

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 336

5th Waning of Taboung 1367 ME

Saturday, 18 March, 2006

New school building of Wan Pyae Village BEMS in Myinmu Township, Sagaing Division, handed over

YANGON, 16 March — A ceremony to hand over a new school building of Wan Pyae Village Basic Education Middle School in Myinmu Township, Sagaing Division, took place at the school on 12 March morning.

It was attended by Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, departmental officials at division, district and township levels, members of social organizations, teachers and students, wellwishers and guests.

Sagaing District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Soe Naing, Division Education Officer U Toe Maung and donor U Tin Aung formally opened the cer-

emony and the commander unveiled the signboard of the school building. The commander and party then inspected the school building.

The commander spoke on the occasion and U Toe Maung expressed thanks for the donation of school building. The donor presented documents related to the building to the division education officer.

The commander donated exercise books, school uniforms, sports gear and journals. The two-storey building with 126 feet in length and 27 feet in breadth was built at a cost of K 18.46 million — K 7 million each by the education department and wellwishers and K 4.46 million by the public. — MNA

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

INSIDE

But the political parties, terrorist groups and lackey expatriates dancing to the American tune are still staying silent in support of the American atrocities. They are trying to appease their master as they are minions. Because they all are not true democracy activists, instead, just the persons practising the policy of strictly obeying the master and recruiting lackeys, even though shouting at the height of their voice "democracy" and "human rights". Their words are for human rights, but their acts are no other than for destroying and obstructing the human rights of the people of Myanmar.

PAGE 7

A READER

Metmang grows physic nut for alternate fuel

YANGON, 17 March — A ceremony to nurture physic nut saplings was held at the model nursery in Metmang on 8 March morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, departmental officials and local people.

The commander explained benefits of growing physic nut plants.

Next, milling of physic nut seeds and operating of engines with physic nut oil was demonstrated. The commander presented physic nut grafts and seeds to those present. He viewed sowing of 10,000 physic nut seeds.

At Minyanaung Hall, the commander met with departmental officials, social organizations and local people. He heard reports on facts about Metmang

Township and its progress by Chairman of Township PDC U Maung Tha Mya.

Afterwards, the commander provided rice, edible oil and foods, cloths and cash assistance to staff families of the departments concerned and sports gear, newspapers and periodicals to officials.

The commander paid homage to Minyanaung Pagoda and Sayadaw U Chandasiri of Pyinnyadipa Monastery of Metmang. Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Township Secretary of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Sai Lon Hsai offered 45 Buddha images donated by Shan State (East) USDA to the Sayadaw for public obeisance. At the township hospital, the commander donated K 300,000 to the medical fund of the hospital.

(See page 8)



Yin Nyein Sluice Gate in Paung Township, Mon State, is serving the regional as well as national interest. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 18 March, 2006

Step up sale of quality jade and gems

Myanmar is rich in terrestrial and aquatic resources. It has a good reputation around the world for its fine precious stones such as jade, ruby, sapphire and pearl with high quality.

The Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines holds gems emporia every year with a view to promoting sale of domestic gems and jade and raising the finance of the nation.

The Myanma Gems Emporium Central Committee conducted the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium (2006) at the Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon beginning 15 March, drawing the attention of 1,572 merchants — 827 from 232 companies of 11 foreign countries and 745 from 337 local companies.

The 43rd emporium attracted more merchants than the previous ones as the quality and quantity of the jade, gems and pearls displayed there were higher than its predecessors.

The lots of jade, gems and pearls exhibited at the emporium are of high quality. Among them, lot No 2429 comprising five jade blocks weighing 15 kilos will be sold at reserve price of one million euros, lot No 63 of Mogok ruby weighing 33.39 carats, at reserve price of 3.5 million euros; and lot No 233 comprising 68 gold hue pearls weighing 62.50 mommes, at reserve price of 17,300 euros and they are highest prices of their kinds.

Moreover, lots of jade, gems and pearls will be sold through tender. Altogether 2,459 lots of jade, 251 lots of gems and 250 lots of 23,950 pearls are being displayed. Gems lots comprise those with fine quality produced in Mongshu gems land and Mogok gems land.

In Myanmar, gems mining was mainly run by the State in the past. Now, national gems mining companies are spreading their wings in cooperation with the State based on mutual interest system.

If gems mining makes greater progress, the State will earn more foreign exchange. Therefore, the government and national gems companies are urged to make efforts in concert to boost sale of gems with fine quality for mutual interests.

မော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ်စီးနင်းသူများလိုက်နာရန်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာ နယ်နိမိတ်အတွင်း အစိုးရ ဌာနဆိုင်ရာနှင့် မော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ်များကိုသာ လုပ်ငန်းလိုအပ်ချက် အရ စီးနင်းခွင့်ပြုပြီး ဌာနဆိုင်ရာ မော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ်များတွင်လည်း ဌာနတစ်ခုစီ ကပ်ထားရပါမည်။ ဆိုင်ကယ်စီးနင်းသူများအနေဖြင့် မော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ်စီး ဦးထုပ်ဆောင်းလျက် မေးခွန်းကြိုးကို သေချာစွာ တပ်ဆင်ချည်နှောင် စီးနင်းကြရန်နှင့် ဆိုင်ကယ်စီးဦးထုပ် မဆောင်းဘဲစီးနင်းခြင်း၊ နှစ်ယောက်နှင့်အတက် တင်ဆောင်းစီးနင်း ခြင်းများကို စစ်ဆေးတွေ့ရှိပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူ ဆောင်ရွက် သွားမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ထို့အပြင် လိုင်စင်ပွဲ မော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ်များ၊ နယ်ကျော်စီးနင်းသည့် မော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ်များအား စစ်ဆေး တွေ့ရှိပါက အဆိုပါ မော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ်များအား နိုင်ငံပိုင်အဖြစ် သိမ်းဆည်းပြီး စီးနင်းသူကိုလည်း ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူ ဆောင်ရွက် သွားမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်ကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုဌာနကော်မတီ

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



U Zaw Win and Daw Mar Mar Nwe and family members of No 110 (B), Aung Thiri Street, Ward 7, Thakayta, recently donate K 100,000 for all-round renovation of Sule Pagoda to members of the pagoda board of trustees on 12-3-2006. — H

Blood donation ceremony on 21 March

YANGON, 17 March — Hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the blood donation ceremony, co-organized by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Union Solidarity and Development Association, will be held at No 2 Military Hospital and Yangon General Hospital on 21 March. — MNA

Mandalay Association (Yangon) pays homage to Agga Maha Pandita Sayadaws

YANGON, 16 March — Mandalay Association (Yangon) held the ceremony to honour Meiktila Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujanariya of Dhammikayama Taik of Chanmyathazi Township, Sitha Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narada of West Khinmagan Taik of Chanayethazan Township, Kinwunmyingyi Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vajiravudha of Mahaangmye Township, and Yankin Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Odhatasiribhivamsa who were offered Agga Maha Pandita title, at Yadanabon Hall of the association on Merchant Street in Pabedan Township yesterday.

Chairman of the Organizing Committee U Khin Maung Nyunt supplicated on the purpose of the ceremony to the Sayadaws.

On behalf of the wellwishers, the chairman and executives of the association donated alms to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, Chairman U Mya Thuang presented prize to Maha Saddhamma Jotika title winner Dr Khin Maung Nyunt. On behalf of the Sayadaws, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Narada delivered Saddhammodaniya.

The congregation shared merits gained.

MNA

Prizes presented to winners in Grand Royal Golf C'ship



YANGON, 17 March — The Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship, organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd, continued for the second and final day at Lashio Golf Club in Lashio, Shan State (North), yesterday morning.

After the second and final round, the prize presentation ceremony followed at Lashio Motel Hall in the evening. Design and Development Director U Tint Oo of IBTC presented prizes to putting challenge contest winner Aung Lin Tun, near-

est to the pin award to Bahtoo Aung and longest drive award to Myint Lwin.

Executive of MGPA and MGF U Ko Ko Lay, Lt-Col Nay Lin

Aung and Lt-Col Khin Maung Win of North-East Command gave consolation prizes to nine golfers.

Brig-Gen Kyaw Lwin of North-East Command presented first, second and third prizes to Shwe Nann who fired a five-under-par 138 nett total, Win Naing who shot a five-under-par 139 nett total, Than Win who scored a five-under-par 139 nett total, and the fourth prize

to Khin Maung Zaw who fired a four-under-par 140 nett total.

U Tint Oo of IBTC presented gifts to Joint-Secretary of the golf club U Khin Maung Yi. Co-sponsors of the championship were Air Mandalay Ltd, Crusher Club Soda, Srixon and Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel.

The functions of the championship were organized by Han Event Management. — MNA



Winners (L-R) Shwe Nann, Win Naing, Than Win and Khin Maung Zaw holding prizes.—MGF

Syrian leader rejects US criticism



President Bashar Assad
LONDON, 16 March—
Syria's President said on

Thursday that his nation was essential to a stable Iraq, rejecting US accusations that Damascus has not tried to stop the infiltration of terrorists across its border to fight coalition forces.

President Bashar Assad also said in an interview on Britain's Sky News that the only way forward in Iraq was for American forces to

immediately leave, dismissing the argument their departure would deepen the sectarian strife.

"Iraq is on the brink of civil war, what could be worse?" he said.

He said the guerilla was largely a political problem caused by US forces. "If they leave at least it could be better."
Internet

Researcher says Indian Ocean coral may die in 50 years

VICTORIA, 16 March— Rising sea temperatures caused by global warming could kill off the Indian Ocean's coral reefs in the next 50 years, threatening vital marine life, a marine researcher said on Wednesday.

Vast ecosystems often called the nurseries of the sea, coral reefs are vital spawning grounds for many species of fish, help prevent coastal erosion and also draw tourist revenues.

