

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 2 April, 2006

## True patriotism

- \* It is very important for everyone of the nation wherever he lives to cultivate and possess strong Union Spirit.
- \* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to uphold and safeguard.

## Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects regional development in Mon, Kayin States

YANGON, 1 April — Member of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of instructions to the officials on promoting production of the plant. On arrival at



Barkat model village in Hpa-an, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed the nurturing of 30,000 physic nut saplings and attended to the needs.

After hearing reports by the officials at the briefing hall of Barkat river pumping project, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected the plantations of physic nut and water supply tasks at the project. At Hpa-an Government Computer College, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard the report on progress of constructing the college and left instructions. It is a three-storey building with 491 feet in length and 231 feet in width and altogether 2,960 students can study at the college on completion. On arrival at Thanwin Bridge (Hpa-an), Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions to the officials on the durability of the bridge and providing the smooth transport for the people.

### 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

**Under the leadership of UMFCCL, 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, out of US\$ 2.4 billion, accounting for 55.5 per cent of that of the State in 2003-2004 fiscal year, and US\$ 1.2 billion out of US\$ 2.8 billion, accounting for over 43 per cent of that of the State in 2004-2005 fiscal year. It now contributes 53.6 per cent to the foreign trade of the State.**

PAGE-2

PERSPECTIVES

the Ministry of Defence arrived at Sittaung Bridge in Mon State on 29 March and heard reports on the facts about Sittaung Bridge, the progress of constructing Kyonpaku Creek Bridge in Winkan Village, Kyaikhto Township and village BEPS and village-to-village road.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo together with Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials went to the cement plant in Myaing Galay and gave necessary



*Lt-Gen Maung Bo of Ministry of Defence inspects progress in construction of Government Computer College in Hpa-an. —MNA*

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 2 April, 2006

**Strive for export promotion**

Under one of the four economic objectives—proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system, the government is rendering all necessary assistance to national entrepreneurs for development of production, trade and service sectors.

Thanks to the encouragement and supervision of the government coupled with concerted efforts of national entrepreneurs, production, trade and service sectors are meeting with success. The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which leads and organizes the private sector for success, is now playing a greater role in this field.

The UMFCCI membership has increased to 15,245, with an increase of 1,550 last year. And the federation has now 51 associations as its members, with an increase of seven last year.

Last year, the federation received 573 foreign businessmen, sent 270 members abroad to attend meetings and seminars and 739 members to participate in 29 international trade fairs. As a result, the federation was awarded prizes at those international trade fairs and Miss Talent Award at the Miss ASEAN 2005 beauty contest.

Under the leadership of the federation, 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, out of US\$ 2.4 billion accounting for 55.5 per cent of that of the State in 2003-2004 fiscal year, and US\$ 1.2 billion out of US\$ 2.8 billion, accounting for over 43 per cent of that of the State in 2004-2005 fiscal year. It now contributes 53.6 per cent to the foreign trade of the State.

The government is practising export and import policy systematically. In this regard, it encourages export and allows necessary goods for import. Hence, since 2002-2003, the nation has seen trade surplus.

Nowadays, the UMFCCI is organizing the entrepreneurs to reclaim virgin and fallow lands to grow cash crops for export. Moreover, steps are being taken for improving the export items.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the UMFCCI to make the best use of foundations already laid down, while trying its utmost for boosting export.

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**People's Desire**

- \* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- \* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- \* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- \* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

**Deputy Foreign Minister back from India**

YANGON, 1 April — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint arrived back here by air from India after attending the Sixth Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Cooperation, held in New Delhi from 30 to 31 March 2006.

While in New Delhi, the deputy minister met with Mr Rajvi Sikri, Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs of India and Mr P S Goel, Secretary of Department of Ocean Development, and discussed

matters on mutual interest.

The deputy minister was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Manoj Kumar Bharti, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of India.

U Kyaw Zaw, Deputy Director-General of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, U Myint Soe, Director of Economic Division of Department of International Organizations and U Kyaw Thi Wa, Assistant Director, the Min-



istry of Foreign Affairs also arrived back here together with the deputy minister.

*Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint being welcomed back at the airport. —MNA*

**MyMyanmar Unicode System distributed**



YANGON, 1 April — MyMyanmar Unicode System (Unicode Version 4.1) developed by Mg Htoo Myint Naung, a third year student of Yangon University of Computer Studies was distributed today for computer-users.

Research on the Unicoade Version 4.1 was conducted in 2004 and it was introduced to local and foreign computer practioners at 4th ICCA 2006.

It can be accessed on the website for accounting and drawing of programmes. The Unicode Version 4.1 would contribute to Unicode Version 5.x, development of which is under way. The new item includes Installer, Uniscribe installer and User manual.

Everyone can log the system on [www.myanmar.net](http://www.myanmar.net) free of charge.—H

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**Lolane Whita Care cosmetics introduced**

YANGON, 1 April — Lolane Whita Care developed by Grand Wynn Enterprise Ltd, Lolane, was introduced together with entertainment programmes at Waizayanta Shopping Centre in Thingangyun Township this evening.

It was attended by journalists, sale agents and artistes.

Mr Kirapat of SC Artistry Co Ltd of Thailand extended greetings and Mrs Pimolrat explained how to use the new item.

MNA



*New cosmetics of Lolane Whita Care being introduced. —MNA*



# India says nuclear deal will not spark arms race

WASHINGTON, 31 March — India, pressing for US congressional approval of a landmark nuclear energy agreement, on Thursday rejected suggestions the deal might provoke a South Asia arms race and reaffirmed its commitment to a voluntary moratorium on atomic weapons testing.

Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran also opened the door to New Delhi accepting certain unspecified congressional modifications to the deal as long as they do not upset the "delicate balance" of understandings negotiated with the Bush

Administration. "We have not indulged in a nuclear weapons race before this agreement was arrived at (and) there is no reason why it should be expected that merely because we have an agreement on civil energy cooperation, that suddenly

the floodgates would be opened by India for a larger and larger arsenal," he told the Heritage Foundation think tank. Under the pact, agreed in principle last 18 July, India would receive US nuclear technology, including reactors and nuclear fuel, in return for

separating its military and civil facilities and opening the civilian plants to international inspections.

India has been barred from acquiring foreign nuclear technology for three decades because it refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and developed nuclear weapons.

President George W Bush is now seeking changes in US law and international regulations to treat India as a special exemption, arguing that a close partnership with this rising democratic power and its new acceptance of certain international non-proliferation standards advances US interests. But the deal faces opposition on both fronts.

Non-proliferation expert Michael Krepon of the Henry L Stimson Centre, in a website posting, said the administration's gamble that the nuclear deal's benefits will outweigh proliferation risks is "every bit as consequential as the decision to topple" Iraq's Saddam Hussein.— MNA/Reuters



Chinese dancers perform during the 6th China Professional Model Contest Final at the 14th China International Fashion Week in Beijing, on 31 March, 2006.—INTERNET

## Italian company claims first in tapping wave power from sea

ROME, 31 March — For the first time anywhere in the world, Italians have managed to tap the national electricity grid into power generated by waves, Italian news agency ANSA reported on Wednesday.

The successful experiment took place at Italy's southern city of Messina in Sicily, where the waves of the Strait proved to generate a respectable 40 kilowatts of power.

The three-propeller turbine prototype developed by the Italian Bridge of Archimede company, dubbed Kobold, is even more environmentally friendly because much of its own power comes from 39 solar panels.

"The project is a proud achievement for Italy and I'm happy that Messina

has become the first city on the planet to receive electrical power from the sea," said Archimede company's president Elio Maticena.

He added: "The marine currents in the Strait which in ancient times sowed terror among sailors today provide an inexhaustible source of energy."

Livio Gallo of Italian energy group Enel said: "Our group has always been at the forefront of research into alternative, clean energy."

"We have several wind farms here in Sicily and we're expecting approval for the innovative Archimede project which for the first time will combine a thermodynamic solar plant with a gas-powered energy plant," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Mugabe blasts Western critics

HARARE, 31 March — Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe has blasted Western critics of his controversial policies and rights record, and vowed he will never retreat or surrender to a "neo-colonialist" onslaught.



Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe

Mbasogo, Mugabe said his government had been targeted by Western powers, particularly Britain and the United States, for empowering Zimbabwe's black majority and for resolutely defending its political rights. "We stand by our principles and shall never retreat, capitulate or shirk our responsibility," he said to applause at the dinner attended by hundreds of Zimbabwean officials and some foreign diplomats

late on Wednesday. "Those opposed to our principles have enlisted the services of like-minded countries and their leaders, and deceitfully and dishonestly used the media ... vilifying us as undemocratic because we have dared to put the interests of the poor and down-trodden first," he added.—Internet

A statue of the Virgin Mary stands outside St Louis Cathedral in New Orleans.

INTERNET



## Drug ring smuggled cocaine in Virgin Mary statues

NEW YORK, 31 March — Two men suspected of helping smuggle cocaine to New York from Mexico inside statues of the Virgin Mary were arrested on Thursday, US authorities said.

Peter Matheis, 52, and Rafael Serrano, 36, both Mexican nationals, were

indicted in New York and Houston respectively on money-laundering and narcotics charges along with six others arrested previously in the United States, the Drug Enforcement Administration said.

Five 3-foot-tall (1-metre) statues of the Virgin Mary, filled with 110 kg (242 pounds) of cocaine were seized in a Brooklyn warehouse as part of the police operation.

The drug ring used the statues to smuggle cocaine worth millions of dollars, FBI agent John Gilbride said in a statement.

The DEA said the investigation was continuing in Mexico.—Internet

More than 3,000 protesters wave flags and cheer while marching towards downtown San Diego, California, on 31 March, 2006. The group was voicing their opposition to congressional bill HR 4437, a bill designed to strengthen the ability of the government to enforce United States immigration law. This was the fifth straight day of protests in San Diego.

