**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

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**National Convention continues with 1071 delegates, accounting for 99.07 per cent**

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**Panel of chairmen at the plenary session. — MNA**

**NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the Work Committee Chairman, the Management Committee Chairman, members of the Commission and the committees and delegates attend the plenary session of the National Convention. — MNA**

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**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**
Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Championship Shield Table Tennis Tournament opens

YANGON, 21 Feb — A ceremony to open the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Championship Shield Table Tennis Tournament was held at Thitaha Tun Tun Hall of Ayeyawady Naval Regional Command Headquarters this morning, with an address by on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Commander of Taninthayi Naval Regional Command Headquarters Capt Win Shein.

Also present on the occasion were military officers, other ranks and their families of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Office, Yangon Station and Thanyin Station and participants and fans.

The tournament included 12 men’s teams and 12 women’s which continues up to 25 February.

MNA

Rural development tasks inspected in Mandalay Div

YANGON, 21 Feb — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thien Nyunt attended the opening ceremony of potable drinking water supply in Meiktila Town-

ship, Meiktila District, Mandalay Division on 19 February.

Present on the occasion were township level heads of departments, members of town-

ship Union Solidarity and Development Association, War Veterans Orga-

nizations, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Women’s Affairs Organization and Social Organizations and local people numbering over 1,000.

First, the com-

mander and the minister formally unveiled the signboard of the potable drinking water.

Next, the com-

mander delivered an ad-

dress on the occasion.

He said the Develop-

ment Affairs Commit-

tees and social organiza-

tions have been engaged in the drive for ensuring supply of potable water in the division under the supervision of various levels of Peace and Development Coun-

cil. Afterwards, the min-

ister said potable water supply has already been performed in 379 vil-

lages in Meiktila Town-

ship according to ten-

year-plan.

After that, Senior Engineer U Hsain Win of Meiktila Township DAC reported on measures taken for potable drink-

ing water and a townselder U Tun Win expressed gratitude.

MNA

Public Relations Work Efficiency Course (Officers) No 1/2005 opens

YANGON, 21 Feb — Organized by the Minis-

try of Information and Public Rela-

tions functions to in-

form the people of true

people’s desire.

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

YANGON, 21 Feb — Public Relations Work Efficiency Course (Officers) No 1/2005 opens at the training enterprises, and Training Institute on Pansodan Street this af-

ternoon.

In his opening speech, Deputy Minister for Information and Public Relations Maj-Gen Aung Thein said the course was con-

ducted with the aims of promotion of work effi-

ciency of the staff, uplift their mental quality,

thought and skill and effective implementation of the objectives of the Min-

istry of Information and Public Relations.

MNA

Eye surgical tour

Rakhine State

YANGON, 21 Feb — Organized by the Minis-

try of Health and Rakhine State Peace and Devel-

opment Council, an Eye Surgical Team headed by Senior Consultant Ophthalmologist Professor Dr Kan Nyunt from Yangon Eye Hospital and Eye Surgeons Dr Aye Aye Khine, Dr Wah Wah Khin, Dr Hla Kay Thi, Dr Kay Thu Myint, Dr Nyo Nyo Min and Staff Nurses Daw Myint Myint Htoo and Daw Saw Ohmar Tin went on field trip to Maung- U Township, Rakhine State from 14th to 18th Feb-

uary 2005.

While residing at Maung-U Township hospi-
tal, they looked after 792 out-patients and operated 150 cataract patients free of charge.

During their operation, Maung-U Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Khin Thain, members of Maternal and Child Wel-

fare Association and Township Health Officer Dr Sein Hlaing rendered assistance to the eye surgi-
cal team.

MNA
Building harmonious society important task for CPC

BEIJING, 20 Feb — Chinese President Hu Jintao instructed the country's leading officials and Party cadres to place "building a harmonious society" top on their work agenda, when addressing a high-level Party seminar Saturday held in Beijing.

The CPC and the central government have made it an important task to build a harmonious society, which served the fundamental interests of the people," said Hu, who is also General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). He made the remark at the opening ceremony of a 7-day training course, which was offered by the Party School of the CPC Central Committee and attended by major provincial- and ministerial-level leaders.

Hu said those senior officials should meet the goal by adopting a step-by-step approach but he stressed the importance of establishing a fine-tuned management system and the capacity of dealing with serious problems.

"Hu said currently it was important to balance the interests between different social groups, to avoid conflicts and to make sure people live in a safe and happy life in a politically stable country.

A harmonious society will feature democracy, respect of human rights, justice, sincerity, amity and vitality, he said.

Such a society will give full scope to people's talent and creativity, enable all the people to share the social wealth brought by reform and development, and forge an ever closer relationship between the people and government. These things will result in lasting stability and unity, he said.

Malaysia might allow more businesses to hire foreign workers

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Feb — Malaysia said on Saturday it might allow more business sectors to hire foreign workers to help ease a labour shortage and boost the country's trade-dependent economy.

Currently, foreign labour is restricted to sectors such as palm oil plantations, construction, restaurants and domestic help.

Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak said the government would consider allowing foreign workers to work on farms and in small- and medium-scale industries.

"Even the hairdressers use foreign workers," the official Bernama news agency quoted him as saying. He said some firms might be forced to close if they could not get foreign workers.

But Najib said the foreign workers must have valid papers.

"Hiring them legally will also benefit companies that are trying to raise output and exports," he said.

Malaysia is driving thousands of illegal workers out of the country and will then allow them return legally to plug the shortage.

Malaysia estimates about 400,000 illegal immigrants have left the country since it threatened late last year to round them up, prosecute and deport them unless they made their own exit. Now it plans to recycle them back into the country as legal workers.

Malaysia suffers a chronic shortage of labour and relies heavily on workers from neighbour Indonesia, just a ferry-boat ride away, to take up unskilled or semi-skilled work at construction sites, plantations and restaurants.

Estimates of Malaysia's total illegal labour force range up to about a million ahead of the amnesty, but the government is concerned these workers do not pay tax and instead place a large burden on the state, which runs a large budget deficit.—MNA/Reuters

Japan eyes improvement in vending machines to tackle fake coin cases

TOKYO, 20 Feb — Japan's vending machine makers are urged to improve the capability of sensors in their products to tackle an increasing number of fake 500-yen coin discoveries in Japan.

The Finance Ministry and National Police Agency on Friday agreed in a meeting that the government should file such a request with the Japan Vending Machine Manufacturers Association.

It was reported at the meeting that some counterfeit 500-yen coins were accepted at automated teller machines and vending machines during testing using several dozen fake coins, the ministry said.

The number of fake 500-yen coins found in recent cases in Tokyo, Fukuoka, Kumamoto, Nagasaki and Saga prefectures across Japan could total 20,000, according to the ministry.—MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia's internet services in Vietnam market

HONG KONG, 20 Feb — Hutchison Telecommunications International Limited (Hutchison Telecom) announced Friday that its wholly owned subsidiary has been permitted by the Vietnamese Government to build, operate and develop a mobile telecommunications network with Hanoi Telecommunication Joint Stock Company.

Hutchison Telecom, a Hong Kong-headquartered international provider of mobiles and fixed-line telecommunications service, said its wholly owned subsidiary — Hutchison Telecommunications (Vietnam), had received the investment license from Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment to engage in business operation under a Business Cooperation Contract (BBC) with the Vietnamese company.

Under the BBC, the business cooperation will develop a CDMA2000 network to provide mobile telecommunications services in Vietnam. The license has been granted for the duration of 15 years.