"Scientific reports are indicating we will have no corals left by 2050," Jude Bijoux, manager of the Seychelles Centre for Marine Research and Technology, told Reuters.

"We lost 90 per cent of them in 1998 and the little that was left is recovering slowly and is apparently under frequent threat."

In 1998, the El Nino weather phenomenon, which occurs when sea surface temperatures rise

substantially, had devastating effects.

According to researchers, 33 vast sites in the Indian Ocean where corals died in 1998 may suffer repeated damage every five years — roughly corresponding to El Nino cycles — by 2025 if not sooner.

Many scientists believe

global sea temperatures are rising because increasing fossil fuel emissions from cars, industry and other sources are trapping the earth's heat.

Other threats to reefs include pollution, over-fishing, coastal development and diseases.

MNA/Reuters



Vehicles destroyed by flooding from Hurricane Katrina lie among debris in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, on 16 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Kangaroo leads Austrian cops on snow chase

VIENNA, 16 March— A kangaroo led police in southern Austria on a snow chase Thursday after it jumped the fence of its cage and decided to explore its wintry surroundings. The marsupial — discovered on a country road about 3 miles outside the town of St Veit in the province of Carinthia — kept hopping away from perplexed police trying to rein it in, local police officer Joerg Fortin said.

In the end, a local veterinarian helped capture the animal using a stun gun.

The kangaroo, which belongs to a breeder in Tirol, was in southern Austria for treatment by Georg Rainer, another local veterinarian.

In a phone interview, Rainer said he was also temporarily looking after a second kangaroo for about two to three weeks. He was not immediately able to provide details about the breeder. The year-old kangaroo that briefly escaped was being treated for minor injuries, he added.

Tourists who visit the alpine country can buy T-shirts with the slogan

"There are no kangaroos in Austria" because this European country is sometimes confused with Australia, where the

marsupials are native. Some tourists in Austria have been known to ask where kangaroos can be found. —Internet



A lonely kangaroo sits on the road near the village of Launsdorf, in the southern Austrian province of Carinthia, on 16 March, 2006. —INTERNET

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း



In this photo released by China's Xinhua news agency, visitors check real estate informations in the '2006 Spring in Shanghai' Real Estate Exhibition in Shanghai, China's commercial hub, on 16 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Iran, Russia reach agreement on Iran's nuclear issue

TEHERAN, 16 March — Iran and Russia had reached agreement on Iran's nuclear case, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi told a Press conference in Teheran on Wednesday.

But the spokesman did not give any details of the agreement reached between Teheran and Moscow.

Meanwhile, Asefi stressed that Iran would not give up its peaceful nuclear research activities.

"The activities are our inalienable right and no one can make such a request," Asefi said.

Iran resumed talks with Russia on Monday in Moscow on a Russian proposal to defuse the standoff over Iran's nuclear programme.

An Iranian delegation, headed by Seyed Ali Hosseini-Tash, Deputy

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), has been talking with Russian officials in Moscow since Monday, SNSC spokesman Hossein Entezami said on Tuesday.

Russia proposed last December that Iran transfer its uranium enrichment to Russia to remove the Western fear of the technology being diverted to making nuclear weapons. —MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 March — Two US soldiers were killed on Tuesday in Iraq's volatile western Anbar Province, the US military said on Wednesday.

"Two soldiers, assigned to the 28th Combat Brigade Team, were killed while conducting operations in Anbar Province on 14 March," the military said in a statement.

The names of the killed soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the brief statement said. The latest deaths have brought the total death toll of US military personnel in Iraq to at least 2,307 since the US-led invasion in March 2003. —MNA/Xinhua

Bomb blast injures 14 in S-W Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 16 March— At least 14 people, majority of them girl students, were injured in a bomb blast in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan Province on Wednesday, a senior police officer said.

Senior Superintendent Police Wazir Khan Nasir said that the bomb was kept in a general store on the busiest Brevary Road in the Pakistani city of Quetta, the provincial capital of Baluchistan, when a passenger bus was also passing through the area.

Shop owner Muhammad Bilal said that some people came to his shop in the morning but he did not know who had placed the device. —MNA/Xinhua

China-ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee holds 7th meeting

NANNING, 16 March —The seventh meeting of the China-ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) Joint Cooperation Committee opened in Nanning, capital of South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on Wednesday.

The two-day meeting has attracted about 80 participants, including Assistant Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai with the Chinese delegation and other officials from the foreign ministries of 10 ASEAN members and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Joint Cooperation Committee, set up in 1997, acts as an important coordination mechanism between China and the ASEAN. This year is the 15th anniversary for encouraging dialogue between China and ASEAN and the Year of

Friendship and Cooperation between the two parties. The committee's current meeting will focus on the follow-up activities of the China-ASEAN summit held last year and the commemorative activities to mark the 15th

anniversary of China-ASEAN relations.

During the two-day meeting, participants will exchange views on promoting pragmatic cooperation between China and ASEAN in various fields.

MNA/Xinhua



Zhang Xue, China's new Miss Tourism Queen raises the trophy in Beijing, on 16 March, 2006. The Miss Tourism Queen finals for China region was held in Beijing on Thursday.—INTERNET

China's home-made malaria vaccine to be tested on human

SHANGHAI, 16 March—A China-developed malaria vaccine will soon undergo clinical trials in Shanghai — a move China hopes it will contribute to global prevention efforts of the deadly disease.

Seventy healthy adult volunteers will receive the vaccine, code-named PfCP2.9, at the Changhai Hospital in Shanghai. If the eight-month trial is successful, full clinical trials will be conducted on adults and children in areas where malaria is most prevalent, a source close to the programme said on Wednesday.

The trials will be funded by the worldwide non-profit fund PATH, and its Malaria Vaccine Initiative.

Shanghai-based Wanxing Biological Pharmacy Co, Ltd, is also engaged in the research and development of the vaccine.

The two organizations signed an agreement to carry out the clinical trials in

Shanghai on Wednesday.—MNA/Xinhua

Poll shows pessimism about Iraq war growing

WASHINGTON, 16 March— Pessimism about the war in Iraq is increasing, according to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll released on Thursday.

In the past three years, the number of people who believe a US victory in Iraq is likely has fallen 40 percentage points. In the survey of 1,001 adults conducted on 10 March through the 12, 54 percent of respondents were either certain of a US victory or said that it was likely. In a March 2003 survey, 94 percent of respondents fell into those categories.

Moreover, 41 percent of the respondents in the recent survey said the prospect of a US victory is unlikely or certain not to happen. Only 1 percent were sure of a US defeat in the 2003 poll, with just 3 percent saying a US victory was unlikely.

In the latest poll, 60 percent said things were going poorly in Iraq, up from 53 percent in January.

And 55 percent said they believe Iraq is headed for a civil war, compared with 40 percent who think Iraq will emerge from its current troubles with a stable government.—Internet



ဝက်ပစ္စည်းအား ခေတ်တော်ပျံ့ပွား



Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong, right, talks with Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni at the Presidential Palace under the bust of late President Ho Chi Minh in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 16 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Two killed in microlight plane crash in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 16 March —Two men were killed when their microlight plane crashed into a field in Hartswater, about 500 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg, police said on Tuesday. Superintendent

Mashay Gamielien said that pilot Corrie van der Walt died on his way to hospital following the crash shortly on Monday afternoon.

Passenger Tinus Visser died on the scene, the police added. "Both deceased were residents of Hartswater and it is believed the accident occurred on the property of the pilot's father," he added.

Gamielien said the plane crashed apparently after hitting a spill point (irrigation structure). The Civil Aviation Authority is investigating the cause of the accident.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldiers aboard armoured vehicles patrol a road after Iraqi authorities imposed a vehicle ban to prevent violence in Baghdad, on 16 March, 2006. INTERNET

World Water Forum opens in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 16 March—Failing public water systems have forced more and more people in poor countries to buy bottled water from private companies, a form of privatization that has created a sharp divide among activists and officials gathered in Mexico City for an international water summit.

As delegates from the 121 countries gather Thursday for the IV World Water Forum, demonstrators plan protests against privatization, dam projects and water

extraction from impoverished Indian communities.

The goal of the seven-day forum is improving water access for the poor, an effort that has failed in the past. The poor pay vastly more money to private corporations for their water today than they did when the first global water forum was held in Marrakech, Morocco, in 1997.

Privatization of water systems has been a hard sell since 2000, when thousands of Bolivians protested rate increases in water contracts held by foreign companies. The protests left seven

demonstrators dead and forced the companies out of the country.

Bottled water, on the other hand, has earned good profits and little attention.

"It's in some way sort of a stealth privatization," said Janet Larsen, research director for the Earth Policy Institute, a private, Washington-based environmental group.

Once a First World health indulgence or a symbol of European epicures, bottled water is fast becoming a staple of the Third World, dominated in many regions by giants like

Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Nestle.

Larsen noted that

bottled water sales are in developing countries.

Internet

•••••
 Mexicans participate in the 'March in Defence of Water' near the site of the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico City, Mexico, on 16 March, 2006. INTERNET
 •••••



India says Russia to supply fuel to its atomic plants

NEW DELHI, 16 March — India will receive uranium from Russia to run two atomic power plants that have struggled to find fuel after the United States stopped supplies more than three decades ago, the

Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

Moscow's decision to supply fuel to India's Tarapur nuclear power plants came nearly two weeks after New Delhi and Washington sealed a landmark deal which aims to give India access to atomic equipment and fuel from the United States, and eventually from other nuclear nations.

MNA/Reuters



Actress Natalie Portman poses with her Female Star of the Year award at ShoWest in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 16 March, 2006. —INTERNET



Members of Hong Kong's Health Department participate in a simulation exercise at the Hong Kong International Airport, on 17 March, 2006.

