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Saturday, 1 April, 2006

Senior General Than Shwe congratulates Belarus President

YANGON, 1 April — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Alexander Lukashenko, who has been re-elected as President of the Republic of Belarus. — MNA

Private sector to seek ways for supplying financial and technological resources State will provide necessary assistance

UMFCCI holds 15th annual general meeting

YANGON, 31 March—The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry held its 15th annual general meeting at the National Theatre on Myoma

Kyaung Road in Dagon Township, here, this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence visited the pavilions of export standard Myanmar products staged at the

exhibition of the companies of UMFCCI members. President of the federation U Win Myint and officials conducted him round the exhibition.

Present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Myint

Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, ambassadors and staff from foreign embassies in Yangon, officials, the president and CEC members of UMFCCI, representatives from State/Division associations of commerce and industry and border trade associations, members of other business associations, secretaries and guests.

(See page 8)

During last year, the federation received 573 foreign businessmen, sent 270 members abroad to attend meetings and seminars and 739 members to join 29 international trade fairs.

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

INSIDE

The exercise can prevent cardiac disorder, as it improves flexibility, strengthens muscles and reduces fat in the body. The exercise also improves digestion, mental well-being, increases bone density and reduce the risk of obesity. Obesity is also an illness. Walking a distance of one mile every day will reduce a pound of fat within 36 days.

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DR TIN TUN Oo



Lt-Gen Myint Swe addresses the 15th annual general meeting of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 1 April, 2006

Towards development of economic infrastructures

Nowadays, the government, enlisting the strength of the entire people, is making relentless efforts for the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with the global nations.

A glance at the world today will reveal that some big nations that are superior to others in terms of wealth and technology are making attempts to put developing nations under their influence. Keeping pace with changes and developments, the respective nations of the world are working hard for strengthening national economy.

Even some wealthy powers are placing emphasis on promoting and protecting national interest. In the fields of international economy and trade, they are engaged extensively in taking all possible measures to protect their interests.

At such a time, the entire national people are to make concerted efforts for the development of national economy that is based on national entrepreneurs. Only when the private economic sector develops can the national economy be well established.

Therefore, the government is making efforts in all spheres for the development of the private sector. Regarding this, it has laid down and is implementing projects for development of economic infrastructures. And efforts are being made in all seriousness for establishment of agro-based industries, development of electric power and energy sectors and further improvement of agricultural and forestry sectors for self-sufficiency and export the surplus.

Moreover, all-round development of other sectors of economy as well, further improvement of education and health sectors for ensuring development of human resources and rural development are also being carried out.

As the entire national people made integrated efforts for the development of national economy, progress has been made by 10.7 per cent during the five-year economic plan (2001-2002 to 2005-2006).

At present, Myanmar has made significant progress thanks to concerted efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw although there have been instigation and obstacles created by internal and external destructive elements.

Hence, at a time when efforts are being made for the development of the private sector, the entire national people including businessmen are to try their best for the development of economic infrastructures.

မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသင်္ကြန်

- * အမျိုးသားယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ။
- * သရုပ်ပျက်ယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- * အမျိုးဂုဏ်၊ ဇာတိဂုဏ်ကို မြန်မာ့ယဉ်ကျေးမှု သင်္ကြန်ဖြင့် မြှင့်တင်ပါ။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း အေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

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

Sports Minister leaves for ROK

YANGON, 31 March — Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint left here for the Republic of Korea by air at 8 pm yesterday to attend the 15th Conference of Federation of National Olympic Committees to be held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea from up to 5 April.

The minister was seen off at the airport by Vice-Chairman of MOC Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thin Lin and officials of the Ministry of Sports, the chairperson of the Central Working Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation and members.

The minister was accompanied by Joint General Secretary of MOC U Khin Maung Lwin.

MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint being seen off at the airport.

*SPED

New generation hockey players being nurtured

YANGON, 31 March — Under the instructions of the Myanmar Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Hockey Federation is striving for turning out new generation hockey players.

Vice-President of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Kyaw Naing and experienced coaches supervised the training courses being opened at Basic Education High Schools in Hmawby, North Okkalapa, Indaing, Hlegu and Mingala Taungnyunt Townships.

Arrangements are being made to organize the U-15 Men's and Women's Hockey Tour-

nament to be sponsored by Pedrollo Water Pump (Italy) at Theinbyu Hockey Pitch by the end of April.

MNA



Boys seen in training, supervised by Myanmar Hockey Federation Vice-President U Kyaw Naing and officials.

*MHF

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 1 April— The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Edgard Telles Ribeiro, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Edgard Telles Ribeiro is accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.— MNA

Myanmar Rice Millers hold discussion

YANGON, 31 March —CEC members and executives of Myanmar Rice Millers' Association and rice dealers held a discussion at the building of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Kyauktada Township this morning.

Patron of MRDA and President of the UMFCCI U Win Myint and Chairman of MRMA U Tin Win made speeches. Afterwards, state/division rice dealers reported on the price of rice and paddy, cultivation and production of summer paddy and the running of rice millers and putting on sale.

Later, President of the UMFCCI U Win Myint attended to the needs. — MNA



Myanmar Rice Millers Association Chairman U Tin Win speaking at the discussion.

*UMFCCI

Chinese Vice-Premier meets former French President

BEIJING, 30 March — China is still evaluating bids for its introduction of the third-generation nuclear power technologies and hopes the French companies will propose competitive cooperation plans, said Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan here on Wednesday.

Zeng made the remarks in a meeting with former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who came to China for the 12th China-France business forum to be held in Tianjin, a municipality near Beijing. Zeng said China

highly appraises the development of China-France relations in recent years. Bilateral co-operation in every field has achieved fruitful results and the two countries share consensus and common interests in many major international and regional issues, he said.

Zeng regarded the upcoming China-France business forum as "of great significance", saying the forum, with energy and sustainable development as its theme, will discuss issues on energy exploitation, usage of

renewable energy and the relationship between energy and environment.

He noted that China has made the plan to accelerate nuclear power development with the aim to adjust structure of energy and realize sustainable development of energy.

China is at present introducing the third-generation nuclear power technologies and some famous international nuclear power enterprises including French companies have submitted bids, Zeng said.

MNA/Xinhua



A visitor stands in front of Chinese tea wares exhibited on the 2006 World Tea Expo in Las Vegas, the United States, on 28 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Man crashes car after snake attacks him

NAPLES, 30 March—A man crashed his car after a pet snake he had wrapped around his neck began attacking him, authorities said. Witnesses reported that Courtland Page Johnson, 30, of East Naples, was driving erratically and crashed his PT Cruiser into several barricades about 9 pm Tuesday. He got out of his car, wrestled with the snake and then drove off, reports said.

When authorities caught up with Johnson at his home, he told them he crashed into another car that had stopped short in front of him. After questioning, Johnson admitted he panicked when his snake bit him.—INTERNET

"Liang Shuang, a contestant from Xinjiang poses for a photo at the ancient town of Xitang in east China's Zhejiang Province, on 30 March, 2006. A total of 38 contestants to the Miss Tourism International contest in China region made public appearance in the ancient town that day.—INTERNET

Bird flu detected near Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, 30 March —The deadly bird flu virus was identified in Kibbutz Ma'aleh Hahamisha in the hills surrounding Jerusalem on Tuesday, Israel's Army Radio reported Wednesday. The nation's Agriculture Ministry was preparing for the culling of 30,000 poultry held in the kibbutz's coops, Army Radio said.

Israel has destroyed 1.2 million poultry suspected to be contracted with bird flu since the outbreak of the epidemic earlier this month, according to *Ha'aretz* newspaper. Israeli Agriculture Ministry confirmed on 17 March that the lethal H5N1 strain of bird flu led to the deaths of over 1,000 turkeys on two farms in southern Israel, the first such case in the country.

MNA/Xinhua



Pakistan, India agree to sign new shipping agreement

ISLAMABAD, 30 March —Pakistan and India agreed to sign a new Shipping Agreement soon, according to the joint statement issued Wednesday at the end of their trade talks.

The third round of Pakistan-India talks on

Economic and Commercial Cooperation within the framework of the Composite Dialogue was held on 28-29 March in Islamabad.

In line with the announcement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan on his visit to India in

November 2004, Pakistan and India would open branches of scheduled banks in each country, said the statement.

The two sides would encourage tea trade delegations to each country, it said.

The relevant ministries of Pakistan and India would also continue their dialogue to identify the problems of transportation of goods by train between the two neighbours.

Pakistan would consider enlarging the list of importable items from India in consultation with stakeholders and after fulfilling legal and procedural requirements, the statement said.

Both sides recognized the "satisfactory" progress on the initiatives agreed during the Second Round of the talks held in New Delhi on August 9-10, 2005, it said.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

H5N1 bird flu found in poultry in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 March—Iraq has found the H5N1 bird flu virus in poultry in Baghdad, said the government spokeswoman of the Higher Committee on Bird Flu on Wednesday.

Ibtissam Aziz said in a statement that tests had proved that the H5N1 strain of the virus existed in one of the birds in an area in Baghdad. Samples needed more checks abroad, she said.

Earlier this week medical authorities ordered tests for the virus on samples from a man who died in Baghdad.

A number of suspected cases of the virus in Iraq have turned out to be false alarms. At least two fatal cases of human bird flu — in a teenage girl and her uncle in January — were confirmed in the northern province of Sulaimaniya.

India culls chickens to contain third bird flu outbreak

MUMBAI, 30 March — Veterinary workers in India began throttling about 250,000 chickens on Wednesday hoping to contain a third outbreak of bird flu in poultry in two months.