Commenting on the company's expansion into the Vietnamese market, Dennis Lui, chief executive officer of Hutchison Telecom's operations, said: "We are delighted to have been awarded the license and are excited at the prospect of expanding Hutchison Telecom's operations into Vietnam."
HK to launch new anti-mosquito campaign

HONG KONG, 20 Feb—Hong Kong will launch a six-week anti-mosquito campaign from 21 February, to strengthen the control of Japanese encephalitis vectors and Dengue fever prevention. Hong Kong Food & Environmental Hygiene Department Community Medicine Consultant Ho Yuk-yin said Friday that a multi-pronged approach has been introduced to effectively prevent Japanese encephalitis.

Ho said enhanced efforts have been made to fight Japanese encephalitis vectors following the detection of five local cases last year. Culex tritaeniorhynchus, a Japanese encephalitis vector, usually breeds in irrigation ditches, slow streams, ground pools, flooded fields and surface channels where emergent weeds and grass can provide shelter for the larvae. “A multi-pronged approach has been introduced with special emphasis on five areas to effectively prevent the disease,” Ho said. “These include Japanese encephalitis vector surveillance and information dissemination, mosquito control, publicity and public education, community participation and law enforcement.”

The department has been conducting a comprehensive survey on local Japanese encephalitis vectors since October to identify their distribution. Adult surveys on the vectors have been conducted around pig farms and wetlands where migratory birds are likely to be present, and larval surveys in illegal cultivation and vacant sites close to human dwellings. Mosquito specimens collected will be examined for the virus. The survey has found Culex tritaeniorhynchus in a number of urban areas, including Central and Western District and Lam Tin, along with Sha Tin, Tsing Yi, Tai Po, Yuen Long, North District and Lantau Island. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, Singapore to resume top-level talks on 1 March

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Feb — Malaysia and Singapore will resume top-level talks on 1 March as the neighbours push to resolve long-standing disputes, Malaysian officials said on Friday.

Singapore Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi last met in mid-December 2004 in the first high-level initiative to improve relations since 2000.

“The new round of talks has been confirmed on 1 March in Putrajaya,” a Foreign Ministry source told Reuters.

At the December talks, Goh said Malaysia might offer to allow tiny Singapore’s Air Force to use Malaysian airspace for training and, in return, Singapore would release Malaysians’ retirement funds locked within the city-state and also consider the joint development of disputed Malaysian-owned railway land in Singapore. — MNA/Reuters

Singapore plans to build resort-style casino in April

SINGAPORE, 20 Feb — Singapore, which is hoping to lure more tourists, will decide in April whether to go ahead with plans to build a resort-style casino, the government said on Friday.

The idea of a Singapore casino, which could cost about 1.2 billion US dollars, has divided Cabinet ministers and is even opposed by Lee Kuan Yew, the country’s founding premier, who still holds the third most powerful post in government.

His son, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, told Parliament on Friday that the government would assess the proposals and weigh the benefits and social consequences of a casino.

The idea has been strongly opposed by local religious and social groups, with critics warning that it would fuel crime and inflict social ills on one of Asia’s safest societies, but most analysts expect the government to give it the go-ahead.

“We will consider not only the economic costs and benefits, but also the likely social impact and the intangible consequences of a casino on the ethos of our society,” said Prime Minister Lee as he unveiled the government’s budget for the next fiscal year from April 1.

The government has asked for concept plans to be submitted by 28 February on one project on the waterfront and another on the resort island of Sentosa. Both are expected to include a Las Vegas-style entertainment complex, complete with water theme parks, theatres and art galleries. — MNA/Reuters

Bomb kills at least 50 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 Feb—Eight suicide bombings killed at least 50 people Saturday as Iraq’s Shiites, newly empowered by their victory in the recent election, defied the threat of guerrillas violence and turned out in the hundreds of thousands to mark the Shiites holy day of Ashoura, drawing more than 80,000 visitors.

One bomber rode a bicycle, another boarded a bus and at least four others walked into their targets in an onslaught against Shiites in Baghdad by Iraq’s Sunni-dominated guerilla, bringing the total death toll to more than 80 on the second day of attacks timed to coincide with the commemorations. A US soldier was among those killed. — MNA/Xinhua

Philippine describes travel warning as exaggerating

MANILA, 21 Feb—The Philippine Government on Sunday described the travel warning against the Philippines given by the US State Department as exaggerating and said the number of tourists coming to the country continues to rise.

Calling the latest travel advisory of the United States an “overkill,” Press Secretary Ignacio R. Bunye said the travel advisories have become “well-worn warnings that are often ignored by citizens of the issuing government”.

Bunye said that despite the US State Department advisory, relatives of US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone spent last Christmas in the Philippines.

The US ambassador has been visiting various parts of the country despite his government’s travel warnings, he said, adding that “the number of tourists arrivals continues to soar”.

The United States and some other western countries have advised their nationals to be cautious when travelling in the Philippines following the bombing attacks on February 14 in three Philippine cities which killed eight people and wounded more than 100 others. — MNA/Xinhua

Red fire ants appear in Macao

MACAO, 20 Feb—Latin American red fire ants, a new imported insect, have appeared in China’s Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR), the city’s municipal affairs authority alerted.

The Macao Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau on Friday sought help from experts in south China’s Guangdong Province, where the insect has been formerly found.

A spot of the harmful ants was found in deserted places near construction grounds in two of Macao’s offshore islands, Taipa, and a reclaimed strip between Taipa and Coloane islands.

Macao sent specimen of the ants to Zhuhai, a city in Guangdong, for their examination, which was confirmed to be red fire ants. — MNA/Xinhua
Asian-African Summit in Indonesia
to proceed as planned

JAKARTA, 20 Feb — The Indonesian Foreign Ministry has confirmed that the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Bandung Conference and the Asian-African Summit will go ahead as scheduled.

Ministry spokesman Marty Natalegawa was quoted Saturday by The Jakarta Post as saying the summit would take place from 21 April to 23 April in Jakarta and Bandung, West Java.

The event comprises the senior officials and foreign ministers’ meetings, the summit and the commemoration.

“To date, there has been no change of plan regarding the conference. It will proceed as scheduled,” he said.

However, the event will be toned down in respect for tsunami victims in Aceh. For example, host Indonesia will not hold banquets for heads of state/government as originally planned.

South Asian free trade meeting postponed

KATHMANDU, 21 Feb — Following the postponement of the 13th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit, the SAARC Secretariat has also put off the expert-level meeting on the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) slated for 26-28 February in the Maldives.

“The meeting has been postponed for the time being and will be rescheduled shortly,” an official at the Kathmandu-based SAARC Secretariat told reporters on Sunday.

The seventh SAFTA meeting was put off after the Secretariat formally notified member states, the official said, refusing to elaborate on the reasons for its postponement.

However, according to reports which quoted Pakistani officials, the meeting was “cancelled” after Pakistan informed the SAARC Secretariat that it will not be able to send any experts of its SAFTA team to attend the meeting, because they will be busy during the scheduled dates.

China reports 50% rise in crude import via railways

BEIJING, 21 Feb — China imported some 7.95 million tons of crude oil by rail last year, a year-on-year rise of 50 per cent, according to the latest information from the Chinese Ministry of Railways.

To increase imports via rail, the ministry and the Russian Railways Ltd Co signed a summary of negotiations for further cooperation last November.

In accordance with the agreement, crude exports by train from Russia to China will be 10 million tons this year and increase to 15 million tons next year.

In the meantime, the Chinese ministry also signed another agreement concerning cooperation in railway transport with the departments of transportation and telecommunications of Kazakhstan, bordering China at the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

AIDS transmission to be checked in Nepal


The programme will first begin from the Indra Rajya Laxmi Maternity Hospital in Kathmandu, and be expanded to other regional hospitals as well in the future. Ram Prasad Shrestha, director at the National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, told reporters here on Sunday.

The programme is a bold and needed comprehensive initiative towards preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, Shrestha said.