INTERNET



Mugabe, 82 and at the helm in Zimbabwe since its independence from Britain in 1980, has been at odds with the West, which has led charges of misuse against him.

He is accused of plunging the southern African country into political and economic turmoil by seizing white-owned farms and destroying the key agricultural sector, rigging elections and waging a violent campaign against the opposition.

Speaking at a dinner he hosted for Equatorial Guinea's visiting President Teodoro Obiang Nguema

## Iran hopes to solve N-issue through diplomatic talks

GENEVA, 31 March— Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said here on Thursday that Iran hoped the nuclear issue could be solved through diplomatic negotiations within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The referral of the nuclear issue to the UN Security Council was a mistaken move, which could only weaken the position of the IAEA, Mottaki told reporters after addressing a session of the Conference on Disarmament.

Mottaki said the IAEA had clear concepts for rights and obligations of member states, therefore,

it was an appropriate place to look for a settlement of the nuclear issue.

Further importance should be added to the work of the IAEA, so that certain solutions to problems could be found within the agency, he said.

When asked a question on possible UN Security Council sanctions against Teheran over the nuclear issue, Mottaki said that

“We have readied ourselves to all possible conditions.”

He said, however, under the current conditions, the possibility of sanctions on Iran “does not exist”.

Mottaki also reiterated that Iran would not give up its inalienable right to produce nuclear fuel, noting that Iran’s uranium enrichment activities are in compliance with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Iran will continue its sincere cooperation with the IAEA, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

## ဝက်မှုရှင်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား



Chinese workers assembling television sets at a line of the TCL Corp’s Chengdu plant in Southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 31 March, 2006. TCL, a partner with France’s Thomson SA in the world’s biggest television set production venture, has sought tie-ups with several international electronics giants, including Alcatel SA of France and Japan’s Toshiba Corp, as it pushes ahead with an ambitious expansion programme. —INTERNET

## Passenger ferry sinks off Bahrain

CAIRO, 31 March— At least 51 people died as a passenger ferry, carrying over 130 persons, sank in the Gulf off the coast of Bahrain on Thursday.

A Bahraini Interior Ministry official also announced at a news conference broadcast live on the al-Arabiya TV channel that 63 people were rescued alive, 12 of them sustaining injuries.

The ship capsized and then went down in the sea, said the official, adding that many of the victims were drowned. Dozens of other people were still missing and rescue work was underway with the help of the US Navy’s Fifth Fleet, which is based in Bahrain.

No fire or explosion was reported prior to the incident which occurred about one mile (1.6 kilometres) off the main island of Bahrain, according to the official.

Earlier, a senior Bahraini official told the media that the ship carried employees of a Bahrain-

based company on a evening cruise expected to last a couple of hours.

He said that he believed 25 British nationals, 20 Filipinos, 10 Egyptians and a number of Bahrainis were on board. The exact number of people on board and their nationalities were not immediately clear.

MNA/Xinhua



Rescue workers stand on the wreckage of a sunken boat in Bahrain, on 31 March, 2006. At least 51 people, mainly foreigners, drowned when their dinner cruise boat capsized off the coast of Bahrain, officials said on Friday. —INTERNET

## Chinese shoemakers oppose EU anti-dumping sanctions

GUANGZHOU, 31 March— Chinese shoemakers on Thursday reiterated their resolute opposition to European Union anti-dumping duties, pledging further efforts to protect their interests.

The alliance of Chinese shoemakers against the anti-dumping move, comprising many Chinese footwear enterprises, said it is firmly against the sanctions levied upon

Chinese-made leather shoes, although the decision was made when EU member states were reported to be split in a vote over the punitive duties on 16 March.

The European Commission (EC) announced last week that it would place anti-dumping duties on leather

shoes from China and Vietnam, despite the fact that only three countries voted in favour of the tariffs, ten voted against and 11 abstained.

The duties on Chinese shoes will start at about 4 per cent from 7 April and rise to 19.4 per cent in six months. However, children’s shoes and high-

tech sports shoes will be excluded from the tariffs.

The alliance said it disagrees with the EC’s decision to treat Chinese shoemakers as state-nurtured companies and not freely competing market players, and the conclusion that the EU’s footwear industry has suffered losses due to imports of Chinese footwear.

The alliance also stressed that the EC has no grounds to attribute the predicament of some EU companies to the imports of Chinese shoes, and the proposed anti-dumping sanction lacks fairness and legitimacy.

MNA/Xinhua

## Three bakery workers killed in southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 31 March— Three workers were shot dead after gunmen broke into a bakery in southern Baghdad on Thursday, a police source said.

“Unidentified armed men stormed the Amir bakeshop in Doura neighborhood and killed three workers inside,” the source said on condition of anonymity. —MNA/Xinhua

## Scientists seek new pesticide alternatives

TIFTON, Ga, 31 March— Since the 1940s, methyl bromide has served farmers well as a stunningly lethal fumigant, killing off pests such as fungi, weeds, insects and rodents. But amid requirements that farmers stop using it, University of Georgia students are joining an international effort to find an earth-friendly alternative.



Student worker Shad Law checks gauges on gas cylinders at the University of Georgia’s Coastal Plain Experiment Station near Tifton, Ga, recently. —INTERNET

Alex Cisnos, a plant pathologist, and other researchers at the university’s Coastal Plain Experiment Station in south Georgia have been testing an alternative fumigant, metam-sodium, in a one-quarter acre test plot of vegetables, including tomatoes and squash.

The move to phase out the use of methyl bromide is a result of the United Nations’ 1992 Montreal Protocol, which identified the pesticide as one of many chemicals that damages the stratosphere’s layer of ozone. Humans would be at greater risk of skin cancer and other health

problems if the ozone layer continues to be damaged.

The deadline for the United States and 32 other industrialized countries to stop using methyl bromide was on 1 January, 2005, but the UN agreed to allow “critical exemptions” on a few crops. Methyl bromide is still used for strawberries and tomatoes, crops for which there is no effective alternative. The alternatives that are being developed may involve using a “cocktail” of chemicals that are more expensive, more costly to apply, less efficient and possibly toxic for days or weeks, Cisnos said. —Internet



Sandra Speichert arrives at the 9th Radio Regenbogen Award in the Schwarzwaldhalle on 31 March, 2006 in Karlsruhe, Germany. —INTERNET



## China's polluting enterprises urged to implement clean-up plans

BEIJING, 31 March — China's environmental agency on Wednesday urged 21 highly polluting enterprises in the country to honour their pledges to install and upgrade their pollution treatment facilities and stop discharging pollutants into rivers and lakes.

"There have been very positive responses from these enterprises after we made public their illegal activities," said Pan Yue,

deputy director of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA).

On 7 February, SEPA named 11 highly polluting enterprises along rivers and lakes, and 10 projects that were built in contravention of the country's environmental laws and regulations. SEPA ordered the enterprises and builders of the projects to immediately install and improve pollution treatment facilities or face

severe punishment.

Pan said that to date, one of the 11 enterprises has upgraded its pollution treatment facilities and now basically meets the country's environmental standard. Ten others have submitted plans show how they will improve their pollution controls. The cost of their clean-up plan is expected to reach 400 million yuan (about 49 million US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua



Commuters back up on a main road into Central London on 31 March, 2006 in London. Britain's CO2 emissions, which have gone up by a quarter of a percent, rose for the third year running between 2004 and 2005. —INTERNET

### New case of H5N1 bird flu confirmed in northern Poland

WARSAW, 31 March — A dead swan in the northern Polish city of Crudziadz was confirmed on Thursday to have been infected with the lethal H5N1 bird flu virus, bringing the total number of bird flu cases in the country to five.

The State Veterinary Institute in Pulawy, central Poland, said on Thursday that the dead swan was tested positive for the deadly bird flu virus on Wednesday during routine tests and further tests on Thursday confirmed the preliminary results.

The four previous cases were discovered in Bydgoszcz, Torun, Kostrzyn and Swinoujscie respectively with the first case reported on 5 March, in Torun. — MNA/Xinhua

### Kazakh man offers car as reward for missing horses

ALMATY, 31 March — A Kazakh farmer is offering a brand-new Japanese off-roader as a reward for his missing herd of horses, media reported on Thursday.

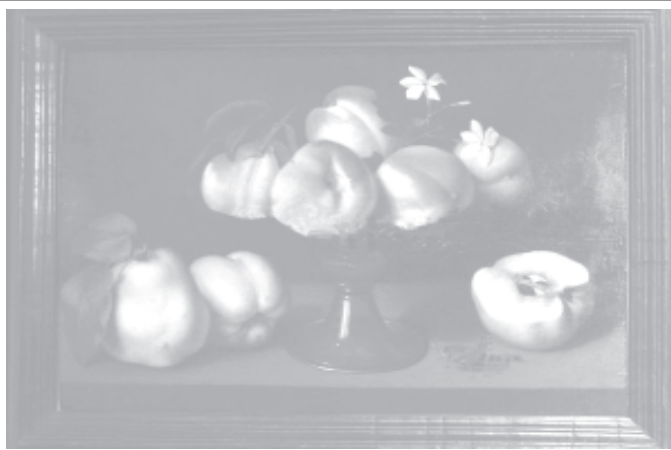
Zhansap Alzhanov's 45 horses went missing two

years ago and he has been trying to find them ever since, state news agency Kazinform reported.

"He still believes they can be found," the agency said, adding that he thought they had been stolen. Horse breeding is an integral part

of life for many farmers in the vast steppes of the Central Asian country. Many Kazakhs see the horse as a symbol of their nomadic past and glory dating back to the reign of Genghis Khan.