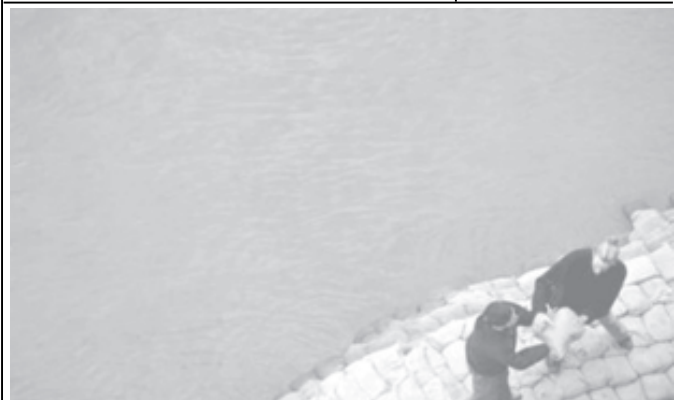
Seven new cases of bird flu in chickens have

been reported in western Maharashtra State, the site of two earlier outbreaks this year, and one in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh State. The virus was suspected to be the H5N1 strain and tests were underway on samples from the birds to confirm

the type, officials said.

Veterinary and civic workers in the two states identified a 10-kilometre (six-mile) radius around affected villages and began moving door-to-door asking people to hand over their poultry.

MNA/Reuters



Volunteer helpers carry sandbags to erect a flood barrier along the River Elbe in the old part of the city of Dresden, Germany, on 30 March, 2006. Experts expect the Elbe to rise to a level of around 7 metres at some points in the capital of the German state of Saxony.—INTERNET

Poland, China agree to set up cultural centres

BEIJING, 30 March — Visiting Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Meller said on Wednesday Poland and China have agreed to set up cultural centres for each other to promote the understanding between the two peoples and bilateral cooperation in various fields.

At a news conference in the Polish Embassy in Beijing, Meller said he met on Wednesday with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Vice Chairwoman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee Gu Xiulian, and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

The two sides exchanged views on bolstering their cooperation in trade, culture and technology, Meller

said. They also discussed to explore cooperation in agriculture, environmental protection, coal industry and mine equipment.

Poland is interested in China's most sophisticated technology, Meller said. He found that the container monitor developed by China's Tsinghua Tongfang company could help his country to fight against smuggling.

He hopes such Chinese companies would invest in Poland and cooperate with Polish enterprises.

China is Poland's most important partner in Asia, the Foreign Minister said, expressing the hope that his current visit would further enhance bilateral exchanges in various fields and push forward the contacts between the youths. —MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်မှုဝင်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား



Photo taken on 29 March, 2006 shows a folk performance named "Mashraf" in Yaer Village, in Trupan City, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Hundreds of folk actors perform songs and dances which were popular among local people. Officials from the Culture Department of Uygur Autonomous Region and other units collected the performance.—INTERNET

Huge statues of emperors Yan and Huang under construction



HENAN, 29 March— Yan and Huang, legendary chiefs of tribes in the Yellow River valley in ancient China, are regarded as the founders of the Chinese nation.

The statues will be opened to the public soon, Xinhua news agency said.—Internet

100-meter-tall (33-foot-tall) statues of Chinese emperors Yan and Huang under construction in the Yellow River Park located in the northwestern suburbs of Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, are seen on 29 March, 2006.

INTERNET

Cardiologists only get heart exams right

NEW YORK, 30 March —Cardiologists are better than medical students, residents, and other practicing physicians at performing a bedside heart examination and in accurately identifying abnormal heart sounds, according to the findings of two studies reported in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

Dr Jasminka M Vukanovic-Criley, from Stanford University in California, and colleagues compared competency in cardiac examination skills among medical students, residents and various practicing physicians.

A total of 860 participants were included in the study, which focused on four aspects of

competency: heart physiology knowledge, auditory skills, visual skills, and integration of auditory and visual skills using computer graphic animations and virtual patient examinations.

Medical students in their third or fourth year of training showed higher competency than those in their first or second year.

After the third year of medical school, unless a cardiology "fellowship" was pursued, there was no evidence that cardiac examination skills improved further.

"Cardiac examination skills do not improve after medical school year three and may decline after years in practice, which has important implications for medical decision making, patient safety, cost-effective care, and continuing medical education," the authors conclude. In the second study, Dr Andrew D Michaels, from the University of California at San Francisco, and colleagues assessed the ability of various physicians to detect a third heart sound on physical examination. The presence of a third heart sound often indicates important heart disease that requires further workup.

A total of 100 patients were each evaluated by an internal medicine intern, internal medicine resident, cardiology fellow, and cardiology attending. Their results were compared against those obtained by a phonocardiographic device, a machine that listens to and analyzes heart sounds.

MNA/Reuters

Canadian soldier dies, three injured in Afghanistan

MONTREAL, 30 March — A Canadian soldier was killed and three others injured in Afghanistan when guerillas attacked them in the country's Helmand Province, Canada's Department of National Defence said on Wednesday.

In a statement from Ottawa, National Defence said Canada's Private Robert Costall was killed in the attack.

One other coalition soldier was also killed in the incident, which took place about 70 miles (110 kilometres) northwest of Kandahar and included guerilla fire with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms, the department said.— MNA/Reuters

Eight killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 March — Eight employees of a private trading company were killed and three others wounded on Wednesday by gunmen disguising themselves as police commando, an Interior Ministry source said.

"Armed men wearing police commando uniforms stormed the al- Ibticar Trading Company in the upscale Mansur District, shot dead eight employees and wounded three others," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

On Tuesday, a group of gunmen wearing Iraqi security forces uniforms kidnapped 19 employees of three private companies in different parts of Baghdad.

Gunmen frequently carry out looting and kidnapping for large ransom. — MNA/Xinhua

GM cuts hundreds of salaried employees

DETROIT, 30 March—General Motors Corp cut several hundred salaried jobs on Tuesday in its initial effort to reduce its US white-collar work force by about 2,500 this year, as it tries to stem billions of dollars in losses by lowering costs.

The first batch of cuts, just under 500, were announced at 30 locations, according to a GM spokesman.

The affected employees were asked to leave the company immediately.

MNA/Reuters



A local resident looks at the site of a forest fire in north China's Shanxi Province, on 30 March, 2006. The fire started on Wednesday at Xiaoxinling Mountain on the border of Anze and Qinyuan counties in the southern part of the province. About 6,000 people have been mobilized to fight the fire and it is not clear what caused it. Picture taken on 30 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Rising toll as quake hits Iran villages, kills 70

TEHRAN, 1 April.— A strong earthquake hit western Iran yesterday, killing at least 70 people and devastating villages, with the toll expected to rise further.

The official IRNA news agency, quoting a local medical official, said nearly 1,200 people were injured in the 6.0-magnitude quake in mostly rural Lorestan province, west of Tehran. Hospitals were full in Doroud and Boroujerd, the two main cities near the epicentre, state radio reported. Lorestan Governor-General Mohammad Reza Mohseni-Sani appealed for aid from neighbouring areas.

Some survivors were dug out of the rubble of buildings. But the death toll was expected to rise, said the head of the

disaster control committee in the Lorestan Governor's office.

"We cannot predict the number of those killed," Ali Barani said by

phone from Lorestan. "We are digging out the victims." — *Internet*

An Iranian man and a woman stand on the rubble after an earthquake devastated their village of Khalegh Ali, 300 miles (500 kilometers) southwest of the capital Tehran, Iran, on Friday, 31 March, 2006.

INTERNET



A resident's bird is vaccinated against bird flu as arranged by the local authorities at a park in Beijing, on 31 March, 2006. The H5N1 bird flu virus has infected 16 people in China, of whom 11 have died. The virus is now endemic in poultry across much of the world despite widespread culling of birds and mass vaccinations of fowl. — INTERNET

Vietnam imposes taxes on imported 2nd-hand automobiles

HANOI, 30 March—The Vietnamese Government has just decided to impose absolute taxes on imported second-hand automobiles to protect locally-assembled ones, according to a local tax agency on Wednesday.

Under a decision signed by Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai on Tuesday, imported used automobiles with 15 seats downward will be subject of absolute taxes ranging from 3,000-25,000 US dollars per unit depending on their engines, said the Tax Policy Department under the Finance Ministry.

However, the ministry, in specific times, can increase or decrease the tax by about 20 per cent to control the domestic car market, prevent trade frauds and ensure collections for the state budget, the department said, noting that the vehicles will also be imposed special consumption tax and value added tax.

Under a recent government decree on management of imports and exports in the 2006-2010 period, foreign cars which have been used for five years downward are eligible for being imported from 1 May.

MNA/Xinhua

Venezuelan police seize 14 kilos of explosives

CARACAS, 30 March — Venezuelan police and intelligence agents on Monday seized 14 kilos of explosives in a cache in the northern part of the country, officials said on Tuesday.

The cache housing 24 bars of an explosive was detected in the town of Las Trincheras, 150 kilometres southwest of the capital Caracas, Interior Minister Jesse Chacon said in a statement.

He added that each bar of the explosive possesses an impact area of about 40 metres of "total and lethal destruction". — *MNA/Xinhua*

At least 22 die in two bus crashes in Argentina, Peru

MEXICO CITY, 30 March— At least 22 people were killed and 10 others injured in two bus crashes in Argentina and Peru on Tuesday.

In the Argentine crash, a truck and a passenger bus crashed head-on in the Rio Collon Cura area, 1,600 kilometres south of Buenos Aires, close to the city of Bariloche, an official from the Piedra del Aguila municipal government said on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

US, other foreign soldier die in Afghan clash

KABUL, 30 March—Guerrillas in Afghanistan attacked US-led forces on Wednesday and two foreign troops and at least 12 militants were killed, the US military said.

The Taleban said their fighters had attacked the foreign troops in the southern province of Helmand.

One of the foreign troops killed was American. The US military did not identify the nationality of the second who died in the attack by a "significant" guerilla force. — *MNA/Reuters*

Bus and car collide in Iran, ten killed

TEHERAN, 30 March—A bus collided with a car and then plunged into a valley, killing 10 people and injuring 21 west of Iran's capital on Wednesday, police said.

The passenger bus, which skidded on the slippery road after heavy rains, fell 30 metres (100 feet) into the valley in the area of Rostam Abad, 300 kilometres (187 miles) west of Teheran, Hadi Hashemi, operation deputy of Iran's road police said.

Seven people were killed at the scene and three others died in hospital, he said.

MNA/Reuters

Cuba replaces Soviet-era passenger aircraft

HAVANA, 30 March — Cuba plans to buy five more Russian passenger jets after receiving two long-haul Ilyushin Il-96s to replace aging Soviet-era aircraft, a Russian diplomat said on Tuesday.

