the Dominican Republic, according to news reports from the Dominican Republic on Tuesday.

Although the Caribbean nation's government said the US soldiers were only there to do humanitarian work, the Barahona Anti-Imperial Struggle Committee (CLAB) announced a round of anti-US protests.

"We will return to the

streets to call for the removal of US soldiers from our soil," CLAB spokesman Jovanny Reyes told Dominican media.

CLAB demonstrated against the US troop presence on 27 February, saying that those soldiers were not constructing rural

clinics, as the government has said.

Another group of protestors, the Alternative Social Forum, said that the real reason the US Army is present in the region is to control, dominate and interfere in the Dominican Republic's politics.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier seen at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad on 13 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Faulty sensor delays space shuttle launch

CAPE CANAVERAL 15 March — NASA on Tuesday postponed the launch of space shuttle Discovery from May until at least July because of an all-too-familiar problem: a faulty fuel tank sensor.

A similar problem briefly delayed last summer's launch of Discovery on the first shuttle flight since the Columbia disaster in 2003. NASA said it needs the time to open up the spacecraft's hydrogen fuel tank and replace the sensor, which gave an electrical resistance reading that was slightly off. The space agency plans to replace the three

other sensors in the tank, too, to be safe.

The fuel gauges are designed to prevent the main engines from running too long or not long enough, during the climb to space. An engine shutdown at the wrong time could prove catastrophic, forcing the astronauts to attempt a risky emergency landing overseas, or leading to a ruptured engine.

"We wish it had worked out differently, but it's first and foremost that we fly safely," said Wayne Hale, NASA's shuttle program manager. "It was prudent to change these sensors out."

Despite the delay, Hale said he was still confident NASA will be able to launch three shuttles this year.—INTERNET



BMW Sauber Formula One drivers Nick Heidfeld (L) of Germany and Jacques Villeneuve of Canada try out a speed simulator at the Petrosains gallery in Kuala Lumpur on 14 March, 2006. The Malaysian 2006 Formula One Championship will be held from 17 to 19 March.—INTERNET

New Zealand researchers find signs of new planet

WELLINGTON, 14 March — New Zealand researchers have found evidence of a "super-Earth," a chilly Neptune-sized planet, said a local news agency Tuesday.

Using a variant of a technique proposed by Einstein, researchers from Auckland and Massey universities and Auckland's Stardome Observatory, have found signs of a new, icy planet, like a "large, chilly version" of Earth but too cold for life. "The new planet is Neptune-sized and icy, but unlikely to be covered with a layer of gas like Neptune," Dr Philip Yock of the University of Auckland said.

"Instead it may be more akin to a large, chilly

version of our own Earth. The researchers were able to deduce this because they showed that the new planet has no Jupiter-like companion."

Until now there have been no discoveries of Earth-sized terrestrial planets, although more than 100 gaseous Jupiter-sized planets and four medium Neptune-sized planets have been

discovered in the last decade. Dr Yock said the latest find brings the goal of locating an Earth-like planet in the Milky Way a step closer. The astronomers used the gravitational fields of stars as huge, naturally occurring lenses, as originally proposed by Einstein, a technique is called "gravitational microlensing".

MNA/Xinhua

Cathay Pacific's passenger traffic up 9.1% in February

HONG KONG, 14 March — Cathay Pacific announced on Monday that the airline carried a total 1,263,435 passengers in February, a 9.1-per-cent rise over the same month last year.

Demand to Europe and North America was strong, building on the extra capacity now in place to key destinations such as Los Angeles and London, the company said in a Press release.

The airline carried 86,705 tons of cargo in February, up 18.1 per cent over the same month last year.

More passenger flights are planned. From April the airline will operate three non-stop flights each week to Penang. Three more weekly flights will operate to Paris and Frankfurt, taking both to 10 services a week.

Four more weekly services will operate to Denpasar and two more to Cebu during the peak season, and another two weekly services will operate to Adelaide from June.—MNA/Xinhua

Thai Commerce Ministry set aside \$6.4m to promote exports

BANGKOK, 14 March — The Commerce Ministry of Thailand has set aside 250 million baht (6.4 million US dollars) to support its marketing plan in a bid to promote Thailand's exports, according to Thai News Agency.

Speaking after a meeting here on Monday to discuss a market strategy of the ministry, Permanent Secretary for Commerce Karun Kittisataporn said the budget would be provided to support cooperation between the Export Promotion, Foreign Trade and Trade Negotiation Departments in promoting the country's exports in six regions.

The six regions are North America, the European Union (EU), China, Northeast Asia, the Association of South-East Asian Nation (ASEAN) and India.

MNA/Xinhua



The sun shines through Martin's Hole, a natural gap just underneath the jagged ridge of the Great Tschingelhorn onto the small alpine village of Elm, Switzerland, on 15 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Four killed in suicide bomb explosion in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 14 March — Four persons, including an Islamic extremist, were killed in suicide bomb explosions in a house in Bangladesh's eastern Comilla, about 100 kilometres from Dhaka on Monday.

The dead included bomb expert Molla Omar alias Shakil of the banned extremist group Jamaatul Mujahedin Bangladesh (JMB), his wife and two children.

Local television channel reported six militants, including a son of JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman, who was arrested on 2 March from northeastern Sylhet town, surrendered to security forces on Monday.

The television said before Shakil committed suicide in the bomb explosion, he also threw two bombs at the anti-crime elite forces of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) as they surrounded the house. The RAB asked Shakil to surrender to them. He asked RAB members to be unarmed

first as he could not believe the RAB. After the conversation he exploded two bombs, which killed him and three family members.

Four RAB members were injured by the bombs Shakil threatened at them, the television said.

The security forces also found at least seven

powerful bombs from the house, which were not detonated yet.

The television said some bombs were trapped in the bodies of the killed and that for this reason the security forces could not remove the bodies of the killed persons.

MNA/Xinhua

11 killed, 19 wounded in vehicles collision in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 March — At least 11 people were killed and 19 others injured in Bahia State, northern Brazil, as a smaller bus carrying football fans crashed into a coach, state police officials said on Sunday.

The Bahia military police said the crash took place on Saturday night on inter-state road BR-235 at Casa Nova, a city 600 kilometres northeast of Salvador, the capital of Bahia.