MNA/Reuters



"Compote with Peaches, Apple and Grasshopper" by Fede Galizia, valued at \$500,000 to \$700,000, hangs at a press preview of the Important Old Master Paintings sale at Christie's New York, on 31 March, 2006 in New York City. —INTERNET

### India's Wipro clinches 80 million-dollar outsourcing deal



Wipro Technologies Ltd chairman Azim Premji, seen here at a press conference in January 2006.

Wipro, India's third largest software exporter, has won a 80-million-dollar outsourcing deal from one of the country's top banks.

INTERNET

BANGALORE, 31 MARCH — India's third largest software exporter Wipro Ltd has won a 80-million-dollar outsourcing deal from one of the country's top banks.

Wipro will manage the information technology network of the HDFC Bank, which has 535 outlets across India, the company said in a statement late Friday.

"The contract is valued at approximately 3.6 billion rupees (80 million dollars) over a period of 10 years," the statement said. Software and customer services outsourced in the country were forecast to grow 25 percent a year by the end of the decade to 60 billion dollars, according to a report released in December by India's premier software body.

The National Association of Software and Service Companies and consulting firm McKinsey and Co estimated that outsourced services would earn 110 billion dollars worldwide by 2010, and that Indian companies will receive more than half of that business.

In September last year India's two largest software companies, Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys Technologies, were awarded their largest ever outsourcing contracts by the Dutch-based bank ABN Amro in a deal worth 400 million dollars. —Internet

### Moderate earthquake rocks southern Turkey

ANKARA, 31 March — A moderate earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter Scale shook southern Turkey's Mediterranean coast early on Thursday with no casualties and damages reported.

According to Turkey's Bogazici University Kandilli Observatory, the quake occurred at 1:05 am (2305 GMT on Wednesday) and the epicenter was 100 kilometres off Turkish southern province of Hatay. The quake was felt in Turkish southern province of Antakya as well. Earthquakes are frequent in Turkey, which is located on several seismological fault lines. Two massive quakes killed more than 18,000 people in 1999.

MNA/Xinhua

### Coal mine gas blast kills five in north China

TAIYUAN, 31 March — Five workers were killed and 11 others injured in a coal mine gas explosion in Zhongyang County, north China's Shanxi Province, local government sources said Thursday.

The explosion happened at the Sheke Coal Mine around 4 pm Wednesday when 16 workers were carrying out engineering work in the shaft. The blast killed four people on the spot and injuring 12 others, said Pang Pengfeng, head of Zhongyang County Government. — MNA/Xinhua

### Iraqi civilian killed in roadside bomb attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 31 March — An Iraqi civilian was killed and two others wounded when a roadside bomb missed a police patrol and struck private cars in central Baghdad on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source said.

"A roadside bomb went off at about 8:50 am (0550 GMT) at Uqba Bin Nafie Square, killing a civilian and wounding two others," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The attack apparently targeted a passing-by police patrol that survived the attack, the source said. — MNA/Xinhua

### Venezuelan authorities seize 2.1 tons of cocaine

CARACAS, 31 March — Venezuelan authorities seized 2.1 tons of cocaine, which they said were to be smuggled to the European Union or the United States, and arrested two smugglers, a government official said on Wednesday.

Deputy Security Minister Jesus Villegas Solarte told a news conference that the authorities intercepted the cocaine at a farmhouse in Miranda State, in Venezuela's eastern coastal region. The drug was hidden in a cellar, in 76 small packages.

MNA/Xinhua



Picture taken on 31 March, 2006, shows the excavation site of the ancient tombs dating back over 1,700 years in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

INTERNET

## Bird flu vaccine promising in humans

NEW YORK, 31 March— Tests in humans of an experimental vaccine against H5N1 avian influenza (bird flu) show that the vaccine is safe and spurs the immune response needed to protect against the deadly illness. The achievement is reported in *The New England Journal of Medicine* this week.

Dr John J Treanor, from the University of Rochester Medical Centre in New York, and his associates developed the vaccine, in part, by using the hemagglutinin protein, the "H" in the virus designation, and the neuraminidase protein, the "N" in the virus designation, taken from an avian flu virus that killed a boy in Vietnam in 2004. The vaccine also contains genes derived from a lab

flu strain commonly used for seasonal influenza vaccines.

According to Treanor's team, tests conducted on 451 healthy adults showed that the vaccine was generally well tolerated and produced an immune response that the researchers think may protect against exposure to avian flu.

Roughly half of the volunteers who got the vaccine and a booster shot of the highest dosage of

the vaccine developed infection-fighting antibodies that current data suggest would neutralize the virus.

The primary value of this vaccine, noted Dr Anthony S Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is that the federal government can begin stockpiling a small amount of the vaccine before any human pandemic ever occurs.

MNA/Reuters

### New case of H5N1 found in Cameroon

YAOUNDE, 31 March — Cameroon has confirmed its second case of the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus in the city of Malape, the Cameroon Ministry of Livestock, Fishing and Animal Industries said Wednesday.

According to the ministry, the virus was detected in a wild duck which was found dead on the lake of Malape not long ago, about 1,000 kilometres north of the capital Yaounde. Test in an Italian lab confirmed the bird was killed by the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of the virus.

Aboubakari Sarki, minister of livestock, fishing and animal industries, has asked to beef up surveillance of the poultry and animals which are prone to be infected with the bird flu virus in Malape and the Northern Province where the city is located. —MNA/Xinhua



A skating rink with a collapsed roof at Okhta Park, on the outskirts of St Petersburg, Russia, on 31 March, 2006. Two children were injured Friday when the roof of a skating rink collapsed possibly due to heavy snow accumulation.—INTERNET

### Ryanair flight landed at wrong airport

BRUSSELS, 31 March — 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.

The aircraft, operated by Irish airline Eirjet on

behalf of Ryanair also of Ireland, was flying from Liverpool in England to Derry in Northern Ireland on Wednesday but landed instead at a British military base, a few miles away from Derry.

"The pilot seems to have made a stupid mistake," O'Leary told

reporters in Brussels where he was at a promotional event.

"Never in our 20-year year history has an incident like this happened," Ryanair said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

### Danish "mermaid" likely to be moved out of reach of tourists

STOCKHOLM, 31 March— The Danish capital of Copenhagen may make a decision to move its famous mermaid statue a few metres offshore to avoid vandalism, Danish Press reports reaching here said on Wednesday.

The 125-centimetre-high bronze sculpture, based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale figures, has been sitting at the edge of the Copenhagen harbour since 1913.

A decision will be made later this year on whether she would be moved further from the shoreline, officials of the city's roads and parks department said.

The mermaid, which can easily be reached by stepping on a concrete platform and rocks that surround her, attracts some one million tourists from around the world and is also a target of vandalism.

Tourists often climb on the body of the mermaid, officials said.

Once she was even beheaded, and was only able to be repaired because the sculptor creating her was still alive.

According to Andersen's fairy tale, the mermaid was a mythical sea king's daughter who fell in love with a prince and had to wait for 300 years to become a human. — MNA/Xinhua

### Skywatchers gather to witness solar eclipse

NEW DELHI, 31 March — A partial solar eclipse was witnessed Wednesday across the northern, north-eastern and north-western parts of the country as some places across the world witnessed a total eclipse.

The eclipse, which began at 1103 hours GMT and ended at 1302 hours GMT in the country's capital, was also visible in Indian cities of Amritsar, Bhopal, Kolkata and Chandigarh. The eclipse began in Brazil with sunrise, extended across Atlantic, Libya, Egypt, Central Asia and ended at sunset in Mongolia. In India, the maximum eclipse was visible at Amritsar with over 27 per cent of sun appearing as sliced during maximum of eclipse between 4.48 pm and 5.46 pm.

Some parts of Brazil, Ghana, Nigeria, Georgia, Kazakhstan and a few other countries saw a total solar eclipse. Partial

eclipse was also visible in central parts of India.

"Cities in northwest of India saw a better eclipse since their location is comparatively closer to the path of totality, Director of Research and Academics at the Planetarium Dr Debiprosad Duari said.

Such events had gained in popularity as was evident in large number of people thronging planetaria to see the eclipse, Dr Amitabh Ghosh from the Science Popularization Association of Communicators and Educators said.

Dr N Ratnashree, Director of Nehru Planetarium here where about 600-700 people had gathered to see the eclipse, said "We had expected much more crowd. However, superstitions prevent people from venturing out." But compared to previous years, more people could be seen.

MNA/Xinhua

A portrait of Terri Schiavo stands with a bed of roses to honor her legacy during a five-person vigil to mark the one-year anniversary of her death on the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington, on 31 March, 2006.

INTERNET





## Hu Jintao meets heads of seven Japan-China friendship organizations

BEIJING, 1 April — Chinese President Hu Jintao said here on Friday that the seven Japan-China friendship organizations based in Japan, which are making a concerted China visit, are the “backbone forces” in promoting the friendliness between the two countries.

These organizations serve as an “important bridge” for non-governmental exchange between the two countries and have done a lot of “helpful work” for the normalization of diplomatic ties and the promotion of friendliness between the two countries, said the Presi-

dent while meeting the heads of the organizations at the Great Hall of the People in downtown Beijing.

Noting that China-Japan relations are in a difficult period for the time being, Hu said that the Japanese organizations’ current visit and their exchange and dialogue with relevant Chinese bodies have displayed the “benign wish” of the two peoples to improve bilateral

relations.

The visit will contribute to shoring up mutual understanding, friendship and relations between the two countries, said the President.

The seven organizations, which have come as the guests of the China-Japan Friendship Association, are namely the Japanese Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Association of Dietmen League for Ja-

pan-China Friendship, Japan-China Friendship Association, Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association, Japan-China Association on Economy and Trade, Japan-China Society, and Japan-China Friendship Center.