INTERNET

Venezuela says US has militarized relations with Latin America

CARACAS, 16 March — The Venezuelan Government said on Wednesday that US Latin America policy has been militarized, responding to a US Army statement which described

Venezuela as "a destabilizing influence" on the region.

The remarks, made by Bantz Craddock, chief of the US Southern Command, "constitute one more sign of the

militarization of US Government policy towards Latin America as a whole and towards Venezuela in particular," Jose Vicente Rangel, the country's vice-president, told reporters on Wednesday.

"These US commentators are not White House officials, or State Department officials, but from the Defence Department, and from the intelligence services", Rangel added.

He said that it was

worrisome that such people, who should be concerned about the grave situation in Iraq and other such nations, were now focusing on Latin America.

Rangel described them as "layabouts," adding that US military involvement confirmed what Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez had said about the permanent threat of US aggression against the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Exodus of Africans to Europe stirs crisis

NOUAKCHOTT, 16 March — African migrants desperate to escape the world's poorest continent are streaming through Mauritania to embark on a perilous ocean voyage to Europe that has already killed hundreds.

The exodus from the desert country on the coast of northwest Africa prompted a call for help on Thursday from Mauritania's Prime Minister, and European leaders concerned about absorbing the immigrants already on their shores were eager to cooperate.

The situation garnered new international attention this week after Spain said Wednesday that the bodies of 24 people — all apparently

from sub-Saharan Africa — had been discovered in waters off the coast of Mauritania. Spain also intercepted some 400 Africans trying to reach its Canary Islands — a single-day record — in nine overcrowded boats that had set out from Mauritania.

The incidents prompted the Spanish government to

send a delegation to Mauritania on Thursday for talks on measures to try to slow the rising number of hazardous crossings.

Meanwhile, Spanish officials said 101 African men who set out from Mauritania in two boats reached the Canary Island of Tenerife on Thursday.

More than 1,000

Africans — some driven by hopes of jobs, others to escape their continent's many wars — have died over the past four months while trying to sail in small wooden boats from Mauritania to the Canary Islands, according to the country's branch of the Red Crescent.

Internet



The Deputy High Commissioner of the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), Wendy Chamberlin, speaking to the media in Nairobi, Kenya, on 15 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Malaysia to usher in water festival month

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 March — Malaysia will usher in its National Water Festival Month 2006 in April, a senior tourism official said Wednesday.

Supreme Head of State Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin is expected to launch the water festival on April 2 in Pahang State, said Tourism Minister Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, adding that Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will also attend the ceremony.

"It has been the aim of

the Tourism Ministry to make the National Water Festival as one of the country's tourism products, which at the same time can turn Malaysia into a tourist destination full of festivities, carnivals and jovial all the time," Tengku Adnan told reporters here.

Even before the official opening ceremony, a three-day carnival will start on 31 March at Kuantan, capital of Pahang State, said Tengku Adnan.

Then it will be followed by a central region festival in Selangor slated for 7-9 April, a southern region festival in Negeri Sembilan on 14-16 April and a northern region festival in Kedah on 20-22 April, said Tengku Adnan.

The closing ceremony, scheduled for 28-30 April, will be staged in the island of Labuan near eastern Malaysia, added the Tourism Minister.

MNA/Xinhua

Theaters may ask to jam cell phones

LAS VEGAS, 16 MARCH — Movie theater owners faced with falling attendance are considering asking federal authorities for permission to jam cell phone reception in an attempt to stop annoying conversations during films, the head of the industry's trade group said on Tuesday.

Industry leaders at the ShoWest conference for theater owners want to find ways to win back crowds.

"I don't know what's going on with consumers that they have to talk on phones in the middle of theaters," John Fithian, president of the National Association of Theater Owners, told the ShoWest conference in Las Vegas. Theaters are trying a number of ways to silence cell phones, from sweeps by ushers to funny fake movie trailers urging viewers to shut off phones. Fithian said owners were considering other steps if that does not work. —Internet



Wild horses fight in Donana Natural Park in Almonte, southern Spain, on 16 March, 2006. Donana National Park in Andalusia occupies the right bank of the Guadalquivir River at its estuary on the Atlantic Ocean. —INTERNET

“SU-27” fighter jets for aerial acrobatics arrive Hunan Province

ZHANGJIAJIE (Hunan Province), 16 March — Five SU-27 fighter jets arrived at the airport of Zhangjia National Forest Park in central China's Hunan Province on Wednesday, poised for the upcoming aerial acrobatics display through a natural mountain cave.

The fighter jets dispatched by the Russia Air Force made a stopover in Hohhot, capital of north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region before heading to the performance site at Zhangjiajie, which is famous for its natural water-eroded cave, known as Heavenly Gate Mountain.

Pilots of the heavy fighter planes are expected to race through the 60-metre wide natural cave at a speed of 700 kilometres per hour in the aerial acrobatics stunt on 17 March.

Hungarian Peter Besenyi, on an Extra 300S plane, who flew through the Heavenly Gate in a stunt in 1999, entered the Guinness Book of Records as the first pilot in the world to fly through a natural cave.

The cave, located 1,261 metres above the sea level, is measured at 127 metres x 2 metres.

The Russian Air Force is expected to send 10 planes including the fighter jets, coach plane and transporter for the three-day performance in Zhangjiajie, which is one of the activities to mark China's Russian Year, when a range of cultural exchanges between China and Russia will be held. — MNA/Xinhua



Five Russian SU-27 fighter jets rehearse for an acrobatics show at Zhangjiajie National Forest Park in Central China's Hunan Province, on 16 March, 2006. —INTERNET

China develops sophisticated under water robot

BEIJING, 17 March — Chinese scientists have developed a new kind of sophisticated underwater robot which could be used for seabed mining surveys.

Feng Xisheng, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua that his research team has worked out indigenous technologies for composite control, module structure and optical fiber application on the underwater robot, which is within the industrial category of autonomous robot vehicle (ARV).

The ARV combines the features of a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) and an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV), said Feng, adding that it could be used for precise operation in fairly long distance.

The Shenyang Institute of Automation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences is known for inventing underwater robots. It has developed another type of long-range AUV with endurance reaching tens of hours and several hundreds of kilometres. In the latest underwater test, the newly-developed AUV set a domestic record in sustainability.

The AUV is equipped with a satellite navigation receiver for precise positioning, a new kind of sonar system, a high-power fuel cell and lithium cell systems, Feng said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi say US raid on home killed 11 family members

TIKRIT (Iraq), 16 March — Eleven members of an Iraqi family were killed in a US raid on Wednesday, police and witnesses said. The US military said two women and a child died during the bid to seize an al-Qaeda militant from a house. Television pictures showed 11 bodies in the Tikrit morgue — five

children, two men and four women. A freelance photographer later saw the bodies being buried in Ishaqi, the town 60 miles north of Baghdad where the raid took place.

The US military said in a statement its troops had attacked a house in Ishaqi early on Wednesday to capture a

“foreign fighter facilitator for the al-Qaeda in Iraq network”.

“Troops were engaged by enemy fire as they approached the building,” US spokesman Major Tim Keefe said. “Coalition Forces returned fire utilizing both air and ground assets.

“There was one enemy killed. Two women and one child were also killed in the firefight. The building ... (was) destroyed.” Keefe said the al-Qaeda suspect had been captured and was being questioned. Major Ali Ahmed of the Ishaqi police said US forces had landed on the roof of the house in the early hours and shot the 11 occupants, including the five children. —MNA/Reuters

LA couple gets prison for robbing 5-year-old girl

LOS ANGELES, 17 March — A Los Angeles man and woman were each sentenced to two years in prison on Wednesday for stealing a gold chain from around the neck of a five-year-old girl in January. Julio Cesar Beltran, 18, and Patricia Serrano, 31, each pleaded no contest to one count of second-degree robbery and were given two-year sentences by a Los Angeles judge, prosecutor June Chung said. A videotape captured Beltran leaping from a car being driven by Serrano and grabbing two chains on the girl's neck as she stood in front of a meat market, Chung said. — MNA/Reuters

French ‘Spider-Man’ climbs 31-storey tower

BAGOLET, 15 March — French skyscraper climber Alain Robert scaled a 31-floor office building outside Paris on Wednesday using only his bare hands, his last climb before spending a week in prison in Texas.

Robert was arrested in Houston in November on charges of trespassing and drug possession as he was about to climb the 46-floor One Houston Centre. Police said they believed Robert was carrying the sedative Xanax, while the climber says it was a prescription anti-epilepsy medication.

Robert said his effort on Wednesday was a protest against the court decision ordering him to serve prison time.

“I don't really understand why they are charging me with criminal trespass, as I didn't even climb,” Robert said before ascending one of the 400-foot Mercuriales Towers in the suburb of Bagnolet.

He wore a skintight black and yellow outfit covered with advertisements. Robert has climbed more than 70 of the world's tallest structures, including

the Eiffel Tower, the Empire State Building and the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, with his bare hands and without a safety net. —Internet



Alain Robert, aka Spiderman, the French skyscraper climber who goes by the name of the comic book superhero, climbs one of the twin Mercuriales towers in Bagnolet, east of Paris, on 15 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Swiss delegate of Red Cross kidnapped in Gaza

GENEVA, 16 March — A Swiss delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was kidnapped on Tuesday by suspected Palestinian militants in the southern Gaza Strip, Swiss Radio International (SRI) reported. Armed men seized Julien Grosclaude in Khan Younis at around 1:30 local time, and the ICRC is demanding his immediate release, Dorothea Krimitsas, spokeswoman of the

Geneva-based organization, was quoted as saying. She added that Grosclaude had managed to make a phone call from captivity to say that he had not been harmed.

“We have no idea who may have taken him,” she said. “We hope that he will be released safe and sound, and of course we are demanding his immediate and unconditional release.”

