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Friday, 31 March, 2006

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San to pay an official visit to Russia

YANGON, 31 March— At the invitation of Mr Mikhail Fradkov, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) and wife Daw Mya Mya San will pay an official visit to the Russian Federation in the near future. — MNA

New tarred road opened in Lashio and ceremony to grow flowery plants held

NAYPYIDAW, 30 March — The new Aung Theingi tarred road undertaken by Lashio Township Development Affairs Committee was opened at No 7 Ward in Lashio on 26 March, attended by Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, senior military officers, departmental heads, local people and social organizations.

First, Executive officer of Lashio DAC U Myo Naing Aung explained the matters on tarring of the road. Next, Director of Shan State DAC U Kyee Myint and District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Than Tun formally opened the tarred road and the commander and guests viewed along the road. The

road is 1,085 feet in length and 12 feet in width and it was constructed to upgrade from gravel to tarred road at a cost of K 3.3 million of Township DAC.

Later, the commander attended the ceremony to collectively grow flowery plants and took part in growing the plants.

Afterwards, the commander inspected a thriving summer paddy at the 705-acre model plantation in Humon region, Lashio, and the construction site of a dam being undertaken by Shan State Irrigation Department and heard reports by the officials. Regarding the reports, the commander gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

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

Education Minister visits university examination centres

YANGON, 30 March — Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, accompanied by Deputy Director-General of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) U Sein Win and officials concerned arrived at Institute of Education (Yangon) on 28 March afternoon.

Together with rector Dr U Khin

Zaw, they inspected the students sitting the examination and fulfilled the needs. A total of 2102 students were sitting the examination at the institute.

The minister and party went to East Yangon University yesterday morning. Together with rector Dr U Win, they looked into the students taking the

(See page 8)

Commander attends ceremonies to open roads, grow physic nut plants

NAYPYIDAW, 30 March — A ceremony to commission a tarred road, jointly built by local people and Taunggyi Township Development Affairs Committee was held at the archway of the road on 25 March morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, senior military officers of the command headquarters, departmental officials and local people.

Executive Officer of the Township Develop-

ment Affairs Committee U Tin Aung Myint reported construction of Thida tarred road in Yayayekwin Ward, and the chairman of the construction committee expressed gratitude.

Commander of Shan State Police Force Police Col Thura Tin Hla and

(See page 8)



Minister Dr Chan Nyein views the students sitting the exam at Institute of Education (Yangon). — MNA

INSIDE

In the past, the journey to Kyonnattaw village by car was not a convenient trip. In the previous year, the writers on their way to the village were first transported to Sanchaung village by car, and to the Kyonnattaw by bullockcart. But now, there is a government-built gravel road linking Aungheik and Seiktha villages in the west of Maubin. It is eight miles and six furlongs long.

The locals riding bicycles and motorcycles on the road was a proof that the villages along the road are enjoying progress and smooth transport. Rice fields and sunflower fields also stand witness to the rural wealth.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 31 March, 2006

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) to be fine facility

Fine transport infrastructure is fundamental to economic and social development of the people and regional development. In this context, the government is stepping up the implementation of regional development projects across the Union with a view to ensuring long-term interests of entire national people.

Now, the government is building extensively roads and bridges, large and small, in various regions to set up a transport network for secure and smooth transport.

Steps are being taken in respective regions to fulfil the requirements of the growing number of population and vehicles that shows economic and social development of these regions. The development projects include Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Project being implemented across the Ayeyawady River that will link Mandalay with Sagaing.

Engineers of Public Works are constructing the bridge both on Mandalay bank and on Sagaing bank simultaneously. Upon completion, the facility will be 5,614 feet long with steel girders and reinforced concrete floor and a four-lane motorway on it.

Now, increased efforts are being put into the construction of the bridge and the approach bridges on Mandalay bank and Sagaing bank have been completed.

The approach road of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) on Mandalay bank passes through Mandalay-Mytikyina railroad. So, a reinforced concrete overpass is being built over the railroad. So far, a 40-foot-wide motor road and 18.5-foot-high overpasses have been constructed.

Steel girders are being installed in the main bridge, and so far the installation of steel beams has covered 1,054 metres out of 1,126 metres. Efforts are being made with added momentum for completion of installation of steel beams in the nine remaining eight-metre spans of the bridge.

Therefore, Myanmar engineers and personnel are urged to exert greater efforts and combine the art of construction and goodwill in building Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) to meet the standard set and to ensure a fine facility for the convenience of the people in the transport sector.

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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

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 31 March— The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr David Guardia Varela, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Panama to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr David Guardia Varela is accredited to the Union of Myanmar with resident in Bangkok. — MNA

Ambassador U Tin Win presents credentials to Austrian President

YANGON, 31 March— U Tin Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Austria, presented his credentials to His Excellency Dr Heinz Fischer, President of the Republic of Austria, on 15 March, 2006 in Vienna. — MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

YANGON, 30 March — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of U Myint Thein as Director-General of the Survey Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on the expiry of one year probationary period. — MNA

Yein competitions to be held at Yangon Mayor's Pavilion

YANGON, 30 March — In the Thingyan Festival, Myanma Traditional Ozi, Dobet and Yein competitions will take place at Yangon Mayor Pavilion and Yein competitions are categorized into 12- and 16-member Yein competitions.

Those wishing to participate may enlist at the first floor of City Bank in Kyaukdata Township during business hours, Tel: 379,693, 378003, 379791 and 374822, not later than 6 April.

MNA

Grand Royal Reserve Golf Championship concludes



YANGON, 30 March — Phyo Kyaw Kyaw snatched the first prize with a 140 nett total shots on the second and final round of the Grand Royal Reserve Golf Championship 2006 at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon, Insein

Township, this evening.

At the prize distribution ceremony, President of Myanmar Golfers Federation and Myanmar Professional Golfers Association Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) presented the first prize to Phyo Kyaw Kyaw.

He also gave the second prize to Thant Zaw Htaik who fired a 140 strokes nett total, the third prize to Ye Myo Hein who scored 141, and the fourth prize to Hla Shwe who shot 141.

MPGA and MGF Executive U Ko Ko Lay presented prizes to Naing Naing Lin who stood first in the putting challenge contest, Nay Myo Maung who secured the nearest to the pin award, and Major Maung Htwe who grabbed the longest drive award.

MGF Executive U Chan Han and Director U Tint Oo of International Beverages Trading Co Ltd gave consolation prizes to the respective

golfers.

Next, Director U Tint Oo (IBTC) presented the gift to Yangon Golf Club Executive U Khaing Soe Tha.

The golf championship was organized by MGF together with main sponsor IBTC and co-sponsors Air Mandalay, Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel, Crusher Club Soda, and Srixon. Han Event Management performed the functions of the championship.

MNA

Basic staff course No 171, Pre-Basic staff course No 21 conclude

YANGON, 30 March — The closing ceremony of basic staff course No 171 and pre-basic staff course No 21 was held at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning.

Rector U Win Maung attended the ceremony. U Naing Naing, an assistant manager of Myanma Economic Bank and Daw Win Win Wah, an assistant surgeon of Department of Health, secured outstanding trainee awards in the course No 171 while U Aung Ko Ko Min, a staff officer of Irrigation Department and Daw Ai Nan Ain, an

assistant engineer of Public Works claimed outstanding awards in the course No 21.

Next, Rector U Win

Maung delivered the concluding speech and presented completion certificates. The ceremony was attended by the pro-rec-

tor, heads of department, lecturers, course instructors, assistant lecturers, demonstrators, trainees and families. — MNA



Visitors taking part in the computer quiz at 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition. (News reported) — MNA

China says trade problems with US should not be politicized

BEIJING, 29 March — China maintains the trade frictions and problems between China and the US should be properly handled through consultation and should not be politicized, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang on Tuesday.

Qin made the

remarks when responding to a journalist's question on the visit by three US senators to China. He said bilateral trade problems should be properly handled according to the principle of common development and mutual benefit.

Qin said China believes the visit by the three US

senators will help increase their knowledge of the conditions of the China-US relationship, conditions of bilateral economic and trade cooperation and China's positions and measures on these respects. He said China believes the visit will also help the three senators take a more

rational, just and objective attitude in handling problems between China and the US.

Qin also mentioned the issue of the RMB rate, saying China insists on choosing a reasonable currency rate system that is in accordance with China's actual conditions and takes into account the influence of the adjustment of the RMB rate on international and regional economies.

Three US senators visited China from 20 to 26 March, and mainly discussed the issues of trade imbalance between China and the US, the RMB rate and intellectual property rights protection with Chinese officials.

MNA/Xinhua



A partial solar eclipse is seen through the crescent of Faisal Mosque in Islamabad, on 29 March, 2006. The track of the eclipse stretches from eastern Brazil, across the Atlantic to north Africa, then on to the Middle East, Central Asia, west China and Mongolia. —INTERNET

Internet growth cooling, but dependence increasing

WASHINGTON, 29 March—Growth in the use of the Internet has come off its sizzling pace, even as people become more dependent on cyberspace for work and leisure, a global survey showed.

Ipsos Insight's annual "Face of the Web" study showed the global online population grew just five percent last year, well behind the 20 percent growth rate seen in 2004.

The survey of 6,500 people in 12 major countries by the research firm suggested growth will be slow in 2006 as well.

Still the survey indicates people are using the Internet for a broad variety of activities and using newer devices such as wireless computers and mobile phones for Internet access.

"We think the results in 2005 really prove that

measuring growth of the Internet in the coming years will be less about user volume, and more about consumers' reliance on this medium as a way of life," said Ipsos senior vice president Brian Cruikshank.

"Whether it is checking RSS (news) feeds, blogging or picking up a podcast or yesterday's sitcom, consumers continue to expand and

apply new depth of Internet use that we haven't seen before."

A major driver of global Internet use last year was Japan, which now accounts for roughly 75 million users, Ipsos found.

Japan also remains the world's number one Internet-based economy, with 89 percent of respondents using the Internet at least once a month.—INTERNET



A man logs onto the Internet. Growth in the use of the Internet has come off its sizzling pace, even as people become more dependent on cyberspace for work and leisure, a global survey showed.—INTERNET

Thai heightens alert on bird flu outbreak

BANGKOK, 29 March — Health officials in Thailand's southern Yala Province have stepped up bird flu surveillance after the neighbouring Malaysia confirmed outbreaks of the deadly H5N1 virus in several northern states, local media reported Wednesday.

Chalongrat Chansongkaew, head of Yala's livestock quarantine unit, said that the authorities started to revamp bird flu prevention and pre-

paredness schemes after the deadly disease break out in the Malaysia's Penang, Terengganu and Perak states two months ago. Strategies have been mapped out to watch the borders in cooperation with Customs officials and border patrol police in tightening poultry

movement control, Chalongrat was quoted by Bangkok Post as saying.