The heads of the organizations include former Japanese prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and former foreign minister Masahiko Komura. — *MNA/Xinhua*

### First Turkish team to climb Mt Everest

KATHAMANDU, 1 April — An 11-member expedition team from Turkey plans to scale Mount Everest, the world’s highest peak, this year, a Nepali mountaineering company said here on Friday.

It is the first time a Turkish team attempts to climb Mount Everest, Arun Expeditions said in a statement.

With the slogan “pushing the limits”, the team plans to climb the mountain from its north-east ridge without supplemental oxygen as they hope to explain the effect of altitude on human beings, the statement added.

The team, including a female mountaineer, has already started its preparations by climbing the mountains in Turkey and undergoing training and performance tests.

*MNA/Xinhua*

### US pushes Japan to reopen beef imports

TOKYO, 1 April — Visiting US Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez pushed Japan on Friday to reopen its market on US beef imports, which has been closed in January after a shipment with risky parts was discovered.

“We have the world’s safest food supply,” Gutierrez was quoted by *Kyodo News* as saying at a breakfast meeting in Tokyo, “we just want the opportunity to demonstrate that we can deliver the best beef in the world with the right qualification and right standards as Japan requires”.

On 20 January, Japan re-imposed a ban on US beef imports after a backbone part, prohibited under a bilateral agreement, was found in a shipment.

That halt in trade came only a month after Japan eased a two-year ban on US beef from December 2003, after the first US discovery of mad-cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Japan used to be a major US beef market. In 2002, Japan imported 1.7 billion US dollars’ worth of beef from the country. — *MNA/Xinhua*



*This image made available by NASA-TV shows the Soyuz capsule docked with the international space station, on 31 March, 2006. A Soyuz capsule docked with the international space station, bringing Brazil’s first astronaut, a new Russian-American crew and a fresh load of supplies, equipment and experiments. — INTERNET*

### 3.69 m travellers expected for Ching Ming Festival

HONG KONG, 1 April — About 3.69 million people are expected to pass through Hong Kong’s immigration checkpoints during the Ching Ming Festival, a traditional Chinese festival, up 8.8 per

cent over last year, the Immigration Department said on Thursday.

Among the total, 2.87 million are expected to travel by land, up 9.2 per cent, the department said.

The peak period for passenger traffic will be from 1 to 6 April. About 1.77 million passengers will travel through Lo Wu

checkpoint, a daily average of 295,000, up 3.3 per cent.

Departing passengers at Lo Wu are expected to peak at 190,000 on 1 April, while arrivals will peak 2-5 April with 170,000 people returning to Hong Kong. Highest daily traffic is expected to reach 325,000 on 1 April. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## NZ to talk free trade with Arab countries

WELLINGTON, 1 April — New Zealand is trying to make another free trade deal, this time with six oil-rich Arab countries, though existing tariffs are already low.

The deal got a kick-start last week when Trade Minister Phil Goff visited trading partners Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Goff said both countries encouraged New Zealand to enter free trade talks with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) comprising Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. GCC countries no longer negotiate individual deals.

At present, New Zealand exports about 500 million NZ dollars (350 million US dollars) of goods to the region each year, mainly meat and dairy products. New Zealand imports mainly oil-related products worth about 1 billion NZ dollars (700 million US dollars).

A deal would make no difference to rising petrol costs as petrol and oil imports are already tariff-free into New Zealand.

Any drop in petrol prices would depend more on the strength of the New Zealand dollar and market forces, said Goff.

If successful, a deal would remove tariffs of between 4 and 5 per cent paid on most goods going into the region. It could also help New Zealand expand exports into new areas such as information technology, biotechnology and education. It would also stop New Zealand falling further behind rival exporters such as Australia. The European Union and Australia are already in talks with the GCC, said Goff.

New Zealand officials from the Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry are already working on free trade deals with China, Malaysia and Hong Kong and the Association of South East Asian Nations, or ASEAN.

The 10 ASEAN countries include six of New Zealand’s top 20 export destinations — Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## India to keep 8% economic growth

NEW DELHI, 1 April — India is expected to sustain a gross domestic product growth of 8.1 per cent in the fiscal year of 2005-2006 and the next two years, a UN report said on Thursday.

It is a good performance considering the 28-per-cent rise in crude oil prices and 26-per-cent rise in metal prices, said the UN Economic and Social Survey of Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) 2006 report released here on Thursday.

“Assuming no major internal or external shocks, which could destabilize the economy, India should be able to sustain real GDP growth rate of 8.0 per cent over 2006-2008, supported by a growth rate of 2.5-3.0 per cent in agricultural value added, 8.0 per cent in industry and 8.5 per cent in services,” the report said.

The Indian economy has been benefitted from substantial inflows of foreign investments and the government’s efforts to contain the fiscal deficit despite higher public expenditure for employment generation programme, it said.

Driven by a rise in rural incomes and increased public spending on physical and social infrastructure, the industrial and social sectors will keep their growth momentum. — *MNA/Xinhua*



*Youngsters surf the Internet at a cybercafe in downtown Hanoi recently. — INTERNET*

**Lt-Gen Maung Bo of Ministry of Defence  
hears reports on functions of Barkat River  
Water Pumping Project in Hpa-an  
Township.**

(News on page 1) — MNA

**Lt-Gen Maung Bo of Ministry of Defence  
and Commander of South-East Command  
Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspect Thanwin  
Bridge (Hpa-an).**

(News on page 1) — MNA



## Teak plantations, Po Kyar Elephant Camp inspected in Yedashe

YANGON, 1 April— Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung made an inspection tour of the Thagara Teak Jetty in Toungoo (North) Timber Extraction Region in Yedashe Township yesterday morning.

In Yedashe Township, 500 acres of special

teak plantation was established in 2004-05, and 900 acres of special teak plantation in 2005-06.

At Po Kyar Elephant Camp in Yedashe Township, Managing Director U Min Latt of Asia Green Travels and Tours Co Ltd reported to the minister on arrival of tour-

ists at the camp, and training being given to the elephants.

While in Yedashe Township, the minister inspected teak saplings and hard wood saplings at Saingya nursery. In Swa, the minister oversaw production process of MKTI Plywood Factory.—MNA

## Myanmar cooperating with international NGOs to contain bird flu outbreak

YANGON, 1 April— The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department today announced that Myanmar was free from bird flu till February 2006. In February 2006, certain regions in the Central Myanmar saw some cases of chicken deaths. In March, H5N1 virus was detected for the first time in the nation. The disease then spread to Shwebo, KhinU, Kanbalu and YeU townships in Sagaing Division, and Pyigyidagun, Chanmya Thazi, Chanaye Thazan, Maha Aungmye, Aungmye Thazan and Amarapura townships in Mandalay Division. So, 226 chicken farms and 63 quail farms were destroyed and 0.14 million chickens, 70,560 chicken eggs, 0.13 million quails and 51,855 quail eggs culled. According to the programme for prohibition of movement of chickens and products and farm equipment, measures are being taken effectively for control of the outbreaks

in the affected townships after designating them as restricted regions by the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Department of Health under the Ministry of Health, and the Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.

Myanmar is cooperating with such international organizations as FAO, JICA, National Animal Health Laboratory in Australia, the Livestock Breeding Development Department in Thailand, and DLD to seek methods for disease control and receive health equipment and lab equipment. FAO regional coordinator Dr Watanee and Dr J Mac Arther of USAID from the US have visited Myanmar twice and collaborated with livestock breeding and veterinary experts to contain the spread. Dr J Mac Arther said that he recognized the enthusiastic cooperation of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Health Department and local authorities, reports

on the outbreak to international organizations concerned, and participation in the regional cooperation for the disease control measures.

Bird flu expert Dr Sudarat of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) who arrived in Myanmar on 28 March will, in cooperation with local experts of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, conduct a two-week programme on detection of avian influenza with the use of modern technology. In addition, Dr Watanee and expert Dr Prasit who arrived here on 31 March will collaborate with local veterinary surgeons for two weeks for prevention against the spread of the disease.

In the fight against the epidemic in cooperation with the international organizations, the department has so far received medical equipment, lab equipment and public educative posters worth more than US\$ 500,000.—MNA

## Armed Forces Day Exhibition packed with visitors

YANGON, 1 April—The 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition 2006 continued for the seventh day at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here from 9 am to 5 pm today.

People from all walks of life including monks visited the exhibition.

At the booths of Triangle Region Command, statue of King Bayintnaung (Tachilek), documentary photos on education sector, developing villages in Shan State (East), health sector of Shan State (East), Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association,

transport and electric power, historic Panmainsung battle, four major tasks for nation-building endeavours, developing Shan State (East), inspection tour of the Commander of Triangle Region Command, Mohein Operation for drug elimination, inspection tour of State leaders, flourishing of Sasana in Shan State (East) and photos of pagodas in the region of Triangle Region Command and others.

In addition, computer quiz was held at noon at the booth of nation-building endeavours and prizes were presented to the winners. The free exhibition opens till 4 April.—MNA



People visit booths of 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition.—MNA



### Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends...

(from page 16)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveiled the stone plaque of the ward. The commander and the mayor sprinkled scented water on the plaque. They visited the hospital.

At the ceremony to mark the opening of the Sangha Ward, Lt-Gen Myint Swe delivered a speech and accepted cash donations.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that construction of the Sangha ward at Dalla Township Hospital contributes to health care services for



Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveils the stone plaque of Sangha Ward of Dalla Township Hospital. — MNA

witnessed in the health sector of the township.