Police said that the driver of the small bus, who appeared to be drunk, was responsible for the accident. His vehicle crashed into the coach as he tried to overtake another vehicle and the driver fled the scene after the accident.—MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis look at the damaged house after a US raid in the rural Isahaqi area, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Rural development through effective use of land resources

Nyunt Han (Kyudaw)

The rural economy is like the roots of a country, as it serves as the base for all her economic and social activities. The rural development drive has modernized a large number of villages which now have primary or post-primary schools, dispensaries and self-reliant libraries and are enjoying economic progress and prosperity than never before.

The government has realized rural dreams into reality according to the visions of farsighted persons. The main reasons behind the rural developments is the effective use of land resources.

With the efficient use of human labour and modern techniques as well as land resources the nation has been able to achieve significant success in agriculture.

Dams which the government has built since 1988 to date at a cost of over K 120,600 million are now irrigating over 2.4 million acres of land. In addition, 293 river water pumping stations all over the nation are also irrigating about 400,000 acres of crops. Irrigation facilities have made double and mixed cropping possible in many places. At the same time, advanced technology and equipment have enabled farmers to reclaim more vacant, virgin and fallow lands and grow crops in wetlands.

Greater efforts are required to catch up with other nations in land management and land use in the 21st century that sees a lot of global competition for superiority in respective sectors. Only with greater efforts will we be able to do the duties well for social development in this age.

But we all should be aware of the fact that uncontrolled land use for centuries will ruin biodiversity. In this context, we must also take into account the biodiversity in developing the economic and social sectors.

Land resources play a pivotal role in fulfilling the social needs of ever growing population. But we should not use resources at will as they have their own limits.

According to the researchers, land resources

are losing biomass and soil, causing depletion of flora and fauna, a result of uncontrolled land use for many years. The worst is environmental pollution, the root cause of many problems we are facing at present.

The world people have come to realize the growing need for environmental conservation and protection. Hence, they are trying to find technology covering the land use and management and the biodiversity linking the present and future generations.

Harmony among sustainable development, resources management, land management, enduring agricultural system and soil management is a need to find a system that serves the present generation and con-

serves the resources for the future as well. population. Double and mixed cropping in rural areas are providing food for the people and filling the State's coffers. Green crop fields and a lush environment for the people are what she has created for her people.

One of the encouraging signs is the long-term sustainable development of the natural resources thanks to government's assistance in the use of land resources, the basis of rural economy, in a correct way.

Nowadays, there is not much gap between the rural and urban areas. Both are using advanced techniques in the respective fields.

The rural areas now have more schools than

As for Myanmar there is harmony between environmental conservation and land use. She has no problems in raising food production for the growing population. Double and mixed cropping in rural areas are providing food for the people and filling the State's coffers. Green crop fields and a lush environment for the people are what she has created for her people.

serves the resources for the future as well.

What is of vital importance in the system is a long-term progress that may help realize economic, social and environmental aims in harmony with land use programme. It will also ensure food sufficiency and income generation and protect environmental degradation. As many global countries are facing problems in land use, they are adopting various means, conducting a wide array of research programmes and seeking ways from various aspects to solve them.

As for Myanmar there is harmony between environmental conservation and land use. She has no problems in raising food production for the growing

ever, and showing signs of improvement in the health sector. It will soon catch up with the urban areas in transport and communication sectors. The media cover and entertainment programmes have reached the rural areas. The rural scene is much different from that in the past.

As I was born in the countryside, I am constantly studying the rural economy and life and taking part in the rural development undertakings. I have noticed the multiple development in the rural areas throughout the country because of the systematic use and conservation of land resources.

(Translation: TMT)

Emergency monitor donated to Children's Hospital

YANGON, 15 March — In memory of late Daw Nu Nu Kyi (a) Esther Cheng, U Maung Maung Naing (a) Mr TC Cheng and family today donated an emergency monitor worth US\$ 3,000 to

Yangon Children's Hospital.

The donors explained the purpose of the donation and handed over the monitor to Medical Superintendent Dr Chit Ko Tin who presented a cer-

tificate of honour to the donors.

Later, Professor/Head of Department of Child's Health Department Dr Aye Maung Han spoke words of thanks.

NLM

Saudi Arabia donates rice to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 15 March — The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Tuesday donated 440,000 US dollars to purchase 1,034 metric tons of rice for Cambodia.

It is the first time for

Saudi Arabia to donate food through the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to a non-Muslim country, according to the WFP.

"We are happy the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

has selected WFP Cambodia as the first country to donate to outside of the Muslim world," said Thomas J. Keusters, WFP country director for Cambodia.

MNA/Xinhua



U Maung Maung Naing (a) Mr TC Cheng and family present an emergency monitor worth US\$ 3,000 to Medical Superintendent Dr Chit Ko Tin of Yangon Children's Hospital. — H

Cash donated to fund of YMBA

YANGON, 15 March — The cash donation ceremony to mark the centennial anniversary of Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) was held at its hall at 77, Yegyaw Road, Pazundaung Township, this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Vice-Mayor Col Maung

Pa, departmental heads, the chairman of YMBA and members, social organization members and wellwishers.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung delivered an address.

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa accepted cash donations from wellwishers including K 10 million by Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Win Myint-Daw Myint Myint

of Shwe Nagamin Co; K 3 million by U Thein Win-Daw Ni of Shwe Thanlin Co; K 2.5 million by U Sein Myint-Daw San Kyu of Diamond Star Family; K 1 million by Daw Nyunt Nyunt Win of Tun Nay Lin Saw Mill; K 1 million by Vice-Chairman U Ye Tun of YMBA-Daw Moh Moh Aye Kyaw.

Acting Chairman of YMBA U Khin Aung spoke words of thanks.

Today's donations from 23 wellwishers amounted to K 24.1 million.

MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win accepts cash donations towards the funds of YMBA from a wellwisher. — MNA

Change style of news writing, presentation to improve dailies' form and essence — Information Minister

YANGON, 15 March — Editors should change the style of news writing and presentation to improve the form and essence of dailies, stressed Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan at his meeting with staff of The New Light of Myanmar daily yesterday.

In his late evening meeting with NLM staff, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said he acknowledged the nature of newspaper publishing work, which unlike other tasks, is being carried out almost the whole night every day.

The chief editors and editors should set up news networks, feature more interesting news and introduce reform programmes for the improvement of the dailies, he pointed out.

Staff of News and Periodicals Enterprise should always be aware of the importance of the media in which they are serving, noted the minister who also attended to the needs presented by NPE Managing Director U Soe Win, Chief Editor U Maung Maung Aye,

Manager U Tun Tun Latt and officials concerning newspaper publishing and management functions.