The new order by flag carrier Cubana de Aviacion is for another two wide-bodied Il-96-300s and three medium-range Tupolev Tu-204s, one of them fitted for air freight, the diplomat said.

The new sales contracts will be finalized in April and financed by Russia's Ilyushin Finans Co, he said. Three weeks ago, Cuba received a second Il-96-300 furnished with a VIP cabin for use by President Fidel Castro that can be reconfigured for commercial flights, he said.

"It is not only for travel by the Comandante," he said, referring to Castro. The plane is also being used to carry Cuban doctors

working in countries as far afield as Pakistan and to bring patients to Cuba for free treatment and surgery, the ruling Communist Party newspaper *Granma* said. The first 260-passenger Il-96 arrived in December and has been in use on commercial flights to South American cities.

The brand-new planes are equipped with the latest navigation technology, the newspaper said.

MNA/Reuters



Mexican globalphobics demonstrate against US President George W Bush in Cancun, away from the resort's touristic zone, on 30 March, 2006.

INTERNET

After 173 years, court considers raja's will

KOLKATA, 30 March — An Indian court is set to reopen the country's oldest pending case 173 years after it was first lodged in the eastern city of Calcutta, then the administrative and commercial capital of British colonial rule.

Indian justice is often delivered at a glacial pace but a decision over just who owns thousands of acres of land, historic buildings and temples spread across the north of the city, now known as Kolkata, has broken all records. In the late eighteenth century, British Governor-General Robert Clive ruled that the property should remain in the custody of Raja Naba

Krishna Deb, a major Bengali royal of the Sovabazar court.

The only condition for the raja's continued rule was that he pay a tax of one rupee a day — a duty still being collected by the Indian state.

But after Deb and his son died, the property was divided among family members who started to sell the buildings off to fund luxurious lifestyles.

The case first came to court in 1833, more than 20 years before the 1857 Indian Mutiny or War of Independence. Kesto Sakha Ghosh, an executor of the son's will, lodged a case in court to try to stop the sales. After pondering the case for a mere 22

years, judges appointed a British lawyer — identified as Hamingston in court records — to oversee the property, effectively making it a ward of court as the case dragged on.

In 1862 control was passed to a "temple committee" made up of members of the Sovabazar family, British officials and leading citizens. The committee lodged 10,000 rupees, now worth about \$225,000 (129,000 pounds), with the court and the interest it earned was used to maintain the buildings and ensure the temples were kept in a fit state for worshippers.

Internet



File picture shows a Ryanair plane. A Ryanair flight landed at the wrong airport in Northern Ireland after a pilot appeared to have made 'a stupid mistake,' Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said on Thursday.—INTERNET

Rwanda earmarks \$1b for telecentres

KIGALI, 30 March — Rwanda has earmarked a total amount of 1 billion US dollars to be invested in establishing and promoting telecentres in the country, an official said here on Wednesday.

The Executive Director of the Rwanda Information and Technology Agency (RITA) Shem J Ochuodho made the disclosure in a workshop organized by the infrastructure ministry.

"The money will be used in accelerating the establishment of telecentres and providing necessary operating equipment, as a move to enable people in rural areas access to information vital for their development from the rest of the world," Ochuodho said.

He emphasized that telecentres play a vital role in the development of the country by bridging the information gap between the local communities and

the government.

"The government's commitment is envisaged in the integrated information and communication technology policy. It is clear that the telecentres will help in closing the communication gap among the rural people and the government is ready to invest in

the establishment," said State Minister for Communications Albert Butare. The project is a way of improving access to information to enhance educational standards and to foster human resource development of Rwandans, the minister added.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to buy eight jet fighters from Russia

JAKARTA, 30 March — Indonesia plans to annually purchase two *Sukhoi jet* fighters from Russia during the 2006-2009 period, thus putting its total number of jet fighters at 12, Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono said here Wednesday.

The minister said the purchase aims at anticipating possible ban by Western countries of buying spare parts of military equipment.

"The plan is (to buy) two planes per year up to 2009. We anticipate the possibility of imposing embargo by Western countries," said Juwono.

Currently, Indonesia had four *Sukhoi* planes bought from Russia.

The minister said Indonesia has rejected similar offer from some Eastern European countries and insists to buy from Russia, as both sides once had official military cooperation. — MNA/Xinhua



A visitor of the International Musikmesse (International Trade Fair for Musical Instruments) plays a guitar at the Yamaha exhibition stand on 30 March, 2006 in Frankfurt, Germany. At the 27th Frankfurt Music Show, the world's largest trade fair for musical instruments, 1600 exhibitors present around 30,000 instruments. — INTERNET

Gunmen kill three Iraqis in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 March — Unknown gunmen opened fire at pedestrians in a southern Baghdad neighbourhood on Wednesday, killing three civilians and wounding two others, a police source said.

"Unidentified armed men in a car opened fire from small arms at pedestrians in the Amil neighbourhood, killing three of them and wounding two others," the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Separately, another

group of unknown gunmen severely wounded Ali Hassan, a director-general in the Iraqi Central Bank, while he was driving his car on a highway in western Baghdad, the source said.

Meanwhile, Baghdad police found three bodies — two in northern Baghdad, one of whom a policeman, and a third body in the south of the capital, the source added.

The bodies were blindfolded, bound and shot in the head, he said.

Earlier in the day, eight

employees of a private trading company were killed and three others wounded by gunmen disguising themselves as police commando, according to an Interior Ministry source.

"Armed men wearing police commando uniforms stormed the al-Ibticar Trading Company in the upscale Mansur District, shot dead eight employees and wounded three others," the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran hopes to continue cooperation with IAEA

MOSCOW, 30 March — Iran hopes to continue its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and seeks a balance of obligations and rights in the cooperation, Iran's Ambassador to Russia said on Wednesday.

Iran cooperates with the IAEA and hopes to continue such cooperation "in the normal situation, without

unnecessary ballyhoos", Gholamreza Ansari told the *ITAR-TASS* news agency.

"We are expecting the IAEA to establish a logical link between the obligations and rights of Iran as a member of the agency," Ansari said.

"We seek such a balance and calm atmosphere, but some countries push the issue off the track of a peace

solution and opt for using political leverage, and not law," he added.

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

MNA/Xinhua



Toyota Formula One driver Ralf Schumacher of Germany runs wide during the second practice session of the Australian Grand Prix at the Albert Park race track in Melbourne on 31 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Go for a walk for health and longevity

Dr Tin Tun Oo

A large number of people already have had the knowledge about walking, the most natural and cost effective and easiest and simplest means for health and longevity, and a basic physical activity almost every person can do well.

Aged persons walking in the early morning hours and the young walking in brisk pace may be a usual scene for everyone.

Walking and taking of exercise have been popular in many countries. Japan often holds mass public walking at brisk pace competitions, in which about six million people take part.

On the other hand, there are many people who cannot or do not take regular walking exercise for various reasons.

Exercise and health have interrelations. We are healthy because we do physical exercises regularly. Exercise and walking are the best weapon to fight ageing.

Usually, people who walk or take exercise have better stamina than others, because their lungs are robust enough to function well according to the body's call.

Walking makes the lungs more healthy and improves the resistance power. Besides, walking improves blood circulation, eases hypertension, enables the lungs to breathe in more oxygen and take out more carbon dioxide. Greater volume of oxygen in the veins of the brain makes a person more intelligent and think well.

The exercise can prevent cardiac disorder, as it improves flexibility, strengthens muscles and reduces fat in the body. The exercise also improves digestion, mental well-being, increases bone density and reduce the risk of obesity. Obesity is also an illness. Walking a distance of one mile every day will reduce a pound of fat within 36 days.

Developments in science and technologies pushes man to rely more on machines that help ease their work and reduce their physical activities. Hence,

they need to spare time for exercise. The need to do exercise depends on age, health condition and requirement of the body.

For human beings of every age walking is the best means of exercise. Since many years ago walking has been a natural exercise for man. On average, a man walks about 6,500 miles during his life time.

In this world at present, walking has become a therapy for persons suffering from any kind of chronic diseases. Deep breathing is required in doing walking exercise. Moreover, the walking distance should be extended gradually depending on the age and health condition. But there are no fixed definitions and rules in walking exercise.

Today, jogging is popular in the world. It is beneficial like walking, but not suitable for persons with severe diseases (for example: heart disease).

Four forms of walking

Generally, walking can be categorized into four forms.

(1) *Stroll at leisure*

It is the slowest form of walking, and is, without making any arrangements, taking a walk for a mile an hour to get relief from boredom and to ease stiffness. For instance, walking for a mile after dinner, walking for two miles in the morning of a holiday, and walking for a study purpose. Whatever it may be, this form is beneficial to man's health to an extent.

(2) *Walking regularly*

It is systematic and effective. On average, the speed should be three miles an hour. One should practise to meet that speed. It will be better if one walks with that speed every day. And it will be more suitable if it is a place where one can get fresh air. One should take such a form at least half an hour daily.

If one has no spare time to take a walk, one should go to work on foot, use walking

without taking a bus in a short distance, take stairs instead of a lift, go to the person one wants to inform about something if phone line is busy, and walk for a while at leisure. If so, that will meet the distance one has targeted to walk in a day.

(3) *Walking systematically*

It is the form of gradually raising the speed to reach the resistance to the highest heartbeat frequency of a person based on his age. One should start at a speed of three miles an hour for a quarter of an hour a day, and then extend the period, distance and speed based on one's resistance and fitness. It will be more effective if one's pace is wide and brisk.

However, one at age of over 50 with heart disease or who has suffered from heart problems should consult a doctor first before starting to take a walking exercise.

Here, the most suitable frequency is 70 to 85 per cent of the highest heartbeat frequency to which people are resistant age-wise. The following table shows the most suitable heartbeat frequency.

Age	highest frequency (in a minute)	most suitable frequency (in a minute)
20	200	140 to 170
25	195	137 to 166
30	190	133 to 162
35	185	130 to 157
40	180	126 to 153
45	175	123 to 149
50	170	119 to 145
55	165	116 to 140
60	160	112 to 136
65	155	109 to 132
70	150	105 to 126

(The highest frequency a 20-year-old person is resistant to is 200 times a minute, and when one gets one year older, the highest frequency will be one time less.)