Furthermore, the tubewell was sunk in Yangonpauk Village, and local people are being

Wellwisher Dr Naing Win handed over documents related to the Sangha ward to Deputy Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt of Health Depart-

inspected physic nut seeds, saplings and oil displayed outside the hall, and grew physic nut saplings.

The commander and the mayor also grew

physic nut plants.

Later, they viewed participation of members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women's Affairs

organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades in growing physic nut plants. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash donation from wellwishers. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party strolling the newly opened Kyansitha Road in Dalla. — MNA

members of the Sangha. Dalla Township is one of 33 townships located in the development area of Yangon City. Dalla Township had a 16-bed hospital in the past. At present, the hospital has been upgraded to a 25-bed one facilitated with X-ray room and dental unit. Due to opening of the ward for members of the Sangha at the hospital today, progress can be

supplied with water through pipelines. Moreover, tarred roads have been put into service for ensuring better transport.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Myint Swe urged all to maintain development of the township and to participate in the regional development tasks.

Next, the commander and the mayor gave speeches.

In the cash donation to the medical fund for members of the Sangha, Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepted K 500,000 donated by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and wife Daw Mu Mu Win; K 1 million by Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and wife Daw Khin Nyunt Myaing; and K 3 million by Dr Naing Win of Kyaw Zeyar Trading Co Ltd.

The commander also accepted K 300,000 each donated by Dr Ye Myint Soe and wife Daw May Zaw Khaing and U Htin Aung Kyaw-Daw Pa Pa Wah and family; K 100,000 each by U Wai Lwin and wife, and U Aung Kyaw Myint and wife Daw Ah Mar.

Today's donations to the medical fund of the Sangha amounted to K 5.3 million.

The Sangha ward measuring 81 feet by 29 feet was constructed at a cost of K 30 million by Dr Naing Win of Kyaw Zeyar Trading Co Ltd.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe



Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win plant physic nut grafts. — MNA

### Local farmers in Shan State...

(from page 16)

Manager U Kyaw Than and Pinlaung Township PDC Chairman U Saw Hla Oo reported on arrangements being made for cultivation of crops and producing of agriculture products. Local entrepreneurs also reported on cultivation of local crops and stockpiling and distribution of agricultural products. Afterwards, the minister gave concluding remarks.

On arrival at the camp for construction of Tonhon-Pinlaung Road, one mile and five furlongs

from Pinlaung, the commander and the minister heard reports by Superintendent Engineer of Public Works U Kyaw Htay on the finding of an axis for building the road.

In the afternoon, they visited Naga Cement Plant project being implemented near Naungtaya Village in Pinlaung Township and inspected arrival of machinery from abroad and left instructions on timely implementation of the project. They then inspected raw materials stored at the plant. Officials presented

a report on implementation of the project.

In the afternoon, the commander and the minister met local people and departmental staff of Kalaw, Pindaya and Ywangan, Yaksawk and Nyaungshwe townships at BEMS No 1 in Aungban. The commander and the minister explained rendering of assistance to the production of regional agricultural products. Later, local farmers reported on their agricultural tasks and the commander and the minister fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

### Basic tailoring course concludes in Salingyi

YANGON, 1 April— A ceremony to conclude the basic tailoring course No 1, organized by the Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, was held at Women's Vocational Training School in Salingyi yesterday.

The Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command, Maj-Gen Tha Aye delivered an address.

Patron of the Sagaing Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Wai Wai Khaing, wife of the commander, presented prizes to three

outstanding trainees.

Director-General U Than Win of ETD gave certificates to the trainees and handed over sewing machines sold in installment by the PBANRDA Ministry.

Altogether 50 trainees attended the course that lasted 14 weeks.

MNA

# Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects tax-free markets

YANGON, 1 April — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin visited the tax-free market in Kamayut Township this morning.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party proceeded to the tax-free markets in Yankin and Tamway Townships and inspected the sale of clothes, foodstuff and consumer goods of the Ministry of Industry-1 and Ministry of Energy, eggs, chicken, vegetables, mutton, pork, fish and dairy products shops of the Ministry of Livestock and Fishery, private companies and entrepreneurs, flower shops of social organizations, rice shops of Myanmar Rice Dealers Association, edible oil shops of Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers and grocery, kitchen utensil and other shops in the markets.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions to the officials and cordially greeted buyers and sellers in the market.

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect Hanthawady Tax-free Market in Kamayut Township. — MNA

## Methods on crop drying and quality control explained

YANGON, 1 April— The Myanmar Rice Millers' Association organized talks on drying paddy and other crops with a demonstration at Thaug Win Hall at No 143 on U Shwe Bin Street, Industrial Zone-1, Hlaingthaya Township, this morning.



Chairman of Myanmar Rice Millers' Association U Tin Win presents gift to General Secretary of Myanmar Rice Merchants Association Dr Myo Aung Kyaw. — MRMA

Chairman of the Association U Tin Win delivered a speech. General Secretary of the Myanmar Rice Merchants Association Dr Myo Aung Kyaw read out two papers on quality control and post-harvest technology, and dryers suitable for Myanmar; and retired agriculturist U Ba Hein a paper on production of quality strain paddy. The resource persons replied to the queries raised by those present.

mitted the paper on necessary equipment for the control of crop quality; Manager of Wisara International U San Myint, paper on storage of crops and pest control; U Thaug Win (Thaug Win Industry), paper on crop dryers; and U Tin

Oo (Engineering Group), on experiences of paddy dryers, followed by the demonstration.

MRMA Chairman U Tin Win and Vice-Chairman U Ko Ko Gyi presented gifts to the resource persons.

MNA

In the second session, Managing Director of Trust & Development Co Ltd U Myint Zaw sub-

## Vocational training courses conclude in far-flung areas

YANGON, 1 April— The advanced tailoring course No 12 and basic course No 41, and the cookery course No 1 concluded at the hall of Women's Vocational Training School of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Myeik yesterday morning.

Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe delivered an address.

Eight trainees attended the advanced tailoring course, 27 at the basic tailoring course and 22 at the cookery course.

The closing ceremonies of the advanced and basic tailoring courses were held at Women's Vocational Train-

ing Schools in Lashio, Muse, Kengtung, Tachilek, Monghsat, Loikaw, Hpa-an, Myawady, Ye, Kawthoung, and Maungtaung.

Likewise, advanced and basic tailoring courses, knitting courses, basic weaving courses, and oyster shell painting courses concluded at the same training schools in Haka, Falam, and Mindat in Chin State.

Furthermore, ceremonies to conclude basic and advanced tailoring courses and knitting courses were held in Putao, Bhamo, Tiddim, Kanpetlet and Matupi. Likewise, the conclusion of the basic tailoring courses took place in Dunban, Dawphoneyan, Mudon, Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun.

All the courses lasted 14 weeks each.

MNA

## Construction beat Army (A) 5-4

YANGON, 1 April — Construction and Army (A) played a 3-3 draw till the full time of the match in the Myanmar League Closing Cup Knockout Football Tournament at Aung San Stadium, here, this afternoon.

After the competitions, Construction moved up to the quarterfinal with a 5-4 win over Army (A) through two silver goals.

During the 90-minute match, striker Soe Thiha Aung scored two goals to the net of Army (A), and Tun Lin Aung also added a third for Construction. By showing series of attacks, strong players of Army (A) Thet Naing, Kyaw Zin Pyo and Naing Ko Hoke shot one goal each. Due to

unchanging the result of goal scores till the final whistle, the match entered the extra time.

In the extra time, players of both teams penetrated end to end with zealous efforts and brilliant skills. Former selected player Sun Day Thein and Tin Zaw Moe shot one goal each for Construction. Army (A) was consoled with only one silver equalizer of Nyi Nyi Htwe. Hence, Army (A) scored four goals in total just one goal adrift of Construction.

In the quarterfinal, Construction is to play the winning team to come out from the match between Home Affairs and Sunye.

**Fixture on 2 April:**

Home Affairs vs Sunye. — NLM



Players of Construction and Army (A) tussling the ball. — NLM

**The best time to plant a tree  
was 20 years ago.  
The second best time is now.**





**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**

**ပြတိုက်တိုက်ကွဲကွဲဆေးရောဂါပြန့်ပွားစေမည့် ဆေးသစ်ချိုဆေးရောဂါများ**  
**INSTRUCTION FOR THE PREVENTION & CONTROL OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA**

**ပြုစုရန်လိုအပ်သည့် အချက်များ** Do as follows :-  
 - အိမ်အတွင်း အနံ့အနံ့ကို ဝေးရာသို့ ထုတ်ပေးရန် (Biocsecurity reasons)  
 - အိမ်အတွင်း အနံ့အနံ့ကို ဝေးရာသို့ ထုတ်ပေးရန် (Biocsecurity reasons)  
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**ပြုစုရန်လိုအပ်သည့် အချက်များ** Don't do as follows :-  
 - အိမ်အတွင်း အနံ့အနံ့ကို ဝေးရာသို့ ထုတ်ပေးရန် (Biocsecurity reasons)  
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**Prevention of Avian Influenza to Humans in suspected case**  
 - အိမ်အတွင်း အနံ့အနံ့ကို ဝေးရာသို့ ထုတ်ပေးရန် (Biocsecurity reasons)  
 - အိမ်အတွင်း အနံ့အနံ့ကို ဝေးရာသို့ ထုတ်ပေးရန် (Biocsecurity reasons)  
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**Public awareness poster for the village level**

## Tests confirm bird flu virus in Cambodian ducks

**PHNOM PENH, 31 March** — Tests have confirmed the H5N1 bird flu virus in dead ducks found near Cambodia's border with Vietnam two weeks ago, a government minister said on Thursday.

More than 100 ducks and 59 chickens were culled within a three-kilometre (two-mile) radius of the outbreak in the southern province of Kampong Speu, the same province where two people died of H5N1 last year.