“It has become even more important as women are generally more prone to the transmission of the disease to the unborn or born child,” he noted.

If necessary actions were taken under a regular medical supervision at such a preliminary stage of the child, the future generation could be saved from the disease, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

HK to launch ethnic cultural programme

HONG KONG, 20 Feb — Hong Kong Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) is to launch an ethnic cultural programme to promote the value of cultural diversity and to encourage inter-communal understanding.

The programme, titled “Culture in Motion”, will begin with a Filipino cultural show on 20 February at the Chater Road Pedestrian Precinct in Central.

“Culture in Motion” will include a series of Sunday cultural programmes featuring music and dance performances, exhibitions, and other forms of entertainment to promote the cultural heritage of different ethnic communities in Hong Kong.

“Culture in Motion is among the government’s initiatives to foster the ethnic minorities’ sense of belonging to Hong Kong, while retaining their own cultural identities,” an HAB spokesman said Friday. “To enhance mutual understanding, we invite local Chinese to join ethnic minorities in the cultural shows.”

The Filipino show will start with a parade at the Chater Road Pedestrian Precinct at 10:00 am on Sunday. Other programmes include an open air art exhibition and photo exhibition called “Hong Kong is in the Heart”, traditional Filipino dance performances, and a cultural show starting at 3:00 p.m. featuring performances by respectable singers Teresa Carpio and Tara M. Polo, Hong Kong Musicians Union and MIGA International Band. Participants are also invited to join traditional Filipino games at the show.

Accompanied by Consul-General of the Republic of the Philippines Corazon L. Belmonte-Jover, HK Secretary for Home Affairs Patrick Ho will join the people to appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of Philippine culture. — MNA/Xinhua

Demonstrators protest in Brussels on eve of Bush’s trip

BRUSSELS, 21 Feb — Hundreds of demonstrators protested in Brussels on Sunday on the eve of US President George W Bush’s five-day trip to Europe.

Both the far left and far right were demonstrating with the right wanting him to pull US troops out of Europe and the left criticizing what they say is his disdain for international law.

The President is due to meet Belgian leaders on Monday and European Union and NATO leaders on Tuesday to talk about Iraq, Syria and Iran as well as NATO’s future.

More protests are expected over the coming days with environmental, human rights and peace groups, the far left, socialists and anti-globalists all planning to take to the streets.

Several hundred left-wing demonstrators gathered at the historical heart of Brussels — home to NATO and the EU — to criticize Bush for not signing up to the Kyoto Protocol.

One demonstrator carried a flag with a Nazi swastika sign woven into it, while the front page of a Communist weekly had an image of the famous Brussels Manneken Pis statue unrattling on Bush’s head.

Other protesters held Communist flags.

“I am protesting against Bush’s visit and the fact that security is being funded by the Belgian taxpayer. That’s inappropriate for such a criminal,” said 25-year-old Tom, a social worker.

Outside the US Embassy, several dozens of nationalist right-wing demonstrators, some of them skinheads, demanded US troops to pull out of Europe.

Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan, left, walks the ramp with a model displaying creations by Indian fashion designers Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla at the Blenders Pride Fashion Tour 2005, in Mumbai, India, on 20 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Peace activists to pressure Bush Admin to exit Iraq

CHICAGO, 21 Feb — Peace activists from around the United States gathered in St. Louis on Sunday, part of a three-day meeting to develop plans to pressure the Bush Administration to exit Iraq.

The week end gathering, which brought together representatives from more than 35 states and Canada, comes as the death toll of American soldiers there nears 1,500 and March 19 marks the two-year anniversary of the US-led invasion.

The meeting was coordinated by United for Peace and Justice, an umbrella coalition of some 1,000 anti-war groups ranging from large organizations like Women for Peace and Black Voices for Peace, to local campaigns such as the St. Louis Instead of War Coalition.

MNA/Reuters

Elephants paint on the canvas during new Guinness record attempt of most expensive paint by elephants at Maesa elephant camp in Chiang Mai Province, northern Thailand. —INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 22 February, 2005 5
WHO says Kyoto Protocol helps to protect human health

GENEVA, 19 Feb — The World Health Organization (WHO) said Friday that the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol on cutting emission of greenhouse gases that came into effect Wednesday is an opportunity for better protection of human health.

"Over 600,000 people died in weather-related disasters in the 1990s," Kerstin Leitner, WHO’s assistant director-general for Healthy Environments and Sustainable Development, said in a statement.

"Temperature and rainfall influence the rates of diseases such as diarrhoea, vector-borne infections including malaria, and malnutrition, which together cause over 3.5 million deaths a year," he added.

"The Kyoto Protocol is a first step towards reducing our impact on the climate system, which exerts such a strong influence on our health," he added.

The Kyoto Protocol, which is signed by 128 nations, commits the participating industrialized countries to cut emissions of greenhouse gases by over 5 percent below 1990 levels by the period 2008-2012.

Besides reduction on greenhouse gas emissions, it is also essential to protect vulnerable communities from the effect of climate changes.

The WHO said it is working to promote measures such as protection from malaria and other climate sensitive diseases, and reliable access to clean water and sanitation, for people in the most vulnerable developing countries.

Increasing disease control efforts will also help protect current and future generations from the impact of greenhouse gas emission, according to the organization.

Putin convinced Iran not trying to build N-weapons

MOSCOW, 19 Feb — President Vladimir Putin said on Friday he was convinced Iran was not trying to build a nuclear weapon and that Russia would press ahead with nuclear cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

Putin’s defence of Iran, where Russia is building a nuclear power plant, comes in the face of US concerns that Tehran could be using Russian know-how to covertly build a nuclear weapon.

"The latest steps by Iran convince Russia that Iran indeed does not intend to produce nuclear weapons and we will continue to develop relations in all sectors, including peaceful atomic energy," Putin told Iran’s top nuclear negotiator, Hassan Rohani. "We hope Iran will strictly stick to all agreements with Russia or the international community," Putin said at the start of talks with Rohani at the Kremlin.

The United States has criticized Moscow for pressing ahead with construction of a 1,000-megawatt reactor at Bushehr in southern Iran.

"Russia’s top nuclear officials are due to travel to Iran next week to finalize the final technicalities of its start-up later this year.

The question of Russia’s nuclear ties with Iran is certain to figure in a summit between Putin and US President George W Bush in the Slovak capital Bratislava on 24 February.

Bush said on Thursday he would use diplomacy to convince Iran it would be unacceptable to develop nuclear weapons.

He said he would use his trip next week to Europe to develop "joint" strategies to deal with Tehran’s nuclear ambitions.

WEF to hold Asia Roundtable in Singapore

GENEVA, 19 Feb — The World Economic Forum (WEF) announced Friday that its Asia Roundtable will be held in Singapore on April 28-29 to discuss Asia’s increasing impact on the world.

There is pressing need for leaders to better understand the business, political and social implications of Asia’s growth as it begins to alter the pace and profile of globalization, said the WEF.

The roundtable under the theme of "Tiling the Global Balance: The Strategic Implications of Asia’s Growth" will also look at how the scale of Asia’s development will impact on the scarcity of natural resources, the development of human capital and new technologies.

The future pace and profile of regional integration, the current balance of power in world affairs, and policy changes needed to ensure the region’s continued growth will also be discussed.

Indonesia offers free treatment to dengue patients

JAKARTA, 19 Feb — The Indonesian Government has announced that all economically disadvantaged patients suffering from dengue fever across the country will get free medical treatment at state hospitals, a local newspaper reported Friday.

However, the patients first have to obtain a welfare card from local authorities to prove that they cannot afford medical treatment, said The Jakarta Post.