Krimitsas said Grosclaude had been working in Gaza since May 2005

on projects providing assistance and protection to the Palestinian population.

The Swiss was among four foreign hostages seized on Tuesday. The French Foreign Ministry confirmed that two of its nationals working for the charity Medecins du Monde had been abducted.

A receptionist at a Gaza hotel told the media that a Korean had been kidnapped at the same time

MNA/Xinhua



A People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) activist in a bear costume is led away by a policeman after a protest outside the Istana, Singapore, on 17 March, 2006. PETA was protesting against the slaughter of Canada's black bears for the Queen's Guards' ceremonial bearskin hats and called to replace the fur with modern synthetic materials. —INTERNET

Inherent nature of US and allies that are exploiting human rights

A Reader

The US State Department has issued the so-called annual Reports on Human Rights Practices of other countries since 1977. It issued the annual report for 2005 on 8 March 2006.

The 2005 report featured human rights records of a number of nations. However, the report did not include the human rights records of the US and some of its allies.

According to the US, it is issuing human rights reports annually for the Congress to use the facts of the records as the base to draw the nation's foreign policy. But the concealed real aim of the US government is to use human rights as a tool to discredit and humiliate countries that are not its allies, that never yield to its domination, or that will become its rival, through the media. But the whole world knows very well the double-standard policy of the US.

It is common knowledge that the US leading the West bloc competed with the East bloc headed by the Soviet Union for global superiority in the Cold War. During the period, most of the countries that freed themselves from colonial rule with the help of the effects resulting from World War I and World War II were in favour of communism and socialism. On the other hand, most of the western nations were colonialists. As those western nations exploited other countries, the world peoples loathed them so much.

The successive US governments trying to find a way to change the global people's attitude toward the colonialists, introduced the words "human rights" and "democracy" to the world to make their dirty tricks look good. In reality "human rights" is a tool to mislead the world peoples in launching political attacks on targeted nations.

As usual, the annual report targeted China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Belarus, Myanmar etc. These countries are always included in the human rights reports compiled according to the wishes of the US.

Columnist Ren Yanshi refuted the double standard report of the US that is acting like a global judge to manipulate human rights affairs of the world, with his article "A Look at the US Human Rights Record" which appeared in Beijing Review (1997, March 17-23).

The author compiled its analysis on the US, the world's worst human rights violator, under the topics, which said that the protection for human rights stipulated in the US constitution was short of international standard; that the US democracy was a money-oriented democracy; that a large number of terrorist attacks occurred in the US; that the US had a large number of poor people, hunger problems and homeless persons; that the US still practised racial discrimination policy; that the America

women and children were facing desperate situation; and that the US was interfering in the affairs of other nations under the pretext of human rights while overlooking its own faults.

The world nations are also retorting and criticizing the US human rights report.

At a formal press meet, the spokesman of Foreign Affairs Ministry of the People's Republic of China on 9 March said that the report was an unfounded accusation; that China was protecting her constitution and observing the human rights with respect; that the Chinese government always adhered to its policy towards the people in every aspect; that China was in the process of trying to develop itself into a democratic state in accord with the law.

Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry also criticized America concerning its human rights activities, saying that the US State Department's slander could harm the good bilateral relations between Russia and America; that the report was a double standard one with lots of flaws; that the US policy was a biased one; and that the US was fuelling anti-Russia sentiment.

Similarly, Thailand slammed the US for the slanders against her. A spokesman of Thai Foreign Affairs Ministry said that the accusations stated in the report were far from truth; that every nation had its own traits and significant characteristics; and that the US was wrong in measuring other nations' situation with its own yardstick.

Vietnam too rejected the US report. A spokesman of the Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Ministry said that it was just an exaggeration compiled in America's liking; and there were differences among nations regarding background history, culture and political systems.

A spokesman of the Philippine President said that the US report concerning his country was not just; and that the Philippine government rejected it.

This time again America is playing the same old tune, slamming Myanmar with false accusations. In reality, the US is slandering Myanmar because of her strategic importance that has grown in the international community more than ever. Everyone knows that the US is acting at will while regarding itself as the global superpower.

Concerning the accusations against Myanmar, the BBC interviewed Dr Zarni, a member of Free Burma Coalition, and a visiting researcher at the Oxford University.

Dr Zarni said that as there were views from various angles, he could not say that the government was irresponsible in safeguarding the nation from falling apart; that what was important was one's point of view or which side of the coin one chose; that the nation regained independence in 1948; that U Nu government had been reduced to the level of being

branded as the Yangon government; that during U Ne Win's time, people from Myitkyina had some difficulties in travelling to Mandalay and Yangon as there were areas under insurgent control, semi-government control and full government control in the nation; that as for the present government it has been able to make peace with 17 major armed groups; that whether others agreed to it or not was another thing, the government from its point of view saw it as a great success in stabilizing and uniting the nation; that the nation faced problems due to disunity for 50 or 60 years during which countries like China and India were developing very fast; and that disunity resulted in a big loss to the nation.

The doctor continued to express his view, saying that although the nations of the west were shouting "human rights", they themselves had broken up Iraq into pieces; that they also invaded Afghanistan; that Myanmar did not need to follow the world when it shouted "human rights"; that as the deeds of the western countries were against their words, Myanmar would never be able to solve her problems if it only depended on the support of the West; and that solution to the internal problems existed only within.

He also said that America was claiming itself a liberator of human race, but on the other hand it was committing unscrupulous acts; that once he had lived and been educated in America; that he accepted US help in launching media and other campaigns with the expectation of solving Myanmar's problems with US assistance; that it was impossible to change Myanmar's situation with US help; that he had been launching various campaigns with US assistance for 15 years; but in vain; that only the people had to suffer as he failed to reconcile with the Tatmadaw that would exist forever; and that if the opposition groups wanted national reconciliation, they would have to choose the right way to achieve it.

If we consider all the facts contained in this article, we can see the steps and goals of the US. It is common knowledge that the US and its allies are putting lopsided pressure on developing countries including Myanmar, with false accusations, while using democracy and human rights as pretexts.

It is clear that the US is trying to trick the global peoples as the report failed to mention even a piece of information about American hegemonism and domination. The international community is strongly criticizing the US for the military's abuse and torture of detainees at prisons in Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantanamo, and human rights violations. We all know the plots of the US however clandestine they may be.

But the political parties, terrorist groups and lackey expatriates dancing to the American tune are still staying silent in support of the American atrocities. They are trying to appease their master as they are minions. Because they all are not true democracy activists, instead, just the persons practising the policy of strictly obeying the master and recruiting lackeys, even though shouting at the height of their voice "democracy" and "human rights". Their words are for human rights, but their acts are no other than for destroying and obstructing the human rights of the people of Myanmar.

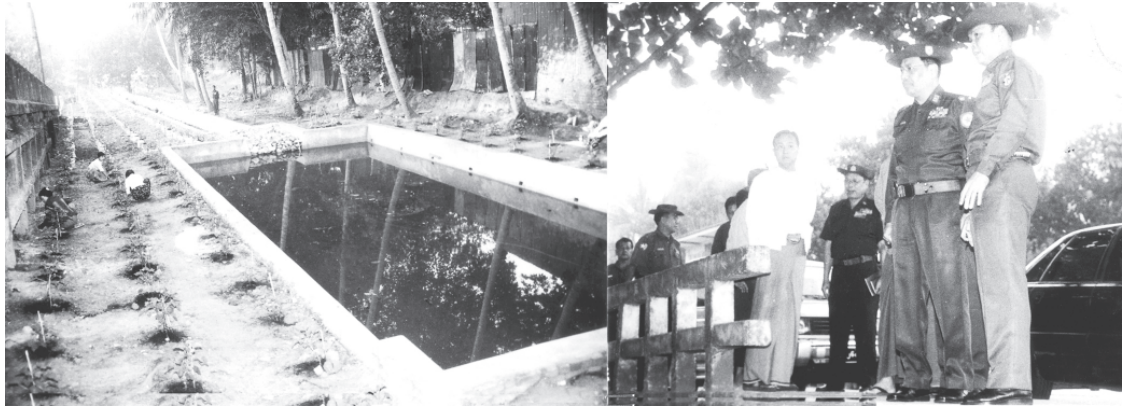
Translation: TMT

Myanma Alin: 16-3-2006

Columnist Ren Yanshi refuted the double standard report of the US that is acting like a global judge to manipulate human rights affairs of the world, with his article "A Look at the US Human Rights Record" which appeared in Beijing Review (1997, March 17-23).

Commander, Mayor inspects sanitation, upgrading tasks

YANGON, 17 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin oversaw sanitation, tasks for proper drainage in ditches and upgrading roads in Yangon City this morning.



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect filtration tank construction project in Mayangon. — MNA

A water tank is being built on Parami Road in Mayangon Township. Physic nut plants have been grown on vacant lands near the lake.

in North Okkalapa Township, Panglong Road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, and U

Htaung Bo Road in Bahan Township are being upgraded. Sanitation tasks

were carried out along Thudhamma Road. MNA

Thudhamma Road

Members of Sangha, lay persons honoured

YANGON, 17 March — A ceremony to honour Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silavansa of Dhamma Rathkita Monestary in Myitkyina, eight members of Sangha of Kachin State and two lay persons who received the religious titles took place at Kyaukseintwin Dhammayon in Yangon on 15 March.

Chairman of Myitkyina Township Association U Ohn Shwe explained the ceremony and the officials and wellwishers offered alms to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

The Sayadaw gave a sermon to the congregation who shared merits gained later.—MNA

Educative talks given to young women

YANGON, 17 March—The Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization gave educative talks to young women at the office of Hline Township WAO within the compound of Hline Township Peace and Development Council office in Yangon West District this afternoon.



Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai and party meet with locals. — MNA

Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai delivered an introductory speech, and accepted 200 membership applications from Township WAO Chairpersons Daw Pan Pan Phyu.

Daw San Myint, in-

charge of the working group of young women of Yangon Division WAO

gave educative talks on "Wrong concepts". The patron and

members held round table discussions with those present. — MNA

Metmang grows physic nut for alternate fuel...

(from page 1)

In Sukwoe Model Village, the commander offered 45 Buddha images donated by Shan State (East) USDA to a Sayadaw for public obeisance.

On arrival at Tarkawlay Village, the commander attended the physic nut saplings nurturing ceremony organized by Metmang Township USDA.

They also attended the demonstration on milling physic nut seeds and running the vehicles with its oil. Later, the commander oversaw the physic nut nursery of Tarkawlay Village USDA.

In Metmang Township, 53 acres of land have been put under physic nut plants, and 38,400 saplings are being nurtured.

MNA

Yangon West District WAO accepts new members



Patron of Yangon West District WAO Daw Ni Ni Sein accepts membership applications. — MNA

YANGON, 17 March — Families of the Internal Revenues Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue today presented membership applications to Women's Affairs Organization at the department on Pansodan Street here.

Patron of Yangon

West District WAO Daw Ni Ni Sein accepted 292 membership applications from Deputy Director of the department Daw Yin Hlaing.

Afterwards, Prof Dr Ma Tin Win and Dr Daw Khin Ye Tint of Kyauktada Township WAO gave educative talks. — MNA

Examination centres supervised

YANGON, 17 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 inspected the matriculation examination centre of Ela Basic Education High School in

Lewe Township this morning.

The minister visited the students sitting the exam and instructed the officials to enforce examination rules and regulations.

Later this morning, he looked into the matriculation examination

centre of Thawutti BEHS in Lewe Township and gave encouragement to the students. He inspected preparations made for the exams and instructed the supervisors and assistant supervisors to take necessary measures so that the students could do the exam in peace free

from nuisance and enforcement of exam rules and regulations.

The minister met members of the round-checking team and gave instructions on ensuring that students are free from malpractices in the exam.

MNA

LBVD takes action to stop death of chicken and quails in central Myanmar

YANGON, 17 March — Concerning the death of chicken and quails, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries featured in Myanma Alin and Kyemon dailies the news information and instructions on the disease.

The outbreak of the disease has stopped since the last week of February till 16 March in Shwebo Township, Sagaing Division, in the central Myanmar.

KhinU Township and Kanbalu Township (Zigon) in Sagaing Division, and Pyigyitagon, Chanmyathazi, Chanayethazan and Amarapura townships in Mandalay Division are confined as restricted zones by Township Peace and Development Councils, Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Departments, Township Health Departments, and Township Development Committees under the directive of the respective Division Peace and Development Councils to stop the occurrence of the disease at the farms. At the zones, officials concerned have banned movement of poultry, temporarily closed down meat markets, destroyed farms if the disease suspected of Avian Influenza is noticed, buried dead chicken and sprayed anti-influenza chemicals.

Up to 16 March, 4,628 chicken died and 872 were destroyed in Shwebo, Kanbalu and KhinU townships in Sagaing division, and 1,000 chicken and 4,482 quails died and 13,098 chicken, 27,018 quails and 50,000 quail eggs were destroyed in Pyigyitagon, Chanmyathazi, Chanayethazan and Amarapura townships in Mandalay Division.

No human infection is found in Myanmar to this date as the LBVD in cooperation with Health Department has been launching public awareness campaigns on the flu since the end of 2003.

Together with members of the disease control group equipped with necessary gear, the LBVD director-general arrived in Mandalay Division yesterday, and has been making arrangements to conduct effective disease control. In addition, he and his group have been making field tours in cooperation with WHO (Southeast Region), and Bangkok-based bird flu specialists to hold talks on disease control, and send disease samples to laboratories for confirmation. — MNA

Tourist security training concludes

YANGON, 17 March — Tourist security training course No 13/2005 concluded today at the Ministry of Home Affairs here. A total of 40 police officers attended the 12-week course.

With the aim of providing security assistance to tourists, Ministry of Home Affairs organized the training courses. Officers of Myanmar Police Force attended the training. — MNA



Police Brig-Gen Myint Thein addressing the tourist security training course No 13/2005.

HOME AFFAIRS

Steps taken to control Avian Influenza in some townships in Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions

YANGON, 17 March

—The coordination meeting on control of Avian Influenza was held at the People's Hospital in Meiktila on 14 March 2006, attended by Secretary of National Health Committee Chairman of Work Committee for Control of Avian Influenza Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, the head of Mandalay Division Health Department and officials.

The deputy minister discussed control of the disease, and Head of Mandalay Division Health Department Dr Khin Maung Tun control of Avian Influenza and replied to queries raised by those present.

The deputy minister attended the work coordination meeting on control of Avian Influenza held at Kyaukse People's Hospital.

Hemet members of Kyaukse District Health Committee, local authorities and officials discussed control and treatment of the disease.

In meeting with members of Mandalay Di-



Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo speaks at the coordination meeting. — HEALTH

vision Health Committee, local authorities and officials, the deputy Minister said that there have been outbreaks of Avian Influenza in neighbouring countries and some global nations; that the epidemic causes a sudden death and high mortality in poultry; that preventive measures are to be taken to control the spread of the endemic from migratory birds; and that systematic measures are being taken for coping with such a danger.

There have been poultry deaths in some

townships of Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions due to an outbreak of H5N1 bird flu. Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, local authorities, respective health committees, social organizations and the people are to make integrated efforts to control the disease.

Preventive measures are to be taken against control of the entry of people from outside into poultry farms. At the same time, those who are engaged in poultry marketing, staff from poultry

farms are to be kept under observation so that they cannot be infected. The Ministry of Health has already taken steps to give treatment in case of the outbreak of the disease, he disclosed.

Accompanied by officials of the Ministry of Health, the deputy minister attended the work coordination meeting held at the meeting hall of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council where he met with officials and discussed matters on control of Avian Influenza. — MNA

USDA CEC Member U Than Htay receives Cuban Ambassador



U Than Htay meets Cuban Ambassador Mrs Maria Lusa Fernandez. — MNA

YANGON, 18 March — Union Solidarity and Development Association Central Executive U Than Htay received Cuban Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Maria Lusa Fernandez at USDA (Headquarters) this evening.

At the call, USDA CEC member U Than Htay clarified the salient points of the USDA.

Also present at the call were officials of USDA. — MNA

Computer quiz held

YANGON, 17 March — Organized by Working Committee for exhibiting the booths of twelve objectives of the State in honour of the 61st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, an opening ceremony of computer quiz took place at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road on 15 March.

It was attended by the committee members, members of Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association and guests.

Chairman of the Working Committee Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence made a speech on the occasion. After that, the 30 members of Tamwe, Kamayut, Dagon, South Okkalapa, Kyauktada, and Insein Township USDAs competed in it that continues until 20 March.

MNA

UN creates new human rights panel US fails to block move to replace commission UN human rights vote leaves US isolated



The following are the points from a news article by Warren Hoge published in the International Herald Tribune on 16 March, 2006, and from a news article by Mark Turner published in the Financial Times on 16 March, 2006. — ED

With the United States virtually alone in opposition, the United Nations on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved a new Human Rights Council to replace the widely discredited Human Rights Commission.

The vote in the 191-nation General Assembly was 170 to 4 with 3 abstentions. Joining the United States in opposing the resolution were Israel, the Marshall Islands and Palau. Abstaining were Belarus, Iran and Venezuela.

Secretary General Kofi Annan, who first proposed the council a

year ago, hailed the decision, saying, "This gives the United Nations the chance - a much-needed chance - to make a new beginning in its work for human rights around the world."

But John Bolton, the United States ambassador, said the proposed council was "not sufficiently improved" over the commission.

He said that the United States would "work cooperatively" to strengthen the council.

He did not say whether the United States would be a candidate to serve on the council, a critical consideration for

the panel's future.

That decision is still "under discussion," said a senior Bush administration official in Washington who requested anonymity because he was discussing unsettled policy.

The resolution calls for election of new council members on 9 May, 2006, and a first meeting of the council on 19 June. The commission, which begins its annual session in Geneva next week, will be abolished 16 June.

The new council will have 47 members as opposed to the commission's 53, the means to

make timely interventions in crises and a year-around presence, with three meetings a year at its Geneva base lasting a total of at least 10 weeks. The commission meets for six weeks once a year.

But the final text had a weakened version of the crucial membership restriction in Annan's original plan that required new members to be elected by two-thirds of those voting.

Instead, council members will be elected by three-fourths of the votings of member states.

Major rights organizations and a number of American allies in the United Nations who lobbied Washington to reconsider its opposition argued that the terms were far better than existing ones and would keep major abusers off the council. But United States Ambassador to UN John Bolton disagreed and did not back the council.

Blessings of celestial and human beings

- * Written as based on American whims
If you peruse the human rights reports
Many nations across the world will be found
Not to click with the American whim.
- * If you scan this situation
Many of the world's peoples'
Original ideas and ideals concerning
human rights
Put out by the Americans
Are not to their liking
Can be apparent.
- * Paying attention to what's transparent
The state of one's homeland
To build it to the liking of world's
citizens
According to the ideas and ideals
Would be like reaching the pinnacle of
democracy
Getting to the top of pride and ecstasy
without fail
And for this advice of goodwill
May celestial and human beings take
note.