There have been no reports of bird flu in the far South due to stringent monitoring by the veterinary team in Yala's Betong District bordering Malaysia, Chalongrat said.

MNA/Xinhua



A Soyuz TMA-8 booster rocket blasts off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, on 30 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Halliburton reportedly overcharged for Iraq oil work

WASHINGTON, 29 March —Oil services company Halliburton Co repeatedly overcharged taxpayers and provided substandard cost reports under a 1.2-billion-US-dollar contract to restore Iraq's southern oil fields, according to a new report by US Representative Henry Waxman. Waxman, a California Democrat, said Democratic staff members of the House Committee on Government Reform examined a series of government audits and correspondence that criticized Halliburton's performance under the "Restore Iraqi Oil 2" (RIO2) contract. The documents, he said, cited profound systemic problems, misleading and distorted cost reports, and an "obstructive" attitude toward oversight.

Halliburton, a Texas-based company formerly run by Vice-President Dick Cheney, said the committee report focused on old issues that have been resolved. "After two years and from thousands of miles away, it is easy to criticize decisions and actions that were based on urgent mission requirements and severe time constraints," the company said in a statement.

Halliburton said that the contract went through "countless changes" and review by at least 15 different government contracting officials.

MNA/Reuters

Crew lifts off for space station

KAZAKHSTAN, 29 March — A Russian Soyuz rocket streaked into the skies over the Central Asian steppe on Thursday, launching a US-Russian-Brazilian crew on a mission to the international space station.

Russian Pavel Vinogradov and American Jeffrey Williams were to stay on board the station for about six months. Brazil's first man in space, Marcos C Pontes, will stay at the station for nine days before returning to Earth on 9 April with the station's current crew of Russian Valery Tokarev and American Bill McArthur.

Officials monitoring the launch at Russian Mission Control outside Moscow held their applause until the spacecraft reached near-Earth orbit, about 10

minutes after its 6:30 am (9:30 pm EST Wednesday) launch.

A video camera aboard the craft showed Pontes wearing a wide smile, giving a thumbs-up and pointing to the Brazilian flag on the left arm of his spacesuit.

At Baikonur, a crowd of about 150 relatives of the crew, space officials and journalists craned their necks to follow the trajectory of the rocket after its ground-shaking liftoff into the bright morning sky. "It was very emotional. I

can't even explain how I feel — very, very happy," Pontes' wife Fatima said.

"I was crying during the launch because his dream came true," chimed in the couple's 15-year-old daughter, Ana. NASA official Kirk Shireman said

the 13th mission to the space station was "getting off to a good start."

"They'll expand to a three-man crew when the (US) shuttle returns in July," he said. "It's a new beginning for the space station."—INTERNET



A Qantas passenger jet takes off on a runway near a taxiing Air New Zealand jet at Sydney Airport in this 29 November, 2005 file picture. Media reports on 30 March, 2006 said the two airlines are holding talks about merging their Tasman operations in a bid to reign in record fuel costs and large losses on the route. —INTERNET

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High IQ kids have distinct pattern of brain development

LONDON, 29 March — Intelligence may have more to do with how the brain develops during adolescence than its overall size, researchers said on Wednesday.

Using magnetic resonance imaging, scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland have shown that the brains of children with high IQs show a distinct pattern of development.

The cortex, or outer

mantle of the brain, starts out thinner and thickens more rapidly in very intelligent children. It peaks around 11 or 12 years old before thinning rapidly in the late teens.

"We found that the cortex showed a different pattern of development," Philip Shaw, lead author of the research published in the journal *Nature*, said in an interview.

Youngsters with average IQs had a thicker cortex to start with and peaked earlier before

gradual thinning began.

Shaw added that the changes were subtle and what is driving them is a mystery. Why children have a thicker or thinner cortex initially is also not known.

"Brainy children are not cleverer solely by virtue of having more or less grey matter at any one age," said Judith Rapoport, a co-author of the study.

"Rather IQ is related to the dynamics of cortex maturation," she added in a statement. —Internet

"Unwitting racism" by British police in soldier's death

LONDON, 29 March — British police officers were guilty of serious failings and unwitting racism over the death of a Black ex-soldier in their custody eight years ago, an independent watchdog ruled on Monday.

Christopher Alder, 37, a former paratrooper and Falklands War veteran, died on the floor of the custody suite at Hull's Queens Gardens police headquarters in April, 1998 after being arrested following a fight outside a nightclub.

His last moments were caught on closed circuit TV as he choked to death on blood and vomit resulting from injuries he had sustained in the earlier fracas while officers ignored him and carried on chatting.

In a damning report, Nick Hardwick, chairman of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), described the pictures as "shocking and distressing".

"The most serious failings were by the four police officers who dealt

with Mr Alder throughout his time in the custody suite," Hardwick said.

"I believe they were guilty of the most serious neglect of duty. Their

behaviour has disgraced police officers and the police service as a whole.

Their failures were personal and individual." Humberside's Chief

Constable apologized for the police's behaviour on the night and said he accepted all the IPCC's findings.

MNA/Reuters



Health workers carry culled chicken for burial at Nachankhedi village, in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, on Wednesday, 29 March, 2006. — INTERNET

Fire destroys luxury country hotel in Quebec

OTTAWA, 29 March — A fire has destroyed one of the top luxury country hotels in Canada's French-speaking province of Quebec, officials said on Tuesday.

The Auberge Hatley, where French President Jacques Chirac and his wife spent a summer vacation in 2003, was being renovated when a fire started on Monday. The wooden building was quickly burned to the ground.

The 25-room hotel, also known as the Hatley Inn, was located in North Hatley, a village 80 miles (125 kilometres) east of Montreal in Quebec's picturesque Eastern Townships region.

"It seems that during the reconstruction, a spark or a flame was ignited, and because the entire building was made of wood, it was razed to the ground in less than six hours. Everything was destroyed," said Alain Larouche, director-general of the Eastern Townships tourist commission.

"It was a very prestigious hotel, both for Quebec and Canada," Larouche told *Reuters* by telephone. "This is a sad moment."

MNA/Reuters

Four terrorists killed in Algeria

ALGIERS, 29 March — Algerian security forces have killed four terrorists in an operation in northern Algeria, local media reported on Tuesday.

A soldier of the security forces was also killed and four others wounded, with a large amount of ammunition seized in the operation, which took place in the mountains of

Ain Defla Province.

Sporadic terrorist attacks increased recently in the North African country. Last week, a town mayor and two civilians were killed

in Boumerdes, 50 kilometres east of Algiers, capital of Algeria.

Since the 1990s, Islamic extremist groups have frequently attacked Army soldiers, police officers, government departments as well as civilians in Algeria, leaving at least 150,000 people dead.

In recent years, the Algerian Government adopted a conciliatory political policy, while carrying out numerous military crackdowns on the extremist groups, in a bid to improve security of the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Bird flu detected in Swedish mink

STOCKHOLM, 29 March — Swedish authorities said they have found a wild mink infected with bird flu, suspected to be the deadly H5N1 strain, *Radio Sweden* reported on Tuesday.

It is the first time in Sweden that a highly pathogenic version of the H5 virus has been confirmed in an animal other than a bird. Dozens of birds in Sweden have tested positive for the H5N1 virus since the first case was confirmed two weeks ago. —MNA/Xinhua



A roller-skating Chinese police patrol in the western city of Chongqing recently. — INTERNET

Crude prices surge above \$66

NEW YORK, 29 March— World crude oil prices advanced sharply on Tuesday amid worries of supply in Nigeria and Iran, on the eve of the weekly release of supply data.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in May, added 1.91 dollars to end at 66.07 dollars a barrel.

On London's ICE Futures exchange, the price of Brent North Sea crude for May delivery climbed 1.36 dollars to end at 64.97 dollars a barrel.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, the heating oil surged 4.66 cents to 1.8277 dollars a gallon as gasoline futures

rose 5.57 cents to 1.8845 dollars per gallon. Natural gas futures rose 14.7 cents to 7.214 dollars per 1,000 cubic feet.

Three Western oil workers, including two Americans and a Briton, held in Nigeria's troubled oil-rich Niger Delta by militants for more than one month, have been released, a state government spokesman said on Monday. However, Royal Dutch Shell said that it

will not be eager to restore oil production in Nigeria.

Nigeria is Africa's leading oil producer and the fifth-biggest source of US oil imports. About one-fourth of the country's daily output is still shut after a series of militant attacks.

MNA/Xinhua



US astronaut Jeffrey Williams (R) and Russian cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov give a thumbs up at Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, on 30 March, 2006. —INTERNET

White House Chief of Staff resigns

WASHINGTON, 29 March — White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card has resigned after more than five years in the post. He will be replaced by White House budget director Joshua Bolten, National Public Radio reported on Tuesday.

Card, one of the longest serving White House Chiefs of Staff, was appointed by Bush in November 2000. Card served as secretary of transportation under former president George H W Bush between 1992 and 1993, and as his assistant and Deputy Chief of Staff from 1988 to 1992.

Under Ronald Reagan's Administration, Card served as the President's special assistant for intergovernmental affairs and subsequently as deputy assistant to the President and director of intergovernmental affairs. Card served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1975 to 1983. — MNA/Xinhua



A temporary sewage line leads directly into the Ala Wai Canal just behind Waikiki on 29 March, 2006 in Honolulu, Hawaii. A sewage-line leak in Waikiki forced the City of Honolulu to divert millions of gallons of raw sewage into the Ala Wai Canal, which empties directly into Oahu's South Shore, turning the usual greenish-blue water into a brown murky colour. High levels of bacteria have been detected in several of Waikiki's most famous beaches causing the City's Health Department to post warning signs on the beaches warning swimmers and waders of contamination in the water. —INTERNET

GM plans to sell stake in Isuzu Motors

TOKYO, 29 March— General Motors Corp, the world's biggest automaker, wants to sell its stake in Isuzu Motors Ltd, and the companies said on Thursday they are studying the proposal.

The announcement came after two Japanese trading houses and a bank said they were approached by the American auto-maker about buying its 7.9 percent stake in the Tokyo-based truckmaker.

GM holds about 90

million Isuzu shares, with the stake valued at about 38 billion yen (\$320 million), Isuzu spokesman Naruhito Furuta said. "Isuzu is aware that GM is in an important phase of going back into the black in its North American operations and reviewing

its investment portfolio, and needs to strengthen its balance sheet and liquidity," Isuzu said in a statement.

The companies plan a formal announcement about a sale after a decision is reached, Isuzu said in a statement.