Free medical treatment has so far been provided for dengue patients only in the provinces of Jakarta, West Java, East Kalimantan, South Sulawesi, West and East Nusa Tenggara, where dengue fever has been on the rise.

"We have decided to give medical treatment free of charge throughout the country, although it is usually provided only in areas that have an extraordinary number of cases, simply because we do not want to discriminate," Minister of Health Siti Fadilah Supari was quoted as saying.

Chinese leaders meet Eritrean President

BEIJING, 19 Feb — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Chairman Jia Qinglin of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) respectively met with visiting Eritrean President Issayas Afeworki here Friday.

Wen told Issayas that China and Eritrea enjoy sound relations and have had fruitful cooperation in politics, economy and trade since the two countries established diplomatic ties 12 years ago.

"China expects to further explore potentials for bilateral economic and trade cooperation, promote mutually beneficial cooperation in key sectors such as infrastructure construction, mining and fisheries," Wen said.

Jia said that China and Eritrea have carried out all forms of exchanges at the Parliament or civil level.

"China attaches importance to developing friendly cooperative ties with Eritrea and will enhance mutual trust and expand cooperation with Eritrea," Jia said.

The CPPCC, China’s top advisory body, will make “joint efforts with Eritrea to strengthen personnel exchanges, coordination and cooperation and contribute to the development of bilateral ties”, Jia said.

Wen said China has always “put importance” on its traditional friendship and cooperation with Africa.

The two sides have made substantial cooperation in human resource training, trade, investment, culture and tourism since the second ministerial meeting of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in 2003.

Wen said “China will, with joint efforts from African countries including Eritrea, carefully prepare for the third ministerial meeting, which is scheduled to be held in 2006, to reach more fruits in Sino-African cooperation.”

Wen said Issayas agreed with Wen and Jia’s remarks on bilateral ties, saying that the two countries have cooperated well in human resources training, health work and infrastructure construction.

They have also supported each other in international affairs.

"Eritrea firmly observes the one-China policy and supports China’s reunification,” he said, adding that his country hopes to further enhance bilateral cooperation in culture, education, telecommunications and information technology.

President of Eritrea, Jibriel Abay, said Eritrea enjoys sound relations and is committed to further developing economic and political ties with China.

Jibriel expressed hope that China will help Eritrea to develop its economic potential.

Wen also said China wants to strengthen and develop “joint” strategies to deal with the current and future challenges of Eritrea.

"Eritrea and China should continue to develop ‘joint’ strategies to deal with the current and future challenges of Eritrea,” Jia said.

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The State shall help promote socio-economic development including education, health, economy, transport and communications of less developed national races.

YANGON, 21 FEB — On behalf of the Panel of the Alternate Chairman U Tun Yin Law of the Delegates of Political Parties presented the panel of chairmen’s collection of excerpts from the suggested proposals submitted by delegates to the National Convention on the management sector at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the Nyaung-hnapin Camp in Hnaabwy Township, Yangon Division today.

The following is a translation of presentation made by U Tun Yin Law.

I will present the excerpts from the presentation of the delegate groups and some delegates concerning the management sector compiled by the panel of chairmen.

At the plenary session, held on 20 May 2004, the Work Committee Chairman said, “The matters involved in the management sector are: general administration, rural and urban area management, house rent and land rent, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, state secrets, associations, prisons, border area development, citizenship, the naturalization and revocation of citizenship, census, titles, decorations and medals, development affairs, human settlement and housing development, and town planning.”

He then pointed out, “The National Convention has laid down a fundamental principle: “The State shall help promote socio-economic development including education, health, economy, transport and communications of less developed national races.”

He continued to say, “One of the basic principles formulated by the National Convention is: All persons born of parents both of whom are nationals are citizens; all persons who have become citizens in accord with law on the date the State Constitution comes into force are citizens; and citizenship, naturalization and revocation of citizenship shall be as prescribed by law.”

He then explained, “Matters covered by the Management Sector that should be included in the Union legislative list may be put together as follows:
1. Development affairs
2. Human settlement and housing development
3. Honourary titles and medals

Hence, National Convention delegates are to discuss and make suggestions on whether to lay down the detailed basic principles to include in the Region or State Legislative list concerning the above matters.”

National Unity Party said that the following points should be put on the Union legislative list:
1. General administration
2. Management of village and urban areas
3. House rent and land rent
4. Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
5. State secrets
6. Associations
7. Prisons
8. Border area development
9. Census
10. Citizenship, naturalization, revocation of citizenship, citizenship scrutiny and registration

I have clarified the above matters for the National Convention delegates to discuss and make suggestion on whether to lay down the detailed basic principles to include in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary.”


And the following points should be included in region or state legislative list:
1. Development affairs
2. Human settlement and housing development
3. Honourary titles and medals

Union Pa-O National Organization said that the general administration or the management sector involves the task of demarcating towns and villages, issuing tax-free land grants for religious matters, issuing land grants for ordination halls, extension of towns, marking of the territory of lakes and cemeteries, offering nation-wide land and house rental services, eradicating poppy cultivation and narcotic drugs trafficking and drug abuse nation-wide in cooperation with UN and foreign organizations. The sector also includes keeping of the secrets of the economic and social sectors of the State. Thus, the State secrets act should also be included in the Union legislative list.”

Dellegates seen at the Plenary Meeting of National Convention. — MNA

Poem

Getting together

* Ups and downs, like the waves
Varied cover for all mountain ranges
The green curves, are a delight
The gold and silver entwined, soil upturned
Minerals of all kinds, the mountains yield
As if the Devas lent their brushwork
However, that brushwork alone
Could not lend aestheticism.

* Level and well measured, like a mat spread
There are plains, vast in themselves
Water flowing constantly, and Black Gold wells
Rivers with currents up and down, dams and bridges
As if created by spirits, lending brushwork
And yet that brushwork alone
Could not lend aestheticism.

* Shore and water touch, as if welded
Twof of them touch and flow, forming shoreline
There are dunes and islands
And pearly-white waves that yield gas
Life-blood that’s the sea, full of water
Even if Celestial King, plays with brush Image is still inferior, that patchwork alone
Does not lend aestheticism.

* If patches are made and spirits lend their brushwork
There is always some element missing
If brush is unsteady, paint powder splashes
“Together, if mountain ranges, valleys
And blue shores” make a triple mix
Even if the painting’s by ordinary human
That brushwork cannot be matched by spirits
’Tis complete and also beautiful
Will also be aesthetic, who can match it
A painting that has all the qualities
That strength which is put together.

Ko (Tekkatho) (Trs)
NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, NCC Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, delegates of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel, and other invited delegates signed the attendance registers at the National Convention Plenary Session.

Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation hall for National Convention delegates.

Dr Myo Thant Tin of the group of other invited persons chaired the plenary session together with Deputy Director U Aung Kyi. The MC announced the validity of the meeting as 1,071 out of 1,081 delegates attended the meeting, accounting for 99.07 per cent. Member of the panel of alternative Chairmen U Tun Yin Law of the group of the delegates of political parties presented matters relating to the management sector. (The presentation is reported separately.)

Next, member of the panel of alternative Chairmen U Yaw Aye Hla of the group of the delegates of State service personnel presented matters relating to the management sector. (The presentation will be reported later.)

Afterwards, the session went into recess. The session resumed at 1 pm. Members of the panel of alternative chairmen U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of the group of the delegates of national races, U Mya Aye of the group of the delegates of peasants, Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw of the group of the delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the group of the delegates of State service personnel and U Tun Aung Chein of the group of other invited persons presented matters relating to the management sector. (The presentation will be reported later.)