At the meeting, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan also spoke of the need to take systematic security and fire prevention measures and train staff to

properly handle fire-fighting equipment.

During his inspection of the NLM located on Strand Road, Yangon, till passing midnight, the minister made arrangements for the smooth and effective running of the computer, imagesetter and plateprocessor sec-



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects printing process at the Myanma Alin daily press. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects printing process at the New Light of Myanmar daily press. — MNA

Sports gear donated to MTF from Korea

YANGON, 15 March — Resident of KOICA of the Republic of Korea Mr Cho Sang Woo donated sports gear to Myanmar Taekwondo Federation at a ceremony at Aung San Stadium yesterday evening, attended by officials of the Ministry of Sports, the vice-president of MTF and executives and representatives of KOICA.

After donating sports gear worth US\$ 5,000 to MTF through General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik and the director-general expressed thanks.

MNA

tions of the press.

Before arriving at the NLM at 10.20 pm, he visited Kyemon daily in Pazundaung, at which he met with staff, inspected the process of newspaper publishing and coordinated with Chief Editor U Myint Swe and officials.

His late evening inspection of the dailies started at Myanmar Alin daily in Bahan, where he highlighted the importance of security and fire prevention at his meeting with Chief Editor U Ye Myint Pe and staff. —MNA

Canada records a warm "un-Canadian" winter

VANCOUVER (British Columbia), 15 March — Canada has recorded its warmest winter in nearly six decades of record-keeping, with temperatures that a veteran forecaster said on Monday were almost "un-Canadian".

Environment Canada said temperatures averaged 3.9 degrees Celsius (7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than normal from the end of November 2005 to the start of March 2006, and broke the previous record for the country's warmest winter by almost a full degree. "The entire country was into this balminess. This kind of benign winter, said David Phillips, Environment Canada's senior climatologist in Toronto.

Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories basked in temperatures that were more than 6 degrees Celsius above norm. — MNA/Reuters

Educative talks on prevention of trafficking in persons

YANGON, 15 March — The educative talks on prevention of trafficking in persons co-organized by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization took place at Shwekyatyet

Monastery in Mingaladon Township this afternoon, attended by Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai.

First, deputy leader of working group of MWAF Daw Khin Myo Myint, working sub-group

leader Prof Daw Hla Hla gave a lecture on salient points of prevention about trafficking in persons.

Next, officials of MWAF answered the queries raised by those present and frankly discussed.

MNA

43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium ...

(from page 16)

Periodicals Enterprise, correspondent U Sein Win of Kyodo News Agency, Patron of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Hla Htway, President U Sao Kai Hpa, Secretary U Thitsa Hla Htwe and member correspondents, and officials of NPE.

They were welcomed by Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Secretary Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and members.

Local and foreign journalists viewed gems and jade products, ornaments, jade figurines, private shops, and mosaics to be sold at fixed price on the ground floor, imperial jade, commercial jade, utility jade, and uncut jade stones at the environs of the hall, and gems lots and pearl lots to be sold through competitive bidding system. Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and members conducted them round the display of the gems and jade lots.

At the auction hall of the Myanmar Gems

Mart, Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and Central Committee members met with local and foreign journalists at the press conference on the Myanmar Gems Emporium.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Minister U Myint Thein said that quality jade, gems and pearl lots will be sold through tender and auction systems at the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium this year.

As 782 companies from 24 countries were invited to the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium, replies have been received from 165 gem merchants from 70 companies of 11 countries up to yesterday. Gem merchants from Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China would arrive the emporium without reply.

It is estimated that over 1,000 gem merchants will attend the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium. South Sea Pearl is the most popular in the world. At present, the quality golden pearls produced from Myanmar will be displayed at the emporium.

Arrangements are being made to put on display of 250 lots of pearl weighing 16,030.10 mommes. A total of 34 lots of pearl will be sold through competitive bidding and 216 lots of pearl through tender.

With regard to sales of jade stone, 2,459 jade lots including five quality jade stones will be sold. At the emporium, 251 lots of gems are displayed. They are 51 lots of Mongshu gems, and 204 lots of Mogok gems including one ruby lot to be sold at 3.5 million euro floor price. Furthermore, 1,045 items of ornaments will also be displayed at fixed price.

Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein also gave an introductory speech.

Next, Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and Managing Director U Thein Swe answered the queries raised by local and foreign journalists.

The press conference ended with remarks by Deputy Minister U Myint Thein.

MNA

Chinese journalist delegation arrives

YANGON, 15 March — With the purpose of taking cooperative measures in media coverage and promoting mutual understanding between Myanmar and China, a six-member Chinese journalist delegation led by Chairman of Chinese Journalists Association Mr Shao Huaze arrived here by air this afternoon.

The delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win, Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise

U Aung Nyein, Acting Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Thein Tun Aung, heads of department and officials, Chairman of

Myanmar Journalist and Writers Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and embassy staff. — MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein welcomes Chinese journalist delegation at the airport.

MNA

Cash donated to MMCWA



MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win presents a certificate of honour to Chairman of U Hla Tun Hospice (Cancer) Association U Hla Tun. — MMCWA

YANGON, 15 March — U Hla Tun Hospice (Cancer) Association donated US\$ 10,000 to the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) at the par-

lour of the MMCWA this morning.

Chairman of U Hla Tun Hospice (Cancer) Association U Hla Tun presented the donation to MMCWA President Daw

Khin Khin Win and CEC members.

U Hla Tun and members observed the photos of activities of the MMCWA.

MNA

Diplomats visit Gems Emporium

YANGON, 15 March — Ambassadors, charge d' affairs and military attaches of foreign missions in Yangon and officials of UN agencies visited the 43rd Myanmar Gems Em-

porium at Myanmar Gems Mart here today.

Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Myanmar Gems Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines welcomed and

conducted them round the emporium.

The emporium is being held under the sponsorship of Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee. — MNA

Myanmar Gems Emporium attracts 1,006 merchants

YANGON, 15 March — A total of 1,006 gem merchants at home and abroad today visited the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium at Myanmar Gems Mart here.

Both quality and

quantity of gems, jade and pearl of the emporium have increased year on year and could attract more merchants. So far 369 merchants from 10 foreign countries and 637 at home have gath-

ered here, and it is expected that more merchants will arrive tomorrow. Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee organized the emporium.