Internet



General Motors Corp world headquarters is seen in downtown Detroit, Michigan. —INTERNET

More human remains found near WTC site

NEW YORK, 29 March — Four more human body parts were found in a building across from the World Trade Center site as construction workers were cleaning toxic waste from the vacant skyscraper, reconstruction workers said on Tuesday.

The finding came after 10 bone fragments on the building's rooftop was reported last fall.

Medical examiners office will extract DNA from the remains recovered from the former Deutsche Bank building and try to match it against a database of the 2,749 people killed at the trade center on 11 September, 2001, said Ellen Borkove, spokeswoman for the city medical examiner's office.

MNA/Xinhua

Moderate quake jolts Philippines

MANILA, 29 March — A moderate earthquake jolted the northern Philippines on Tuesday with lesser tremors felt in other parts of the country, but there was no immediate word of casualties or damage, officials said.

The 5.1 magnitude earthquake struck the northern island of Mindoro just before 8 am (0000 GMT), with the epicentre near the town of San Jose in Mindoro Occidental.

"There were no immediate reports of any damage," said spokesman for the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, but added that there was a risk of aftershocks. — MNA/Reuters

Five die in fire at old people's home in Spain

MADRID, 29 March — Five people died when a fire ripped through a home for the old and mentally ill near the Spanish city of Valencia on Tuesday, a government spokesman said.

The head of social services for the Valencian Government, Alicia de Miguel, said a fire started in the hospital area of the San Lorenzo home before workers raised the alarm.

De Miguel said the government would investigate how the fire started at the privately-owned home in the village of Massamagrell, which housed 120 people. Four men and one woman aged between 30 and 80 died. — MNA/Reuters

Russian cargo plane crashes near Teheran

TEHERAN, 29 March — A top Iranian security official revealed that a Russian cargo plane crashed near Teheran on Tuesday, without casualties.

General Reza Zareyeh was quoted by state media as saying that the incident took place between the towns of Karaj and Savodj-Bolah to the east of the Iranian capital shortly after the plane took off.

Some 12 members of the crew survived the crash, said Zareyeh. According to the official, the crash was caused by the shutting down of one of the aircraft's engine. — MNA/Xinhua

Britons injured in highway accident in N-W China

XI'AN, 29 March — Eight Britons were injured in a highway accident Monday in Zhouzhi County, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, local Foreign Affairs office said on Tuesday. Except one who needed surgery for hemotopneumothorax, the other seven people suffered only light injuries, said the Foreign Affairs office of Shaanxi Province.

Altogether 15 British environmental volunteers on Monday took a locally-registered tourist bus to visit the giant panda nature reserve at Foping, Shaanxi. — MNA/Xinhua

Australian PM says close to uranium deal with China

CANBERRA, 29 March — Negotiations between Australia and China on uranium trade are progressing well and a deal could be signed when Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visits Canberra next week, Australian Prime Minister John Howard said on Tuesday.

But Howard said that if a deal was reached to allow China to import uranium from Australia, Canberra would not then feel pressured to negotiate a similar agreement with India, which recently signed a nuclear technology deal with the United States.

Australia, which has more than 40 per cent of the world's known reserves of uranium, requires countries to have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to agree a separate nuclear safeguards deal with Canberra before it will export uranium.

"It's possible that the discussions (with Beijing) could be satisfactorily concluded so that something could be said or signed when the Chinese Premier visits Australia next week," Howard told a news conference.

"I'm not promising anything but it's possible

the discussions could be completed by then."

A Chinese Foreign Ministry official said on Monday the two sides had revised two atomic agreements — a nuclear safeguards deal and a separate deal on uranium exploration and exploitation — that could be signed when Wen visits from 1 to 4 April. The issue has highlighted differences between close allies Australia and the

United States, with Canberra seen to be embracing Beijing while Washington remains wary and has questioned China's military and economic ambitions.

China is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but India, which conducted a nuclear test in 1974 and again in 1998 and declared itself a nuclear weapons state, is not.

MNA/Reuters



A fire-fighter stands in an apartment building after an explosion in Haifa, Israel, on 30 March, 2006. An explosion, apparently caused by a gas canister, ripped through the apartment building on Thursday, injuring seven people, Israeli radio stations reported. —INTERNET

Iran, India to hold talks on gas supply

NEW DELHI, 29 March — Iranian Vice-President Rahim Mashaee said here on Monday that talks are on track for an early accord with India on gas supply, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

Iranian Oil Minister will soon visit India to talk about the gas supply deal, said Mashaee, who was attending an international seminar as Deputy Chairman of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization of Iran here.

Apart from the five million tons liquefied

natural gas (LNG) supply deal signed last year, India is seeking another 2.5 million tons of LNG and 60 to 90 million cubic meters of gas annually through the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline.

India, Pakistan and Iran earlier announced that they will hold the first

trilateral talk of minister level in April here to discuss the gas pipeline project. But local media reported that India and Iran might hold bilateral talks about the gas supply deal.

Mashaee met with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday. On India's vote against Iran at International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in February, Mashaee said that he hoped India would not be influenced by the propaganda of the developed nations.

MNA/Xinhua

Collapse of ceiling halts Manila Airport test run

MANILA, 29 March — The Philippines again suspended the long-delayed opening of a new passenger terminal at Manila's international airport after a section of the gypsum board ceiling collapsed in the arrival area on Monday.

No one was hurt but the accident was another setback for the government, which had hoped to do a "soft launch" on Friday after seizing the terminal in December 2004 from a consortium led by Germany's Fraport AG in a bitter dispute over the contract.

Originally set to open in 2002 and built for an above-budget 650 million US dollars, Terminal 3 at Ninoy Aquino International Airport has

become a symbol of graft, legal uncertainties and other pitfalls that can await foreign investors in the Philippines.

"We are calling off any trial test runs scheduled at the end of the month until such time that we are fully assured of the safety, not only of the area affected by the collapse, but of the entire terminal," said Alfonso Cusi, the airport manager.

MNA/Reuters



Anti-US and anti-war protesters block a US amphibious assault vehicle during a joint landing operation between South Korea and the US at Mallipo beach in Taean, about 170km (106 miles) southwest of Seoul, on 30 March, 2006. —INTERNET

India tests rocket launcher

NEW DELHI, 29 March — India twice tested rocket launcher *Pinaka* from a defence base in west India's Orissa on Tuesday, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

The first test was carried out at 3.15 pm and the second test at 3.45 pm, both from the proof and experimental establishment in the coastal district of

Balasure.

Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher weapon area system, built wholly by India, can fire rockets with a range of 39-40 kilometres, in a salvo of 12 rockets with 1.2 tons of high explosives within 40 seconds.

Defence officials described the tests as a routine exercise. — MNA/Xinhua

New bird flu cases reported in central India

NEW DELHI, 29 March — Fresh cases of bird flu have been reported in more villages in Jalgaon District of west India's Maharashtra and one village in nearby Burhanpur District of Madhya Pradesh in central India, the Ministry of Agriculture said on Tuesday.

Eight samples of the 96 collected from Jalgaon District of Maharashtra and Burhanpur District of Madhya Pradesh were found positive for bird flu, the ministry said in a statement.

Jalgaon reported seven cases and Burhanpur has one case.

Four villages of Jalgaon District had seen

chicken infection of bird flu on 14 March.

"Surveillance was greatly stepped up in Jalgaon District and the adjoining area of Burhanpur District in Madhya Pradesh as the outbreak was detected in backyard poultry and also because of the report of death of poultry from some of these areas," the

statement said.

So far no human infection of bird flu has been found in India while about 100 people died of the epidemic in the world.

India has tested more than 11,700 samples from the country since avian influenza was first detected in India on 18 February.

MNA/Xinhua



An Afghan security officer stands watch the wreckage of a destroyed vehicle, used as a suicide car bombing against foreign military convoy, in Kandahar, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 30 March, 2006. Suspected Taliban militants ambushed and killed a local police chief and his brother in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, while a suicide car bomber attacked a foreign military convoy and wounded six Afghans, officials said. —INTERNET

The developing scene of Ayeyawady Division

Chingya (Maubin)

I received an invitation to the fifth anniversary of the Kyonnattaw village self-reliant library in Maubin Township. It was the Alingyaung Library built in memory of writer U Han Nyunt. At its fourth anniversary, writers, Chit Naing (Psychology) and Ledwintha Saw Chit gave literary talks. I was not able to attend that ceremony. So, I decided to attend the fifth anniversary without fail. I was accompanied by Kyin Win Nyein (Maubin) to present the Maubin Township Writers and Journalists Association. U Soe Htay (Muse Restaurant), a family member of the library founder U Han Nyunt, made transport arrangements for us to the village.

ship and assistance of the Ministry of Information.

All villages in the whole Ayeyawady Division now have self-reliant libraries. A ceremony was held in Pathein, in the division, to mark the opening of libraries in all the villages of the division. At the ceremony, Chairman of Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung presented over K 5 million and 6,682 copies of various books for the development of the self-reliant rural libraries. There are altogether 12,111 rural libraries in the division.

My native, Maubin Township, alone has 442 rural libraries. The library in Kyonnattaw was built

Dhammayon. Wellwishers also donated a 21-inch TV, a generator and a radio and set up a trust fund of over K 300,000 for the library. Head of Maubin Township Information and Public Relations Department U Aung Soe also presented books to the library. The library also donated publication to other rural libraries through the department.

Nanda Thein Zan gave talks first. We were so glad to see the library developing for five continuous years with the goodwill donations of the people, that we even forgot the summer heat. The library is lending books on various subjects free of charge to all.

At the ceremony the family of the founder U Han Nyunt presented a year's salary for the librarian. We the members of the Writers and Journalists Association felt glad and took honour of those who made contributions of all kinds to the library.

During his meeting with staff of Press Scrutiny and Registration Division of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise on 12 March this year, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said, "In this knowledge age, we will have to strive for intellectual development by establishing a knowledge-based society and a knowledge-based economy in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State."

With the leadership of the Information Ministry, over 52,391 rural libraries have been set up in the whole nation up to 15 March 2006. Ayeyawady Division has set up libraries in all villages with the leadership of Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung. The act of donating books and holding literary talks for the progress of the rural libraries is a meritorious deed.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin: 30-3-2006

When we saw drilling of crude oil near Yelegyi village on the right side of the road, we aboard the car were discussing rural development. During the discussions, I came to remember the one, so-called Ma Thida of Bogale town, who sent an open letter to the BBC, criticizing the columnists including me for the contributions, saying that the articles were in the government's favour presenting the infrastructures that in reality did not exist. When I saw the developments with my own eyes, I drew a conclusion that she would be blind.

In the past, the journey to Kyonnattaw village by car was not a convenient trip. In the previous year, the writers on their way to the village were first transported to Sanchaung village by car, and to the Kyonnattaw by bullock-cart. But now, there is a government-built gravel road linking Aungheik and Seiktha villages in the west of Maubin. It is eight miles and six furlongs long.