On average, a one-hour walk with the speed of four to five miles per hour is enough. I would like to present the easiest way to take pulse rate. Take a walk for ten minutes and take pulse rate on the wrist for 15 seconds and multiply the rate with four. Then, one can find out one's rate of pulse that beats in a minute.

(4) *Walking long distance*

According to this form, one does not need to walk every day, but only sometimes to know one's resistance to tiredness and fitness. It is better if progress can be made one time after another.

In conclusion, I would like to present the speech of walking enthusiast Edward Peasant Western of the US who lived 90 healthy and youthful. He said that for him, the more he walked, the healthier he was and the longer he lived. He lived long thanks to the benefits of walking.

Translation: TMT + MS

On average, one-hour walk with the speed of four to five miles per hour is enough. I would like to present the easiest way to take pulse rate. Take a walk for ten minutes and take pulse rate on the wrist for 15 seconds and multiply the rate with four. Then, one can find out one's rate of pulse that beats in a minute.

Private sector to seek ways for supplying of financial and ...

(from page 1)

U Win Myint extended greetings.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that in its bid to ensure proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system, the government is rendering all-round assistance to national entrepreneurs. Thanks to the encouragement and supervision of the government and collective efforts of national entrepreneurs, production, trade and service sectors have prospects for development.

The role of the UMFCFI has become important that is helping the private sector achieve

port, and allows necessary goods for import. So, since 2002-2003, the nation has seen trade surplus. If the already-achieved momentum is maintained and export is extended, the nation will have prospects for economic development.

Myanmar is a nation that is blessed with favourable climate and fine land resources. So, the government inserted the objective — development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well — in the four economic objectives to strengthen the national economic life.

lion dollars' worth of dairy products have to be imported yearly. Moreover, edible oil worth 70 million dollars and car tyres worth 28 million dollars have to be imported annually although Myanmar has thriving plantations of rubber. As these products can be substituted with domestic products, the only way to solve the problem is to develop the domestic private industries in the country. In doing so, businessmen and the UMFCFI and its branches are to coordinate the work of boosting production of import-substitute products.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe said to extensively carry out the tasks for boost-



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence accepts cash donation from a wellwisher. —MNA

U Win Aung from 2003 to 2005 as Chairman of Greater Mekong Subregion-Business Forum (GMS-BF). Likewise, UMFCFI President U Win Myint was presented with HR Leadership Award by World HRD Congress.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe called on traders, industrialists and the federation to organize ways to further consolidate the federation and get more memberships; to produce more new export items; to make export items value added; to find new foreign markets and maintain the existing markets; to transform border trade into normal trade; and to invite foreign businessmen for their investments

and make bilateral trade cooperation.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein made speeches. UMFCFI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing read the annual report (2005-2006) and finan-

cial statement of the federation and seek approval of the members.

Later, wellwishers donated K 83.4 million for the construction of the new office building of the federation and President U Win Myint gave concluding remarks. —MNA



UMFCFI Patron Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo. —MNA



UMFCFI Patron Commerce Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein. —MNA

success.

It is heartening to learn that under the leadership of the UMFCFI, the private sector has now contributed 90 per cent to the GDP of the State. The private sector had turnover of US\$ 1.3 billion, accounting for 55.5 per cent of that of the nation in 2003-2004 financial year, and US\$ 2.8 billion, accounting for over 43 per cent of that of the nation in 2004-2005 financial year. It now contributes 53.6 per cent to the foreign trade of the nation.

The government is practising export and import policy systematically, and encourages ex-

Now, the UMFCFI is organizing the people to reclaim vacant and virgin lands and put them under cash crops for export. He urged the officials to extend production of value-added goods to be able to win customer satisfaction in the international market.

Steps need to be taken for boosting production of semi-finished and finished products of beans and pulses plus forest and marine products. So, private sector is to seek ways for the supply of financial and technological resources. The State will also provide necessary assistance.

Now, 24 to 30 mil-

ing export crop items and dairy and marine products, entrepreneurs are urged to initiate contract farming.

During last year, the federation received 573 foreign businessmen, sent 270 members abroad to attend meetings and seminars and 739 members to join 29 international trade fairs. As a result, the federation was awarded with prizes at those international trade fairs and with Miss Talent Award at Miss ASEAN 2005, he added. In addition, Myanmar achieved success in the area of businesses during the two years' tenure of UMFCFI Vice President

UMFCFI President U Win Myint extends greetings at 15th annual general meeting of UMFCFI.
—MNA



UMFCFI AGM Exhibition 2006 in progress at National Theatre in Dagon Township. — UMFCFI

48th Thingyan Golden Cup Golf Tour 12-15 April

YANGON, 31 March — The 48th Thingyan Golden Cup Golf Tour, to be jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and PyinOoLwin Golf Club, will take place at PyinOoLwin Golf Club in PyinOoLwin from 12 to 15 April.

The golf tour will be categorized as the professional golfers event, the men's amateur golfers event, the handicap 0-12 golfers event, the men's singles event, the PyinOoLwin Cup for handicap 0-18 golfers, the men's senior event and the women's golfers event.

Those who wish to take part in the professional golfers event, and the men's amateur golfers event may enlist at the office of the organizing committee at PyinOoLwin Golf Club not later than 4 pm on 10 April, and those who wish to participate in other events before the competitions. For further information, may dial 085-22382, 09-2044407, and 09-2044075.

Han Event Management will perform functions of the golf tour. — MNA

ဓာတ်ဆီဖြည့်မှု သတိပြု

ပူပြင်းခြောက်သွေ့သော နွေရာသီကာလ နေ့လယ်ပိုင်းတွင် ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်များ၊ ဓာတ်ဆီဖြည့်ခြင်းနှင့် ဓာတ်ဆီလဲလှယ်ထည့်စဉ် ပွတ်တိုက်မှုနှင့် သဘာဝတည်ငြိမ် လျှပ်စစ်ဖြစ်ပေါ်မှုကြောင့် မီးလောင်မှု ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်ပါသဖြင့် ရာသီဥတုပူပြင်းချိန် ဓာတ်ဆီထည့်ခြင်းမှ သတိပြု ရှောင်ကြဉ်ကြပါရန် မီးသတ်ဦးစီးဌာနက နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

Course on literacy and constant teaching concludes



Daw Mar Mar Wai speaking at a ceremony to conclude the course on literacy and constant teaching.—MNA

YANGON, 31 March — A conclusion ceremony of the course on literacy and constant teaching conducted by Myanmar Education Research Bureau of the Ministry of Education and Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation took place at Sangyoung Township No 2 Basic Education High School this evening.

Patron Daw Mar Mar Wai of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization made a speech.

Later, Daw Htu Htu Aung of Social and Cultural Working Group of MWAFF presented gifts to the course instructors.

Director U Saw Aung of MERB presented the trainees the completion certificates. Patron Daw Mar Mar Wai donated publications to community education centres. Daw Tin Oo, member of Twantay Township WAO expressed thanks and the ceremony ended. *MNA*

SPEI's outstanding trainees honoured

YANGON, 31 March — Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) under the Ministry of Sports concluded its 2005-2006 Academic Year yesterday at the institute here and awarded the outstanding trainees.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the concluding ceremony and presented prizes and cash awards to the outstanding athletes of the academic year.

Trainees who won prizes in the sports activities and games during 2005-2006 Academic Year at home and abroad were also honoured. *MNA*

ရေခဲထုပ်၊ ရေပူဖောင်း ဆပ်ပြာရည်ဂုဏ်စံဘူးဖြင့် ကစားက

- ၁။ လက်ဝယ်တွေ့သူ - ထောင် (၁) နှစ်
- ၂။ ကစားသူ - ထောင် (၃) နှစ်
- ၃။ ထုတ်လုပ်ရောင်းချသူ - ထောင် (၅) နှစ် နှင့် ပစ္စည်းကိုင်သိမ်း

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

ECDC concludes 2005-2006 Academic Year

YANGON, 31 March — The 2005-2006 Academic Year of the Early Childhood Development Centre under Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association concluded today at the multi-purpose building of the association in South Oakkalapa Township here.

The concluding ceremony was attended by members of the central executive committee of MMCWA, teachers and parents of students.

At the ceremony, CEC members Dr Than Oo, Daw Khin Nwe Nwe, Daw Thazin Nwe and Joint Secretary Dr Daw May Malar presented concluding certificates of the students through teachers.

At the graduation ceremony, students entertained those present with dances. —*MNA*

Medical students visit MMCWA

YANGON, 31 March — Final part -1 students of Intsitute of Medicine-1, Yangon, yesterday visited the multi-purpose building of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) here.

Member of the Central Executive Committee of MMCWA Daw Nilar Thaw extended greetings and Secretary of the association Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha briefed on organizational set-up and tasks of the association.

The students visited the diagnostic centre and day care nurseries at the building. *MNA*

Cooking contest on nutritious food prepared with flour organized

YANGON, 31 March — Yangon East District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee held a cooking contest on nutritious food prepared with flour at the town hall in Dagon Myothit (South) Township this morning.

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai of Yangon Division MCWSC gave a speech, and presented flour and documents provided by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) to Chairperson of Township MCWSC Daw Nan Shwe Yin.

U Aung Kyaw Lwin and U Shauk San of Yangon Crown Wire & Cable Co Ltd donated K 300,000 each to Yangon East District MCWSC through Daw Mar Mar Wai.

The Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC and officials presented K 2,000 each and a set of suit worth K 3,000 each to 28 older persons of 14 townships. Joint Secretary of Yangon Division MCWSC Deputy Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Nweni Ohn explained disciplines related to the cooking contest.

The Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC and officials viewed competition of MCWA members of 14 townships in the cooking contest on nutritious food prepared with flour.

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai presented prizes to the winners in the contest.

Officials gave K 1,000 each 28 children from 14 townships. Secretary of Yangon Division MCWSC Dr Hla Myint accepted 1,000 membership applications of the district presented by Daw Nan Shwe Yin.