Afterwards, the session went into recess. The session resumed at 2 pm. Member of the panel of alternative chairmen U Mya Aye of the group of the delegates of peasants presented matters related to the delegation of legislative power in connection with other matters not stated on the legislative lists of the Union, Region or State, and the leading bodies of Self-administered Division or Zone. (The presentation will be reported later.)

Then, the session went into recess and resumed at 2 pm. Member of the panel of
The State shall help promote...

The State shall help promote...
Commander inspects information work in Lashio

YANGON, 21 Feb — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing together with Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein on 19 February inspected the sub-printing house in Lashio and gave necessary instructions to officials. Next, the commander and the deputy minister arrived at the Assistant Director’s Office of Shan State (North) Information and Public Relations Department and inspected publications donated by Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council and the Ministry of Information. Afterwards, the commander and the deputy minister met with staff members of IPRD at the IPRD’s Office and gave necessary instructions.

Next, Assistant Director Daw Khin San reported to the commander and the deputy minister on measures being taken by IPRD in Shan State and District Staff Officer U Maung Ohn on work carried out for opening of self-reliance libraries in villages of Lashio Township. After hearing the reports, the commander and the deputy minister fulfilled the needs and left there in the evening.

MNA

Minister attends course opening ceremony

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivers an address at a ceremony to open the gazetted officers course of Social Welfare Department — SOCIAL WELFARE

YANGON, 21 Feb — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa addressed the opening of officers course at the Social Welfare Academy of SWD U Sit Myaing and other officials. The 45-day course is being attended by staff officers of state and division SWD offices. The minister also inspected the academy. — MNA

Poultry farms in Nawnghkio, PyinUOoLwin Township inspected

YANGON, 21 Feb — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, accompanied by officials concerned, on 19 February, arrived at the poultry farm in Chaymyitbin Village, Nawnghkio Township where he heard a report presented by Project Director U Ye Tun on construction of the farm. The minister gave instructions on timely completion of the work, growing of shade trees, wind-shield trees and attended to the needs. Next, the minister and party inspected the AA High Line poultry farm in PyinUoLwin Township and gave instructions on prevention of avian influenza. Later, the minister and party proceeded to the poultry farm in Zibingyi Village, PyinUoLwin Township and gave instructions on preventative measures to be taken against the outbreaks of avian diseases.

In the evening, the minister and party met with staff members of departments and enterprises under the ministry in Mandalay Division and called on them to actively participate in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map and to engage in regional development tasks and livestock breeding on a manageable scale.

MNA

New Nibban antennas introduced

YANGON, 21 Feb — Nibban Electric & Electronics introduces a new product 2 in 1 TV Antenna (Model; V-330). — MNA

New cinema opened in Lashio

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MNA

Thai NDC delegation arrives

YANGON, 21 Feb — A delegation led by Deputy Commandant Maj-Gen Prasitchchai Pibulsat of National Defence College of Thailand arrived here today by air. The delegation was welcomed by Deputy Commandant Brig-Gen Than Maung of National Defence College of Myanmar, senior military officers, Thai Ambassador Mr Saphot Dhiraakosaal, Military Attaché Col Prissapa Suvanatat and officials at Yangon International Airport.

The Thai delegation visited Shwedagon Pagoda at 11 am. After paying homage to the Buddha images, the delegation members donated cash towards the trust funds of the pagoda. In the afternoon, the delegation visited the National Defence College on Shwedagon Pagoda Road. Commandant of the NDC Maj-Gen Moe Hein extended greetings to the delegation members and explained the history of the college and academic matters with the aid of audio-visual aids. Officials of the respective departments also explained the nation’s foreign policy, elimination of transnational drug trafficking, and Myanmar’s current developments.

Maj-Gen Prasitchchai Pibulsat gave a speech. He then exchanged gifts with his Myanmar counterpart. — MNA
The clarification of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented in NLD (LA) office in Maesot on 28 December 2004 and on 1 February 2005 are the revela-
tions of wicked schemes of internal and external destructive ele-
ments.

A local-made time bomb went off near Khinmenma combined checkpoint in Kayin State on 11 November 2004, a bomb exploded in the Zawgyi restaurant at No. 367, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Yangon on 21 December 2004 and a mine also exploded at Myaukgun Sports equipment shop in Hpa-an on 14 December. The Minis-
ter for Information clarified in detail on these incidents. The destructive acts were committed by destructionists including NCGUB, ABSDF, Democratic Party for New Society, NLD (LA) and VBSSW in collusion with local ele-
ments.

However, expatriate Sein Win of NCGUB, Myint Thein of NLD (LA) and Kyaw Ko of ABSDF said the clarifications at the press conference were false accusa-
tions without any evidence. Their organizations accept non-violence method and oppose bombing method. They never committed such acts. They had no connections with the explosions. The names of the persons involved and data stated at the press conference were wrong. They made one-sided accusations against the government. At the same time, illogical explanations were broadcast by VOA.

In fact, their denial and accusations are like a saying “Where the lightning strikes, one protects oneself with a pang of fear.” These are usual excuses of expatriates. It is obvious that the accusations of expatriate Sein Win and his accomplices, to the effect that the government did not solve political problems through political means and averted them, are totally meaning-
less and illogical. Moreover, their demands are very narrow-minded and they are just for the sake of a certain party or a certain person. As they said the bomb explosions occurred because their demands were not met, it can be assumed logically that the bomb explosions were the acts of expatriate Sein Win and his accomplices. Moreover, it is clear that the type of democracy advocated by expatriate Sein Win and his accomplices at home and abroad is not meant for the people but for a certain party or a certain person to gain power.

Furthermore, the ABSDF claimed that state-
ments at the press conference were wrong in names and data. Their claim automatically led to their confession of their involvement in such machinations and destructive acts committed in Myanmar. However, acts committed in the past by a certain person usually reflect at present. The perpetrators and nature of destructive elements will be vividly depicted through a brief revelation of destructive acts committed by expatriate Sein Win and his accomplices.

Out of these destructive acts, the cruelest and most ruthless was that expatriate Sein Win and his accomplice ABSDF and other destructive elements planted and detonated time bombs in Kaba Aye Ma Ha Pasana Cave where Buddhists Torrent Relics conveyed from the People’s Republic of China were kept for public obeisance on 25 December 1996, leaving five people dead and 17 injured.

Likewise, in June 1997, the destructive elements of the彤y Aung Thant through Pyithu Nyunt Wai of ABSDF planted destructive acts and communications under the guidance of Expatriate Sein Win and party. Their targets were foreign missions such as Embassy of PRC and Embassy of Indonesia in Yangon, power lines and telephone lines in downtown Yangon. Myo Aung Thant arrived in Yangon with TFG-305 flight via Bang-
kok on 12 June 1997 and he was detained in time by authorities concerned together with those involved in the incident. It can be seen that the authorities concerned have been able to deter the wicked plots hatched by Expatriate Sein Win in collusion with internal de-
structive elements.

Similarly, expatriate destructive elements blatantly committed subversive acts. The bombing and destroy-
ing of Thanlwin Oil Refinery and Yangon City Hall in 1989 by ABSDF and DAB and hijacking of F-20 YY-
ADW flight of Myanmar Airways which left Myeik for Yangon with 85 passengers and crew members by Ye Yint (a) Than Soe (a) Thit Lwin and Thit a (a) Nan Naing (a) Maung San of ABSDF group and forcing it to land in Thailand. In addition, Air Bus TG-305 flight which left Thailand for Myanmar was hijacked by Ye Man (a) Soe Myint and Ye Tin (a) Kyaw Zeya of ABSDF and forced it to land in Kolkata, India by threatening crew members with a hand grenade.

In a similar incident, terrorists under the name of vigorous students and ABSDF raided the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand in 1999, and then they attacked Rachaburi Hospital in Thailand.