MNA



Local and foreign gem merchants examining precious stone lots at the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium. — MNA

S Korea trade association opens office in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 15 March — South Korea's International Trade Association (KITA) has opened its first office in Singapore to facilitate business cooperation between companies from the two countries, according to Channel

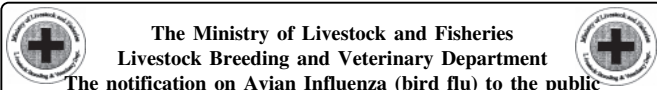
NewsAsia report Tuesday.

It is expected that the office, in collaboration with the city state's external economy promotion agency International Enterprise Singapore, will help more South Korean companies

enter Singapore and the region.

Singapore and South Korea signed a free trade agreement (FTA) in August last year, which came into effect earlier this month.

MNA/Xinhua



**The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
The notification on Avian Influenza (bird flu) to the public
(13-3-2006)**

1. Incidences of Avian Influenza

Avian Influenza (bird flu) is of zoonotic nature, (transmissible to human beings) that has occurred since December 2003 and spreads to 14 countries in Asia and 30 countries in other parts of the world totaling 44 countries. As of the end of February it caused 96 numbers of human death.

2. Situation in Myanmar

Starting from the 1st week of February to the early part of March, the outbreaks of chicken disease, suspected Avian Influenza occurred in Shwebo Township, Kantbalu and KhinOo Townships in Sagaing Division and Pyigyidagun Township in Mandalay Division. The cause of disease may be due to migratory birds that fly across the country or illegal importation of hatching eggs and day-old-chicks. If the dead bird had been vaccinated with Avian Influenza vaccine, it causes complication in disease diagnosis and identification.

3. The measures currently taken

The above said townships in the southern part of Sagaing Division and Mandalay Division are confined as restricted zones and the movement control, temporary close down of markets and disease investigation in the poultry farms are undertaken under the guidance of local authorities. Field investigation and disease surveillance are carried out continuously.

4. Signs and Symptoms

- Sudden death and high mortality, drop in egg production
- Dull, decreased feed intake and excessive drinking
- Difficult in breathing, eye and nasal discharges.
- Oedema in head and face
- Oedema in comb and wattles
- Haemorrhages and red spots in legs and knee joints
- 100% mortality if it is severe

5. Disease control measures to be taken

- To notify promptly the local authorities or Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) if the disease suspected of Avian Influenza is noticed.
- If chickens are affected with any kind of disease, not to sell out to the market or any other region.
- To protect the domestic birds from contact with wild and migratory birds.
- Not to convey the birds from other farms to the own farm and not to practice mixed farming of different species.
- Not to allow the entry of people including young children from outside into own poultry farm
- Whenever enter the farm, use boots, overcoat, head wear, glove and mask for protection.
- To keep the farm hygienic and apply disinfectants and lime regularly on the farm.
- Not to allow farm workers to poultry markets and to change clothes and shoes before entering the farm if happens to do.
- To cook well poultry meat and eggs to prevent transmission to humans.

6. The Animal Health and Development Law has been promulgated for the control of animal infectious diseases. The stakeholders involved in poultry farming and trading are notified to coordinate and cooperate in contributing effectively to the control of Avian Influenza.



Municipal officials destroy shoddily made games machine as part of a drive to promote consumer rights in Hefei, eastern China's Anhui Province, on 13 March, 2006. —INTERNET

**Indonesia, India
discuss
cooperation in
military industry**

JAKARTA, 15 March— Indian Army Chief of Staff General Joginder Jaswant Singh was in Indonesia on Monday to discuss possible cooperation in arms industry with Minister of Defence Juwono Sudarsono.

Sudarsono told reporters after the meeting at his office here that India had expressed interest in cooperating with Indonesian arms industries. Indian companies are willing to establish strategic cooperation with Indonesia's shipbuilding PT PAL, gun factory Pindad and aerospace industry PT Dirgantara Indonesia, he said.

"We need to discuss the proposal with the Industry Ministry and the Ministry of Research and Technology to assess the advantages and possible cost-saving if the cooperation with India must proceed," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



A South Korean couple stand in the snow in Taejeon, about 160 km (100 miles) south of Seoul on 13 March, 2006. South Korea received a rare snow fall mixed with yellow dust on Monday, causing flurries of yellow flakes to fall in the capital and wide parts of the country, the meteorological agency said. —INTERNET

**Vietnam eyes 10-time more construction
material export in 2010**

HANOI, 15 March — Vietnam has targeted to make construction material export turnovers of one billion US dollars in 2010, up from 100 million dollars in 2005, according to the Vietnam Construction Materials Association on Tuesday.

Vietnam has eyed an annual construction material export growth of 25 per cent between 2006 and 2010, Chairman of the Vietnam Construction Materials Association Tran Van Huynh said.

Between 25 per cent and 30 per cent of the country's construction material output, mainly construction stones, ceramic and granite tiles, sanitary ware and bricks, are expected to be sold overseas in the period, the Chairman said.

Local enterprises are further exploiting traditional markets, including the

European Union, the United States, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, seeking new ones, intensifying trade promotion, and improving their products' quality, he added.

Vietnam has annually exported 9-10 per cent of its construction material output in recent years, much lower than that of other regional countries.

In 2005, construction material export value accounted for only over 0.3 per cent of the country's total export revenues.

MNA/Xinhua

**Greek, Libyan leaders meet on
bilateral ties, AU-EU relations**

TUNIS, 15 March — Libya's leader Moammar Kadafi and visiting Greek President, Karolos Papoulias, met on Monday in Tripoli to discuss the strengthening of bilateral ties and relations between the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU).

Papoulias, whose two-day state visit marks

the first visit by a Greek head of state to the Arab country in 37 years, said Greece hoped to further improve ties with Libya and wanted to work together with the African country toward building equal and constructive relations between the AU and EU.

Accompanied by 25 business leaders from the oil, gas, shipping, bank-

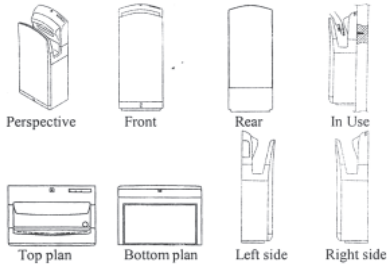
ing, construction and telecommunications sectors, the Greek President also met with Libyan Prime Minister Baghdadi Mahmoudi on trade and investment.

Papoulias said after the meeting that the two sides had established a common position on cooperation in the oil industry.