The locals riding bicycles and motorcycles on the road were a proof that the villages along the road are enjoying progress and smooth transport. Rice fields and sunflower fields were also a witness to the rural wealth.

When we saw drilling of crude oil near Yelegyi village on the right side of the road, we aboard the car were discussing rural development. During the discussions, I came to remember the one, so-called Ma Thida of Bogale town, who sent an open letter to the BBC, criticizing the columnists including me for the contributions, saying that the articles were in the government's favour presenting the infrastructures that in reality did not exist. When I saw the development with my own eyes, I drew a conclusion that she must be blind.

The Head of State gave a guidance, saying, "We will be able to build democracy only if the intellectual power of the people is high and they are able to distinguish between right and wrong." Thus, village libraries have been set up with the leader-

by the family of the late U Han Nyunt in 2001. In the past, cars had to move with much difficulties on the bullock-cart track from Maubin to the village. Thanks to the town-to-village road the village can be reached within 45 minutes at present.

We studied the book keeping system at the Kyonnattaw village library which was a two-storey building. Kyonnattaw village library is contributing books to the self-reliant rural libraries around it.

Soon, writer Nanda Thein Zan arrived at the village by car. I honoured him for coming to the village despite his failing health. The village treated us well.

The literary talks were held at Mogok

**ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊
ပိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။**

**၂၀၀၆-ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ (၁၅)ရက်နေ့ထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာ
ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၅၂,၃၉၁)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။**

ကျေးလက်နေ ပြည်သူအများ ဗဟုသုတတိုးပွားစေရန်
ကျေးရွာကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် စာအုပ်များကို
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့
လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

Commander attends ceremonies to ...

(from page 1)

Deputy Director of Shan State (South) Development Affairs Committee U Nay Lin formally opened the road.

Afterwards, the commander attended the ceremony to inaugurate Khwanyo tarred road in Kan-ak Ward of Taunggyi.

Thida Road measuring 700 feet by 12 feet was built at a cost of K 2.7 million, and Khwanyo Road, 1,322 feet long and 12 feet wide, at a cost of K 4.4 million.

Next, the commander attended the ceremony to open Yaypu-Yayaye-Thein-in-Myaung U-Kyauksu earth road. It is five miles long and 18 feet wide earth road. The Township Development Affairs Committee spent K 3.5 million on construction of the road.

At the farm of Kalaw Station, the commander

delivered an address at the ceremony to grow physic nut plants.

Departmental officials explained growing physic nut plants, and producing of physic nut oil. The commander presented physic nut saplings and grafts to the officials of regiments and units of Kalaw Station and villages in Heho Village-tract.

The commander viewed demonstration on running of machines and pumping water with the use of physic nut oil presented by Agricultural Mechanization Department. In the afternoon, the commander inspected the physic nut nursery of the Eastern Command Farm in Kyauknimaw Village-tract in Taunggyi Township.

Over 290,000 physic nut saplings are being nurtured at the nursery.

MNA

Education Minister visits...

(from page 1)

examination and fulfilled the needs. A total of 11,174 students were doing the examination. Next, the minister and party oversaw test production of foodstuff at Industrial Chemical Department and gave necessary instructions.

Similarly, the minister and party proceeded to West Yangon University yesterday afternoon. Together with rector U

Saw Kyaw Min, they inspected the students sitting the examination and made arrangements to fulfil the requirements. A total of 7,608 students were taking the examination.

During the inspections, the minister gave instructions on arrangements made for the students taking the examination systematically, following the rules of examination as

prescribed and greening the university and its campus. Next, the minister and party cordially greeted the students and encouraged them.

A total of 161,611 students from universities and degree colleges around the country were taking the examination being held from 22nd March to 1st April.

MNA

Meeting on educative functions for enforcement of traffic rules held



Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin addresses at the meeting on educative functions for enforcement of traffic rules. — MNA

YANGON, 30 March — Chairman of Supervisory Committee for Enforcement of Traffic Rules Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin made a speech at the meeting on educative functions for enforcement of traffic rules at the office of Wireless and Traffic Police Force in Pazundaung Township, here, yesterday evening.

At the meeting, Brig-Gen Wai Lwin said that in studying the cases of traffic accident, a total of 932 traffic accident cases were filed in 2003, 914 cases in 2004 and 916 cases in 2005. Likewise, there were 2,040 car accidents in 2003, 1,070 cases in 2004 and 795 cases in 2005. Hence, cases of car accident declined obviously.

He stressed the need to give educative talks on traffic rules enforcement to those related to the traffic. For the first phase, arrangements have been made for drivers to answer the questions on traffic

rules at the filling stations. For the second phase, officials will join hands with members of Traffic Police Force, local police members, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Red Cross Society to supervise pedestrians not to break the traffic rules in six townships of downtown Yangon.

Joint-Secretary of the Education and Discipline Sub-committee Police Captain Thein Swe reported on educative tasks. Those present took part in the discussions.

The Deputy Commander gave concluding remarks.

Also present at the meeting were the secretary of Yangon City Development Committee, the Commissioner of Division General Administration Department, members of the Supervisory Committee, district and township authorities, and officials.

MNA

Water festival to be held on grand scale

YANGON, 30 March — Leading committee for holding the Yangon Mayor Maha Thingyan Water Festival to mark Myanmar New Year for 1367 ME held a meeting today with members of the organizing work committees for the festival at City Hall here and dis-

cussed matters on holding the festival in accordance with Myanmar traditional customs.

At the meeting, Secretary of the leading committee Joint Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Aung Than Win urged officials concerned to

carry out tasks for organizing the New Year festival systematically in an effort to hold the festival on a grand scale.

During the new year festival, concerts will be staged here.

The festival will start on 13 April and last four days. — MNA

အများပြည်သူသိရှိရန်အသိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

၁။ ဈေးကွက်များတွင် ရောင်းချနေသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဆေးဝါးများမှာ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားခြင်း (မရှိသော ဆေးဝါးများဖြစ်ပါကြောင်းနှင့် မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားခြင်းမရှိသော ဆေးဝါးများမှာ အရည်အသွေးအာမခံချက် မရှိပါကြောင်း အသိပေးအပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ဆေးအမည်	ထုတ်လုပ်သည့်ကုမ္ပဏီအမည်	နိုင်ငံ
၁။	CT-10 Tablet (Cetirizine Di Hydrochloride BP 10 mg)	AKME Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (P) Ltd	ဖော်ပြထားခြင်းမရှိပါ။
၂။	Moduretic Tablet (Amiloride Hydrochloride USP 5 mg, Hydrochlorothiazide USP 50 mg)	Merck Sharp & Dohme of Pakistan Ltd, Karachi.	Pakistan
၃။	Betnovate-S Skin Ointment (Betamethasone valerate IP 0.12% w/w & Salicylic acid IP 3% w/w)	GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd, India	India
၄။	Dulcolax Tablet (Bisacodyl BP 5 mg)	Merck Marker (Pvt) Ltd	Quetta
၅။	Neomycin Sulfate Ointment	Shanghai General Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd	China

၂။ အများပြည်သူများသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားခြင်းမရှိသော ဆေးဝါးကို ဝယ်ယူသုံးစွဲခြင်း မပြုကြရန်နှင့် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားသော ဆေးဝါးများကိုသာ စူးစမ်းဝယ်ယူသုံးစွဲရန် နိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

၃။ ဆေးဝါးတင်သွင်းဖြန့်ဖြူးသည့် ကုမ္ပဏီ၊ ဆေးဝါးရောင်းချသည့်ဆိုင်များသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားခြင်းမရှိသော ဆေးဝါးများ၊ ဆေးဝါးအတွက် စမညီဆေးဝါးများ တင်သွင်းဖြန့်ဖြူးရောင်းချခြင်း လုံးဝမပြုလုပ်ရန်နှင့် လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း မရှိပါက သက်ဆိုင်ရာ အာဏာပိုင်အဖွဲ့အစည်းက တည်ဆဲဥပဒေအရ အရေးယူမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးအပ်ပါသည်။ ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

တန်ဖိုးရှိလှ လူငယ်ဘဝ မူးယစ်ကင်းစင် ကျန်းမာမှု

မူးယစ်ကင်းစင် အလှဆင်

မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ် လူ့ရန်စွယ် ကာကွယ်တိုက်ဖျက် လက်ချင်းဆက်



An Enigma machine is seen in an undated photo from the National Security Agency. Bidders in an internet auction are offering over 13,000 euros (\$15,600) for a wartime German encoding machine, similar to ones whose messages were cracked by British code breakers in World War Two. The portable Enigma encryption machine made in 1941 has a keyboard and a series of rotors designed to scramble messages. It is up for sale on internet auction site, eBay. — INTERNET

Shwehtidaw (umbrella) hoisted atop the pagoda built on Ordination Hall in Thingangyun Township

YANGON, 30 March — A ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw (umbrella) atop the pagoda built on the Sasanakari Ordination Hall was held in conjunction with the consecration ceremony at Nyaungganaye-Kwinkyang Sasana Yeiktha in Thingangyun Township on 15 March morning.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Dawei Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Arçinna and member Sayadaws, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and members of the Sangha.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namō Tassa.

The Mingala Drum Troupe blew the conch shell nine times and beat the gong nine times.

Wellwishers placed religious objects into the reliquary.

Afterwards, they hoisted Shwehtidaw atop the pagoda and offered emerald bowl and Shwekyar Thingan (robes) to the pagoda.

Later, they offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws.

MNA

61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 30 March — The 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition continued at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road from 9 am to 5 pm for the fifth day today. It was packed with the visitors.

In North West Command's booth, a picture on two Yanaungmyin Buddha images conveyed while King Alongmintaya U Aung Zeya was marching towards the battles, religious records on Sagaing Hills, Phowintaung, Alauongdaw Kassapha, Borditahtaung and Sagaing Kaunghmudaw, human existence, scenic view of primate fossils, Yazakumara stone in-



Students and people visit the 61th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition. — MNA

scription, artifacts used in successive eras, flourishing Myanmar and bio diesel extracted from physic nut plants are on

display.

Anyone can sit the computer quiz held at the booth of nation-building endeavours and officials

presented prizes to winners. The exhibition is kept open daily from 9 am to 5 pm and admission is free. — MNA

Maintenance of Pynmana-Pinlaung Road inspected

YANGON, 30 March — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected maintenance tasks and bridges along Pynmana-Pinlaung Road in Pynmana on 28

March morning. At the site for construction of Leinli Bridge, Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Sein Maung reported to the minister on the axis of the

bridge and the road. The minister oversaw extension of the road between mile posts 51st and 52nd. At the construction site, the road was being extended.