It is obvious that the exteriors of destructive elements led by Expatriate Sein Win, who are advocating de-

(Translation: NY+TS)
CLAIR DAY NOTICE
M.V. KOTA MUTIARA VOY: NO (179)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA Voy No (179) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-2-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm. Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
Phone: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIR DAY NOTICE
M.V. BOUGAIN VILLA VOY: NO (077)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA Voy No (077) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-2-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm. Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM
Phone: 256908/378316/376797

Ex-Boeing Co chief sentenced to four months in prison

Alexandria (Virginia), 20 Feb — Former Boeing Co Chief Financial Officer Michael Sears was sentenced to four months in prison and a $250,000 US-dollar fine for his role in illegally recruiting a top US Air Force official, and prosecutors said they were continuing to investigate the case.

Paul McNulty, the US attorney investigating the biggest arms-contracting scandal since the late 1980s, declined to comment when asked if Chicago-based Boeing, the Pentagon's No 2 supplier, could be indicted on criminal charges.

"We will let the facts and evidence that is available take the course it goes," McNulty, US Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, where the Pentagon is located, told a post-sentencing news conference.

Sears, 57, pled guilty on November 15 to aiding and abetting a conflict-of-interest law violation by Darlene Druyun, who was the Air Force’s No. 2 weapons buyer. She was sentenced October 1 to nine months in prison after meeting Sears to negotiate a 250,000 US dollars-a-year Boeing job while still overseeing Boeing deals worth billions with the Air Force.

In court papers this week, McNulty criticized Boeing’s highest executives for appearing to treat Sears' illegal effort “as usual.” Attorneys tracking the case said this could set the stage for large fines or other actions against the company.

Astronomers record massive energy burst in milky way

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — Astronomers on Friday reported a massive energy burst from a neutron far beyond the solar system, saying the flash is the brightest ever recorded in the gamma-ray range.

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and European satellites and many radio telescopes detected the blast on 27 December. The flash of light was so powerful that it bounced off the moon and lit up the Earth’s upper atmosphere, NASA online news said.

The blast came from a neutron star called SGR 1806-20 about 50,000 light years away in the constellation Sagittarius (the Archer). The explosion, which lasted over a one-tenth of a second, released energy more than the sun emits in 150,000 years.

"This might be a once-in-a-lifetime event for astronomers, as well as for the neutron star,” said Dr David Palmer of Los Alamos National Laboratory, lead author on the gamma-ray aspects of the event.

"We know of only two other giant flares in the past 35 years, and this December event was one hundred times more powerful. "A neutron star is the densely packed and highly magnetic remnants of a collapsed star, with a diameter of only about 24 kilometers,” said Dr Palmer.

A magnetar has a magnetic field strong enough to strip information from a credit card at a distance halfway to the moon, NASA said.

M.N/Axinhua

NASA to launch space shuttle mission on 15 May

Washington, 20 Feb — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has set May 15 for the first launch of space shuttle mission since the Columbia disaster two years ago, reports reaching here said Friday

No first shuttle to return to space will be Discovery. Earlier, NASA said the launch window is May 12 through June 3.

NASA’s space shuttle fleet has been grounded since the Columbia disaster in 2003. Inspectors believe that a piece of suitcasesized insulation foam that fell off the external fuel tank damaged the shuttle’s left wing on liftoff, leading to Columbia’s mid-air disintegration on its re-entry, and the deaths of all seven astronauts on board.

The first Columbia accident investigation board has put forward 15 major recommendations for NASA to return shuttle fleet to space. The expert panel overseeing NASA’s work to resume launches reported Thursday NASA has satisfied eight of the recommendations.

The expert panel said it hopes that, by late March, it can decide whether NASA has complied with the recommendations put forward by the Columbia accident investigation board.

The recommendations NASA has yet to meet include enabling in-orbit inspection and repair of shuttles, preventing debris coming off the external fuel tank from hitting the shuttle on liftoff, and toughening the shuttle to better withstand damage.

M.N/Axinhua
Italian scientists start human trials of new AIDS drug

ROME, 20 Feb—Italian University scientists announced on Friday that they have started human trials of a new drug offering fresh hope to AIDS and HIV sufferers.

Professor Mauro Moroni, leader of the research programme and one of the world’s top AIDS experts, said the medicine, called “tucarcosol,” banishes patients’ immune systems, making the body better-equipped to fight the disease.

“It stimulates the immune system by inducing the thymus gland to produce a certain type of antibody, which specializes in fighting the virus when it comes into contact with it,” said Moroni, who has been working on the drug for four years.

Results from laboratory tests have shown the treatment could be a vital step forward in the war on AIDS. Tucarcosol works in a different way from the antiretroviral family of AIDS medicines, which attempt to block the spread of the infection and prevent the reproduction of infected cells.

“This drug makes an impact in an orphaned area of research,” Moroni said.

“Today there are many antiretroviral medicines, but we don’t have effective treatments to increase the immune-system defences of HIV-positive people.” Moroni said tucarcosol will generally be administered together with antiretroviral drugs in order to attack the disease from two directions.

The new drug — developed with pharmaceuticals multinational GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) — could be patients’ main hope of survival, he said.

“Tucarcosol could be a fundamentally important alternative therapy for the 5-15 per cent of patients who do not respond to antiretroviral therapies,” he said.

“It could also be the ideal assistant for a future HIV vaccine,” he added.

Moroni believes it will work well on people who find out they are HIV-positive late, and whose immune systems are already seriously compromised.

Tucarcosol is now being tested on 45 HIV patients at seven hospitals across the country, with the help of Italy’s Network Personae Stereopositive (Network of HIV-positive People). The network provides tutors who accompany the patients through the therapy.

Canada to earmark more money to fight global warming

OTTAWA, 19 Feb—The Canadian Government may earmark as much as 6 billion Canadian dollars (5 billion US dollars) in next week’s budget to help fight global warming, it is reported here on Friday.

According to a report by the English newspaper The Globe and Mail, Sources tell the newspaper, as much as half the money could actually be old or “recycled” funds that were set aside in previous budgets but not spent.

Canada committed itself to the Kyoto global warming pact with a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to six per cent below 1990 levels by 2012.

A recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projected 2012 levels would represent a 26-per cent reduction from 1990 levels. This would correspond to a 48 probation above 1990 levels.

Agriculture Minister Bob Rae is expected to announce the move at the annual meeting of the Canadian Institute of Forestry in Quebec City on Monday.

Scientists say radio waves cause DNA damage to mice’s sperm

CANNES, 19 Feb—Preliminary study of a group of Australian scientists shows that radio waves similar to the frequency emitted by mobile phones can cause DNA damage to sperm.

The research was conducted by scientists of Australia’s University of Newcastle, in which mice were bombarded with electromagnetic radiation at 900 megahertz for 12 hours a day for seven days.

Researchers described the DNA damage to the mice’s sperm as “statistically significant,” although they did not find any problem with the sperm’s motility.

John Aitken, an expert in reproductive biology of the university’s faculty of science and information, said the results suggested more work should be done into the effects of mobile phone use on sperm quality.

“If anything, it should be used as a springboard for further studies in order to confirm the finding and try and establish the mechanism by which the effect was achieved,” he was quoted by Australian Associated Press as saying Friday.

“I think ultimately some clinical trials should be done (on humans) although I point out that the radiation these mice received... really can’t reflect mobile phone use,” he said.

He said that studies into possible links between mobile phone use and cancer had proved conflicting, research involving the reproductive system and mobile phones was new.

“The field is still very controversial,” he said.

The results of the radio wave study were conducted with Associate Professor Bruce King.

Oil prices rise on bargain-hunting, cold weather

NEW YORK, 19 Feb—Crude oil futures climbed above 48 dollars a barrel Friday on bargain-hunting by traders following a drop in prices over previous day.