"This makes us worried that the virus will spread to other areas because of our poor health system and bad communications," Deputy Agriculture Minister Yim Vanthoeun told Reuters.

There was no sign of human infection in the isolated village about 95 kilometres (60 miles) south of Phnom Penh, he said.

Since it first surfaced in Southeast Asia in late 2003, five Cambodians have died of H5N1, which scientists fear could mutate into a highly contagious flu that spreads easily from person to person, triggering a pandemic that could kill millions.

Prime Minister Hun Sen kicked off an urgent public information campaign on Tuesday after a three-year-old girl who came into contact with infected chickens died of the virus last week.

Underscoring the

need for better health education in one of Asia's poorest nations, Hun Sen blamed the girl's death in the central province of Kampong Speu on a lack of public understanding about the H5N1 virus and its dangers.

According to WHO figures, 186 people worldwide are known to have been infected with H5N1 since 2003. Of those, 105 have died.

MNA/Reuters

## Philippine military to train more units against terrorism

**MANILA, 31 March** — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will train and create more units to address the local terrorist threat, Chief of Staff Generoso Senga said Thursday, three days after an improvised bomb blasted a department store in Sulu leaving nine dead and scores wounded.

The Philippines is still exposed to attacks of the Southeast Asian regional network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and its local ally the Abu Sayyaf Group, Senga told reporters in a chance interview at Greenhills, San Juan.

Senga said the military is committed to eradicating remnants of the two terrorist groups operating in the country and denying them of sanctuaries.

"Additional counter terrorist units shall be created and trained, specialized and technical training shall be enhanced," said Senga, adding that some military units have been trained by US forces and dedicated to performing counter-terrorism duties.

Senga reiterated the AFP's commitment in the global fight against terrorism, including sharing intelligence information with their counterparts in the international community.

"We shall also improve intelligence fusion as well as linkages and stronger ties with our neighbour countries," he said.—MNA/Xinhua

## FAO calls for sustained efforts to revive fishery industry

**BANGKOK, 31 March** — Continued re-examination and targeting of reconstruction efforts have to install to secure a long-term future for fishery communities, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations said here Thursday.

One year after the tsunami, people's basic needs for food, shelter and clothing have been met, yet the recovery of the worst hit fisheries and coastal eco-system calls for a five-to-ten year effort, said the UN organization at a meeting on regional post-tsunami fisheries.

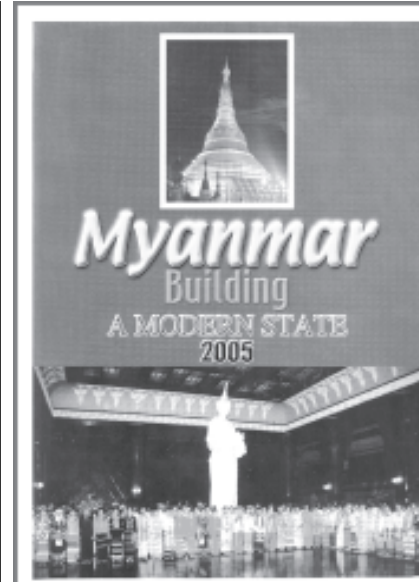
FAO's representative for Asia and the Pacific He Changchui said in restoring the livelihood of coastal communities, the international community must ensure sustainable development of the fisheries and

aquaculture sectors and sound management of the natural resource base such as land, coral reef, mangrove forests and associated fisheries.

Increased concern have been focused on the quantity of vessels and fishing gear supplies by government and donors.

Among others were the poor quality of boats, perceived inequalities in distribution of fishery and aquaculture inputs, and post-harvest activities and markets.

Derek Staples, senior fishery officer in FAO



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## UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS

### INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

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

Srl. 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), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 31-3-2006 (also available during Thingyan Festival holiday) during the office hours.

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

Deputy General Manager

Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon.

## Venezuela delays restrictions on US airline flights

**CARACAS, 31 March** — Venezuela is to postpone the move to drastically cut the number of flights to and from the country by US airlines until 25 April, a government statement on Thursday said.

The restriction was due to come into force on Thursday, but Venezuela has decided to delay it pending negotiations between Venezuela's National Civilian Airline Agency (INAC) and the US Federal Airline Authority (FAA), the statement added.

An FAA delegation arrived in Venezuela last Sunday to inspect the country's main Simon Bolivar Airport and facilities at Venezuela's largest airline, Aero-postal.

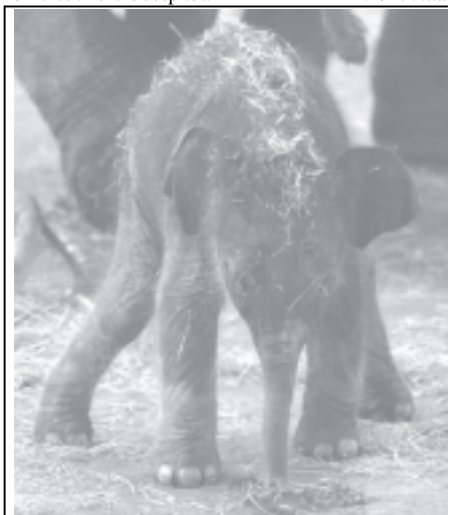
Venezuela had planned to ban all flights by Delta and Continental airlines and allow only American Airlines to operate three flights per week.

The threat to stop the flights was made in February following the FAA's failure to raise Venezuelan airlines above category two security status. The rating causes

serious inconvenience to Venezuela, as it means the country's airlines have to hire extra category one-approved staff and aircraft to fly to the United States. America continued to enforce this rule despite an

International Civil Aviation Organization report in 2004 saying that Venezuela had restructured and modernized its airlines and security procedures.

MNA/Xinhua



The Indian baby elephant 'Kwai Lwin Htoo' is seen as it is presented to the media at the zoo in Cologne, on 31 March, 2006.—INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua



ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်သစ်ပညာရေးတိုးတက်ရေး နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေး

Serbia's GDP up 6.3% in 2005

BELGRADE, 1 April — Serbia's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 6.3 per cent in 2005, higher than the projected 4.5 per cent, the Serbian Statistics Office said on Thursday.

By quarters, the GDP increase in 2005 was 5.6 per cent, 7.3 per cent, 6.4 per cent and 5.9 per cent, said a statement released by the office, adding that Serbia's GDP increased at an average annual rate of 5.5 per cent from 1999 until 2005.

The economy advanced by a 23-per-cent rise in transport services, a 21.9-per-cent growth in retail trade and a 16.9-per-cent expansion in financial services, said the statement.

MNA/Xinhua

China grants 176 GMO biosafety certificates

BELING, 1 April — China has granted 176 genetically modified organism (GMO) biosafety certificates to domestic and overseas GMO research units since 2002, the Ministry of Agriculture announced on Friday.

Fang Xiangdong, deputy chief of the ministry's Biosafety Office of Agricultural GMO, said China had beefed up GMO administration since the government issued the national regulation on administration of agricultural GMO biosafety in 2002.

China's GMO biosafety administration covered more than 100 genetically-modified products.

Proposals must undergo five phases for a research unit to qualify for a GMO biosafety certificate, including laboratory tests, controlled environmental tests and

production tests, Fang added.

The ministry has taken into consideration biosafety evaluation applications from nearly 60 domestic or overseas GMO research units, with 333 projects already in laboratory tests, 157 projects in environmental tests, and 141 projects in production tests, said Fang.

Under ministry rules, all activities related to GMO in China, including research, experimentation, production and importing, have to receive a biosafety evaluation.

Fang said China had established a range of laws and regulations on GMO

biosafety evaluation, and local governments had also tightened biosafety administration.

To date, 28,000 GMO biosafety officials had undergone training on biosafety supervision, and 8,300 of them had executive certificates, said Fang.

The Chinese Government has set new species GMO cultivation as a vital middle and long term scientific goal, Fang said. The Ministry of Agriculture would raise the priority of GMO development, so as to expand the use of modern technology in agriculture.

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors enjoy a rollercoaster ride through a tunnel of cherry blossoms at Tokyo's Toshimaen amusement park on 1 April, 2006.

INTERNET

Nokia expects strong growth in global mobile phone market

HELSINKI, 31 March — The global mobile phone market is to grow by at least 15 per cent in 2006 due to strong subscriber growth, said Jorma Ollila, chairman and CEO of the world's largest mobile phone maker Nokia, Thursday at the shareholders' annual general meeting.

Previously, Nokia estimated that the global mobile phone market volume would grow 10 per cent this year from 795 million units in 2005, the CEO said. But now the estimate is that in the year 2006, the volume will increase globally by 15 per cent to 915 million units.

Furthermore, Nokia expects that there will be three billion mobile phone users in 2008, with much of this growth coming from markets like China, India, South-East Asia and Africa, where penetration levels are still relatively low.

MNA/Xinhua

Huge statue of Mao Zedong en route to Tibet

CHANGSHA, 31 March — A huge, 35-ton statue of late Chinese leader Chairman Mao Zedong is en route to Tibet and expected to arrive in Gonggar County in a week.

The statue will be placed on the Changsha Plaza which is under construction in Gonggar County, making it the first plaza in Tibet with a statue of Mao. Changsha, the capital of central-south China's Hunan Province, donated 6.5 million yuan (about 812,500 US dollars) for the plaza.

The statue measures 7.1 metres tall and is made of quality chiseled stone from Dingzi Township, Wangcheng County of Hunan Province, according to designer Zhu Weijing, who is also

head of the Changsha Sculpture Institute.

The statue, which began its journey Monday, will go through five provinces including Hubei, Henan, Shaanxi, Gansu and Qinghai provinces to reach Tibet.