In addition, bridges along the road are being upgraded into concrete ones.

At present, Road Construction Special Group 13 and Taunggyi District Public Works are performing section-wise construction tasks of the road and bridges.

MNA

Blood donation ceremony at Botahtaung Pagoda on 2 April

YANGON, 30 March — The Metta Byuha Association will sponsor a blood donation ceremony at 8.30 am on 2 April in Seikkan Dhammayon of Botahtaung Pagoda here to help save the lives of patients warded at hospitals.

Everyone who wishes to help human beings with their blood may take part in the ceremony.

MNA

Special care services of bird flu surveillance and control being performed in some regions of central Myanmar

YANGON, 30 March — Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Health Department under the Ministry of Health, local authorities and officials are joining hands to supervise control of chicken and quail death in central Myanmar.

In performing the test at the laboratory, bird flu virus was found at three quails alive from the farm of staff U Aung Myint of Paleik Textile and Finishing Plant in Singaing Township. As part of controlling the disease, officials culled and buried 3,445 chickens from six poultry farms, and 7,950 quails from nine farms at the place three furlongs from the plant on 29 March morning.

On the same morning, officials, acting on information, inspected the quail farm of Daw Than Htay in No 2 region of North Inyathit, Ledi Ward, Monywa Township. They found 102 death quails. Hence, a total of 97 quails were buried and five were sent to the laboratory in Man-

dalay. In conducting the test, a virus namely influenza + Ve was found. Therefore, the remaining 720 quails and 340 quail eggs were destroyed and buried.

In addition, about 20 dead pigeons were found at the roof of the Sasana Beikman in Central Ward of Kyauktan Township. Hence, two pigeons alive and five eggs were sent to the central laboratory in Yangon. On 27 March, these objects were checked with the use of rapid test kid and type A, H5 at the same time. Fortunately, H5N1 virus was not found.

Acting on information that 18 ducks of U Myint who lives in Leikpya Road in Aung San-Pyithaya Ward of Pyay Township, officials conducted test of two ducks with the use of rapid test kid. Bird flu virus was not found in the test. The test answer indicated

death of the ducks was due to Colisep- caemia disease.

Moreover, officials checked 43 chicken farms in Kawlin Township on 27 March. Likewise, the research officer and party of Upper Myanmar Laboratory made a field trip to inspect chicken farms in Kawlin Township on 28 March.

They found no death nor sign of the disease. On the inspection tour, though they checked some chicken with the use of rapid test kid, no virus was found.

In the bird flu restricted area of some regions of central Myanmar, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Health Department and local authorities are performing special care services of disease surveillance and control functions.

MNA



A woman works in a Sanofi-Aventis laboratory in an undated file photo. An experimental vaccine against H5N1 bird flu, made by a unit of Sanofi-Aventis, only appears to work at the very highest doses, meaning it will be harder than feared to protect the population against a pandemic, researchers said on Wednesday.

INTERNET

All this needs to be known

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

Indonesia informs China on tsunami reconstruction progress

BEIJING, 30 March — The Indonesian Embassy in China and the Agency for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (BRR) of Aceh and Nias, on behalf of the Indonesian Government, reported to the Chinese side on the progress of Aceh and Nias reconstruction after the tsunami in late 2004 in Beijing on Wednesday.

The Indonesian side also expressed sincere gratitude to the Chinese Government and people for their donations when addressing about 200 representatives from the Chinese Government departments, foreign embassies in China, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and international financial in-

stitutions.

BRR Deputy for Economy and Business Development Said Faisal said Indonesia is "very grateful" for the continued attention and tremendous contribution from the Chinese Government and people for the recovery of Aceh and Nias, including large-scale infrastructure programmes, systems of education and health care, and humanitarian aid through various international relief agencies based in China.

China has donated 51.4 million US dollars, including 7.5 million dollars for housing projects, five million dollars for building materials of schools, 3.7 million dollars for 10 early warning

system stations across Indonesia, 1.5 million dollars in funds, 500,000 dollars for delivery assistance for Nias.

In addition, the China's donation included 3.4 million dollars from the China Red Cross to build 300 houses, and 28.3 million dollars of emergency relief aid delivered through international relief agencies.

Indonesian Ambassador to China Sudrajat said the generosity of the Chinese people will be remembered, and will strengthen the ties between the two countries.

The Indonesian side will continue to inform the Chinese side on the progress of reconstruction.—MNA/Xinhua

South Korean men smokers drop below 50%

SEOUL, 30 March — The number of South Korean men who smoke has slipped below 50 per cent for the first time, mainly due to health campaigns and higher taxes on cigarettes, a Health Ministry survey said on Tuesday.

According to a survey conducted by Gallop Korea for the Health Ministry, the number of South Korean men who smoked was at 49.2 per cent in March 2006, which is down from 53.3 per cent a year ago and 79.3 per cent in 1980.

The government increased taxes on cigarettes by 500 won in December 2004 and this helped lead to a gradual decline in smoking, the

ministry said. A pack of cigarettes in South Korea now costs about 2,500 won (2.56 US dollars).

The government has also launched campaigns aimed at curbing smoking in recent years, although many South Korean men pick up smoking during mandatory military service and men in suits puffing away in front of office buildings are a common sight in Seoul.

The Health Ministry has been officially keeping track of smokers since 1980.

"Before 1980, we estimate that the percentage of adult males who smoked was at about 80 per cent," Cho Kyung-

suk, a Health Ministry official, said by telephone.

According to the World Health Organization, about 35 per cent of men in developed countries smoke while about 50 per cent of men in developing countries smoke.

In 2002, the WTO compared smoking rates among adults around the world.

Among the countries that had the highest percentage of male smokers were Kenya at 67 per cent with China and Russia at 64 per cent. Near the bottom were the United States at 26 per cent and Australia at 27 per cent, it said.—MNA/Reuters



A model showcases a creation by designer Maheka Mirpuri during a fashion show at India Fashion Week in Mumbai on 29 March, 2006.
INTERNET

Iran to launch massive military manoeuvre in Gulf

TEHERAN, 30 March — Iran is to launch a massive military manoeuvre in the Gulf as of Friday, the official IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

Admiral Morteza Saffari, Naval Force Commander of Iran's elite militia — the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), was quoted as saying that the naval and ground forces of the IRGC, the Armed Forces and the Disciplinary Forces (police) would participate in the war game.

The manoeuvre will last till 6 April, near the northern coasts of the Gulf, and over 17,000 soldiers and 1,500 naval vessels of various types and sizes will join the operation, Saffari announced.

"The entire Armed Forces are fully ready to defend the territorial integrity of the motherland, which will be displayed during the war game," Saffari added.

MNA/Xinhua

Total eclipse occurs in N-W Egypt

CAIRO, 30 March — Al-Salloum on the Egyptian-Libyan border witnessed a full eclipse of the sun at local time 12:40 pm (1040 GMT) on Wednesday, where thousands of astronomers and tourists gathered to watch the event, including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Al-Salloum is in the path of the complete shadow of the total eclipse, the first one in years which will sweep northeast from Brazil to Mongolia.

During the unique and rare show, the day will turn to night in the eclipse's route and a corona which is the usually invisible extended atmosphere of the sun will glow around the edges of the moon as it comes between the earth and the sun.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam vaccinates over 6 mln fowls against bird flu

HANOI, 30 March — Vietnam has vaccinated over 6 million poultry against bird flu viruses in 10 northern and southern localities since early this month, according to a local animal health department.

Vaccination has been conducted among 3.1 million poultry in northern Nam Dinh Province, and nearly three million ones in the northern provinces of Ha Nam, Phu Tho, Ha Tay, Bac Giang and Hai Duong, and the southern provinces of Tien Giang, Hau Giang, Dong Thap and An Giang.

In the first batch lasting until next month, the country is expected to vaccinate 100 million fowls nationwide.

Vietnam is facing high risk of bird flu reoccurrence, mainly because of the existence of bird flu viruses in the environment and the loosen control over poultry smuggling, said the department.

In 2005, bird flu hit 44 cities and provinces of Vietnam, killing and leading to the forced culling of nearly 4.8 million poultry, accounting for over 2 per cent of the country's fowl population. It has detected no bird flu outbreak for over three months.

The Southeast Asian country, home to eight million poultry-raising households, now has a total poultry population of nearly 220 million.

MNA/Xinhua

Spanish King pays tribute to French war dead

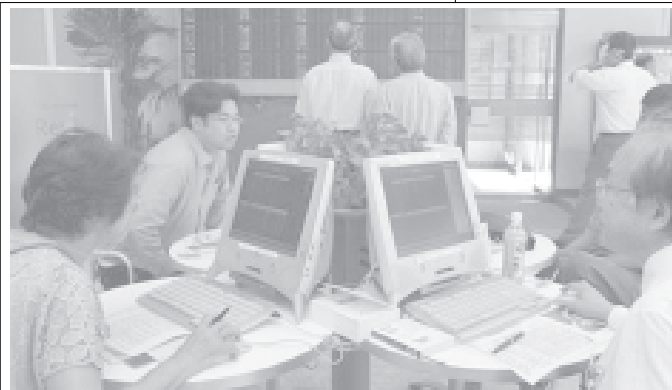
PARIS, 30 March — Spanish King Juan Carlos paid tribute on Tuesday to France's war dead in a ceremony at Paris's Arc de Triomphe Monument during his first state visit to the country in 21 years.

Juan Carlos laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier and met veterans of World War II and the French wars in Asia and Algeria. Later, the King was to meet French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin and visit the upper and lower houses of Parliament. The King and Queen Sofia are scheduled to visit European airplane maker Airbus in the southwest city of Toulouse on Wednesday.

On Monday, the King thanked France for its help in fighting Basque separ-

tist group ETA, which announced a ceasefire last week. The countries have been close partners over the years in the fight against ETA, a Basque acronym meaning "Basque Homeland and Liberty".

The group is blamed for more than 800 killings since it began an armed struggle for an independent Basque homeland straddling northern Spain and southwestern France in 1968.—MNA/Xinhua



Investors surf the Internet in Tokyo. Yahoo Japan will partner with Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group in Internet banking by taking a stake in the lender's online subsidiary, Japan Net Bank, the companies said on Thursday. — INTERNET



Bird flu brought under control in Shwebo, KhinU Townships and Mandalay District Press release on measures undertaken in central Myanmar



Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries issued a press release on death of chicken in central Myanmar.

1. Death of chicken: The LBVD carried out restriction and control measures on prevention and control of disease regarding the death of chicken and quails in Shwebo District, Sagaing Division from the first week of February 2006 to 26-3-2006 and Mandalay District, Mandalay Division from 8-3-2006 to 26-3-2006.