MNA/Xinhua

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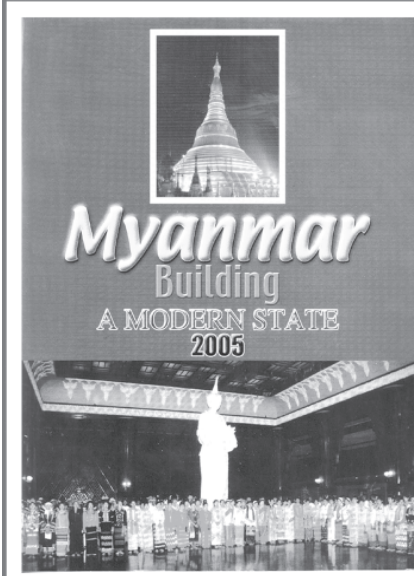
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Vietnam to import more steel billets

HANOI, 14 March — Vietnam is estimated to import some 2.5 million tons of steel billets this year, posting a slight rise over last year, according to an industry association on Tuesday.

Steel makers in Vietnam need some four million tons of billets for production in 2006, but local sources can supply around 1.5 million tons of the material, the Vietnam Steel Association said.

To lessen reliance on billet imports and foster development of different finished steel products, not focus too much on construction steel like it does currently, Vietnam should encourage production of billets from iron ores and steel scraps, and intensify investment in some major plants, the association said.

According to initial plans worked out by relevant state agencies and enterprises, the local steel sector will invest 920 million US dollars in upgrading and building several steel and billet plants between 2006 and 2010.

Among the planned factories, a steel billet plant with an annual capacity of 500,000 tons and a steel-rolling plant with an annual capacity of 300,000-

500,000 tons will be built in the southern region, the association said.

Vietnam imported 595,000 tons of steel billets and finished steel products totalling 286 million dollars in the first two months of this year, seeing respective year-on-year declines of 25.3 per cent and 35.2 per cent, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

From January to February, it imported 237,000 million tons of steel billets worth 83 million dollars, down 18.7 per cent and 25.5 per cent, respectively, against the same period last year.

Vietnam imported 5.6 million tons of steel billets and finished steel products totalling three billion dollars in 2005, posting respective rises of 8.7 per cent and 16 per cent over 2004. It imported nearly 2.3 million tons of steel billets worth 863 million dollars last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Guangdong Province imports more cotton

GUANGZHOU, 14 March — Booming Guangdong Province imported 15,000 tons of cotton valued at 19.53 million US dollars in January, a year-on-year growth of 52.5 per cent and 66.4 per cent, respectively.

Local Customs sources said since China signed agreements with the European Union and the United States on China's textiles export, Chinese textile producers have been confident about foreign sales of the products this year. Their demand for cotton will increase steadily this year, the sources forecast.

Over 80% Japanese think income gap widening

TOKYO, 14 March — Eighty-one per-cent of Japanese think the gap between the haves and the have-nots are becoming larger, a survey conducted by the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper showed.

Of the respondents who said the income gap is widening, 56 per cent think the structural reforms pursued by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi are part of the cause, though 40 per cent

said it is not related.

According to the survey released on Tuesday, only 16 per cent of the 1,812 respondents think the discrepancy is not enlarging.

MNA/Xinhua

African health ministers push for more budget allocation to research

LAGOS, 14 March — Health ministers from Nigeria and 10 other African nations have agreed to push for the devotion of 2 per cent of their national health budget to research work, the official News Agency of Nigeria reported on Sunday, citing a statement on African health research.

The ministers also agreed to further mobilize resources from national and international sources and foster collaboration and leadership for essential national health research, said the statement issued after a three-day ministerial meeting in Nigeria's capital Abuja this week.

Meanwhile, the ministers identified four major types of health research to be conducted in Africa to include health systems, social sciences, biomedical and bioscience and epidemiological researches.

They identified domains for such researches as infectious diseases, reproductive and sexual health, child health, non-communicable diseases, malnutrition and mental health. — MNA/Xinhua

Strong China-India relations to usher in true Asian century

BEIJING, 15 March — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Tuesday highly valued relations between China and India, saying strong bilateral ties will

usher in a true Asian century.

It is when China and India are really strong enough and fully bring out their vitality that it will

"usher in a new true Asian century", Wen said at a Press conference shortly after the end of national legislature's annual session.—MNA/Xinhua

Besides the strong domestic demand at home, the increase of cotton arrivals owed to the fact that cotton sellers from developed nations have shortened marketing channels for the goods. They endeavoured to sell more cotton before 1 August, 2006, when the subsidies on their cotton exports will be scrapped, as the WTO required.

The local Customs sources said in January, cotton imports shipped directly to warehouses at the free trade zones in Guangdong soared 840 per cent from the same month last year. According to the China Cotton Association, China will be short of three million tons of cotton this year. — MNA/Xinhua

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Ethiopia earns over \$131m from export of agri products

ADDIS ABABA, 14 March —Over 131 million US dollars have been secured from the export of coffee, tea, spices and cotton during the past eight months since July last year, Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said on Saturday.

Berhanu Gezahegn, senior official with the ministry, told journalists that about 62,440 tons of products were exported to foreign countries during the reported period.

Most of the products were exported to Germany, Japan, America, France, Belgium, Britain, Pakistan and Djibouti,

said Berhanu.

He said nearly 11 million dollars were secured from the export of spices to Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Kuwait, Sudan and Germany while cotton was sent to China, Switzerland and Djibouti.

The income secured during the past months exceeded by 7.58 million dollars that of the income secured in the previous fiscal year (July 2004-June 2005), according to Berhanu.

He said the increase was due to the improved quality of produces.

MNA/Xinhua



South Africa's Commonwealth Games team member Melissa Corfe swims during a practice session in Melbourne on 14 March, 2006. —INTERNET



A man rides a bicycle carrying shoe boxes in front of an advertisement of a Chinese shoe company on 15 March, 2006 in Shanghai, China.—INTERNET

Singapore-Malaysia negotiations on bridge issue make progress

SINGAPORE, 14 March — Negotiations between Singapore and Malaysia on the bridge issue are still ongoing and significant progress has been made, a spokesman from Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Monday.

The official said in a statement that a Singapore team is now in Kuala Lumpur for the fifth round of negotiations with its Malaysian counterpart. They will discuss on issues involving balance of benefits for a full bridge which was proposed by Malaysia to replace the 80-year-old Causeway linking its Johor State and Singapore.