Mao Zedong, born to a farmer's family on December 26, 1893, was the founder and leader of the Communist Party of China and the People's Republic of China. He is remembered and revered by people in China and the world.

MNA/Xinhua

HK to launch digital TV next year

HONG KONG, 31 March — Hong Kong Commerce, Industry & Technology Bureau announced Wednesday it has set up working groups with Asia Television Limited (ATV) and Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) to ensure the timely and smooth launch of digital services next year.

Led by the Office of the Telecommunications Authority, the groups will work with the television stations to solve technical issues related to the transmission and reception of digital terrestrial television and facilitate inter-departmental coordination to ensure successful

migration from analogue to digital TV at different stages.

Deputy Secretary for Commerce, Industry & Technology (Communications & Technology) Marion Lai said the Bureau's priority is a smooth transition. The prerequisite for such a transition is the rollout of a digital broadcasting network.

"With more content on the digital platform, better reception quality and new high-definition TV services, we believe that consumers in Hong Kong will readily acquire the products to reap the benefits of digital TV," she said. In order to ensure a smooth digital switchover,

a new website was launched Wednesday as part of a major publicity drive to raise awareness and improve understanding of digital TV.

The Broadcasting Authority has approved the investment plans of ATV and TVB for their digital TV programme service and network rollout.

ATV has committed more than 400 million Hong Kong dollars (51.28 million US dollars) up to 2009 to provide a hybrid digital service of high-definition television (HDTV) and multi-channel broadcasting, while TVB has committed the same for an HDTV channel starting from the end of next year.

MNA/Xinhua



Technicians work on a five-foot tower clock at the Electric Time Company in Medfield, Massachusetts, on 31 March, 2006. Daylight saving time begins for most parts of the United States at 2 am on the first Sunday of April, which will be on 2 April, 2006.

INTERNET

China to see two total solar eclipses in four years

NANJING, 31 March — Chinese will see two total solar eclipses in the next four years, which may offset their regret of only seeing a partial one on Wednesday, said an expert with the Purple Mountain Observatory on Thursday.

The two total solar eclipses will fall on 1 August, 2008 and 22 July, 2009, said Wang Sichao with the observatory based in Nanjing, East China's Jiangsu Province.

The eclipse in 2008

will be viewed in Northwest China while the one in 2009 in the populous area along the Yangtze River, according to Wang.

The partial solar eclipse on Wednesday

MNA/Xinhua

# SPORTS



In this undated handout photo released by Akzo Nobel on 31 March, 2006, AirAsia, Manchester Uniteds official low fare airline, recently honored the famous English soccer club by having one of its aircraft painted in the team colors with images of their star players including Alan Smith, left, and Ruud van Nistelrooy. The 180-seat AirAsia Red Devil Airbus A380 recently started flying routes from Kuala Lumpur to Penang, Kota Kinabalu and Surabaya in Indonesia. Coated by Airbus Toulouse in France, using Akzo Nobel products, the artwork was applied via a mixture of adhesive decals and clever paint work.—INTERNET

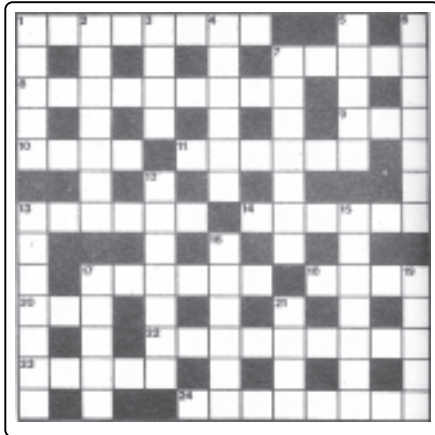
## Heinze back in training with after six months

LONDON, 1 April— Manchester United's Argentina defender Gabriel Heinze has completed his first training session since suffering a cruciate ligament injury in September. Heinze, who picked up the injury in United's Champions League group stage draw with Villarreal, had been working alone with the club's fitness coach before doing his first ball-work with teammates on Friday.

United manager Alex Ferguson believes Heinze, who still hopes to make Argentina's World Cup squad, could play before the end of the season.

"It depends on a lot of things and also what we're trying to achieve," Ferguson told the club's website. "But it is possible that he could be available for the last couple of matches.—MNA/Reuters

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 1 Grave crimes
- 7 Stage in growth
- 8 Vanish in vapour
- 9 Ship's record
- 10 Sunk fence (2-2)
- 11 Scanty
- 13 Steel beam
- 14 Donald Duck's creator
- 17 Narrative poem
- 18 Terrible giant
- 20 Type of whiskey
- 22 Muddling
- 23 David of Jack—
- 24 Olefiant gas

### DOWN

- 1 Cheeky, pert
- 2 Dressed skin
- 3 Recess
- 4 Wiped out
- 5 Anchor chain
- 6 Extreme poverty
- 7 Flightless sea bird
- 12 Meditate
- 13 Exalt with honour
- 15 Flimsy dressing gown
- 16 Lodestone
- 17 Broom
- 19 Two under par
- 21 Violent rage

## FIFA names just 23 referees for 2006 World Cup

FRANKFURT, 1 April— FIFA sprang a surprise on Friday by naming just 23 referees to cover the 64 games of the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

A total of 36 referees officiated at the last World Cup in South Korea and Japan in 2002 and FIFA had been expected to choose around 30 from the 44 on the candidate list.

Instead, FIFA named a seven-strong group of "support" referees who will be present at the tournament but will only officiate in the event of another referee being unable to take charge of a match because of injury or illness, for example.

The 23 referees come from

23 different countries and include well-known figures such as Markus Merk of Germany and Lubos Michel of Slovakia.

Ten of the refs come from UEFA, five from South America, three from CONCACAF, two from Africa, two from Asia and one from Australia.

"The 33rd team at the World Cup—the 23 referees who will be in action in Germany—are currently the best match officials in the world," FIFA President Sepp Blatter said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters



Washington Wizards' Jared Jeffries (1) and Etan Thomas guard Houston Rockets' Yao Ming, of China, during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game on 31 March, 2006 in Houston. Yao was fouled on the play.—INTERNET

## Fortune released by Manchester United at season's end

MANCHESTER (England), 1 April— Former South Africa international Quinton Fortune is to be released by Manchester United at the end of the season, manager Alex Ferguson said on Friday.

The 28-year-old defender cum midfielder has not played in the first team this season because of a knee injury. He will not have his contract renewed when it expires.

"Quinton Fortune came to see me and asked what his future was going to be," Ferguson told Manchester-based Century Radio.

"I explained the situation to him the best I could, which was not easy because he is such a great lad.

"We have a lot of good young players in his position so we are not

going to be renewing his contract.

"He has been a great servant to us and played some terrific games for us. I think next season he will get a good club."

Fortune moved to Old Trafford from Atletico Madrid in August 1999. He has made 126 United appearances, scoring 11 goals.

Fortune has contributed to three Premier League title wins, claiming a medal once when he made the required number of appearances.

MNA/Reuters



David Nalbandian of Argentina, serves against Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia, during their Nasdaq-100 Open tennis tournament semifinal match on 31 March, 2006 in Key Biscayne, Fla Ljubicic won 6-1, 6-2.—INTERNET

## Watford hopes nosedive after defeat at Crystal Palace

LONDON, 1 April— Third-placed Watford's hopes of automatic promotion from the English Second Division were dealt a serious blow by a 3-1 defeat at Crystal Palace on Friday.

Watford have 72 points from 41 matches, six adrift of Sheffield United who visit Stoke City on Saturday.

Leaders Reading (92 points) are already guaranteed a berth in next season's Premier League.

The top two go up automatically, with the next four going into the promotion playoffs.

Watford went in front through Marlon King after 27 minutes at Selhurst Park but the visitors contributed to their own downfall with two own goals in the second half.

MNA/Reuters

## Leaders Anderlecht held at home by Lokeren

BRUSSELS, 1 April— Anderlecht wasted a chance to significantly extend their lead when they were held to a 1-1 home draw by Lokeren in the Belgian First Division on Friday.

Second-placed Standard Liege cut their deficit from four points to one by beating Excelsior Mouscron in their game in hand on Saturday.

Anderlecht have 59 points with five games left. Standard are four points in front of champions Club Bruges, who

travel to Ghent on Saturday. The top two meet in Brussels on 28 April.

Anderlecht received an early double-blow, Argentine striker Nicolas Frutos going off injured before Lokeren took a 12th-minute lead when Hakim Bouhouari's drive was deflected into his own net by home defender Hannu Tihinen.

Frutos had scored in every game since joining from Independiente for an undisclosed fee in January.

MNA/Reuters

## Al Ahli, JS Kabylie advance in African Champions League

JOHANNESBURG, 1 April— Holders Al Ahli and former winners JS Kabylie recorded 3-0 wins in their African Champions League second round, second leg ties on Friday.

Al Ahli clinched a 5-0 aggregate triumph over Kenya's Tusker FC in Cairo to go through to the last of the knockout rounds. Osama Hosni scored in the first half before Mohamed Abdelwahab and substitute Wael Riad made sure of victory for the Egyptians in the second.

Tusker missed a late penalty.

Two goals by Hamid Berguiga and one from Hamza Yacef gave Algerians JS Kabylie a 3-1 aggregate win over Zambia champions ZANACO in Algiers.

MNA/Reuters



Karrie Webb (L) of Australia gets some assistance from her caddie Mike Patterson as she lines up a putt on the 17th green at the LPGA Kraft Nabisco Championships golf tournament in Rancho Mirage, California, on 31 March, 2006.—INTERNET



# Romania proposes building Black Sea European zone

BUCHAREST, 1 April — Deputies from countries around the Black Sea on Thursday issued a statement, expressing their support for a proposal Romania put forward on building a Black Sea European zone, the *Romanian Press Agency* reported.