(A) Death of chicken/those destroyed

Out of 60,929 fowls at 93 poultry farms 6,731 died in Shwebo District (Shwebo, KhinU, Kanbalu and YeU) from the time of chicken death to 26-3-2006, altogether 24,836 fowls were culled and buried. In Mandalay District (Pyigyidagun, Amarapura, Chanmyathazi, Chanayethazan, Maha Aungmye and Aungmyethazan) 2,060 fowls died at 99 poultry farms where 111,919 were kept and 96,159 were destroyed. Therefore, 8,791 fowls died and 120,995 fowls and 560 eggs were destroyed and buried in those districts.

(B) Death of quails and those destroyed

Altogether 1,941 quails at two quail farms in Shwebo District and 115,650 quails in 44 quail farms in Mandalay District and 50,515 eggs were killed/destroyed. Therefore, 117,591 quails and 50,515 quail eggs were killed/destroyed and buried.

(C) Finding of bird flu virus

After the initial outbreaks in the cull zone in Kanbalu, KhinU, YeU, Pyigyidagun, Amarapura, Chanmyathazi, Chanayethazan, Maha Aungmye and Aungmyethazan Townships, investigation was made at 47 poultry farms. A total of 433 samples (blood, inner organs of the chicken and trachea) were collected and examined through rapid test and HA, HI and PCR processes. The H5N1 virus was detected in 26 samples of 35 chicken farms.

2. Control of disease: Under the supervision of local authorities the LBVD is taking measures on disease control in the cull zones in cooperation with Health Department, Development Affairs Departments, Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation and breeders and with the assistance of disease control experts from international organizations. All the fowls in the farms from one kilometre radius of the farm where the virus was found were culled for

risk prevention. The destruction included 120,995, fowls, 112,414 quails, 50,515 quail eggs and 560 eggs.

The farms and other materials were sprayed with pesticides. The ban on sale and transport of animals and their products was imposed after the control and restricted and control areas were designated between 3 kilometres and 7 kilometres from the infected farm. It was found that there was no evidence of human and other animal infections from the H5N1. The situation is now under control in affected townships of Mandalay Division.

3. The latest condition up to 26-3-2006: The disease has been brought under control in Shwebo, KhinU except in Kaboe Village in Kanbalu Township and Mandalay District; control measures continue at Kaboe Village.

4. Cooperation with international organizations: Regional Coordinator of FAO Dr K Watanabe and Regional Coordinator of USAID of the United States Dr John MacArthur in cooperation with the LBVD made a field trip to the affected areas in Mandalay and Shwebo Districts and took emergency measures on control of the disease. Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein received the FAO and WHO resident representatives to Myanmar and discussed bird flu control programmes. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and a regional laboratory in Australia provided educative posters and laboratory equipment. Myanmar received protective gear, testing kits and others worth about US \$ 100,000 provided by FAO, JICA and the regional laboratory in Australia. Three experts from FAO, JICA and DLD of Thailand together with Dr K Watanabe will conduct disease control in Mandalay and Shwebo for two weeks beginning 28-3-2006.

5. Rehabilitation: Under the programme of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Myanmar Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Development Bank and the Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation will jointly take measures for rehabilitation of the affected chicken runs.

6. Regions that have not been infected: To ensure normal rate of consumption and trade of domestic chickens and chicken products in such regions, State/Division Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Departments will hold coordination meetings and issue animal health certificates to livestock breeders and traders to distribute products with the permission of respective local authorities.

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

Public awareness poster for the village level. Title: INSTRUCTION FOR THE PREVENTION & CONTROL OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA. Includes Burmese and English text, illustrations of people and animals, and a JICA logo.

ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (401)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (401) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

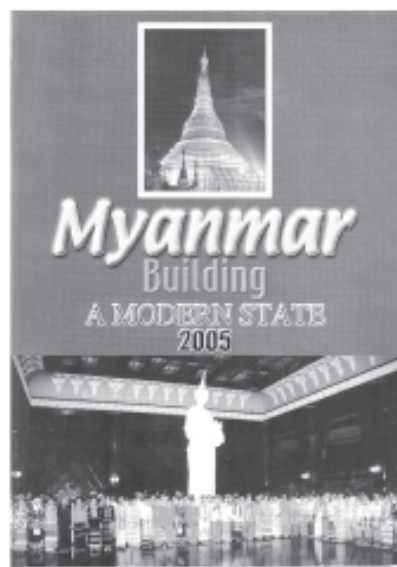
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDERS

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in US Dollar and Euro:-

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	12(T)1/MR(C&W) 2006-2007	1. Wheel Steel Solid	1200-Nos
		2. Parallel Axle Type *Y*	600-Nos
		3. Roller Bearings	2400-Nos
2.	12(T)2/MR(C&W) 2006-2007	1. Bolster Coil Spring No.73	320-Sets
		2. Axle Coil Spring No.74	160-Nos

Closing Date. - 28.4.2006 (Friday) (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 30.3.2006 (also available during Thingyan Festival holiday) during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 291985, 201555(Ext-602,605,612)

Deputy General Manager

Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon

UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following stores which will be purchased in US Dollar and Euro :-

Sr. No	Tender No.	Description	Items
1.	12(T)3 /MR/ML 2006-2007	Spare Parts for Diesel Hydraulic Locomotives	540 Items

Closing Date 28.4.2006 (Friday) (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 31-3-2006 (also available during Thingyan Festival holiday) during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 291985, 201555(Ext-602,605,612)

Deputy General Manager

Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon.

**Invitation to Sale by Competitive Bidding of
Htay Myanmar Cold Store and Processing Plant.**

- Location of property** : Corner of Pan Bin Gyi Street and Hlaing River. Close to Central Fish Market, Kyimyindine T/S.
- Ownership of Land** : Thirty Year's lease from Port Authority on thirty yearly renewable lease. This is not on basis of B.O.T.
- Initial Start up of the plant** : 1995—1996
- Type of Building** : (1) Main Building, two storey RC building of 120'x40'
(2) Annex to (1), Brick Nogging, single storey 90'x40'
(3) Separate Brick Nogging Single storey 15'x25'
(4) Common room, for men/ women/ store 72'x15'
- Condition of Machinery** : All the machines have been recently serviced. Generator still under repair and new parts arriving soon from Thailand.
- Water Tank** : Steel tanks 600gls x 4 number
Steel tanks 1200gals x 1 number
Steel tanks 800 gals x 1 number
- Machinery for various operations:**
 - (1) Has a 500 KVA Transformer.
 - (2) Has 5000 gallons diesel oil storage tank.
 - (3) Water supply to the plant is of Ph7.
 - (4) Has large Metal Detector.
 - (5) Has Flake ice making machine.
 - (6) Has Contact Freezer.
 - (7) Has Air Blast Freezer (2 Nos).
 - (8) The plant contains Ante Cold room.
 - (9) Has water filtration system.
 - (10) Has about 2000 of all sizes of steel trays.
 - (11) Has 30 steel tables.
 - (12) Has Round and Square Plastic Tanks and also long Fiber open tanks.
 - (13) Has Laboratory room with complete equipment.
 - (14) Has 250 KVA generator.
 - (15) Weighing Machine (400 viss).
 - (16) 100 Ton cold store.

Venue of Bidding : Central Hotel, Bogyoke Street.

Date of Bidding : 09:00 hour, Wednesday, April 5, 2006.

Date of Inspection : Inspection of plants, machinery and accessories can be done

during office hours on any day before 5th of April 2006 at Htay Myanmar Cold Store and Processing Plant.

Several arrested after Johannesburg Airport heist

JOHANNESBURG, 29 March —Several arrests have been made in connection with the armed robbery of large sum foreign currency at Johannesburg International Airport, local radio SABC reported on Tuesday.

The report said that Airports Company of SA Managing Director Monhla Hlahla made this disclosure to the parliamentary committee

on transport. Police spokesman Senior Superintendent Vish Naidoo was not immediately aware of the arrests.

On Saturday, two men armed with AK-47 assault rifles approached an SAA aircraft, held up guards and police and helped themselves to bags of currency that had been flown in from Britain.

Other members of the

gang held up guards at one of the gates. All of the men fled, no shots were fired and no one was injured.

Naidoo said earlier it was not yet known how the men managed to gain access to the airport.

He could not confirm a *Sunday Times* report according to which 16.5 million US dollars was robbed at the gunpoint.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Govt vows to safeguard migrant workers' rights

BEIJING, 29 March—The Chinese Government issued a document on Monday, attaching great priority to dealing with the issue of protecting the rights of migrant workers from the countryside.

It is of great importance to recognize and resolve the issue of migrant labourers from rural areas as these people have become a main force in the processing and manufacturing industries, building industry, mining industry, sanitary work, home management and catering sector, says

the document on resolving the issue of farmer-turned workers by the State Council.

In the document, the State Council recognizes the major problem of safeguarding the rights of these workers who face the problems of low and often delayed pay, long working hours, poor safety conditions, lack of social security, occupational diseases and industrial accidents and injuries, and difficulties in training, children's schooling, and living conditions.

MNA/Xinhua

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Chinese armed police officers attend a training exercise in Beijing on Tuesday, 28 March, 2006. The Chinese capital on Tuesday set up a special taskforce to deal with violence on the trains.—INTERNET

Hun Sen demands to remove UN human rights envoy

PHNOM PENH, 30 March — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Wednesday he would appeal the United Nations to remove its special envoy in Cambodia, who he said attacked him and Cambodia's human rights situation groundlessly.

"Mr Ghai has accused me of using an iron fist to violate the independence of the courts. What he said is wrong.

He has no right to teach me what to do," Hun Sen said at an agriculture meeting.

He said the message would be sent to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan asking for Ghai's

removal, because he has no qualification for the duty.

The Premier's remarks were a counterattack to the speech of Yash Ghai, who became the UN Special Representative for Human Rights in Cambodia last November.

Yash Ghai said on Tuesday that despite the

release of government critics from jail, the human rights situation has not fundamentally improved in Cambodia.

"In terms of the exercise of the power of the state, I don't really see any great improvement," he was quoted by *The Cambodia Daily* as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

"Missing link" science manuscript up for sale

LONDON, 29 March — A manuscript charting the birth of modern science, lost for more than 200 years, goes on sale on Tuesday with a price tag in excess of one million pounds.

Hailed as "science's missing link", the journal of Robert Hooke contains details of experiments he conducted as curator at the Royal Society from 1662 and his correspondence as its secretary from 1677.

It was found by chance in a cupboard at a private house in Hampshire by experts from auctioneer Bonhams conducting a routine valuation.

The notes include a celebrated row between Hooke and Isaac Newton over planetary motion and gravity, and the lost record confirming the first observation of microbes by Antoni van Leeuwenhoek. Hooke was a keen observer of nature with a fascination for things mechanical but, because of ill health as a child, he was initially left largely to educate himself.