The New York Mercantile Exchange, oil futures for March delivery rose 81 cents to end at 48.35 dollars per barrel.

In London, the April Brent crude-oil futures contract added 52 cents to close at 46.34 dollars a barrel.

Friday’s higher oil prices were caused by traders’ bargain-hunting activity after last day’s drop in prices. The expectation of cold weather in the northeastern United States also put an upward pressure on oil prices.

Oil prices had been rising on most days over the past week on worries that major oil producers might cut output in March.

However, the US energy inventories remained solid, with crude stocks standing at 296.4 million barrels, and gasoline stockpiles standing at 221.7 million barrels.

A Bloomberg survey showed that more analysts were still bullish about oil prices.

Amateur video adds to mystery of spectacular blaze in Spain

MADRID, 20 Feb—Amateur video purporting to show the silhouettes of two people inside a burning skyscraper has added to the mystery of the spectacular blaze that gutted a 32-storey tower in the heart of Madrid’s financial district.

 Authorities have asked for a copy of the video shown by Telecinco news on Friday and said to be taken by a couple while the fire was still raging but after firefighters had left the building because it was deemed too dangerous.

The tower’s eighth-tallest building was reduced to a blackened concrete skeleton one week ago when a fire that lit up the night sky like a huge torch devoured the 106-metre-high building from the top down.

The home video shows two mysterious figures on the 16th storey of the MNA/Reuters

One killed as bus tips over on snow-covered highway in Germany

BERLIN, 20 Feb—A British woman was killed and 21 other people injured on Saturday when a bus taking British tourists to an Austrian ski resort lost control and tumbled on a snow-covered highway in western Germany, police said.

The bus, carrying 34 passengers, two drivers, and a tour guide, skidded on the snow before tipping and sliding on its side for 80 metres, according to eyewitnesses cited by the British Press Association.

The 57-year old tour guide was thrown from the coach into the oncoming lane and died at the site of the accident, near Gruenental in the western state of Hesse.

Another 21 passengers were injured, 7 of them severely, police said.

The bus was driving holidaymakers to Zellertal, a ski resort near London and was not equipped with winter tyres, police said. All those travelling on the bus were British.—MNA/Reuters
Chelsea and a surprise place in the FA Cup quarterfinals on Sunday.

Jose Mourinho's side with a visit to the Nou Camp in Wednesday's Champions League match against a side with one of the worst tactical ideas gradually to a highly paid squad of internationals at the London-based club.

Shevchenko to miss Champions League clash with Man United

Ronnie, 21 Feb — AC Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko will miss next Wednesday's Champions League clash with Manchester United after fracturing a cheekbone and an eye socket during his side's 1-0 win over Cagliari on Saturday.

The European Footballer of the Year was forced to leave the pitch in the 11th minute of the match at the San Siro after clashing heads with a Cagliari defender. A statement on Milan's web site on Saturday said Shevchenko would have an operation on Monday and was expected to recover within 10 to 12 days ruling him out of the first knockout round, first leg clash against United at Old Trafford.

The injury also makes him extremely doubtful for next weekend's city derby with Inter Milan. — MNA/Reuters

Newcastle United pull off 1-0 win over Chelsea

Newcastle (England), 21 Feb — A fine header from Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert gave Newcastle United a 1-0 win over Premier League leaders Chelsea in a surprise place in the FA Cup quarterfinals on Sunday.

Jose Mourinho's decision to field a weakened side at St. James' Park and make all his substitutions at halftime for tactical reasons backfired disastrously as the visitors ended the match with just nine men due to injury and a sending off.

Chelsea's preparations for their Champions League game at Barcelona on Wednesday also suffered a severe setback as England left back Wayne Bridge was carried off on a stretcher.

Jose Mourinho's decision to field a weakened side at St. James' Park and make all his substitutions at halftime for tactical reasons backfired disastrously as the visitors ended the match with just nine men due to injury and a sending off.

Mourinho opted to field a dejected side with a visit to the Nou Camp in mind but the strategy resulted in only the second domestic defeat of the season for the Premier League leaders just a week before their League Cup final with Liverpool.

With only four minutes on the clock the Dutchman leapt in front of defender William Gallas to head in a Laurent Robert cross from eight metres after a move involving midfielder Nicky Butt and right back Stephen Carr.

When Kluivert's effort flew past goalkeeper Cudicini it paved the way for Newcastle last May on a two-year contract. — MNA/Reuters

Ronaldo's shirt collection stolen in Brazil

Brasilia, 21 Feb — About 100 shirts of the collection of Brazilian international Ronaldo were stolen together with other trophies at Rio de Janeiro, as announced Saturday by the father of the player, Nello Nazario.

The collection, of "great sentimental value" according to Nazario, was stolen from Ronaldo's father's flat, located in a luxurious residential area of Rio.

The thieves also got valuable objects and jewellery, as well as trophies won by the player, including a gold soccer-shoe, paintings, Ronaldo's photos, clothing and footwear.

"It was horrible. I arrive in the flat, found the door open, and everything was a mess," said Nazario to the Local Press. — MNA/Xinhua

Shevchenko collection stolen

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea's Joe Cole (L) and Newcastle's Kieron Dyer vie in an FA Cup clash at St James' Park, Newcastle, Newcastle beat Chelsea 1-0.—INTERNET

Mourinho says Chelsea have better players than Porto

London, 21 Feb — Chelsea have better players than last year's Champions League winning side Porto but lack the Portuguese side's organization, according to Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho.

Mourinho took unfancied Porto to victory last May on the back of supreme tactical organization, something Chelsea were still striving for, the Portuguese coach told a news conference previewing Wednesday's Champions League clash with Barcelona.

"Chelsea have better players but Porto were better from a tactical point of view, better organized," he said. "Porto won the Champions League in the third year (I was there) and I am now seven months into a four-year contract," added Mourinho, who left Porto for Chelsea last June.

The Portuguese boss added that a key difference between the two sides was Porto's ability to "put together a three-goal lead with a high price."

"We must work in phases and add things step by step," he said. Chelsea are missing top players, including fleet-footed winger Arjen Robben, for the match against the Spanish league leaders but Mourinho said the inspirational Dutchman had been blanked from his mind.

"The best way to face injury to very important players is to forget about them," he said. "I have to support and motivate others. I will never use Robben as an excuse."

Ivy Coast striker Didier Drogba, recovering from a thigh injury, is also doubtful for the Nou Camp fixture. — MNA/Reuters

Shevchenko book 4-1 win over NEC Nijmegen

Amsterdam, 21 Feb — PSV Eindhoven booked a comfortable 4-1 win over lowly NEC Nijmegen to move five points clear at the top of the Dutch First Division on Saturday.

Korean-Ji-Sung Park was instrumental in PSV's 2-0 halftime lead when he scored after 21 minutes and then set up DaMarcus Beasley to double their advantage on the stroke of halftime.

With Tuesday's Champions League match against Monaco on their minds PSV started the second half in a lower gear but when Said Boutaib pulled one back for Nijmegen with a fierce shot from the edge of the box after 55 minutes PSV woke up.

Jan Vennekoog of Heslinsk led his team high for 14th goal of the season to restore a two-goal lead from a Young-Pyo Lee assist after 71 minutes and Andre Ooijer wrapped up a comfortable

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Tape says Bush used marijuana

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — President George W. Bush indicated in interviews secretly taped by a friend before he became president that he had used marijuana but would not admit it for fear of setting a bad example for children.

Bush mocks former Vice-President Al Gore — who fought him for the presidency in 2000 — for admitting he smoked marijuana.

White House officials did not comment on the tapes’ veracity and indicated the President was disappointed by their release.