Singapore insists that it can agree to Malaysia's proposal on the bridge issue only if there is a balance of benefits on both sides.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said Monday in Kuala Lumpur that the two sides are close to an agreement on the bridge issue and more

Russia to take Brazilian scientific experiments to space

BRASILIA, 14 March — Russia has agreed to carry into space eight experiments chosen by the Brazilian Space Agency at a historic mission that will send the first Brazilian into space, the Brazilian government's news agency said on Sunday.

The experiments are now set to be carried on a Russian Soyuz TMA-8 rocket to the International Space Station. Marcos Pontes, 42, Brazil's first-ever space astronaut, will accompany US astronaut Jeffrey Williams and Russian cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov on the Soyuz rocket that will take off from the Baikonur launch pad in Kazakhstan on 30 March.

Pontes has received training on how to operate the equipment from a delegation of Brazilian specialists who visited Russia.

The space-flight was approved on 18 October by the Brazilian Space Agency and its Russian counterpart after Brazil and Russia signed an agreement on the historic space mission during Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's visit to Moscow.

MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb blasts kill one, wound 15 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 14 March— One Iraqi was killed and 15 more wounded as two roadside bombs exploded in northern and southern Baghdad on Monday, police said.

"A roadside bomb went off at about 8:30 am (0530 GMT) near civilian cars in Taji in northern Baghdad, killing a civilian and wounding six others," Captain Ahmed Abdullah told Xinhua.

Meanwhile, another roadside bomb detonated near a police patrol on the highway near the Technology University in eastern Baghdad, wounding four policemen and five civilians, Abdullah said.

The blast also damaged one of the police vehicles, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Hawaii Marine killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 March—A Marine from Honolulu was killed during fighting in Iraq, according to the Pentagon.

Lance Cpl Kristen K Figueroa, 20, died on Sunday during combat operations in Al Anbar.

Figueroa was part of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force based at 29 Palms, California.

Internet

Study shows blood pressure drugs may combat Alzheimer's

CHICAGO, 14 March —Medications used to combat high blood pressure appear to be linked to a lower incidence of Alzheimer's disease, according to a study published on Monday.

Whether there is a true cause and effect relationship needs further study, said the report from Maryland-based Khachatourian and Associates.

The study looked at 3,297 elderly residents of Cache County, Utah, who were examined between 1995 and 1997, and later given follow-up examinations beginning in 1998.

While all hypertension medications in the study seem to have an impact, the greatest reduction in the risk of Alzheimer's disease was found in those taking diuretics, which cause the kidneys to excrete water and salt but spare the elimination of potassium.

Unpublished findings from another study "suggest that increased potassium levels may be associated with a reduced risk of dementia", said the study, while other researchers have found that low potassium concentrations are associated with changes in the brain that may lead to Alzheimer's disease.

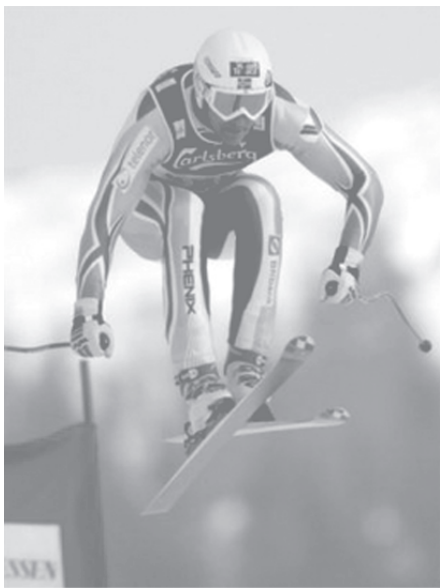
While high blood pressure is thought to raise the risk of Alzheimer's, "the protective effects of these antihypertensive medications may be independent of their ability to control blood pressure", the study said.

MNA/Reuters



Ford's Rouge factory in Dearborn, Michigan. A fundamental transformation is taking place in the US auto industry as Asian automakers increase their domestic production and market share while General Motors and Ford continue to shrink.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal takes a jump on his way to win an Alpine Ski World Cup Men's Downhill, at the World Cup finals, in Are, Sweden, on 15 March, 2006. INTERNET

Spartak sign Austria defender Stranzl from Stuttgart

MOSCOW, 15 March — Spartak Moscow have signed Austria defender Martin Stranzl from Bundesliga club VfB Stuttgart on a four-year contract, the Russian Premier League side said on Tuesday.

Transfer details were not disclosed but Russian media put the fee at around three million euros (3.5 million US dollars).

The 25-year-old becomes Spartak's second international signing in the Russian off-season after Dutch striker Quincy Owusu-Abeyie, who moved from Arsenal in January.

The Russian league season kicks off on Friday.

Stranzl, who has 17 caps, is the second Austrian fullback to play for Russia's most popular club.

Emanuel Pogatetz was loaned to Spartak by Bundesliga side Bayer Leverkusen in January 2005 before joining English Premier League club Middlesbrough later that year.

Spartak, who finished second in Russia behind city rivals CSKA last season, will compete in this year's Champions League qualifiers. — MNA/Reuters

Bulgarian referee Genov banned after mistakes

SOPIA, 15 March — Bulgarian referee Anton Genov has been banned until the end of April after a string of errors in a domestic premier league match on Sunday, a Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) official said on Tuesday.

Leaders CSKA Sofia drew 1-1 at Litex Lovech but players and officials from both teams were furious about Genov's decisions.

"He made some huge mistakes during the match so the Referees' Commission decided to ban him until the end of next month," a commission official said.

Genov is one of the most reputable referees in the Balkan country and has been in charge of many European club competition games. — MNA/Reuters



Michaela Dorfmeister (R) and Michaela Walchhofer of Austria pose with the women's and men's overall downhill trophies after the season's last downhill races at the Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals in Are, Sweden on 15 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Cambodia calls off plan to host SEA Games in 2011

PHNOM PENH, 15 March —Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen announced on Tuesday that Cambodia will not host the 2011 South-Eastern Asian Games (SEA Games) due to the high cost.

"We should spend our limited resources on something that is more important and necessary," the Prime Minister said at a graduation ceremony.

He cited the regional ASEAN summit in 2011, and the National Assembly elections in 2012.

MNA/Xinhua

Inter beat Ajax 1-0 to set up Villarreal clash

MILAN, 15 March — Inter Milan set up a Champions League quarterfinal with Villarreal when a superb goal by Dejan Stankovic gave them a 1-0 win over Ajax Amsterdam on Tuesday to complete a 3-2 victory on aggregate.