A talented artist, he was sent to London on the death of his father John —

a country curate — to study under leading portrait painter Peter Lely.

He went on to study first at Westminster School and then Christ College, Oxford where he won a place as a chorister.

There he studied astronomy, tried his hand at mechanical flight and rubbed shoulders with top scientists of the day.

A meeting of these scientists in November 1660 founded the Society

for the Promoting of Physico-Mathematical Experimental Learning which in mid-1662 received a Royal charter and became the Royal Society of London.

MNA/Reuters

Egyptian rears more than 300 snakes in home to earn living



CAIRO, 25 March — Nasr Tolba is an Egyptian who belongs to many generations for living with rearing the snakes. Tolba who grows more than 300 snakes in his home lives by extracting their poison and selling it to many medical companies in countries like Australia and the United States as well as to the Egyptian ministry of health. "I raise my sons and grandsons to love the snakes and live with them, they never harm you" he says "unless it feels danger from you".—Internet

Nasr Tolba holds snakes at his home 20km away from Cairo, on 25 March, 2006 in Abu Rawwash, Egypt.—INTERNET

Test results confirm Denmark's first case of H5N1 bird flu

STOCKHOLM, 29 March — Tests on a buzzard found dead in Denmark on 14 March have confirmed that it was infected with H5N1 bird flu, the EU reference laboratory authorities said on Tuesday.

The buzzard, the first known case of the disease in the country, was found dead near the town of Naestved, about 70 kilometres south of Copenhagen, capital of Denmark, in a wetland area populated by migratory birds.

According to reports from Copenhagen, the Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research later sent the samples to the European Union reference laboratory in Britain for final verification.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore's manufacturing output up 37.2% in February

SINGAPORE, 29 March — Singapore's manufacturing output grew strongly by 37.2 per cent in February as compared with a year ago, according to the figures released by the Economic Development Board (EDB) on Monday.

The output of the biomedical manufacturing cluster jumped by 199.7 per cent in February over the corresponding month of 2005, and that of the transport engineering cluster increased by 35.1 per cent in the same month.

The output of the precision engineering and electronics clusters grew by 22.7 per cent and 21.1 per cent, respectively last month from a year ago.

The output of the general manufacturing industries expanded by 10.8 per cent while that of the chemicals cluster rose by 4.8 per cent in the second month of this year.— MNA/Xinhua

Powerful cyclone threatens western Australia coast

CANBERRA, 29 March — A powerful cyclone with winds of up to 300 kilometres per hour (190 miles per hour) menaced northern parts of Western Australia on Wednesday, less than two weeks after a storm devastated houses and farms on the other side of the country.

Some oil and gas operations were shut ahead of the arrival of Cyclone Glenda in an area known as "cyclone alley" because it is regularly swept by tropical storms at this time of year.

The storm, ranked in the most powerful grade for cyclones, category five, was about 380 kilometres (240 miles) north/northeast of the town of Port Hedland and moving slowly south along the coast, said forecaster Adam Conroy from the Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre in Perth, the capital of Western Australia. "Tomorrow's really the day where things

could happen," he said.

The remote Pilbara region under threat is home to around 10,000 people and includes Woodside Petroleum's A14 billion Australian dollars (10 billion US dollars) North West Shelf liquefied natural gas (LNG) project at Karratha, about 700 kilometres (440 miles) north of Perth.

Oil and gas producer Santos Ltd shut its 40,000-barrel-per-day (bpd) Mutineer-Exeter oil field on Monday and BHP Billiton's 10,600 bpd Griffin oil field has been closed since Saturday, because of the threat from a smaller storm.— MNA/Reuters



Abandoned fishing boats float in Panama Bay in Panama City, on 28 March, 2006. Panama City Metropolitan Area's nearly 950,000 inhabitants and industries located within its boundaries produce wastewater daily that is discharged untreated into urban rivers or directly into the Panama Bay.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Inter edge Villarreal

LONDON, 30 March — Inter Milan grabbed a slender advantage over Villarreal with a 2-1 comeback victory while AC Milan came away from Olympique Lyon with a goalless draw in the second two quarterfinals of the Champions League on Wednesday.

Both ties remain open with Villarreal, enjoying a dream first appearance in Europe's top club competition, clinging on to a precious away goal scored by Diego

Forlan after 45 seconds in the San Siro.

In a high-quality match full of chances, Adriano and Obafemi Martins turned things round for Inter to hand the Spaniards their first away defeat in 12 European matches and leave next week's return leg nicely poised.

Should Inter advance they will play Arsenal or Juventus, with the English side holding a 2-0 advantage from Tuesday's first leg at Highbury.

The second semi will feature last year's runners-up Milan or Lyon taking on favourites Barcelona or Benfica, who drew 0-0 in Lisbon on Tuesday.

There was an explosive start in the San Siro as Villarreal netted in the first minute and Inter almost equalized in the second. Uruguay striker Forlan scored on the rebound after Francesco Toldo had parried an effort from Jose Mari but Villarreal needed a goalline clearance by Javi Venta to deny Adriano moments later.

The Brazilian had more luck in the seventh minute when he converted a pass from Dejan Stankovic to equalize.

Captain Javier Zanetti gave a tireless display up and down the right as Inter cranked up the pressure.—MNA/Reuters



Villarreal Juan Roman Riquelme, left, of Argentina, is sandwiched in between Inter defenders Ivan Cordoba, centre, of Colombia, and captain Javier Zanetti, of Argentina, during the Champions League quarterfinal, first leg soccer match between Inter Milan and Spain's Villarreal at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, Italy, on 29 March, 2006. Inter Milan won 2-1.—INTERNET

Van Nistelrooy goal helps Man Utd sink West Ham

LONDON, 30 March — Manchester United consolidated second place in the Premier League on Wednesday, the recalled Ruud van Nistelrooy scoring in a 1-0 home win over West Ham United.

The Dutch striker, back in the starting line-up after three substitute appearances, struck a typical close-range goal in first-half injury time to secure a deserved victory at Old Trafford.

"It was a very open game, both teams had a go and we played some fantastic attacking football," Man Utd manager Alex Ferguson told reporters.

"We should have had more goals but we collected another three points. The most important thing is we keep winning, and you never know where that will take us." The victory gave Man Utd 69 points from 31 matches, nine points behind leaders Chelsea and five ahead of third-placed Liverpool, the Merseysiders having played one game more than Ferguson's men.

West Ham remain ninth, with their hopes of making next season's UEFA Cup now looking reliant on FA Cup success rather than a top-six finish. The Londoners play Charlton Athletic or Middlesbrough in next month's semifinals.

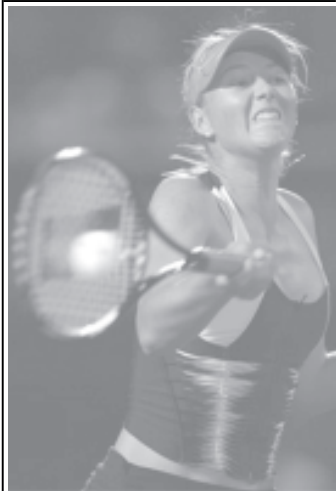
On a night when former Old Trafford employees Juan Sebastian Veron and Diego Forlan were going head to head in the Champions League quarter-final between Inter Milan and Villarreal, Man Utd's fans had to settle for less exciting fare.

Ferguson, absent from the knockout phase of Europe's top competition for

the first time in 10 years, recalled van Nistelrooy to a below-strength team and left the prolific Louis Saha on the bench.

Nemanja Vidic, Patrice Evra and Gerard Pique also started as Ferguson rotated his squad with an eye on forthcoming games against Bolton Wanderers and Arsenal.

MNA/Reuters



Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a forehand during the quarterfinal match against compatriot Anastasia Myskina at the Nasdaq-100 Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida, on 29 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Chelsea announce link-up with owners of US teams

LONDON, 30 March — Chelsea have announced a long-term partnership with the owners of four Major League Soccer clubs which will involve the English champions playing in a biennial tournament in the United States.

Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon said in New York on Wednesday that the London club will enter into a strategic alliance with Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG).

They are the operators of four teams in Major League Soccer and developers of stadiums including The Home Depot Centre in Los Angeles and venues under construction in Bridgeview, Illinois and Harrison, New Jersey.—MNA/Reuters

Corinthians name Braga as coach on permanent basis

RIO DE JANEIRO, 30 March — Brazilian champions Corinthians named Ademar Braga as coach on a permanent basis on Wednesday.

Braga, who took over in an interim capacity earlier this month, becomes the fifth man to occupy the hot seat since the club signed a controversial partnership with a London-based group of investors 15 months ago.

Corinthians said in a statement that Braga would be in charge until the end of the Libertadores Cup, the South American equivalent of the Champions League, in August.

"His vast experience in football, his knowledge of the squad and the good job he has done since he came to Corinthians last September give him the credentials for this job," said the club.

Braga has spent most of his career as a fitness coach working at various clubs in Brazil, the Middle East and Japan.

The 61-year-old took over earlier this month when Antonio Lopes resigned under intense pressure from the supporters, three months after winning the 2005 championship.

MNA/Reuters

AC Milan hold Lyon to goalless draw

LION (France), 30 March — Six-times winners AC Milan held Olympique Lyon to a 0-0 draw in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal at Stade Gerland on Wednesday.



AC Milan's Brazilian midfielder Kaka, centre, controls the ball between Lyon's French forward Sylvain Wiltord, left, and Lyon's Portuguese midfielder Cardoso Mendes Tiago during their first leg UEFA Champions League quarterfinal, match played in Lyon, central France, on 29 March, 2006.—INTERNET

The result makes the Italians favourites to go through after next Tuesday's second leg at the San Siro.

"We had a great second half, creating two or three clear chances to find the net and it's a shame it ended in a draw," Lyon coach Gerard Houllier told reporters.

"It was the sort of match we expected. The guys showed great will and were patient, even though it failed to pay off."

Milan gave a typically strong defensive performance as Ligue 1 leaders Lyon failed to score for only the third time in 45 matches.

The French side kept up their unbeaten run in this season's competition despite not finding the net for the first time.

Lyon, without Brazilian playmaker Juninho due to suspension, took a while to find their rhythm as Milan dominated thanks to the inspirational Andrea Pirlo and the tireless Gennaro Gattuso.

Goalkeeper Gregory Coupet made two fine saves to

deny former European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko early on.

Lyon eventually lifted their game and created their first chance, Brazilian keeper Dida saving well after John Carew had deflected a free kick from Benoit Pedretti in the 26th minute.

Technically superior and better organized, Milan left little room for Lyon's forwards with defenders Alessandro Nesta and Kakha Kaladze outstanding.