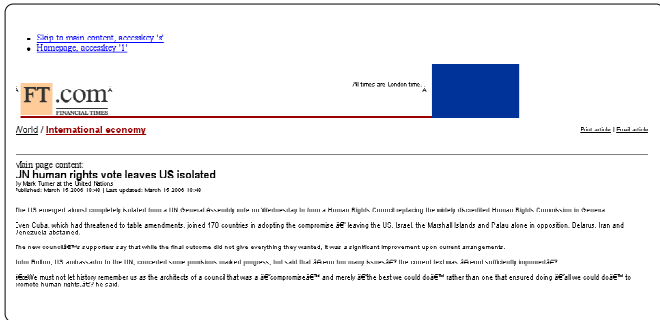
Po Wa (Trs)

Agreement on providing medical equipment to Jivitadana Sangha Hospital

YANGON, 17 March—Under the programme of the Japan's Grassroots Grant of the Japanese Government, Chairman of Jivitadana Sangha Hospital Board of Trustees U Ko Ko Gyi (Retired Ambassador), Secretary U Maung Maung and Deputy Head of Mission of Japanese Embassy Mr Hiroshi Kawamura signed an agreement on providing medical equipment worth US\$ 92,313 to the hospital in Bahan Township on 9 March.

The modern medical equipment will include machines for laboratory, operation theatre, X-ray, ENT patients, phaco machine and others.

With those modern medical equipment, the hospital will be able to give more effective treatment to patients.—MNA



Summer soccer course opens

YANGON, 17 March—A summer football training course was opened in Thuwunna sports ground-3 this morning. Sports and Physical Training Department and Myanmar Football Federation or-

ganized the course with the aim of enabling the youths to spend their summer vacation efficiently and to keep fit themselves.

The course is being attended by 280 trainees and coached by U

Nay Win.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee SPTD Director General U Thuang Htaik attended the course opening and viewed the training of the youths today. — NLM



Boys at the summer football training session. — NLM

ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZHE HAI 316 VOY NO (053)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZHE HAI 316 VOY NO (053) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2006 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 INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HUA SHAN VOY NO (061)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUA SHAN VOY NO (061) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/AWPT 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 COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Canadian hostage in Gaza released

OTTAWA, 17 March — A Canadian aid worker kidnapped by Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip was released on Wednesday, Canada's Foreign Affairs Ministry confirmed.

Adam Budzanowski, 57, of Toronto, was one of 11 foreigners seized by Palestinian gunmen protesting Israel's military raid on a West Bank jail Tuesday.

Pictures on Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) showed Palestinian security officials escorted Adam Budzanowski and three other freed foreign hostages, including a South Korean journalist and two French citizens, to their headquarters in Gaza City.

Budzanowski said he was treated fairly well, but was tired and looking forward to having a shower and getting some sleep.

MNA/Xinhua

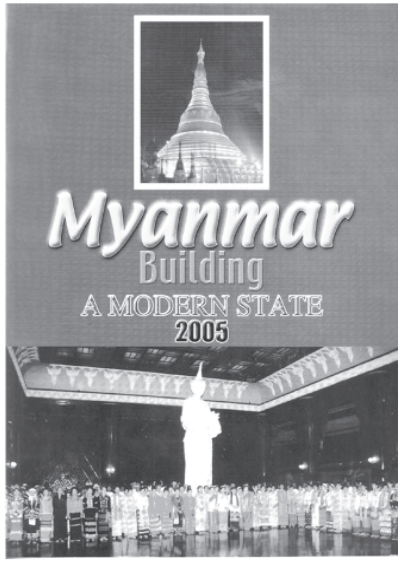
Delaying therapy ok for low-risk prostate cancer

NEW YORK, 16 March—Men with early, slow-growing prostate cancer may safely wait up to six months before starting treatment, a new study suggests.

Researchers found that among 895 men with so-called low-risk prostate cancer, those who waited up to six months before undergoing surgery to remove the prostate had no increased risk of disease recurrence. There was, however, evidence that men who waited longer than six months were more likely to show "biological progression," a marker of possible cancer recurrence.

Because this group included a relatively small number of men — and because it is unclear why they delayed therapy — it is too soon to draw conclusions about the finding, according to the study's lead author.

"It's concerning, and it needs to be confirmed in further studies," said Dr. Stephen J. Freedland of Duke University Medical Centre in Durham, North Carolina.— MNA/Reuters



MYANMAR
Building A Modern State
2005

■ This facts studded book provides a reliable and valuable reference for scholars, researchers and the public for general reading.
■ Illustrated with colourful photographs.
■ Published by the Ministry of Information presenting five chapters:
The Beautiful Land,
Economy,
Infrastructure,
Social Setting,
International Cooperation.

On sale US\$ 5.00 per copy

Available at
■ Sarpay Beikman Book Shop, No. 529-531, Merchant Street, Yangon ☎: 381448, 249031
■ News and Periodicals Enterprise Book Shop, No. 212, Theinpyu Street, Yangon ☎: 294306
■ Hotels, Shopping Malls and other Book Shops in Yangon

Treasures from British Museum ready to meet Beijing audience

BEIJING, 16 March — A 3,000-year-old mummy, an ancient statue of Dionysos and a 2,100-year-old gold and pendant featuring Aphrodite and Eros will be the featured guests at the Capital Museum in Beijing.

The Roman, Greek and Egyptian antiquities are coming to China courtesy of the British Museum and its touring exhibit titled 'Treasures of the World's Cultures'.

The exhibition is scheduled to open in Beijing on March 18. A total of 272 artifacts will be on show, said Guo Xiaoling, curator of the Capital Museum, on Wednesday.

Treasures on show also include ancient Egyptian tablets, Greek busts, Roman sculptures and the world's oldest tool.

However, no Chinese items collected by British Museum will be on display in Beijing.

"There is no need to bring Chinese items here," said

Jane Portal, assistant curator of the British Museum.

"The two and a half month exhibition will enable Chinese audiences an opportunity to enjoy the collection of a world class museum without going abroad," Guo said. Five lectures on world history have been arranged during the exhibition. Students studying world history in Beijing's universities have volunteers to provide consultations and other services to visitors.

In the exhibition hall, guide Li Xue is rehearsing an explanation of how the mummies were made in ancient Egypt.

"I have recited it for three days. It's my first time to practice the explanation in front of the antiques today," Li said, adding that her tour is free to museum guests.

Guo said it is the first large-scale international exhibition since the newly-built Capital Museum opened last year and it will put its new equipment and technology to the test.—MNA/Xinhua

Swissport opens air freight terminal at Changi Airport

SINGAPORE, 16

March—Swissport International, a Swiss ground and cargo handling company serving more than 70 million passengers and over two million aircraft in the world, opened its air freight terminal at Singapore's Changi Airport on

Wednesday.

"This air freight terminal is the largest such facility in Swissport's global station network of 175 airports," said a Press release issued by the company, adding that it will play a vital role in the company's business expansion in Singapore as

well as in the region.

Covering an area of 17,600 square metres, the new warehouse has an initial handling capacity of 250,000 tons and future expansion potential to 400,000 tons, which will bring Changi's overall cargo handling capacity up to three million tons

per year, said Singapore's Transport Minister Yeo Cheow Tong at the opening ceremony.

To guarantee safe and high-speed processing of air cargo, Swissport equips the terminal with a fully-automated material handling system and other infrastructure worth 10 million US dollars.

"Swissport's offerings such as integrated cold room solutions and perishables-handling capability will greatly increase Changi's range of capabilities and augment Changi's position as the leading air cargo hub in the region," Yeo said.

Swissport, the third ground handling agent at Changi Airport besides Singapore Airport Terminal Services and Changi International Airport Services, started operations here in March 2005. —MNA/Xinhua



Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, left, shakes hands with Indian Finance Minister P Chidambaram in New Delhi, India, on 17 March, 2006. Fradkov on Thursday defended his country's decision to sell India nuclear fuel for the Tarapur nuclear facility, despite objections from the United States.

INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ဓာတ်သိပ္ပံ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့



General view of the Toa Payoh Housing Development Board (HDB) housing estate in Singapore, on 17 March, 2006.

INTERNET

Hot pepper kills prostate cancer cells in study

WASHINGTON, 16 March — Capsaicin, which makes peppers hot, can cause prostate cancer cells to kill themselves, US and Japanese researchers said on Wednesday.

Capsaicin led 80 per cent of human prostate cancer cells growing in mice to commit suicide in a process known as apoptosis, the researchers said.

Prostate cancer tumors in mice fed capsaicin were about one-fifth the size of tumors in untreated mice, they reported in the journal *Cancer Research*.

“Capsaicin had a profound anti-proliferative effect on human prostate cancer cells in culture”, said Dr. Soren Lehmann of the Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre and the University of California Los Angeles School of Medicine.

“It also dramatically slowed the

development of prostate tumors formed by those human cell lines grown in mouse models.” While it is far easier to cure cancer in mice infected with human tumors than it is in human beings, the findings suggest a possible future treatment.

They also may offer a good excuse for men who like spicy food to eat more of it.

Lehmann estimated that the mice ate the human equivalent of 400 milligrams of capsaicin three times a week.

That is about the amount found in three to eight fresh habanero peppers, depending on how hot the peppers are.

MNA/Reuters

US space shuttle launch delayed to July

WASHINGTON, 16 March — NASA said on Tuesday the launch of space shuttle *Discovery* would be postponed from May to at least July.

A malfunctioning fuel tank sensors is said to cause the delay, and shuttle programme manager Wayne Hale said replacing the sensors meant NASA would delay its original launch plan scheduled from 10 May.

The sensors are designed to ensure the shuttle’s main engines shut down before they drain the liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen propellants from the fuel tank. Malfunctions with the sensors could cause the main engines to be

turned off before the shuttle is in orbit.

It also risks triggering an explosion if the sensors failed to cut off the engines when the shuttle actually runs out of fuel due to a leak or other problem.

“This is a life-or-death kind of situation,” Hale said, “You want to shut the engines down if you’re running out of gas, but you don’t want to shut the engines down early if you’re not running out of gas. Either way you can get in trouble.”