The midfielder's 57th-minute strike sealed a deserved victory for the home side after they created a string of chances, although they missed a first-half penalty when Brazilian forward Adriano out his spot-kick wide.

The result, which means three Italian teams are through to the last eight, completed the quarter-final lineup. The other matches see Benfica facing Barcelona, Arsenal versus Juventus and Olympique Lyon against AC Milan.

Inter play the first leg

of their quarter-final at the San Siro on March 29, with the return at the Madrigal on April 4.

Coach Roberto Mancini told his players not to get over confident for the clash with the Spaniards.

"There are many dangers in facing Villarreal,

starting from the fact we will be favourites," Mancini told reporters.

"When the draw for the last 16 was made, there were certain matches that looked like they were mismatches. Instead some of the favourites from those ties have already gone out."

MNA/Reuters



England's Stuart Abbott (L) and Ben Cohen reach for the ball during a team training session at Pennyhill Park in Surrey, England on 15 March, 2006. England are due to play Ireland in their Six Nations rugby union international on Saturday. — INTERNET

David Beckham begins running again after injury

MADRID, 15 March — England's David Beckham, who plays for Spanish soccer team Real Madrid, has begun running again, just six days after a suffering a muscle spasm in a Champions League match with English league team Arsenal, local media reported on Tuesday.

Real Madrid doctors ordered Beckham to rest for at least five days after the match played in Highbury, north London, during which Arsenal effectively booted Madrid from the Champions League competition.

Beckham missed Madrid's game against Valencia and returned to training with a light run alongside Uruguay's Pablo Garcia, who is suffering from a left knee sprain. The English forward might be back in action for Madrid's next game, against Real Betis, depending on how manager Juan Ramon Lopez Caro assesses the progress of his treatment.

Johnathan Woodgate, another injured English player in the Madrid squad, is also hoping to be back in play next week, having almost completely recovered from a muscle spasm in his right leg. — MNA/Xinhua

Man City beat Villa to reach FA Cup quarterfinal

LONDON, 15 March — Manchester City striker Georgios Samaras scored for his new club to steer home a 2-1 victory over Aston Villa in their FA Cup fifth-round replay on Tuesday.

City next meet the winners of Wednesday's replay between West Ham United and Bolton Wanderers in a quarter-final tie scheduled for the City of Manchester stadium on Monday. Greek international Samaras, who joined City from Dutch club Heerenveen for six million pounds (10.41 million dollars) in January, opened the scoring after 17 minutes.

He raced clear of the defence and slotted in the rebound after his first effort was parried by keeper Thomas Sorensen. Villa continued to struggle and their former striker Darius Vassell added a second goal for City from close range after good work by Albert Riera four minutes into the second half. City went close to a third when Antoine Sibierski headed against the post two minutes later. — MNA/Xinhua



Austria's Michael Walchhofer goes airborne during the men's downhill race in the FIS World Cup Finals, on 15 March, 2006, in Are, Sweden. —INTERNET

Ferdinand attacks UEFA over fight against racism

STRASBOURG (France), 15 March — Manchester United's England defender Rio Ferdinand has accused UEFA of not doing enough to combat racism in the European game.

Ferdinand criticized the fines issued after England

players suffered racist taunts in a friendly in Spain in November 2004, though both the match and sanctions were a matter for world ruling body FIFA, rather than its European arm. "For too long now, European football authorities have not taken the problem of racism in the game seriously and refuse to acknowledge how widespread the problem is," Ferdinand said in a statement on Tuesday. The England defender's comments came as the European Parliament in Strasbourg passed a resolution on Tuesday which will provide extra sanctions for tackling racist behaviour by giving referees the power to abandon matches. — MNA/Reuters

Poll shows Bush's approval rating remains low

WASHINGTON, 15 March — The approval rating for US President George W Bush has remained at one of the lowest levels during his presidency, a new poll released on Monday showed.

The CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll found that only 36 per cent of Americans approved the job the President was doing, while 60 per cent said they disapproved of his job performance.

The approval rating was two percentage points lower from a poll conducted in late February-early March.

On Iraq, 57 per cent of Americans believed

the Iraq war was a mistake, half believed the war was going badly, and 67 per cent said the President did not have a clear plan for handling the situation there, according to the poll of 1,001 adults, which was conducted last Friday and Saturday and had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe soon to produce bio-diesel from Jatropha plant

HARARE, 15 March — Zimbabwean Minister of Science and Technology Olivia Muchena has disclosed that his country has the capacity to produce bio-diesel from the Jatropha plant within a short time, local media reported on Tuesday.

She said a feasibility study on Jatropha had revealed that the plant was one of the most oil-yielding plants as it contained about 50 per cent oil when compared to soya beans and sunflower with a much less oil content of about 12 per cent.

Muchena was giving a lecture on Monday at Zimbabwe Staff College 19th Joint Staff Command

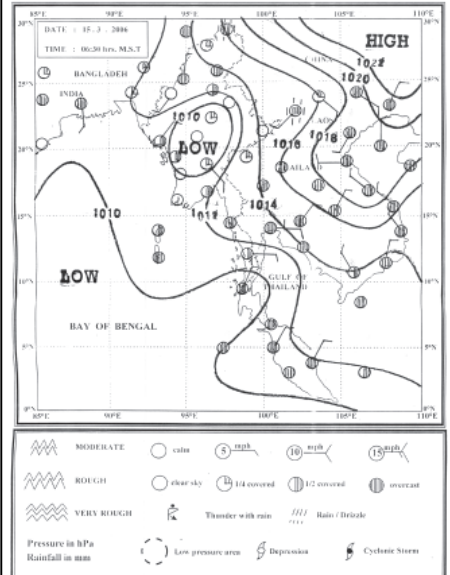
Staff Course on "Zimbabwe Science and Technology Policy, Alternative Energy Sources."

"A feasibility study on the potential for bio-diesel production has been approved by the Cabinet. All other documentation pertaining to implementation programme, budget and human resources needs are available. An internal resource mobilization drive has been undertaken over the last five months," she said.

The minister said there has been scepticism among Zimbabweans on the capacity by the country to produce fuel from bio-diesel, despite the high literacy rate among citizens.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 15 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 Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Aunglan (41°C), Minbu, Magway and Shwegyin (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Putao and Myeik (0.04) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 14-3-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 15-3-2006 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrsMST on 14-3-2006 was(70%). Total sunshine hours on 14-3-2006 was (9.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 15-3-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northwest at (14:20) 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 16-3-2006: Light rain are likely isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Pyinmana and neighbouring area for 16-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-3-2006: Partly cloudy.