Coupet again thwarted Shevchenko in the last minute of the first half. "We showed them too much respect in the first 20 minutes and we can consider ourselves lucky we reached the interval level," said Coupet.

"We played much better in the second half."

Lyon definitely moved up a gear after the interval to increase the pressure on Milan's defence.

Portugal midfielder Tiago, who scored twice in the 4-0 rout of PSV Eindhoven in the previous round, had a 56th-minute shot deflected by Kaladze's back with Dida beaten.

Tiago will miss the second leg through suspension after he was booked for a foul on Kaka in stoppage time.

MNA/Reuters



Ai Miyazato of Japan, watches her tee shot on the 13th hole during the Pro-Am at the Kraft Nabisco Championship, on 29 March, 2006, at Mission Hills Country Club, in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

INTERNET

US demands set back Russia's WTO bid

Moscow, 30 March — President Vladimir Putin vented his frustration on Wednesday at the slow progress of Russia's talks to join the World Trade Organization, saying new demands put by the United States had thrown the process back.

"We have received a list of questions from our American colleagues requiring additional agreement which we considered settled long ago," Putin told a Kremlin meeting with Russian business

leaders. Putin added that the US move "artificially pushes back the course of the negotiating process."

Russia is the largest economy outside the 149-member WTO and its ne-

gotiators hope to wrap up entry talks -- already under way for 13 years -- during its inaugural presidency this year of the Group of Eight powerful nations.

Moscow has struck bi-

lateral deals with all of the WTO's existing members except for the United States, Australia and Colombia.

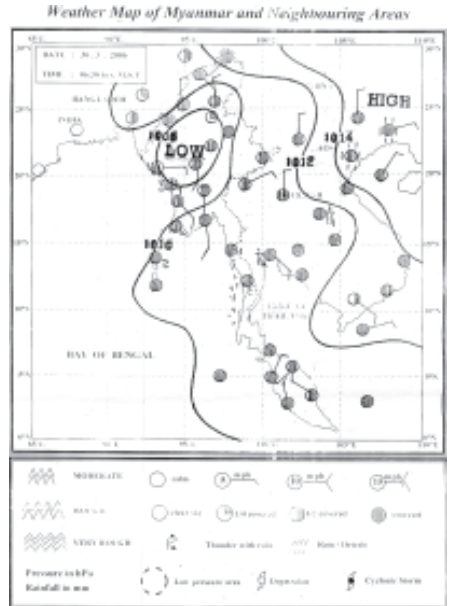
Talks with Washington, regarded as the biggest challenge, have snagged on US calls for Russia to open up its financial sector by allowing foreign banks to open branches rather than subsidiaries.

Russia is concerned any concessions would expose its weak financial sector — it has over 1,200 banks — to foreign takeovers. Officials point out that Citigroup has carved out a strong market position in Russia under the existing rules.

Washington is also worried about rampant video and software piracy in Russia and has raised concerns over rules covering agricultural imports, diplomats say.

Discussions last week in Geneva made little headway on a comprehensive entry deal, a final hurdle which requires the backing of all of the WTO's existing members for Russia to join the trade club.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Thursday, 30 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin and Kayah States and Magway Division and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) below normal in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Mandalay, Kyaukse, Aunglan, Toungoo, Shwegyin and Hinthada (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Mawlamyine (0.67) inch and Hpa-an (0.51) inch.

Maximum temperature on 29-3-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 30-3-2006 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 30-3-2006 was (80%). Total sunshine hours on 29-3-2006 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 30-3-2006 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 (7) mph from South at (09:30) hours MST on 30-3-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in Andaman Sea and partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 31-3-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and isolated rain or thundershowers in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of isolated light rain are likely in the extreme Southern and Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Naypyidaw and neighbouring area for 31-3-2006: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-3-2006: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-3-2006: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Angler hooks shark accused of Sierra Leone fishing deaths

FREETOWN, 30 March — An amateur angler in Sierra Leone has caught a 300 kilos (660 pounds) shark that local fishermen say killed four of their colleagues at sea off the impoverished West African country.

Riad Hassan, a 61-year-old jeweller, said he caught the shark on Tuesday while fishing in Atlantic waters off Lumley Beach in the capital

Freetown where sport fishermen more often catch barracuda, snapper and grouper fish.

"I realized that a very big fish had swallowed the

bait, but definitely I was not expecting it to be a shark," Hassan told Reuters on Wednesday.

Hassan and another man fishing with him fought the shark for an hour after sighting the 9-foot (3-metre) fish.

"This is the shark that has killed four fishermen during the past two weeks," said local fisherman Samuel Friday, adding that some people had been afraid to go out in the small dugout canoes they use to fish around the estuary of the Sierra Leone river.

Hassan, who had a larger boat with an outboard motor, towed the shark back to harbour and gave it to local people to eat. —MNA/Reuters



CASH DONATED: In memory of late Dr Aung Myo Htay, bereaved family of No 10 (D/2), Sandarmyine Condominium, Kamayut Township, donated K 150,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Joint Treasurer of the home U Maung Maung Gyi accepting the donation. —H



Friday, 31 March
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
- 5. သံသာချိုအေး မင်္ဂလာတေး
- 8:0 am
- 6. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင် မိတ်ဖျော်ခွင့်
- 8:10 am
- 7. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:20 am
- 8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:30 am
- 9. International news
- 8:45 am
- 10. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. Demonstration exercises for correct pronunciation
- 4:45 pm
- 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm
- 5. အထေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ငန်းရောက်ရှိခြင်းကြောင့် သင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအရာပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)
- 5:15 pm
- 6. Song of national races
- 5:25 pm
- 7. "ဆေးလိပ်ကင်းကွာ အနုပညာကမ္ဘာ" (လွင်နိုး၊ မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ စာနုညို၊ ကင်းကောင်း၊ စိုးမြတ်နုနု၊ လှအညွနီတင့်၊ ကြည်လှလှဦး၊ ဝှမ်းပုံ)

- 5:30 pm
- 8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:40 pm
- 9. "အိမ်မှာ စေ့တော့" (မင်းအုပ်စိုး၊ ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ မြတ်ကောင်းအောင်၊ နှင်းဝတ်စုဉ်အောင်၊ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး))
- 5:50 pm
- 10. Song of yesteryears
- 6:00 pm
- 11. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 13. သုတနုလင် ရွှေညွန့်ရင်
- 7:10 pm
- 14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မစင်စင်အတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၈) (စာတိုလမ်းတွဲ)
- 8:00 pm
- 15. News
- 16. International news
- 17. Weather report
- 18. လပတ်စီမံရေးဝန်ထမ်း စာပေဓန မှန်းချက်
- 19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "နှင်းဆီအိပ်မက်" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)
- 20. The next day's programme



Friday, 31 March
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
- 8:50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music:
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music:
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music:
- 9:00 pm WOM
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Music at your request
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

South-East Command Commander opens tarred street in Paung, Mon State

NAYPYIDAW, 30 March — A tarred street was opened in Paung Township Mon State on 26 March.

Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing unveiled the archway of Thameinbaran street that is 4,120 feet long and 12 feet wide.

The street was built at a cost of about K 7.66 million, to which, Paung Township Peace and Development Council contributed K 275,000, Township Development Affairs Committee K 654,000, and the public over K 4.25 million.

Brig-Gen Myint Soe of the local station, Chairman of Thaton District PDC Lt-Col Thaw Zin, Director of Mon State DAC U Aung Kyaw Nyein formally opened the

street.

Executive Officer of Township DAC U Kyaw Hla explained the work and aim of tarring the street, and U Ye Kyaw, on behalf of the locals, expressed words of thanks.

Chairman of Township PDC U Tun Mya presented commemorative pennants to the commander and officials. — MNA

Tarred road, gravel road commissioned in Kengtung Township

NAYPYIDAW, 30 March — A tarred road leading to Yanlaw Model Village was put into service in conjunction with the ceremony to inaugurate Yanlaw-Kathtaik village-to-village gravel road in Yanlaw Model Village in Kengtung Township on 26 March.

Deputy Director U Khin Kyaw of Kengtung Township Development Affairs Committee reported to the commander on

construction of the road. U Sai Kyauk of Yanlaw Model Village, on behalf of the locals, spoke words of thanks.

Secretary of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and Director of Shan State DAC U Tin Hlaing cut the ribbon to open the tarred road. Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing unveiled the signboard of the two roads.

Deputy Director U Khin Kyaw presented commemorative pennants to the commander and officials. Next, they strolled along the road.

The new tarred road measuring 3,600 feet by 12 feet was built at a cost of K 12,310,000 contributed by Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council, Town-

opened the road. The commander and wife, and local people walked through the road.

In Kathtaik Village, the commander presented medicines and periodicals to the local people.

Yanlaw-Kathtaik gravel road is 5 miles and six furlongs long. The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs had spent K 17.55 million on



Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing unveils the signboard of the tarred road and gravel road at Yanlaw Village in Kengtung Township. — MNA

YCDC cruise into quarterfinal

YANGON, 30 March — YCDC beat Banner 7-6 on the penalty decision in today's match of the Myanmar League Closing Cup Knockout Football Tournament for 2005-06 season at Aung San Stadium this afternoon.

Both teams made zealous efforts in their plays with series of see-saw attacks to be able to enter the quarterfinal. Hence, the competitions between both teams reached the penalty decision. Till 90 minutes, YCDC and Banner played a two-all draw. YCDC's players shot six goals including two goals scored during a 90-minute period. Banner kicked one goal adrift of the winner.

Zaw Naing Tun scored two goals, and Kyaw Toe, Kyaw Htay Oo, Aung Zaw Myo and Tint Naing Tun Thein one goal each for YCDC. Likewise, five goals of Banner came through two from Naing Naing Lin, and one goal each from Aung Moe, Aye Moe and Nay Zaw Htet.

In the quarterfinal, YCDC is to play against the winning team from the match between MAPT and Kanbawza.

Fixture on 31 March:
MAPT vs Kanbawza.



Banner's striker Soe Min Oo fights for the ball against YCDC's defender Aung Zaw Myo. — NLM

ship DAC, local station and locals.

After that, the ceremony to open the village-to-village gravel road followed. Additional Commissioner of Shan State (East) General Administration Department U Mya Aung and U Tin Maung Aye of the Development Supervisory Committee formally

construction of the road together with labour, technology and heavy machinery contributed by Public Works of Shan State (East) and locals.

After the opening ceremonies, the commander oversaw thriving summer paddy plantations on both sides along the road.

MNA

Weather Forecast for 31-3-2006

Naypyidaw & neighbouring areas

Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers.

Degree of certainty is (40%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas

Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of

certainty is (80%).

Mandalay & neighbouring areas

Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers.

Degree of certainty is (40%).

NLM