Secretary of Yangon East District MCWSC Dr Daw Mu Nyo gave gifts to the panel of judges of the contest.

After the ceremony, Daw Mar Mar Wai and officials viewed serving of food prepared with flour to older persons and children. — *MNA*



Daw Mar Mar Wai presents prizes to a winning team in the cooking contest on nutritious food prepared with flour.—MNA

Refresher course for English, Maths, Physics teachers opened in Magway

YANGON, 31 March — The refresher course for English, Mathematics and Physics teachers at basic education high school level was opened at the lecture hall of Magway University in Magway on 28 March morning.

Rector of the university U Tin Maung Oo delivered a speech at the opening ceremony. Pro-Rector U Htay Maung explained disciplines of the refresher course and examination.

Also present at the opening ceremony were members of the training course supervisory committee, faculty members, the Magway Division Education Offices and township education officers, school heads and instructors.

The refresher course lasts till 26 May.— *MNA*



Visitors view a booth at the 61st Armed Forces Day Exhibition, National Defences Museum Friday.—MNA

China puts 1,081 cultural heritage sites under state-level protection

BEIJING, 31 March — China has added another 1,081 cultural heritage sites into the state-level protection list, making the total number on the list to 2,352.

This is the sixth time the Chinese Government has selected the most precious cultural heritage sites across the country, including archaeological sites, ancient tombs, ancient buildings, grottos and stone inscriptions, according to the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH).

Previously, Chinese Government had announced five batches of state-level cultural heritage sites in 1961, 1982, 1988, 1996 and 2001, respectively, with a total number of 1,271.

The selection of the sixth batch of the most precious heritage sites started in 2004. The SACH organized more than 60 experts in the fields of cultural relics, archaeology, construction history and modern history to select the sites from the candidates submitted by local governments.

The number of cultural heritage sites under state-level protection has greatly increased this time. However, Shan Jixiang, head of the SACH, said on Thursday that the total number is still not enough.

“Compared with the long history of China and the large quantity of existing cultural heritages in the country, there are still too few heritage sites put under state-level protection,” Shan said.

More than 400,000 ancient relic sites across China have been registered by surveys. But only 1,271 were under state-level protection previously.

MNA/Xinhua



A model holds up a watch by Maurice Lacroix Switzerland on the pressday of the watch fair Baselworld in Basel, Switzerland, on 29 March, 2006. The Watch and Jewellery Show Baselworld, the industry's most important sales event, is to be held in Basel from 30 March to 6 April. —INTERNET

Vancouver hotels warned not to overcharge during Olympics

OTTAWA, 31 March — With about four years to go before the Vancouver Winter Olympics, tourism companies have already started selling flights and hotels at surprisingly high prices, prompting authorities to control rates within reasonable range.

Regina-based Dash Tours is selling its platinum hotel and flight package at 25,999 Canadian dollars (22,100 US dollars).

It includes a round-trip flight to Vancouver from anywhere in Canada or the US, a limo ride from the airport, 18 nights at the Delta Vancouver Suites Hotel and a reception. But it does not include tickets to Olympic events. — MNA/Xinhua

China's human trial of AIDS vaccine proceeding smoothly

NANNING, 31 March — All the 49 Chinese volunteers who were injected with China's first AIDS vaccine are in good health and show no ill effects, clinical observation has shown.

Experts have visited seven groups of these volunteers and the visit to the last group of 15 volunteers is expected to be completed by mid-June this year, said Chen Jie, deputy head of the Disease Control Centre of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in South China.

A panel of experts will make an accurate assessment of the trial outcome and decide whether to carry out the second phase of the AIDS vaccine test, Chen said.

The assessment would cover the dose and safety of the AIDS vaccine, immunization procedures and whether the safety of the experiment accords with the targets for clinical research set by the state, and whether the experiment was carried out in a strict manner, Chen said.

The Ministry of Science and Technology and the State Food and Drug Administration will decide whether to go ahead with the second phase of the test based on the assessment outcome. The first phase of the test was launched in Nanning, capital of Guangxi, on 12 March, last year, and all the 49 Chinese volunteers aged between 18 and 50 had received vaccine injection by 20 October last year.

They were divided into eight groups, six groups received a single AIDS vaccine and two other groups were injected with a

combined AIDS vaccine. If the test enters the second phase, volunteers will be recruited from larger groups, especially from the high-risk groups, Chen said.

The State Food and Drug Administration approved the first clinical phase research of the new AIDS vaccine on 25 November, 2004.

China currently has approximately 650,000 HIV infected people including approximately 75,000 AIDS patients, according to recent official estimates. —MNA/Xinhua

Study shows sharp fall in HIV infections in India

NEW DELHI, 31 March — The number of new HIV infections in four south Indian states home to most of India's 5.1 million people with the virus, has fallen by more than a third, rare good news in the fight against AIDS, a study reported.

India has the world's second-highest number of people living with HIV/AIDS — after South Africa — but a study in the medical journal, *The Lancet*, said active surveillance and robust peer intervention among high risk groups such as female sex workers had had an impact in the south.

The Indo-Canadian study carried out by the University of Toronto and an Indian research institute reported HIV prevalence among women aged 15 to 24 years in the states of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh had fallen from 1.7 per cent to 1.1 per cent in a four-year period.

New infections fell by 35 per cent between 2000 and 2004. The four states account for 75 per cent of people living with HIV in India.

MNA/Reuters

Media challenged to promote science culture in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 31 March — Zimbabwean Minister of Science and Technology Olivia Muchena has said the media in the country should play a critical role in the development and promotion of a science and technology culture so as to encourage the youth to study science disciplines.

Speaking at a workshop here on Wednesday, she said that the media should strive to demystify and popularize the teaching and learning of science subjects at grassroots level for to generate interest in the youth.

“Our goal is to increase interest in sciences and promote a science culture in the country in appropriate media language and format, which is understandable,” said Minister Muchena.

To achieve this goal, she said, reporters should be relevant, responsible and accurate as they were the vanguard for stimulating interest and appreciation of science and technology.

“Reporting of science issues must be done with accuracy and precision because we want people to be conversant with science and technology matters as they are with AIDS/HIV issues,” she said.

Muchena said science was the force in economic development in countries like China, Japan, Malaysia which were now the world's economic har-bours.

MNA/Xinhua

LatAm makes progress in energy use

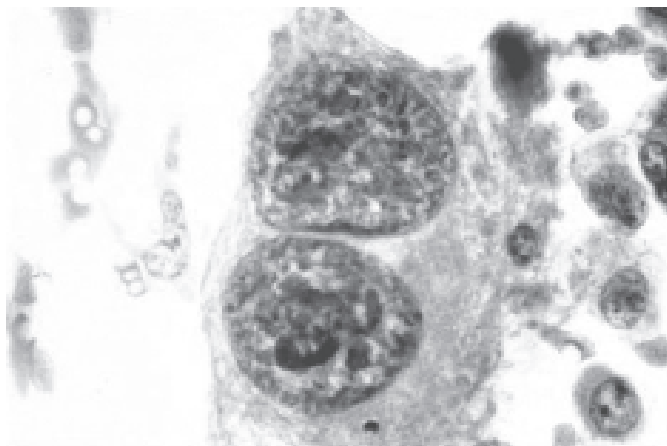
HAVANA, 31 March — Latin American countries have made significant progress in energy use, said the visiting executive secretary of the Latin American Energy Organization (Olade), Alvaro Rios.

Rios told reporters on Wednesday that he has come to learn about the great strides Cuba has made in energy use, given that Cuba has few hydro-carbon resources.

Rios also praised Venezuela's cooperation with several countries in the region, adding that they represent a step forward in regional integration.

Last year Venezuela signed the PetroCaribe deal with 12 of the 15 members of Caricom to sell oil with 25-year credit lines at very low interest rates.

MNA/Xinhua



An undated image of osteosarcoma (bone cancer) from the National Cancer Institute. Although cancer is rare in teenagers, it is the biggest cause of non-accidental death in 13-24 year olds. Four types of cancer, including osteosarcoma, are more common in adolescents and young adults. — 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**

ပြည်တွင်းတိုင်းဒေသကြီးနှင့်ပြည်နယ်များအတွက် မြင့်မားစွာ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ဆိုင်ရာ အန္တရာယ်ရှိသော ချွန်ငှက် အမြောက်အမြားကို ကာကွယ်ရန်နှင့် ထိခိုက်ခြင်းကို ရှောင်ရှားရန်
INSTRUCTION FOR THE PREVENTION & CONTROL OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

ပြုစုရမည့် အချက်များ (Do as follows) :

- အိမ်နံရံ၊ အိမ်ထဲ၊ အိမ်ပြင်၊ အိမ်အနီးရှိ အရာအား စနစ်တကျ သန့်ရှင်းဆေးကြောရန်။ (Routinely clean and disinfect the house and surrounding areas.)
- အိမ်ထဲ၊ အိမ်ပြင်၊ အိမ်အနီးရှိ ချွန်ငှက်အမြောက်အမြားကို စနစ်တကျ စစ်ဆေးရန်။ (Regularly check for highly pathogenic avian influenza in the house and surrounding areas.)
- ချွန်ငှက်အမြောက်အမြားကို အိမ်ထဲ၊ အိမ်ပြင်၊ အိမ်အနီးရှိ အရာများကို မထိပါက မိမိတို့၏ အိမ်ထဲ၊ အိမ်ပြင်၊ အိမ်အနီးရှိ အရာများကို စနစ်တကျ သန့်ရှင်းဆေးကြောရန်။ (Do not touch highly pathogenic avian influenza in the house and surrounding areas. Regularly clean and disinfect the house and surrounding areas.)
- ချွန်ငှက်အမြောက်အမြားကို အိမ်ထဲ၊ အိမ်ပြင်၊ အိမ်အနီးရှိ အရာများကို မထိပါက မိမိတို့၏ အိမ်ထဲ၊ အိမ်ပြင်၊ အိမ်အနီးရှိ အရာများကို စနစ်တကျ သန့်ရှင်းဆေးကြောရန်။ (Do not touch highly pathogenic avian influenza in the house and surrounding areas. Regularly clean and disinfect the house and surrounding areas.)