At a two-day conference held in Constanta, Romania, on regional cooperation in the Black Sea region, officials from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Georgia,

Greece, Turkey, Moldova and Romania signed an initiative to set up a body to promote regional economic cooperation.

Russian deputies expressed reservations on the proposal and did not

sign the statement.

A senior Russian Foreign Ministry official said that such an organization seems to be a duplication of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization founded in 1992.

Romanian Foreign Minister Mihai Razvan Ungureanu said it was necessary to establish such a body because the economic cooperation in the region is fairly weak.

General-Secretary of the Council of Europe Terry Davis shared the Romanian opinion, saying such an organization would boost cooperation in the Black Sea region.

MNA/Xinhua

# HK supermarket vows to cut plastic bags

HONG KONG, 1 April — Another supermarket chain, China Resources Vanguard, announced here Thursday to reduce distribution of plastic shopping bags.

This is the third voluntary agreement signed after similar agreements with Wellcome and PARKnSHOP in February and March.

China Resources Vanguard pledged to reduce plastic bag distribution at its retail outlets by at least 15 per cent in one year.

Hong Kong Permanent Secretary for Environment, Transport & Works Keith Kwok said the government is pleased to see the three major supermarket chains are committed to reducing plastic bags by about 90 million in a year.

MNA/Xinhua



## WEATHER

Saturday, 1 April, 2006

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, rain or thundershower have been widespread in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kayin State and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (6°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Mon State, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions, (6°C) below normal in Yangon Divisions, (7°C) below normal in Shan State and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperature were Nyaung Oo and Magway (3°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfalls recorded were Yay (0.94) inch, Thaton (0.74) inch, Hpa-an (0.71) inch, Aunglan and Taunggu (0.55) inch each. Naypyidaw City (0.39) inch and Thandwe (0.28) inch.

Maximum temperature on 31-3-2006 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 1-4-2006 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 1-4-2006 was (73%). Total sunshine (5.3) hours approx on 31-3-2006.

Rainfalls on 1-4-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (1r) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch in central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from South-west at (21:15) hours MST on 31-3-2006.

**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 2-4-2006:** Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

**Forecast for Naypyidaw and neighbouring areas for 2-4-2006:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 2-4-2006:** Partly cloudy to cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 2-4-2006:** Generally fair weather.


## Earthquake report

(Issued at 18:00 hours MST Today)

A Strong earthquake of intensity (6.1) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (TAIWAN REGION) about (1700) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory, was recorded at (16) hrs (34) min (40) sec MST on 1st April 2006.



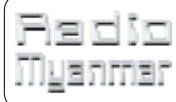
In memory of late U Hote Sein, Daw Than and family of Pabedan Township donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through treasurer of the home U Aung Than recently. — H



**TV Myanmar**

**Sunday, 2 April**  
View on today

<p><b>7:00 am</b></p> <p>1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်အောင်ချက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မေဟာရဋ္ဌဂူ၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓေတီတံ၊ တီပီငှက်ဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တေးတော်</p> <p><b>7:25 am</b></p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p><b>7:40 am</b></p> <p>4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p><b>7:55 am</b></p> <p>5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)မြို့ မင်္ဂလာ</p> <p><b>7:05 am</b></p> <p>6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>8:15 am</b></p> <p>7. ဖောင်းတော့ဓမ္မသုတ်တစ်</p> <p><b>8:20 am</b></p> <p>8. ဓါသန္တန်အဆိုအကများ</p> <p><b>8:30 am</b></p> <p>9. International news</p> <p><b>8:45 am</b></p> <p>10. Say it in English</p>	<p><b>11:00 am</b></p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p><b>11:15 am</b></p> <p>2. Musical programme</p> <p><b>11:25 am</b></p> <p>3. Round up of the International news</p> <p><b>11:40 am</b></p> <p>4. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "Doraemon"</p> <p><b>12:05 pm</b></p> <p>5. ဆက်လှည့်ဆိုင်ပွဲ ကျွန်းတောင်တား</p> <p><b>12:15 pm</b></p> <p>6. Myanmar video feature: "ပြောင်းကလေးကို ရှစ်တဲ့ ကောင်လေး" (မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စိုးကျော်စန်း)</p> <p><b>2:00 pm</b></p> <p>7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>2:10 pm</b></p> <p>8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>2:30 pm</b></p> <p>9. "မည်းကမ်းလိုက်နာထားတင်းမှာ" (ကျော်ရဲအောင်၊ ချစ်သူ၊ ဇော်ဝင်းမောင်၊ မောင် လင်းစာနည်မော်၊ ပွင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းမော်၊ မြင့်စိုး) (ဝ/သ-ရန်ကုန်)</p> <p><b>2:45 pm</b></p> <p>10. International news</p> <p><b>4:00 pm</b></p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p><b>4:15 pm</b></p> <p>2. Song to uphold Na-tional Spirit</p> <p><b>4:30 pm</b></p> <p>3. English for Everyday Use</p>	<p><b>4:40 pm</b></p> <p>4. အမေ့သင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြုများ) (ရူပဗေဒ)</p> <p><b>5:00 pm</b></p> <p>5. Dance of National Races</p> <p><b>5:15 pm</b></p> <p>6. Musical programme</p> <p><b>5:30 pm</b></p> <p>7. Sing and enjoy</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b></p> <p>8. Evening news</p> <p><b>6:30 pm</b></p> <p>9. Weather report</p> <p><b>6:35 pm</b></p> <p>10. Discovery</p> <p><b>6:50 pm</b></p> <p>11. ခါသန္တန် အဆိုအကများ</p> <p><b>7:00 pm</b></p> <p>12. Agricultural source of Myanmar development</p> <p><b>7:05 pm</b></p> <p>13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကံကောင်းခြင်းအိပ်မက်" (အပိုင်း-၄)</p> <p><b>8:00 pm</b></p> <p>14. News</p> <p><b>8:05 pm</b></p> <p>15. International news</p> <p><b>8:15 pm</b></p> <p>16. Weather report</p> <p><b>8:30 pm</b></p> <p>17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မိပြီဆိုရင်" (အပိုင်း-၃၆)</p> <p><b>8:45 pm</b></p> <p>18. The next day's programme</p>
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**Radio Myanmar**

**Sunday, 2 April**  
Tune in today

**8:30 am** Brief news

**8:35 am** Music:  
-As long as you love me

**8:40 am** Perspectives

**8:45 am** Music:  
-Too much

**8:50 am** National News & Slogan

**9:00 am** Music:  
-Penny lover

**9:05 am** International news

**9:10 am** Cultural images of Myanmar

**9:20 am** Music:  
-It's in his kiss

**1:30 pm** News & Slogan

**1:40 pm** Children's delight  
-Story for children  
-Songs for children

**9:00 pm** Weekly news review

**9:10 pm** Article

**9:20 pm** Music:  
-Summer Wine  
-The end of the world

**9:45 pm** News / Slogan

**10.00 pm** PEL

## Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends ceremonies to put tarred road, Sangha ward into service in Dalla Township



*Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence addresses the ceremony to hand over Sangha ward of Township Hospital in Dalla. — MNA*

YANGON, 1 April — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to inaugurate repaved Kyansittha Road in Kamakathwe Ward of Dalla Township this morning.

Accompanied by 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, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence viewed the vegetables produced from Yangon Division Vegetables and Poultry Farming Special Zone, at the port building of Nanthida Jetty on Pansodan Street, here.

Officials reported on distribution of the vegetables. Lt-Gen Myint Swe instructed the officials to distribute vegetables to the tax-free markets in Yangon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party proceeded to Dalla, and attended the ceremony to put repaved Kyansittha Road into service in Kamakathwe Ward.

Chairman of Dalla Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Aung reported on construction of the road.

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Director-General U Aung Win of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development and Chairman

of the road construction committee U Kyaw Hsan formally opened the road.

Kyansittha tarred road measuring 2,576 feet by 12 feet was built at a cost of K 64.5323 million.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended the opening ceremony of the Sangha ward at Dalla Township Hospital. Also present were Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and wellwisher Dr Naing Win of Kyaw Zeyar Trading Co Ltd together with locals.

First, the commander, the mayor and the wellwisher cut the ribbon to open the Sangha ward.

*(See page 9)*

## Local farmers in Shan State (South) urged to boost agricultural production

YANGON, 1 April — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected the site chosen for construction of Paunglaung Creek suspension Bridge in Lainki Village, Pinlaung Township, Shan State (South), yesterday morning. Deputy Superintending Engineer U Win Pe of Public Works reported on plans to build the bridge. Next, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and the minister met service personnel and local people from Pinlaung, Naungtaya and Phekhn Townships at Pinlaung Township PDC office in Taunggyi District.

First, the commander said measures are being taken for ensuring secure and smooth transport that contributes to the speedy flow of corps



*Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspect construction of the axis of Tonhon-Pinlaung Road. — INDUSTRY-1*

and goods between one region and another. So, local people are to boost the cultivation of crops and vegetables in order to improve their regional economic, education and health sectors.

In his speech, Minister U Aung Thaung said the State has been building development infra-

structures for ensuring secure transport and speedy flow of commodities and uplift of living standard of the local people.

The country is also striving for the development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. That is why lo-

cal people are to increase their agricultural products and if there are surpluses, they are to be distributed to other regions. The government on its part will also take steps to ensure secure and smooth transport in the region. Next, Myanmar Agriculture Service

*(See page 9)*

### Weather Forecast for 2-4-2006

#### Naypyidaw & neighbouring areas

Generally fair weather

#### Yangon & neighbouring areas

Partly cloudy to cloudy

#### Mandalay & neighbouring areas

Generally fair weather