Replacing the sensors will take three weeks and require a worker to enter through the bottom of the 46-metre tank while it is upright.

The next opportunity to launch *Discovery* to the *International Space Station* will be between 1 and 19 July.

The postponement could further delay the multinational orbital construction of the *International Space Station*, which depends on the US space shuttles.

MNA/Xinhua



The headquarters of Parexel drug company are seen in Uxbridge on 16 March, 2006 west of London, England. Six volunteers remain in hospital after becoming ill during the first human trials of the TGN1412 drug made by Parexel.—INTERNET

Study shows fewer smokers means less heart disease

LONDON, 16 March — Deaths from heart disease in Ireland have fallen by nearly 50 per cent in 15 years thanks to lifestyle changes and improved treatments, researchers said on Wednesday.

About half the decrease was due to a sharp drop in the number of smokers and better diet while almost 44 per cent was attributable to more effective medication and surgery.

“Between 1985 and 2000, coronary heart disease mortality rates in Ireland fell by 47 per cent in men and women aged 25-84,” said Dr Kathleen Bennett, of St James’ Hospital in Dublin.

The decrease resulted in about 3,800 fewer deaths in 2000 than in 1985, according to the research reported in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*.

Heart disease and stroke are leading causes of death in developed countries. In the European

Union, cardiovascular disease is the single biggest health problem and cost the bloc’s 25 members 169 billion euros (202 billion dollars) in healthcare in 2003,

according to a recent report by scientists at Oxford University. Bennett and her team studied published data on specific treatments for heart disease and risk

factors for the illness such as high blood pressure, obesity, smoking, raised cholesterol levels, diabetes and lack of exercise.

MNA/Reuters



Kashmiri girls dressed for a school recital sit at the Mera Tanolian refugee camp in the Kashmiri earthquake-devastated city of Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, on 16 March, 2006—INTERNET

Heritage guardians to start high-tech survey on Great Wall

BEIJING, 16 March — An epic field survey aided by a range of high-tech devices will be carried out along China’s 6,300-kilometre-long Great Wall, *China Daily* reports on Wednesday.

A group of heritage guardians will use laser range finders, global positioning system (GPS) devices and digital cameras to make detailed records, brick by brick, of the mammoth structure.

The field survey is part of the 10-year Great Wall Protection Project that kicked off last month, said Chai Xiaoming, deputy director of the Heritage Protection Department of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage. The survey will take at least two years and involve hundreds of specialists, Chai said, adding that an overall protection plan for the structure is expected to be completed by 2009.

A massive repair programme on the Wall, only one-fifth of which is considered well preserved, will follow the survey. Special patrol teams will also guard against further man-made damage of the Wall, the paper says.

By 2014, when the overall project is scheduled to be finished, we will not only have a clear and complete picture of the current conditions of the Great Wall and its landscape, but also have a basic legal framework for its protection, such as marking out its preservation areas and buffer zones,” the paper quotes Cai Xiaoming as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Edmundo blames ball, soap opera after Palmeiras held 0-0

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 March — Former Brazil striker Edmundo blamed the ball and a soap opera after Palmeiras were held to a goalless draw at home by Rosario Central in the Libertadores Cup. The veteran player, known for his explosive temper, missed an open goal late in Wednesday night's Group Seven game after appearing to misjudge the flight of the ball.

"Unfortunately, other people impose things on us and the players have to do what they're told," he said. "That's the case with this wretched ball." "We didn't play well but we didn't have much of a chance. You haven't got a hope because of this ball. You try and control it and it always does something unexpected. I think someone's having a laugh," he told reporters.

The 1998 World Cup

striker was also angry when the match, scheduled to kick off at 9.45 pm local time, began nearly 15 minutes late. "It's mad to play at 10 O'clock. People don't think about the players or the supporters. We'd done our warming up but the game only began after the soap opera had finished," he said, blaming television for the delay. —MNA/Reuters



Toyota Formula One driver Jarno Trulli of Italy adjusts his helmet before practice session at Sepang International Circuit on 17 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Benitez agrees new deal at Liverpool

LONDON, 17 March — Liverpool's Spanish manager Rafael Benitez has agreed a new four-year deal with the club that will extend his stay on Merseyside by an extra year to 2010, British media reported on Thursday.

The *Guardian* reported that Benitez' agent Manuel Garcia Quilon spent Wednesday in talks with Liverpool chief executive Rick Parry hours before their Premier League match with Fulham and the new contract is likely to be signed on Thursday.

The newspaper said the deal was worth around 10 million pounds (17.37 million dollars) to Madrid-born Benitez, 45, who had been linked with a return to Spain. Media speculation in England and Spain had centred on Real Madrid heading the queue for the services of the man who steered Liverpool to Champions League success last year. —MNA/Reuters



Schalke's scorer Mimoun Azaouagh, left, fights against Palermo's Massimo Mutarelli, right, during the UEFA Cup second leg match between FC Schalke 04 and US Palermo in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, on 16 March, 2006. Schalke defeated Palermo with 3-0. —INTERNET

Zenit hold Marseille to reach UEFA Cup quarters

ST PETERSBURG, 17 March — Zenit St Petersburg reached the UEFA Cup quarterfinals for the first time on Thursday, a 1-1 draw against Olympique Marseille putting the Russians through 2-1 on aggregate.

Alexander Kerzhakov fired the hosts in front in the 69th minute and though defender Frederic Dehu levelled five minutes later, Zenit withstood Marseille's late rally to advance 2-1 on aggregate.

Trailing 1-0 after last week's first leg in Marseille, the French side, playing without injured goalkeeper Fabien Barthez and midfielders Wilson Oruma and Frank Ribery through suspension, had better chances in the first half.

Meanwhile Zenit, also missing injured goalkeeper Kamil Contofalsky and suspended defender Martin Skrtel, were content to sit back and rely on the counter-attack on a poor pitch more suited for horse riding than playing soccer.

Their tactics paid off when Marseille reserve keeper Cedric Carrasso fumbled a

harmless-looking shot by Kerzhakov, which then hit the post before trickling over the line.

Dehu beat Vyacheslav Malafeyev from a 20-metre free kick in the 74th minute but Zenit held on to reach the last eight of a European competition for the first time.

Carrasso compounded Marseille's misery when he was sent off for a foul on Kerzhakov in the 89th minute.

Marseille coach Jean Fernandez had to watch Thursday's match from the stands after being given a one-match touchline ban for comments he made to the referee following last week's defeat at the Stade Velodrome. Fernandez' assistant Albert Emon was also suspended after being ejected from the bench in the first leg. —MNA/Reuters

Chiapas extend unbeaten run in Mexico against hapless UAG

MEXICO CITY, 17 March — Chiapas extended their unbeaten run in the Mexican championship to eight games and handed opponents UAG their sixth successive defeat on Wednesday night.

Paraguay forward Salvador Cabanas scored in the first minute for the Jaguars, fielding seven players under the age of 21, to win 1-0 and to stay top of Group 3 in the Clausura championship.

Chiapas lead with 21 points from 10 games and stayed three ahead of Cruz Azul, who thumped relegation-threatened Santos Laguna 4-1.

UAG, who won their first four games, dropped to fifth in Group One with 12 points.

Former Argentina forward Claudio Lopez scored the only goal to send America, the country's richest team, top of Group One by beating defending champions Toluca.

Lopez collected a pass from Cuauhtemoc Blanco and spotted goal-

keeper Hernan Cristante off his line in the 51st minute to give the Eagles their second win in three games under former Mexico coach Manuel Lapuente.

America, who have 14 points, lead on goal difference from Atlante, who won 2-0 at Morelia, and Necaxa, who suffered a shock 3-0 defeat at San Luis.

Toluca are second in Group Two but dropped six points behind leaders Pachuca, who were held to a goalless draw by UANL. —MNA/Reuters

Tomatic winner sends Levski into UEFA Cup last 8

SOPIA, 17 March — Croatian defender Igor Tomatic headed Levski Sofia into the UEFA Cup quarterfinals on Thursday, the Bulgarians defeating Udinese 2-1 to go through by the same score on aggregate.

Tomatic scored with a glancing header from Lusio Vagner's cross in the 63rd minute, completing a fine fightback after the Serie A side had gone ahead.

Levski Sofia, unbeaten at home in the competition this season, were stunned when Argentine Fernando Tissone pounced on a defensive blunder to score in the 22nd minute.

Levski, who knocked out Slovak champions Artmedia Bratislava in the previous round, missed a golden chance to level a minute before halftime as Hristo Yovov fired over with the goal at his mercy.

The Blues, as Levski are known in the Balkan country, came out strongly after the break and equalized in the 52nd minute when Daniel Borimirov converted from Sedrik Bardon's cross.

The match was played at the National Stadium due to the poor condition of Levski's pitch. —MNA/Reuters



Martina Hingis of Switzerland stretches for a volley during her quarter-final victory over Dinara Safina of Russia at the Pacific Life Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells on 15 March. —INTERNET



Aree Song, of Thailand, chips onto the 14th green on 16 March, 2006 during the first round of LPGA golf during the Safeway International in Superstition Mountain, Ariz. Song finished the round for the lead at 8-under-par. —INTERNET

Steaua stun Betis 3-0 to progress in UEFA Cup

SEVILLE (Spain), 17 March — Two goals from Banel Nicolita helped Steaua Bucharest into the quarterfinals of the UEFA Cup on Thursday as the Romanians stunned 10-man Real Betis 3-0 after the first leg ended goalless.

The midfielder opened the scoring in the 54th minute after an evenly-contested first half.

Steaua's task was made easier when Betis winger Joaquin was shown a straight red card for elbowing Nicolae Dica in the face six minutes later.