ပြုစုရန် မသင့်သည့် အချက်များ (Don't do as follows) :

- ချွန်ငှက်အမြောက်အမြားကို အိမ်ထဲ၊ အိမ်ပြင်၊ အိမ်အနီးရှိ အရာများကို မထိပါက မိမိတို့၏ အိမ်ထဲ၊ အိမ်ပြင်၊ အိမ်အနီးရှိ အရာများကို စနစ်တကျ သန့်ရှင်းဆေးကြောရန်။ (Do not touch highly pathogenic avian influenza in the house and surrounding areas. Regularly clean and disinfect the house and surrounding areas.)
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Prevention of Avian Influenza to Humans in suspected case

- ချွန်ငှက်အမြောက်အမြားကို အိမ်ထဲ၊ အိမ်ပြင်၊ အိမ်အနီးရှိ အရာများကို မထိပါက မိမိတို့၏ အိမ်ထဲ၊ အိမ်ပြင်၊ အိမ်အနီးရှိ အရာများကို စနစ်တကျ သန့်ရှင်းဆေးကြောရန်။ (Do not touch highly pathogenic avian influenza in the house and surrounding areas. Regularly clean and disinfect the house and surrounding areas.)
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Public awareness poster for the village level

ADVERTISEMENTS

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MV ZHE HAI 316 VOY NO (055)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZHE HAI 316 VOY NO (055) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.4.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

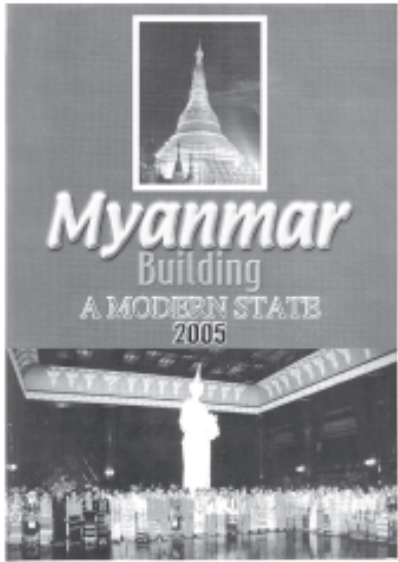
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MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDERS

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.

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Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung , Yangon.

Susilo calls for paying tax in correct amount

JAKARTA, 30 March — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called on all sides including government officials to pay their tax in correct amount and on time as part of efforts to raise state revenue.

"State officials, and whoever, have the obligation to pay their tax in the correct amount and on time," Antara news agency on Thursday quoted the President as saying.

When submitting the 2005 tax notification (SPT) at the taxation directorate office here on Wednesday, Yudhoyono called on all state officials

to meet their obligation of tax payments in two days before the March 31, 2006, deadline as stated in their tax notification form.

The President said that the government was considering a tax incentive to the business sector to boost economic growth.

Meanwhile, Head of the Taxation Directorate General Hadi Purnomo said the state's tax revenue till March 28, 2006, reached 81 trillion rupiah (900 million US dollars), an increase of 30 per cent compared to the corresponding period last year.

MNA/Xinhua

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Zambia calls for foreign investment in agriculture, mining

LUSAKA, 30 March — Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa has called on foreign investors to put their fund in his country's agriculture, tourism, mining and manufacturing sectors.

When receiving credentials respectively from ambassadors of Spain, Argentina and Bangladesh in Lusaka on Tuesday, President Mwanawasa said the government has identified the four sectors as having great potential the three countries can explore.

He told the Spanish Ambassador that the two countries should come up with a bilateral investment protection agreement so as to enhance the exploration of other areas of cooperation.

The president said his country is looking forward to working with Spain in addressing the increasing refugee burden, hunger and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

He told the Argentine Ambassador that the two countries share similar ideals and objectives which encourage south to south cooperation as the two countries belonging to the group of 77.—MNA/Xinhua

Tanzania should boost water management

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 30 March — Tanzania's per capita water supply will be strained and drop by more than half by 2025 unless the government takes its management seriously, a World Bank official said on Wednesday.

"The forecast is that if Tanzania does not manage its water resources, it will become water-stressed," Francis Ato Brown, a senior sanitation engineer at World Bank in Tanzania, told a news conference.

Brown said the country's annual supply of fresh water stood at 2,700 cubic metres per capita, which was projected to fall to 1,500 cubic metres per capita by 2025.

Brown gave no estimate of how much the increased water stress would affect Tanzania's economy which is driven by the water-dependent sectors of agriculture, mining, tourism and hydropower generation.

But he said studies showed water scarcity could shave as much as 2 per cent off the country's annual economic growth. Tanzania's gross domestic product growth was projected at 6.9 per cent in 2005.

Brown said while Tanzania was not at that stage, its water supply faced problems from pollution, increased urban demand, conflict between users and occupation of river catchment areas.

Tanzania has set 2025 as the year by which it should have reduced its reliance on agriculture, raised its 35 million people to middle-income status by boosting the private sector, increasing growth in manufacturing and services.

The East African country is emerging from a drought that has led to food shortages and power cuts due to a drop in electricity from hydropower dams.

Miraji Msuya, the director of the Resources Department at the Ministry of Water, said the government already had in place laws that would help in managing the country's water.

"We have the legislation. The issue is its enforcement. That has been a problem," Msuya said, giving an example of how a key hydropower dam, Mtera, meant only for power generation, has had some of its water put to use by farmers upstream.

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်သစ်ပညာရေးတို့၏ အကျိုးစီးပွားကို တိုးတက်စေရန် ရည်ရွယ်ချက်ဖြင့် စာပေအဖွဲ့

Rare copy of Shakespeare Folio on auction

LONDON, 30 March—A rare complete copy of the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays will go on sale in London on 13 July, Sotheby's auction house said on Thursday.

The complete compendium of 36 plays, being sold by the trustees of Dr Williams' Library in London, is still in its 17th-century calf binding, Sotheby's said. The auctioneer expected the book to sell for as much as \$6.1 million — what a comparable copy of the 900-page First Folio fetched in a 2001 sale at Christie's in New York.

Some 750 copies of the First Folio were printed, and about a third survived, though most are incomplete, Sotheby's said.

The small printing in 1623 was the first for 18 of Shakespeare's plays. Without the book, they might have been lost.

"If they (the Folios) weren't printed, we wouldn't have 'Macbeth' or 'Twelfth Night,' and we wouldn't know the full range of Shakespeare's work," said Kate McLuskie, director of the Shakespeare Institute at the University of Birmingham.

During his lifetime, Shakespeare made no effort to have his plays published and it was left to two managers

in the Bard's acting company to preserve the works.

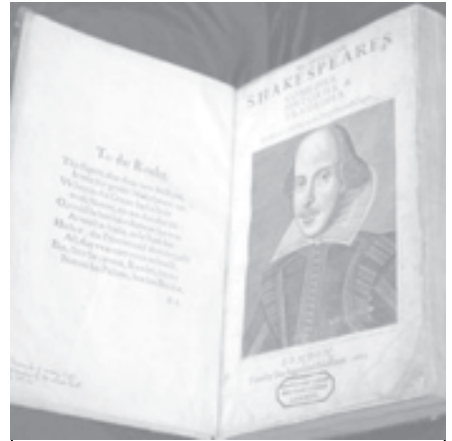
Many of the Folios include handwritten comments by readers, McLuskie said, and this "tells us what people knew about Shakespeare and his reputation at the time. It is invaluable."

And while the Folio Sotheby's is selling is not unique — there are about 40 complete Folios still in existence — it is rare that a copy of the book is made available to private collectors.

Only one other copy of the Folio, belonging to the estate of late philanthropist and book collector Paul Getty, remains in private ownership, Sotheby's said. Another copy of the book, known as the Houghton copy, was sold in 1980 and is held at Japan's Meisei University.

Dr Williams' Library, in Gordon Square in central London, was established in the early 18th century under the will of Daniel Williams, a government minister.

Internet



A 17th century calf bound 1623 copy of the First Folio edition of William Shakespeare's plays is displayed at offices of the Sotheby's auction house in central London, on 30 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Don't smoke

Two Panama Canal construction plans might be incompatible

PANAMA CITY, 30 March — Panama's two grand plans — to expand the Panama Canal and to build a huge commercial port — might be incompatible, managers of the Canal said on Tuesday, but port promoters say there is no conflict.

"There is no room for another Pacific port in Panama, and no need to spend millions of dollars from the public infrastructure budget to build a new one," said Rommel Troestch, marketing director of the Panama Ports Company (PPC), a division of Hong Kong-based Hutchison Port Holdings.

PPC runs Colombia's Balboa port on the Pacific and Christobal on the Atlantic.

The port, proposed to be built in the Palo Seco-Farfan area, close to the Canal's Pacific opening,

will cost around 850 million US dollars at the first stage.

Studies by the Panama Canal Authority (PCA) show that a boost in Canal capacity will lead to an increase in shipping demand that will eventually lead to a greater need for port capacity.

However, Rodolfo Sabonge, planning director of the Panama Canal Authority (PCA) argued, "The project for a mega port as it stands is closely linked to rising volumes of container traffic in the Canal, and that will only be seen if

the Canal-improvement work is achieved."

The proposed Canal expansion is estimated to cost eight billion dollars. MNA/Xinhua

China's high-tech products export up 36.6% in January, February

BEIJING, 30 March — China's high-tech products export jumped 36.6 percent to 35.77 billion US dollars in the first two months of 2006, the China Securities Journal quoted statistics from the Ministry of Commerce as saying on Wednesday.

It is the first time

China's high-tech exports made up 30 per cent of the country's total exports, it said. In January and February, China exported cell phones worth 3.98 billion US dollars and cell phone parts worth 1.96 billion US dollars, jumping 69.5 per cent and 80.6 per cent respectively year on year, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

More Sierra Leone athletes come out of hiding

SYDNEY, 30 March— The final two missing Sierra Leone Commonwealth Games athletes came out of hiding in Australia on Wednesday and were granted bridging visas pending any formal request to stay in the country, officials said.