“They were casual conversations that then Governor Bush was having with someone he thought was a friend, and that’s what they are,” White House Spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters travelling with Bush to Europe aboard Air Force One.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Monday, 21 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, except for isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. The noteworthly amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.59) inch. Night temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) above normal in Kayin State and Mandalay Division, (5˚C) to (6˚C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhine, Chin States and Bago Division, (4˚C) below normal in Eastern Shan State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Kengtung, Lashio, Palaung, Namssam and Hmaw (8˚C) each. Maximum temperature on 20-2-2005 was 109°F. Minimum temperature on 21-2-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-2-2005 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 20-2-2005 was (8.0) hours.

Rainsfalls on 21-2-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Minimum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 4 mph from Southwest at (16:05) hours MST on 19-2-2005.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in the South-east Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 22-2-2005: Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan States, Upper Sajing and Mandalay Divisions, weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough sea are likely at time off and along Gulf of Mottama, Mon and Taninthayi coasts. Surface wind speed may reach (30) to (35) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated rain in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-2-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-2-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

MNA/Xinhua

Israeli ex-president in serious condition

JERUSALEM, 21 Feb — Israeli former president Ezer Weizman is in very serious condition, suffering from pneumonia, Ha’aretz reported on Sunday.

Weizman, 81, has been hospitalized for the past three weeks in Rambam Medical Centre in the northern city of Haifa, and was transferred to the intensive care unit on Saturday.

He is on antibiotics and requires assisted breathing on a respirator, said the daily.

Weizman has been hospitalized several times during the course of the past year. He has undergone hip and spine surgery.

As a veteran politician, Weizman helped the negotiations between Israel and Egypt, which culminated in the US-backed Camp David agreements signed in 1979.

He served as Israeli president from 1993 to 2000.

MNA/Xinhua

Thousands of Britons hunt fox, testing limits of new ban

LONDON, 21 Feb — Thousands of hunters are joining more than 250 fox hunts on Saturday to test the limits of a new ban which came into force across England and Wales one day earlier, the Countryside Alliance announced.

Chief executive of the Countryside Alliance, Simon Hart, said it was “simply the first day in the dismantling of the Hunting Act.”

The new legislation bans hunts with hounds, including the pursuit of rabbits and deer. However, there are a number of loopholes in the law. For example, exercising hounds, chasing a scent trail, and flushing out foxes to be shot are still legal.

If a fox runs out during the hunt and the hounds chase and kill it, the hunters say there is very little they can do to stop it, adding that the risk of a fox appearing during an exercise is also unavoidable. The police said Saturday they will not break up hunts but promised to monitor this weekend hunting.

“The law says a person is guilty of an offense if the hunts a wild mammal with a dog. That is a fairly straightforward piece of legislation,” Suffolk county Chief Constable Alastair McWhirter told the BBC.

However, this early hunt supporter lost the latest round of their legal challenge to the law banning hunting with dogs since the Court of Appeal judged the 1949 Parliament Act was valid. The British Government had used the act to get the hunt ban legislation passed after it was rejected repeatedly by the House of Lords.

The ruling comes as a latest BBC poll suggests support for the ban is below 30 per cent, compared to 63 per cent in a similar poll in 1999.

MNA/Xinhua

Tune in today:

Monday, 22 February

8.30 am  Brief news
8.35 am  Music: Crazy for you
8.40 am  Perspectives
8.45 am  Music: C’est la vie
8.50 am  National news/Slugon
9.00 am  Music: Left to right
9.10 am  International news
9.15 am  Article/music
9.25 am  Weekly sports
9.35 am  Music for your listening pleasure
10.00 am  NewsSlugon
10.05 pm  FEL

Tuesday, 22 February

Tune in today:

8.20 am  7. Songs of yesteryears
8.30 am  8. International news
8.45 am  9. Let’s Go
4:00 pm  1. Martial song
4:15 pm  2. Song to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm  3. English for Everyday Use
4:45 pm  4. Musical programme
5:00 pm  5. Music of Myanmar
5:15 pm  6. Dance of national races
5:30 pm  7. Classical music
5:45 pm  8. Sing and Enjoy
6:15 pm  9. Editable music
6:30 pm  10. Evening news
7:00 pm  11. Weather report
7:05 pm  12. The mirror images of the musical oldies
7:20 pm  13. Partly cloudy
7:35 pm  14. Performance by the local band
8:00 pm  15. Open discussion
8:15 pm  16. News
8:30 pm  17. International news
8:45 pm  18. Weather report
9:00 pm  19. “Ba Win” (program)
9:15 pm  20. The next day’s programme

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

Course Level - II

- Say what you want
- As much as I can say
- What you want
- Walk on by
- Bat at one
- Walk on by
- Bat at one
- Eat the mango
- Eat the mango

Course Level - I

- Don’t look any farther
- Walk me home
- That’s the way it is
- As much as I can say
- Say what you want
- Walk on by
- Walk on by
- Walk on by
- Bat at one

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 22 February, 2005 15

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Regional Development Special Refresher Course No 4 opened

YANGON, 21 Feb—Regional Development Special Refresher Course No 4 was opened at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township this afternoon.

Also present were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, the deputy attorney-general, members of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, heads of departments, the rector of CICS (Phaunggyi) and trainees.

In his address, the minister said the opening of the course was to implement the ten guidelines laid down by Chairman of Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

He spoke of the need for the trainees to learn the lectures with interest and to carry out the tasks for development of the regions, consolidation of the Union Spirit and keeping patriotism alive in the respective regions.

He also spoke at length on building of a peaceful modern developed nation as the national task, implementing border areas and national races development projects, urban development projects, development special projects, and rural development projects.

The six-week course is being attended by 334 trainees.—MNA

Bio-gas Electric Power Plants open in Thazi

YANGON, 21 Feb—Under the arrangement of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council, a ceremony to open Bio-gas Electric Power Plant, Myaingtha village, 12 miles northeast of Thazi Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Division was held at that place on 18 February.

First, Chairman of Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Oo formally unveiled the signboard of the power plant.

After Chairman of Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Oo had delivered an address, Chairman of Electricity Supply Committee U Aung Myaung reported on measures taken for electric power and Organizer of Village PDC U Kyi Tin expressed gratitude. The power plant was built at a cost of 3.8 million.

Similarly, a ceremony to open Bio-gas Electric Power Plant in Phayangahsu Model village in Thazi Township. Next, Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Oo formally unveiled the signboard of the power plant. Local people U Mye expressed thanks. The power plant was built at a cost of 4.8 million.

Minister looks into industrial raw materials, warehouses in Taungdwingyi Township

YANGON, 21 Feb—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by officials concerned arrived at Taungdwingyi Cotton Factory of Myanmar Textile Industries in Magway Division on 19 February and inspected the cotton materials stored in the warehouse.

After giving instructions on preventive measures against the danger of fire, the minister inspected functions of cotton grinding and machine spare parts and met with officials at the briefing hall of the factory.

First, Factory Manager U Win Naing Oo reported on preparation for grinding cotton and Managing Director MTI U Oo Thein Maung gave supplementary reports.

Next, the minister looked into progress in building of the corn foodstuff factory project and starch factory. The industrial crop plantations are being implemented through plans.

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 22 Feb—The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Naceur Boucherit as Ambassador or Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Union of Myanmar in succession to HE Mr Tewfik Abada.

Mr Naceur Boucherit joined the foreign service after having obtained a diploma of National School of Administration of Algiers in 1979. He had served in various capacities at the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassies in Conakry, Bern and Ottawa. He has been serving as Algerian Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam since 3 September 2004.

Mr Naceur Boucherit will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Hanoi. He is 48 years old, married and has three children.

MNA

Sports Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint watches sepak takraw event at National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna). — MNA

MNA