STRONG WIND WARNING

(Issued on 15th March, 2006)

During the hot-dry season, beginning from now to May, as day temperatures rise markedly all over the country, towering clouds are expected to form and strong winds are likely at times in the afternoon/evening over most of the areas. Surface wind speeds may reach (40) to (50) mph and it may also be accompanied by isolated heavy rain and hails in some places.




A man walks during heavy snowfall past a lifeguard tower on a beach at Lake Harriet in Minneapolis on 13 March, 2006. The Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St Paul received up to 15 inches of wet snow overnight. It is the largest snowfall in the area in over two years.—INTERNET



Thursday, 16 March
View on today

<p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p>7:15 am</p> <p>2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ တဒ္ဓန္တ၊ သိရိန္ဒြေထိပသ(ဗဟုသုတဆရာတော်) ဗဟုကြားတော်ဖွဲ့အပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>3. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>4. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>5. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:50 am</p> <p>6. Dance of national races</p> <p>8:05 am</p> <p>7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p>	<p>8:10 am</p> <p>8. Dance variety</p> <p>8:25 am</p> <p>9. တချစ်ပြည်နယ် ချီးကောင်းတံတား</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>10. International news</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>11. Let's Go</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm</p> <p>2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>3. English for Everyday Use</p> <p>4:45 pm</p> <p>4. တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ</p> <p>5:00 pm</p> <p>5. အစေးသင်တန်းသို့လှည့်တေးရုပ်ပြိုင်ပွဲကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ်(ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)</p> <p>5:15 pm</p> <p>6. Cute little dancers</p> <p>5:25 pm</p> <p>7. Musical programme</p> <p>5:35 pm</p> <p>8. "နင်းကြည့်စမ်းပါ"</p>	<p>(မင်းအုပ်စိုး၊ ညိုဘား၊ ခင်စိုး၊ ဝိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)</p> <p>5:45 pm</p> <p>9. Musical programme</p> <p>5:50 pm</p> <p>10. နိုင်ငံအဝန်းသစ်တော့စွမ်းဖြင့် မိမိလမ်းခရေမည် (ထပ်သီတေးပွဲတော့ဥယျာဉ်)</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>11. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>12. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm</p> <p>13. Musical programme</p> <p>6:50 pm</p> <p>14. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>6:55 pm</p> <p>15. (၆၁)နှစ်ပြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p>7:05 pm</p> <p>16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရောင်စဉ်မေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၃)</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>17. News</p> <p>18. International news</p> <p>19. Weather report</p> <p>20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နင်းဆီအိပ်မက်" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)</p> <p>21. The next day's programme</p>
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Thursday, 16 March
Tune in today

<p>8:30 am Brief news</p> <p>8:35 am Music: Baby one more time</p> <p>8:40 am Perspectives</p> <p>8:45 am Music: -Where do you go... Michael Bolton</p> <p>8:50 am National news & Slogan</p> <p>9:00 am Music: -Susan... The Art Co</p> <p>9:05 am International news</p> <p>9:10 am Music: -Cruel summer ...Baranarama</p> <p>1:30 pm News & Slogan</p> <p>1:40 pm Lunch time music -I feel love -Stuck on you -Do you feel like I feel</p> <p>9:00 pm Aspects of Myanmar</p> <p>9:10 pm Article/Music</p> <p>9:20 pm Pouri -Green tea may protect aging brain</p> <p>9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers</p> <p>9:45 pm News & Slogan</p> <p>10.00 pm PEL</p>

Awards for year 2005 presented to athletes, coaches

YANGON, 15 March — Co-organized by Myanmar Olympic Committee and Myanmar Sports Writers Federation, the ceremony to present Best Sportsmen, Best Sportswomen and Best Coach Awards was held at Sedona Hotel, here, yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion were, MOC members, officials of the Ministry of Sports, president and members of sports federations, and journalists.

Chairman of MOC Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address. President of MSWF Dr Tin Tun Oo explained prize presentation and selection of the winners.

Documents on competitions of the winners of the awards were

presented, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented medals and K 1 million each to Best Sportsman for the Year 2005 winner Aung Cho Myint (Sepak Takraw), Best Sportswoman for the Year 2005 winner Yin Yin Khaing (Track & Field), and medals and K 300,000 each to Best Coach of the Year 2005 winner to U Kyaw Khin (Track & Field) and Dr Min Naing (Billiards and Snooker).

Dr Tin Tun Oo also gave K 1 million each to Aung Cho Myint and Yin Yin Khaing, and

K 300,000 each to U Kyaw Khin and Dr Min Naing.

Next, Dr Tin Tun Oo accepted K 4 million to the fund of the federation donated by Managing Director U Zaw Win Naing on behalf of Kanbawza Bank Ltd Chairman U Aung Ko Min and Vice-Chairman Daw Nan Than Htwe; K 500,000 by Director U Soe Myint of SPA/FMI of Companies and President of Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation; K 300,000 by Best Coach for the Year 2005 Award winner Dr Min

Naing (Billiards and Snooker); K 200,000 by Managing Director Dr Khin Moe Moe of Thuta Sweson Literary House; and K 100,000 and 25 bottles of tonic by Business Manager Mr Kashyap of Mega Products Co Ltd. Certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers.

The award winners expressed gratitude.

After the ceremony, the ministers, guests, the president of MSWF and party and award winners posed for a documentary photo.

MNA

Objectives of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day

- * To work in concert with the people for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic new nation
- * To strive for successful realization of the seven-point policy programme of the State
- * To crush every danger posed to the State hand in hand with people
- * To build a strong, capable and modern Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers an address at the ceremony to present awards to athletes and coaches. — MNA

43rd Myanma Gems Emporium 2006 commences Quality golden pearls produced from Myanmar to be displayed at the emporium



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein addresses press conference on 43rd Myanma Gems Emporium. — MNA

YANGON, 15 March — The press conference on the 43rd Myanma Gems Emporium 2006, organized by the Central Committee for Organizing Myanma Gems Emporium of the Ministry of Mines, was held at the Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

It was attended by Member of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and

(See page 9)

INSIDE

As I was born in the countryside, I am constantly studying the rural economy and life and taking part in the rural development undertakings. I have noticed the multiple development in the rural areas throughout the country because of the systematic use and conservation of land resources.