Fourteen Sierra Leonean athletes, two-thirds of the nation's 21-member Games team, went missing from the athlete's village in

Melbourne last week. All travelled to Sydney where they hid in beachside houses. Games visas given to athletes do not expire for another month, but Australia revoked the special visas of the 14 missing Sierra Leone athletes, making them illegal immigrants.

"All 14 athletes who were listed by their team as missing and whose Games accreditation was withdrawn have now been located and are lawfully in the community," said an immigration department statement on Wednesday.

"These temporary

bridging visas will allow them to remain lawfully in the Australian community until 13 April while they further consider their options."

One of the athletes has told Australian television he fears being killed like his brother if he is forcibly returned to his impoverished homeland, which was racked by a brutal civil war from 1991 to 2002 that claimed around 50,000 lives.

Two of nine missing Cameroon athletes were found by immigration officials on Tuesday in the western city of Perth.

MNA/Reuters

Two Chinese govt bodies sued over copyright infringement

NANJING, 30 March— China's first Internet copyright lawsuit against governmental bodies has been filed in Nanjing, capital of East China's Jiangsu Province.

The Beijing-based Sanmianxiang Copyright Agency is suing the Jiangsu Provincial State Taxation Bureau and the Agriculture and Forestry Bureau for copyright infringement.

Sanmianxiang signed a copyright transfer contract with Liao Xingcheng, a prolific writer on rural development in Hebei

Province, two years ago for several of his published articles.

The agency found in December 2004 that the two government departments used two of Liao's articles on their official websites, without paying any money to the agency or even identifying Liao as the author.

After initial nego-

tiations failed, Sanmianxiang filed the lawsuit and demanded they stop publishing the articles and also deliver a public apology on their websites.

The agency also wants 6,000 yuan (750 US dollars) of compensation from each bureau, which includes their notary fees and lawyer's payments.

MNA/Xinhua



People from Beijing dance in a park in a residential area of China's capital Beijing during a warm spring morning on 31 March, 2006. It is common for Beijing citizens to spend their early hours in local parks doing all kinds of sports activities as morning exercises. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Japan beat Ecuador 1-0 in friendly international

TOKYO, 31 March — Substitute striker Hisato Sato scored six minutes from time to give Japan a 1-0 win over Ecuador in a World Cup warm-up friendly in Oita on Thursday.

The speedy Sato and tall Seichiro Maki rejuvenated Japan's attack when coach Zico sent them on in the 76th minute and the payoff came eight minutes later.

Midfielder Mitsuo Ogasawara capitalized on poor defending by Ecuador to control the ball and feed Alex on the left wing and the Brazilian-born defender crossed low into the centre for Sato to delicately steer the ball past Mora from close range.

"It was a great ball in from Alex that made it easy for me to score," Sato told reporters. Zico said: "I was really pleased with the way the defence performed and how (goalkeeper Yoshikatsu) Kawaguchi played.

"The defenders put in a great effort and really helped the whole team perform well."

Kawaguchi came to Japan's rescue in the 32nd minute when he tipped a ferocious 30-metre drive from midfielder Edwin Tenorio onto the crossbar.

That turned out to be as close as Ecuador would get to scoring with the home side gradually gaining the upper hand.

Strikers Tatsuhiko Kubo and Keiji Tamada, who have struggled in the J. League this season, both had golden chances that they failed to finish off.

Kubo's toe poke in the opening minutes rolled agonizingly past the post, while Tamada's best effort was blocked by Ecuador goalkeeper Cristian Mora.

Kubo came close again with a deft header from an Alex cross in the 67th minute, but Mora tipped the ball away.

MNA/Reuters

Ronaldinho rated most valuable star

LONDON, 31 March — Ronaldinho has been rated as the most commercially valuable football player in the world, according to a new study.

The Barcelona ace, 26, is worth 32.6 million pounds, more than English duo David Beckham (31.2m pounds) and Wayne Rooney (30.4m pounds), who are second and third respectively.

Beckham still has the best-known face, but Ronaldinho's sage and recent feats make him a better marketing prospect, says consultancy firm BBDO Germany.

"Beckham owes his second place in the ranking to his status as the 'metrosexual' prototype and the lucrative contracts this generated for him," added BBDO. — MNA/Xinhua



India's Mahendra Dhoni (R) takes a successful catch of England's Owais Shah (not pictured) as India's Ramesh Powar (L) watches during their second one-day international cricket match in Faridabad, 25 km (16 miles) west of New Delhi, on 31 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Basel beat Boro, bad injury for Pogatzetz

BASEL (Switzerland), 31 March — A two-goal burst in three minutes at the end of the first half gave Swiss champions Basel a 2-0 win over England's Middlesbrough in the first leg of their UEFA Cup quarterfinal on Thursday.

To add to Middlesbrough's problems, manager Steve McClaren said Austrian defender Emanuel Pogatzetz was taken to hospital with a broken nose and suspected fractured skull following a clash of heads with Mladen Petric in the second half.

The match was also marred by crowd trouble, with 13 people injured and one fan arrested after halftime clashes.

"I thought for the first 40 minutes we looked very comfortable with nothing to fear but those two goals before halftime epitomize European football," McClaren told reporters.

"You lose your concentration for a few seconds and you're 2-0 down. That's what disappoints me most as we always say you have to keep your concentration all the way through."

Matias Delgado put the home team in front after 43 minutes when his speculative right-foot shot from 35 metres took a wicked bounce in front of Mark Schwarzer and went over the diving goalkeeper. — MNA/Reuters

Moldovan earns Rapid 1-1 draw in UEFA Cup derby

BUCHAREST, 31 March — Veteran striker Viorel Moldovan earned Rapid Bucharest a 1-1 draw at home to city rivals Steaua Bucharest in their UEFA Cup quarterfinal, first leg tie on Thursday.

Former European champions Steaua had stunned Rapid at their Giulesti Stadium when winger Banel Nicolita scored after just four minutes in the first all-Romania match in European club competition.

Nicolita converted Daniel Oprita's low cross, the first goal Rapid have conceded in eight home European matches this season.

Rapid almost got a quick equalizer but Daniel Niculae's header hit the post seven minutes later.

Moldovan, who missed a good opportunity to score in the first half, made no mistake four minutes after halftime when he capitalized on some poor Steaua defending.

Rapid forward pushed the ball into the Steaua's net after two consecutive, foolish mistakes from defender Sorin Ghionea and goalie Carlos Fernandes.

"Steaua dominated the first half but we were strong enough to come back (into the game)," Rapid skipper Vasile Maftei said.

"We will go to Lia Manoliu (the arena which will host the second tie) to score and win. We are able to do it. You will see a different display from Rapid next week."

Steaua needed only four minutes to score their precious away goal after a fast, classic counter-attack led by Daniel Oprita on the right side.

MNA/Reuters

Schalke seize UEFA Cup advantage with 3-1 win at Levski

SOFIA, 31 March — Competition favourites Schalke 04 came from a goal down to beat 10-man Levski Sofia 3-1 in the first leg of their quarterfinal tie on Thursday.

Second-half strikes by Uruguayan substitute Gustavo Varela, Brazilian Lincoln and German international forward Gerald Asamoah rut the Bundesliga side in reach of last four.

"We did not play well during the opening 20 minutes of the match and we were punished," said Schalke coach Mirko Slomka. "But after the break we improved and outplayed our opponents.

"Goalkeeper Frank Rost was outstanding tonight. He made some spectacular saves and played a vital role in our victory." Levski Sofia, previously unbeaten at home in the tournament this season, had led through veteran Daniel Borimirov's sixth minute goal.

The Bulgarians had French midfielder Cedric Bardon sent off for a second yellow card 10 minutes before halftime and Schalke took full advantage after the break. — MNA/Reuters



San Antonio Spurs Manu Ginobili (L) defends against Los Angeles Lakers Kobe Bryant during their NBA game in Los Angeles, on 30 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Sevilla stride towards UEFA semis with 4-1 win

SEVILLE (Spain), 31 March — Sevilla took a giant stride towards the last four of the UEFA Cup when they beat nine-man Zenit St Petersburg 4-1 at home in the first leg of their quarterfinal on Thursday.

A sharp double from Argentina striker Javier Saviola, a penalty from midfielder Marti and an injury-time goal from Adriano Correia gave the Spanish side a comfortable advantage ahead of next week's second leg.

Zenit had Norwegian defender Erik Hagen and influential midfielder Andrei Arshavin sent off in the second half, with both missing the return leg in Russia.

The winners of the tie will meet either Schalke 04 or Levski Sofia in the semifinals.

Sevilla, currently fifth in the Primera Liga, dominated the opening exchanges at the Sanchez Pizjuan and Zenit keeper Vyacheslav Malafeev was forced to make sharp saves to deny Saviola and midfielder Jordi in the early minutes.

However, there was little he could do to stop the opening goal in the 15th minute when the Argentine scored with a low header inside the far post after a corner.

Zenit equalized on the stroke of halftime when striker Alexander Kerzhakov, who scored twice when the Russians beat Sevilla 2-1 at home in the group stage in November, headed into the top corner after midfielder Andrei Arshavin had crossed from the left.

MNA/Reuters



Lorena Ochoa of Mexico hits a chip shot for a birdie on the fourth hole at the LPGA Kraft Nabisco Championship golf tournament in Rancho Mirage, California on 30 March, 2006. —INTERNET

ASEAN countries urged to improve governance

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 March — Member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) should improve their governance to win the support of young population, which are more discerning, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said Thursday.

Youth and a growing middle class in the ASEAN have higher expectations of the governments' leadership, Najib said in his luncheon keynote address at the third ASEAN Leadership Forum.

About 50 per cent of the ASEAN population are aged between 15 and 44 while another 30 per cent are aged under 15 years, said Najib at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel here.