Victoras Iacob headed the second after 78 minutes and Nicolita added the third nine minutes from time, as Betis fell to pieces.

The Andalusians carved the first opening of the game after eight minutes as Joaquin curled a shot just over the bar. —MNA/Reuters

Cup final joy for Espanyol makes up for league woes

MADRID, 17 March — Espanyol coach Miguel Angel Lotina said reaching the King's Cup final made up for all the problems the side had suffered during their inconsistent season.

The Catalans held Depor to a goalless away draw on Wednesday and their 2-1 win from the first leg was enough to put them into the final with Real Zaragoza next month.

"I would swap the whole year for what I have experienced in the dressing room

this evening," Lotina said after the game.

Walter Pandiani's late strike from the first leg proved too much for a toothless Depor who, while dominating in the Riazor, were limited to rare sights of goal by their defensively resolute visitors.

Espanyol, three times Cup winners, have been unpredictable at best this season and Lotina's position has been under constant scrutiny.

MNA/Reuters

Study finds gene test helps predict lung cancer

WASHINGTON, 17 March — A test that finds damaged genes in the lungs of people considered at high risk of lung cancer might be able to predict who actually develops the deadly disease, US researchers said on Wednesday.

The test is still not accurate enough for widespread use, but could replace risky and expensive X-rays, the researchers said.

“Short of repeatedly X-raying a person’s lungs to look for emerging tumours, there is no way now to screen people at high risk for lung cancer, much less predict who will be diagnosed with the cancer at a later

date,” said Steven Belinsky, director of the Lung Cancer Programme at the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico, who led the study.

“When perfected and validated, this kind of test holds great promise for identifying people with lung cancer early enough to successfully treat them,” he added in a statement.

Writing in the 15 March issue of *Cancer Research*, Belinsky and colleagues said their test identified 65 per cent of patients who developed symptoms of lung cancer within 18 months, but also falsely tagged 35 per cent of cancer-free people who volunteered as “controls”.

The test looks at the DNA in lung cells in sputum. Certain genes are known to be silenced or turned off in lung cancer.

Lung cancer is by far the most common cause of cancer death in the United States and much of the world. The American Cancer Society says that in 2006 there will be an estimated 174,470 new cases of lung cancer and it will kill 162,460 people.

Only 15 per cent of lung cancer patients survive for more than five years, in part because it causes few symptoms early on and most people are not diagnosed until after the tumours have spread.

MNA/Reuters



Spanish Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Renault F1 team in action during the second practice session for Malaysian F1 Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 17 March, 2006. INTERNET



WEATHER

Friday, 17 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for scattered rain in Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Northern Shan, Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Aunglan (42°C), Minbu (41°C), Magway, Mandalay and Shwegyin (40°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.35) inch.

Maximum temperature on 16-3-2006 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 17-3-2006 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 17-3-2006 was (74%). Total sunshine hours on 16-3-2006 was (9.1) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 17-3-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 16-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-3-2006: Isolated light rain are likely in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Mon, Kayin States, Ayeyawady, Yangon 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: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperature in Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Pyinmana and neighbouring area for 18-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-3-2006: Generally fair.

Weather outlook for fourth weekend of March 2006: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Division and generally fair in Mandalay Division.



Saturday, 18 March
View on today

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:15 am

2. တိပိဋကဓရ မြေတက္ကသိုလ် နှင့် အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ တက္ကသိုလ် သိပ္ပံနာယက(ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

3. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

4. Morning news

7:40 am

5. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

7. ရိုင်းကျီရေထိန်းတံခါး

8:20 am

8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Grammar Made Easy

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:15 am

2. Musical programme

11:30 am

3. News

11:40 am

4. Round up of the week's TV local news

12:25 pm

5. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "Doraemon"

12:55 pm

6. ကြားမြင်သူတို့ ပြည်ဝေရာ စာပေသဘာ

1:05 pm

7. Teleplay: "ဇွေးလွှားစွာ ကြံဆီခြင်း" (သွားညှိ မင်းသူ၊ ဇာနည်၊ မင်းထက်ကျော်စင်၊ မြသဘာလီ၊ နိုင်နင်းမေ၊ ဆုပန်ထွာ) (ခါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)

2:20 pm

8. Dance of national races

2:35 pm

9. "သူငယ်ချင်းမရှိတဲ့ ဥပမာ" (မင်းမေ၊ ခင်မာမြည်ကျော်၊ ဇော်စိုးကျော်ကျော်) (ခါရိုက်တာ-မောင်ယုဉ်ကျော်)

2:45 pm

10. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. တစ်ပတ်တစ်နေ့ ရုတ်ပြတေး သီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂ဝဝ၅ ခုနှစ်)

4:45 pm

4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

5:00 pm

5. Musical programme

5:15 pm

6. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတတေး

5:25 pm

7. Musical programme

5:35 pm

8. Games for children

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. Discovery

6:50 pm

12. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:00 pm

13. (ဝေ)နှစ်မြောက် တစ်ပတ်တစ်နေ့ ရုတ်ပြတေးအစဉ်

7:15 pm

14. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:30 pm

15. Musical programme

7:40 pm

16. ဝမ်းပုံရေလှောင်တံခါး

7:45 pm

17. ကြားမြင်သူတို့ ပြည်ဝေရာ စာပေသဘာ

8:00 pm

18. News

19. International news

20. Weather report

21. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မိမြီချီရင်" (အရိုင်း-သူ)

22. The next day's programme



Saturday, 18 March
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music: -What's it gonna be (Samantha Mumba)

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music: -Bills Balla (Kitty)

8:50 am National news+ 12 Objectives & People's Desire

9:00 am Music: -Shake it (A Carter)

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music: -Radio (The Cors)

1:30 pm News & Slogan

1:40 pm Music at your request -Celebrate our love (HI)

-Don't hate me (Madasmus)

-Good sign (Emilia)

-Pa Pa love Ma Ma (Donal Peer)

9:00 pm ASEAN review

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Myanma culture

9:30 pm Souvenirs -It's all over now baby blue (Both Dylan)

-I'll be home (Pat Boone)

-When you are gone (Jim Reeves)

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

Bago Division (West) exceeds cultivation of 154,591-acres summer paddy against target of 150,000 acres

YANGON, 16 March — Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, accompanied by Secretary of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ohn Myint and departmental officials, inspected the 100-acre physic nut nursery of Pyay Station at the local battalion in Pyay on 13 March morning.

While in Pyay, the commander oversaw progress of 10-acre model physic nut nursery of Bago Division (West) Police Force. The commander gave instructions on systematic growing of physic nut plants, and tasks of plant grafting.

Bago Division (West) had put 36,900 acres under physic nut plants against the target of 2,765.23 acres in 2006-2007.

In Thegon, the commander met with division, district and township level authorities, departmental personnel and local people at the hall of the agricultural research farm of Agricultural Research Department.

Chairman of Thegon Township PDC U Hla Htay Naing reported to the commander on progress of the township, growing of summer paddy, the plan to extend cultivation of monsoon paddy in 2006-2007, and arrangements for growing physic nut yearly. Pyay District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Tun Aye gave a supplementary report.

The commander attended to the needs. In 2005-2006, Thegon Township had cultivated 17,560 acres of summer paddy against 23,342 acres, and 11,309 acres had been put under pulses and beans, 1,200 acres under sesame, and 1,400 acres under sunflower.

The commander oversaw thriving summer paddy on either side of village-to-village roads in the township, cultivation of summer paddy, pulses and beans, and edible oil crops along Yangon-Pyay Highway. Bago Division (West) had put 154,591 acres under summer paddy by exceeding the target of 150,000 acres in 2005-2006. — 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

U-23 take 3 points by 3-0 win over Selected-A



Goalkeeper Thiha Si Thu and defenders of tentatively selected Myanmar team (A) blocking the attack of Sun Day Thein (L) of U-23 Selected Team. — NLM

YANGON, 17 March — For setting up Myanmar National Football Team and age-wise youth selected teams, the second quadripartite football trials continued at Aung San Stadium, here, at 4 pm today.

In the third match of the trials, Under-23 Selected Team beat Tentatively Selected Team-A 3-0. The match was handled by referee U Han Thein.

The U-23 Selected Team did not yet show off its best skills in today's match. However, players of the team penetrated into the opponent team with linkage of superb attacks more than that of its first match. Grasping a chance of scoring the U-23 Selected Team won over the Tentatively Selected Team-A with a clear-cut result. The Tentatively Selected Team-A could not move their plays tactfully. Three goals of the U-23 Selected Team came through Sun Day Thein, Soe Thiha Aung and Myo Min Tun.

Tentatively Selected Team-B will play against Above-23 Selected Team at Aung San Stadium at 4 pm tomorrow. — NLM

1,940 gem merchants attend 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium

YANGON, 17 March — Chairman of the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Myint Thein viewed sales of gem lots through tender system at the hall of Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this afternoon.

A total of 1,940 gem merchants — 1,136 from 302 companies of 13 countries and 804 of 344 local companies — arrived at the emporium.

At the 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium, 953 gem mer-



Local and foreign merchants observing jade lots at the emporium.

MNA

chants of 239 companies of the People's Republic of China, seven merchants from five companies of Singapore, 145

merchants from 37 Thai companies, two merchants from two companies of England, four from American compa-

nies, 14 from eight Japanese companies, one each from Sri Lanka, Canada, France, Russian Federation and Australia, four from two companies of Spain and two from a Malaysian company together with local merchants checked gem lots at the emporium from 9 am to 5 pm.

The local and foreign merchants will observe gem lots from 15 to 17 March. Pearl lots will be sold through tender system and competitive bidding on 18 March, gem lots on 19 and 20 March, and jade lots from 21 to 24 March. — MNA



Lot No 233 of 68 gold hue pearls weighing 62.50 mommes with the floor price of 17,300 euros. — NLM