"This demographic impact on local politics cannot be ignored. Al-

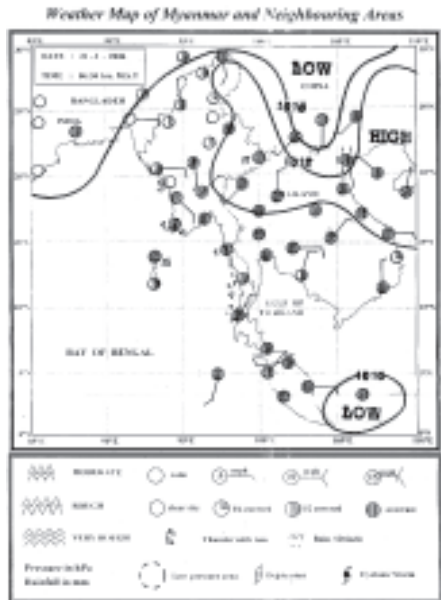
ready in Malaysia, some half a million young Malaysians become eligible to vote every year," Najib said.

He urged state leaders of the ASEAN to maintain a delicate balance between responsible and

responsive leadership to ensure the stability and progress in this region.

"Good governance can no longer be an empty promise. It will determine the fate of governments across the ASEAN."

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Friday, 31 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing Division and rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Shan State and isolated in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (6°C) above normal in Kachin State, (3°C) below normal in Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Division, (7°C) to (8°C) below normal in Bago and Yangon Divisions, (9°C) below normal in Kayin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Kanbalu (42°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfalls recorded were Co co Island (1.38) inches, Namhsam (0.98) inch, Meiktila (0.94) inch and Pinlaung (0.79) inch.

Maximum temperature on 30-3-2006 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 31-3-2006 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 31-3-2006 was (80%). Total sunshine hours on 30-3-2006 was (Nil).

Rainfalls on 31-3-2006 were Tr (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were Tr (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southwest at (11:20) hours MST on 30-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1-4-2006: Isolated light rain or thundershowers are likely in Shan, Mon, Kayin and Kayah States, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of light rain or thundershowers in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Naypyidaw and neighbouring areas for 1-4-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 1-4-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 1-4-2006: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for first weekend of April 2006: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Naypyidaw Myodaw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

Filipino star Aunor pleads guilty to drug charge

LOS ANGELES, 31 March — Filipino superstar Nora Aunor has pleaded guilty to methamphetamine possession and entered a court-supervised drug treatment programme to get the charges dismissed, prosecutors said on Thursday.

Aunor, who was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport in March 2005 after a baggage screener found the illegal drug in her luggage, in December enrolled in a different programme that

did not require a guilty plea.

The film and music star found that programme did not fit her lifestyle as an entertainer because it prohibited travel, said Jane Robison, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County district attorney.

"When a person wants to clean up their life, this is how it's handled," Robison said. "But she has a long way to go."

The new programme lasts 18 months and is less restrictive, Robison said, though it still requires routine drug testing. When Aunor completes the programme, Robison said, she can ask the judge to dismiss the charge.

MNA/Reuters



In memory of late parents U Mya Lwin-Daw Mya Tin, family members of Shwepyitha Township recently donated K 100,000 to Hninzingon Home for the Aged through Administrative Board Prof Dr Daw May Win Aung Khin. — ဘ

<p>Saturday, 1 April View on today</p>	<p>12:05 pm 5. Round up of the week's TV local news</p>	<p>4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use</p>
	<p>12:40 pm 6. နိုင်ငံခြားကတန်းစာတစ်လမ်းတွဲ "Doraemon"</p>	<p>4:40 pm 4. အရေးဖြစ်ပွဲ</p>
<p>7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p>	<p>12:55 pm 7. ကြားဖြင့် သူတ ပြည့်ဝစေရာ ဝေပဒသာ</p>	<p>4:50 pm 5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့ လိုက်ရောက်ရန် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ပထမနှစ် (စာတည်း၊ ရွာပေး၊ သတ္တဗော၊ ရွာပေးအထူးပြုများ) (စာတည်း)</p>
<p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p>	<p>1:05 pm 8. လောကနိတ် (၂) "စိတ်ကောင်းပေးစွန့်" (ကိုကိုလင်းတောင်၊ မြို့သန္တာထွန်း၊ ခင်လှိုင်၊ ချစ်စရာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်စော်)</p>	<p>5:05 pm 6. Musical programme</p>
<p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p>	<p>1:50 pm 9. သန့်ရှင်းသစ်စွန့်ဖြူသောယာ ဖြူဖွဲ့လာ</p>	<p>5:15 pm 7. နားဝင်ပီယံ သူလက်သံ</p>
<p>7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song</p>	<p>2:00 pm 10. အဆိုဖြစ်ပွဲ</p>	<p>5:25 pm 8. ခါသကြိမ် အဆိုအကများ</p>
<p>7:55 am 5. အတီးဖြစ်ပွဲ</p>	<p>2:10 pm 11. Dance of national races</p>	<p>5:35 pm 9. Games for children</p>
<p>8:00 am 6. အဆိုဖြစ်ပွဲ</p>	<p>2:25 pm 12. အတီးဖြစ်ပွဲ</p>	<p>6:00 pm 10. Evening news</p>
<p>8:20 am 7. ခါသကြိမ်အဆိုအကများ</p>	<p>2:30 pm 13. "မြေ-မြေ-လွှား-လွှား သွား-သွား လာလာ" (မောင်မောင်မြင့်၊ စိန်ရှုတ်ထော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်မြင့်)</p>	<p>6:30 pm 11. Weather report</p>
<p>8:30 am 8. International news</p>	<p>2:35 pm 14. လယ်ယာစီးပွားမြှင့်တင်ရေး ဝေပဒသာ</p>	<p>6:35 pm 12. Discovery</p>
<p>8:45 am 9. Grammar Made Easy</p>	<p>2:45 pm 15. International news</p>	<p>6:50 pm 13. စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ မြန်မာ့နိုင်ငံရေးပါတီအကြိမ်</p>
<p>11:00 am 1. Martial song</p>	<p>3:00 pm 16. International news</p>	<p>7:05 pm 14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတစ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကံကောင်းခြင်းအိမ်ကော်" (အပိုင်း-၃)</p>
<p>11:15 am 2. Musical programme</p>	<p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p>	<p>8:00 pm 15. News</p>
<p>11:30 am 3. News</p>	<p>4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p>	<p>8:00 pm 16. International news</p>
<p>11:40 am 4. Games for children</p>		<p>8:00 pm 17. Weather report</p>
		<p>8:00 pm 18. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတစ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မိဖြစ်ချင်" (အပိုင်း-၃၅)</p>
		<p>8:00 pm 19. The next day's programme</p>

<p>Saturday, 1 April Tune in today</p>
<p>8:30 am Brief news</p>
<p>8:35 am Music:</p>
<p>8:40 am Perspectives</p>
<p>8:45 am Music:</p>
<p>8:55 am National news / Slogan</p>
<p>9:05 am Music:</p>
<p>9:10 am International news</p>
<p>9:15 am Music: (Spotlight on a star)</p>
<p>1:30 pm News & Slogan</p>
<p>1:40 pm Music at your request</p>
<p>9:00 pm ASEAN news</p>
<p>9:10 pm Article</p>
<p>9:20 pm Myanma culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt -PyinOoLwin or May Myo</p>
<p>9:30 pm Souvenirs</p>
<p>9:45 pm News / Slogan</p>
<p>10:00 pm PEL</p>

Commander inspects paving of roads in Yangon

YANGON, 31 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin yesterday morning inspected sanitary tasks and paving of roads in Yangon City.

They inspected U Chit Maung street in Bahan Township, U Htaung Bo street in Dagon Township, Anawrahta street in Botahtaung Township, Strand road in Kyimyindine Township and Kyaikwaing Pagoda road in Mayangon Township being paved with asphalt, and left instructions to the officials.

MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect repaving of U Chit Maung Road in Bahan Township. — MNA

Armed Forces Day Exhibition attracts students, people

YANGON, 31 March — The 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition 2006 continued for the sixth day today at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda, here, from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

People and students including members of the Sangha visited the exhibition.

Western Command Headquarters is being put on display with the archway model of Minkhaung Shwegu Pagoda built by Thiri Thudhamma Raza in MraukU in AD 1626-1638, scale models of Minchaung Creek Bridge, Wunphaik Bridge, Thazintanpauk Bridge, Thanthamachay Bridge, Thanthamagyi Bridge, Deedokpauk Bridge, Londawpauk Bridge, Sanepauk Bridge, Kyaukkyipauk Bridge, Thayu Creek Suspension Bridge, Kyeintali River Bridge, Shwehlay Bridge and An Creek Bridge, documentary photos of white elephants, paintings of Sandamuni Buddha Image of MraukU, Koethaung Stupa, view



School children who visited 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition taking part in the computer quiz. — MNA

of Mount Kyauktaw, Lawkananda Pagoda, Sittway Lighthouse, and Sittway Hotel, the paintings of Panwa Battle, the battle field in Second World War, the Yethiha Operations, portraits of Rakhine nation races, Rakhine traditional sports activities, No 1 and No 2 Gold test-wells of natural gas projects Rakhine offshore, the painting on

scene of MraukU in 1676, documentary photos showing water supply activities of Rakhine State, education sector, health sector, economic sector and transport sector.

The booths at the exhibition was crowded with students and people. At the nation-building endeavours booth, the computer quiz was held at noon.

Kanbawza beat MAPT 1-0

YANGON, 31 March — The Myanmar League Closing Cup Knock-out Football Tournament for 2005-06 season continued at Aung San Stadium, here, this afternoon.

Kanbawza blanked out MAPT 1-0. Only one goal of Kanbawza came through Yazar Soe. Both teams met in the league football tournament with a one-all draw. After today's knockout match, Kanbawza cruised into the quarterfinal with a 1-0 victory over MAPT.

On 5 April, Kanbawza will meet with YCDC in the quarterfinal.

Army (A) is to play against Construction at the same venue tomorrow afternoon. — NLM



Defender Hla Min Thein and Goalkeeper Nay Hlaing of MAPT defending header of Yazar Soe of Kanbawza. — NLM

After the competitions, officials presented prizes to the winners.

The exhibition will be kept open till 4 April. Admission is free.

MNA

Weather Forecast for 1-4-2006

Naypyidaw & neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy.

Yangon & neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy.

Mandalay & neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy.