Myanmar thanks China for its firm support as a true friend on issues that directly connected with interest of Myanmar

As good neighbour, Chinese government very much delighted to see Myanmar gaining success in its political, economic and social sectors

Myanmar has been supporting one China policy and she permanently accepted that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China.
Endeavour for development of tourism industry

Myanmar is rich in natural resources. Different geographical conditions, a wide variety of culture and traditions of local ethnic groups and handicrafts of various national races are contributing factors for success of ecotourism in Myanmar.

Peace and stability in the nation and hospitality of the people attract the tourists to visit Myanmar.

Tourism industry is a profitable business in the world. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is trying its utmost for the development of tourism industry while striving for economic development of the State.

The Myanmar Tourism Promotion Board, the Travels and Tours Committee, the Hoteliers Committee and the Myanmar Tourism Marketing Committee are making concerted efforts for the development of tourism industry.

In an effort to ensure the development of tourism industry emphasis is to be placed on development of ecotourism. In Myanmar, there are a variety of ancient cultural heritage that draws the interest of tourists. Moreover, Myanmar is blessed with long stretches of beaches, snow-capped mountains, seaside resorts and recreation camps in the forest.

Ecotourism plays an important role in man’s recreation and relaxation. Bio-diversity benefits the physical well-being of human beings as well as their spiritual satisfaction.

Such being so, steps are being taken for conservation of Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park, Mt Popa Park, Hlawga Park, Upper Shwesettaw Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary, Putao and Khakaborazi regions in northernmost part of Myanmar are places of interest for adventurous tourists. Seaside resorts such as Ngapali, Chaungtha, Ngwe Hsaung and Maungmagan are also tourist destinations.

Tourism industry benefits a great deal not only the nation but also the hoteliers, tour operators, entrepreneurs, artists and local people.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the respective committees related to development of tourism industry, tour operators, hoteliers and entrepreneurs to lend themselves to the development of tourism industry, making better use of favourable conditions created by the government.

USDA members to cooperate with people in regional development tasks

YANGON, 18 Feb—Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) Chairman of the Work Committee for Organizing the Literary and Photo Development Contest concludes

YANGON, 18 Feb — Organized by the Work Committee for Organizing the Literary and Photo Development Contest to mark the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Central Level Exttempore Talks Contest of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at the hall of USDA Headquarters on New University Avenue, here, this morning.

Present on the occasion were CEC member of USDA Chairman of the Work Committee for Organizing the Literary and Photo Development Contest, District and Township USDA members, officials of the Division, District and Township USDAAs, and guests.

Out of 16 participants in the contest, Maung Kyaw Maung Maung Sein of Yangon Division won the first prize, Maung Htet Aung Hein of Magway Division the second prize, and Maung Kyaw Phy Phyo Khang of Mandalay Division the third prize.

CEC members U Thein Sein and U Maung Pa presented prizes to the winners.

Next, Deputy Minister U Thein Sein gave gifts to leader of the panel of judge Professor Dr U Khin Aye.

USDA CEC member U Thein Sein presents prize to a winner in USDA Central Level Extempore Talks Contest. — MNA

First ICT Exhibition Ayeyawady 25-26 Feb

YANGON, 18 Feb — The Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council and the Management Scientific and Information Technology Group will jointly organize the First ICT Exhibition Ayeyawady at Ayeya Shwe Wah Hall in Pathein on 25 and 26 February 2006.

At the exhibition, various models of computers and accessories will be displayed by Accel International Co Ltd, Citicom Computer, Computopia Computer, Concordia International Co Ltd, Golden Power Technology Co Ltd, Lucky Bird Co Ltd, Myanmar Unique Computer Ltd, Management Scientific & Information Computer Training Centre, Perfect Image Co Ltd, Smart Computer Technology, and Spring Technologies & System Co Ltd.

Wellwishers U Zaw Myint-Daw Sein Maung donate exercise books, pencils and rulers for 108 students and teachers of Pabesu BEPS to Headmistress Daw Mya Sein at the opening ceremony of Thuta Alin Library in Pabesu Village in Maubin Township. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appealed

MNA
**Vietnam, Russia to bolster multifaceted ties**

HANOI, 17 Feb — Vietnam and Russia are actively seeking ways of broadening and deepening their friendly and cooperative ties in various spheres, the countries’ prime minister said here Thursday.

“We have discussed measures to strongly develop the multifaceted relations on the strategic partnership basis. The bilateral ties in such spheres as politics, economy, trade, investment and culture will be deepened and deepened,” Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai said at a press briefing after holding talks with visiting Russian counterpart Mikhail Fradkov.

Vietnam and Russia inked two cooperation deals on Thursday, including an agreement on combating narcotics, and an amended protocol on training Vietnamese post-graduates in Russia. ANOI

**Hopes fade for Philippine victims**

MANILA, 17 Feb — Rescue work has resumed on the island of Leyte in the Philippines, where a huge landslide has destroyed a village.

A military official leading the relief effort says 1,800 people are feared dead. Only a few dozen were pulled out of the mud alive on Friday. Rescue work was halted for several hours because helicopters used to ferry equipment could not fly at night.

An international rescue effort is under way. The US has sent two ships and a UN disaster assessment team on its way. The Red Cross sent a plane with basic equipment for rescuers and appealed for $1.5m for relief supplies.

Hundreds of homes and a school full of children were destroyed when a mountainside collapsed on the remote coastal village of Guinsaugon after several days of rain.

**Malaysia reiterates its support to Thai Deputy PM for next UNSG**

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Feb — Malaysia Friday reiterates its support to Thai Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai as candidate for the post of the next Secretary-General of the United Nations.

“Following the endorsement made by ASEAN at its summits in 2004 and 2005, Malaysia has given its commitment in supporting Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, for the post of the United Nations Secretary-General,” the Malaysian Foreign Ministry said in a statement released here.

“Malaysia as Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC) would like to reiterate that support,” it said. Current UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s term would expire on December 31 this year.

Currently, three candidates are racing for the post, including Surakiart, South Korea Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon and Sri Lanka’s former UN Vice-Secretary-General Jayantha Dhanapala.

**Unclaimed Beijing lottery tickets worth 17 m yuan**

BEIJING, 17 Feb — A total of 17 million yuan (2.1 million US dollars) of lottery winnings went unclaimed last year, reports Thursday’s Beijing News.

According to the Beijing welfare lottery authority, most of the unclaimed tickets had a winning value of five yuan and were bought by travellers, who did not bother to return to the city to cash them in. In addition, some tickets were lost, spoiled or damaged.

China launched its first lottery in June 1987. Lottery ticket sales are one of the major sources of fund-raising for sports facilities and the country’s social welfare programmes.

**China cargo ship sinks, 37 missing**

BEIJING, 17 Feb — Thirty-seven Chinese sailors were missing on Friday after their cargo ship sank off southeast China, Xinhua news agency said.

A search and rescue operation had been launched after Thursday’s accident but the chance of finding survivors was slim, Xinhua said.

The ship, carrying fully loaded with “aquatic products” and headed for Indonesia, struck a reef near coastal Fujian Province’s Dongjiang Island at around 11:00 pm (0300 GMT) on Thursday, Xinhua said.

**China to remeasure length of the Great Wall**

BEIJING, 18 Feb — China will remeasure the length of the Great Wall with the help of aeronautical remote sensing technology, according to the China Great Wall Institute.

Experts from the institute and the State Mapping Bureau will jointly carry out a programme on comprehensively measuring and surveying the Great Wall.

Meanwhile, the Beijing municipal cultural relics bureau will organize a team of experts to explore current conditions and produce detailed information about the Great Wall section in Beijing. — MNA/Xinhua

**In this photo provided by the Sea Launch Company, the EchoStar X satellite is launched from the Odyssey Launch Platform, on 15 Feb, 2006, in the Pacific Ocean, West of Hawaii. The EchoStar X satellite was built by Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems in Pennsylvania and then assembled in Sunnyvale, Calif. — INTERNET**
Survey shows some mechanics charge more than lawyers

LONDON, 18 Feb—Getting a car serviced has become so expensive that many drivers are paying their mechanics more per hour than a doctor or lawyer earns, according to a survey on Friday.

An investigation by a motoring magazine found consumers were often paying more than 100 pounds per hour for labour rates at franchised dealers.

In contrast, a locum doctor would charge up to 300 pounds a day while a junior lawyer might invoice for as little as 30 pounds an hour.

"Consumers could save hundreds of pounds if they shopped around and did their research. Quite simply, dealers' labour rates for repair bills are too high," said What Car?''s Steve Fowler.

The magazine's group editor said his researchers discovered that advances in technology have turned time-consuming jobs—such as replacing a main-beam bulb on an Audi A2 model—for example—can cost as much as 60 pounds just 3.96 pounds.

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Rice acknowledges mistakes in training Iraqi forces

WASHINGTON, 17 Feb—US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Thursday acknowledged that the United States has made mistakes in building Iraqi security forces.

Although US authorities had insisted that the new government was in charge of the country's security, many are worried about the future of the country after the withdrawal of US forces.

The top US diplomat noted that "large portions" of the Iraqi infrastructure had been modernized and some 227,000 "quality" Iraqi troops had been trained and equipped to battle against insurgency alongside US forces. The United States has been trying to speed up training of Iraq's Government troops and security forces in a bid to pave way for the eventual military withdrawal from the Gulf country.

Iraq calls on US to hand over Iraqi detainees

BAGHDAD, 17 Feb—Iraq's human rights minister called on US-led forces on Thursday to hand over all Iraqi inmates at US-run prisons to the Iraqi Government, following more footage of prisoners being abused.

"We are very worried about the Iraqi detainees in Abu Ghraib. The footage was broadcast on Wednesday by an Australian television station."

Iraqi youths watch a burning oil pipeline near Taji, north of Baghdad, on 17 Feb, 2006. — Internet

Four Germans aboard plane that crashed in Iraq

SUJUMANIA, 18 Feb—Four Germans and an Iraqi were aboard a small civilian plane that has crashed in northern Iraq, the director of Sulaymaniya airport said on Friday.

Kameran Ahmed told Reuters that the he had received an email the day before the plane was due to arrive on Thursday listing the passengers as four Germans and an Iraqi.

On Friday, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Iraq said a small German plane en route to Iraq from Azerbaijan had crashed in northern Iraq. He added it was a civilian plane.—Internet

Indonesian pharmacy workers conduct research on a prototype of the Osehtamivir capsule, a local version of Tamiflu, at the country's Kimia Farma laboratory in Bandung, west Java, on 17 Feb, 2006. — Internet

Iraqi youths watch a burning oil pipeline near Taji, north of Baghdad, on 17 Feb, 2006. — Internet

550 more right-wing guerrillas disarm in Colombia

BOGOTA, 17 Feb—Another group of around 550 paramilitaries from the right-wing United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC) handed in their weapons on Wednesday.

The combatants from the Cagun Proceres Front and the Andaquie Heroes Front — both from the AUC's Central Bolivar Bloc—officially demobilized in a ceremony led by Luis Carlos Restrepo, Colombia's high commissioner for peace, according to local media.

The demobilization took place in Liberia, part of the Valparaiso Municipality, 420 kilometres south of Bogota.

The ceremony was the thirtieth of its kind, part of a peace process which, to date, has seen some 23,000 AUC fighters disarm and become normal citizens after being granted amnesty from prosecution for rebellion as well as other benefits.

The final few thousand AUC members are expected to disarm in the coming weeks.

Attendees of the ceremony included the AUC's Governor Juan Carlos Pinzon, the Organization of American States' support mission representative Stefan Astron, and the state's Justice Ministry official for re-incorporation, Jorge Alfredo Rodriguez.

Chinese workers make electronic parts at a television set factory in Foshan, in Guangdong province in Southern China on 17 Feb, 2006. — Internet

Indonesian pharmacy workers conduct research on a prototype of the Osehtamivir capsule, a local version of Tamiflu, at the country's Kimia Farma laboratory in Bandung, west Java, on 17 Feb, 2006. — Internet

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Russia to set up national counter-terrorism committee

MOSCOW, 17 Feb — President Vladimir Putin has ordered the creation of a national counter-terrorism committee to improve government management in fighting terrorism, the Kremlin said on Thursday.

The committee, which will be headed by the director of the Federal Security Service, Nikolai Patrushev, will "serve as the organization that coordinates the activities of federal, regional and municipal agencies in the counter-terrorism field and prepare the corresponding proposals for the Russian President", a Kremlin Press release said.

Putin also ordered regional counter-terrorism commissions to be established to coordinate the efforts of local authorities in preventing terrorist acts and dealing with their aftermath.

Patrushev was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying that the President made the decision to "build a strictly organized vertical system of operation to prevent and counter terrorism and deal with the aftermath of terror attacks."

The committee will "enhance efficiency in our operations and accelerate decision-making," Patrushev said.

UN urges US to try or release Guantanamo detainees

GENEVA, 17 Feb — The United Nations on Thursday urged the United States to try or release all the detainees held at its detention centre in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and shut down the facility.

In a 54-page report released on Thursday, the United Nations also called on the US Government to "close down the Guantanamo Bay detention centre and to refrain from any practice amounting to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment."

The report, summarizing an investigation by five UN experts, was based on interviews with former detainees, public documents, media reports, lawyers as well as a questionnaires filled by the US Government.

In response, the US Ambassador to UN office in Geneva Kevin Moley said the investigation had taken little account of the evidence provided by the United States, and moreover, the UN experts turned down an invitation to visit Guantanamo. However, the experts stressed that the reason why they refused to visit the detention centre in Guantanamo was that the US Government would not allow them to interview the detainees. — MNA/Xinhua

ICRC urges emergency aid to drought-hit east Africa

GENEVA, 17 Feb — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) made urgent appeals here on Wednesday, urging the international community to provide emergency assistance to some East African nations suffering worsening drought.

Plagued by lasting drought, more than eight million people in Djibouti, southern Ethiopia, northern Kenya, and the central and southern parts of Somalia are in dire need of aid, the ICRC said.

It added that the situation in Somalia is most severe and the drought there is the worst in 10 years. About two million people are threatened with shortages of drinking water and food. The drought "is making an already dire situation worse for the majority of people in southern Somalia", said Pascal Händli, the ICRC Somalia delegation chief.

Although no people have been starved to death up to now in the country, it will occur as the situation worsens. "This will depend a lot on the outcome of the next rainy season (starting in March or April)," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Oil pipeline blown up in northern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb — Saboteurs blew up a main oil pipeline in northern Baghdad on Friday, causing a huge fire, a police said.

"A huge fire flared around 9:30 am (0630 GMT) after saboteurs blew up a bomb under the oil pipeline that feeds the al-Doura oil refinery in southern Baghdad with crude from Iraq's northern Kirkuk oil fields," Captain Ahmed Abdullah, from Baghdad police, told Xinhua.

Firefighters and Iraq security forces reached the area, where black and thick smoke could be seen pouring into the sky, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Two US Marine helicopters crash off African coast

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — Two US Marine Corps helicopters have crashed in Africa off the coast of Djibouti and two crew members have been found alive but 10 are still missing, a Pentagon spokeswoman said on Friday. There was no reason to believe hostile fire was involved in the crash, CNN said, quoting US officials. "There is an investigation under way," said Tech Sergeant Cindy Dorfner, who lives in the Los Angeles suburb of Temple City, told Reuters in an interview.

"I was picking up my little brother from school when my mom called me and asked where I left the two prosthetic legs," Huff, who lives in the Los Angeles suburb of Temple City, told Reuters in an interview.

"We have two dead people, one man who is thought to have been driving the truck and a woman passenger on the train," a fire official told Reuters. The train, on the Athens-Thessaloniki-Alexandroupoli route, consisted of four coaches and the extreme weather spilled over into the Friday morning rush hour, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported Friday. In the capital area, whiteout conditions and a flash freeze led to multiple accidents, including a pileup of at least 20 cars that killed at least three people on an eastbound section of Highway 417. — MNA/Xinhua

Two killed, 30 hurt in Greek train derailment

ATHENS, 17 Feb — Two people were killed and 30 injured on Thursday when an intercity train collided with a truck and derailed near the northern Greek city of Serres, railway and fire brigade officials said.

"We have two dead people, one man who is thought to have been driving the truck and a woman passenger on the train," a fire official told Reuters. The train, on the Athens-Thessaloniki-Alexandroupoli route, consisted of four coaches and was carrying about 101 passengers, according to a statement by Hellenic Railways (OSE). The accident occurred near the village of Chrysovo. — MNA/Reuters
**Vietnamese, Russian PMs hold talks**

HANOI, 18 Feb — Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and his Russian counterpart Mikhail Fradkov held talks on issues of common concern, including ways of boosting the bilateral ties, here on Thursday.

The ongoing official visit of Fradkov will "create new development in the strategic partnership" between Vietnam and Russia, Khai said during the meeting with the Russian Prime Minister, who arrived here Thursday morning for a two-day visit. The two sides will touch upon issues of mutual interest, the Vietnamese Prime Minister said.

According to an announcement of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry prior to the visit, Fradkov and Vietnamese top officials will discuss measures to step up friendly and cooperative relations and the strategic partnership between the two countries, including the ties in economy, trade, investment and anti-narcotics.

Some five agreements and protocols, including deals on drug prevention, intellectual property protection, and facilitation of the life of the Vietnamese community in Russia, are expected to be inked during the visit, said the announcement.

Vietnam and Russia have seen improvement in bilateral relations in different spheres, including economy, investment, trade, education and culture. Russia has heavily invested in and assisted Vietnam in the fields of petroleum, construction, seafood and energy.

The Vietnamese Trade Ministry estimates that the two-way trade surged 24 per cent to 1.1 billion US dollars in 2005. Vietnam’s exports to Russia rose 18 per cent to 255 million dollars last year.

**Aging population to hinder economic growth in Finland**

Helsinki, 18 Feb— Finland’s population is aging faster than any other country in the European Union, setting a 20-year record, according to a report published here on Thursday.

The Finnish Finance Ministry’s report, which predicts the trend will affect the country’s economy, estimates that the old-age dependency ratio, that is those over 65 years old in relation to working age population (15-64), will almost double — rising from the current 24 per cent to 45 per cent by 2030.

Working age population will begin to decline in 2010 and the number of employed people will start falling in 2015, said the report.

Due to the shrinking work force, economic growth in Finland is foreseen to decline to an average of 1.5 per cent per year, and after 2015, Finland’s GDP growth will entirely depend on productivity growth.

Population aging is set to lead to a strong increase in pension expenditure in Finland. According to the report, pension expenditure in relation to GDP rises by about 3.5 percentage points and is forecast to be at its highest during the early 2030s.

**Venezuelan oil minister urges OPEC to cut output**

CARACAS, 18 Feb — The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should cut its oil production by 500,000 to 1 million barrels a day, Venezuela’s Oil and Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez said on Thursday.

He did not say, however, when the cut should begin. Ramirez, also president of Petroleos de Venezuela, the state-owned oil company, said that based on current demand estimates, OPEC is now overproducing 1 million barrels per day.

**China, Iran may finalize oil deal in March**

BEIJING, 18 Feb— China and Iran could sign a multi-billion dollar agreement on developing a major oilfield in Iran as early as next month, the semi-official Caijing Magazine said on its website.

The magazine cited Mr Shuling, an executive at Sinopec Corp. as saying a delegation of the National Development and Reform Commission, China’s economic-planning body, could go to Iran as early as March, where they would sign a deal on jointly developing the Yadavaran field in southern Iran.

The deal, which the magazine said could be worth as much as $100 billion US dollars in gas and oil sales and field development costs, follows a memorandum of understanding signed in October 2004. Negotiations over Iranian oil projects often drag on for years.

A spokesman at the Iranian embassy said he could not confirm the report but news of the potential deal comes as Iran is engaged in a stand-off with the West over its nuclear programme.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) voted earlier this month to report Iran’s case to the UN Security Council, which could impose sanctions.

**Singapore’s non-oil exports up 18% in January**

SINGAPORE, 18 FEB — Singapore’s non-oil domestic exports (NODX) registered a healthy growth of 18 per cent to 13.5 billion Singapore dollars (about 8.3 billion US dollars) in January as compared with the same month of last year.

According to the figures released by the International Enterprise Singapore (IES-Singapore) on Friday, the exports of non-electronic products grew by 25 per cent in January over a year ago, while the exports of electronics rose by 9.5 per cent in the same month.

The NODX to the European Union and China increased by 53 per cent and 12 per cent respectively in January while the NODX to the United States contracted by 12 per cent in the first month of 2006.

**British minister urges US to close Guantanamo prison camp**

LONDON, 18 Feb — A British Cabinet member has urged the United States to close the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, the BBC reported.

“I would prefer that it wasn’t there. I would prefer it was closed,” Peter Hain, the minister responsible for Wales and Northern Ireland, said Thursday night on a televised discussion programme.

Hain said some useful information had been obtained from detainees at Guantanamo, but that Britain’s government was uncomfortable with the camp’s existence. It was Britain’s policy that the camp should be closed, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

**China to finally finalize oil deal in March**

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**A Thai scuba diver cleans the inside of a tank near a spotted seal at Siam Ocean World in Bangkok on 16 Feb, 2006. Qualified and non-certified divers can swim with sharks and other marine animals in the 4.5-million-litre aquarium inside the Siam Paragon centre.**

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An Indian border security force personnel stands guard near an iron gate at the border between India and Pakistan in Manahau in India’s desert state of Rajasthan on 17 Feb, 2006. — Internet
Hole-in-one scored

YANGON, 18 Feb — While playing together with four golf partners U Nyan Win Maung, U Tin Tun Win, U Aung Tun Lin and U Win Htut Aung, U Phyo Wai Htet scored an ace at the 140-yard-distance hole No 6 at Dagon Golf Course, here, yesterday evening. — MNA

LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

First Cycling Contest for 2006 held in Tachilek

YANGON, 17 Feb — The Tachilek District Sports and Physical Education Department held the First Cycling Contest for 2006 at Shan Yoma Sports Ground in Tachilek, Shan State (East), on 25 January.

The contest was categorized as the men’s and women’s open classes, the 40 and above senior class, and the under-13 youth class.

Cyclists in the men’s open and the 40 and above classes took part in the contest from Mongkoe Village to Shan Yoma Sports Ground in Tachilek. Likewise, participants in the women’s open class and young cyclists in the under-13 youth class competed in the competitions from Meiyan Village to Shan Yoma Sports Ground.

Under the arrangements of cycling event development programme of Myanmar Cycling Federation, the cycling contest was held with the assistance of departments concerned and the District Sports and Physical Education Department. Furthermore, the contest was organized for the first time by solo cyclist U Myo Myint and Lwehsun (Tachilek) Cycling Club.

A multi-purpose crop

Oil, obtained from physic nut by milling the seeds, is filtered through a cloth to remove the sediments in the oil. The filtered physic nut oil can be used directly for operating diesel engines. Physic nut oil was first tested in the engines of the tractor of the Agricultural Mechanization Department, and the test showed success.

Growing physic nut creates jobs

Physic nut seeds are milled to produce bio-diesel and the paste is used as natural fertilizer, and dry branches of physic nut plants as firewood. Physic nut plants serve as fences and windbreakers. The crop prevents depletion of fertile soil and contributes towards environmental conservation. Now, the crop is being grown on a extensive scale across the nation, thereby creating jobs for rural people.

Physic nut can be used as industrial raw material

Physic nut being medicinal, its leaves, gum and oil are used as ingredients to compound household medicines. The essence of physic nut has a potency that can kill insects and so it can be used as an insecticide.

It can also be used as an industrial raw material in producing soap and cosmetics and compounding medicines.

F&R takes easy win over Construction team in Myanmar League

YANGON, 18 Feb — Myanmar League Football Tournament for 2005-2006 football season continued at Aung San Stadium and Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) this afternoon.

Aung San Stadium
Finance & Revenue Team: 3
Construction Team: 0

The F&R team keeps staying at the top of the league standings after defeating the opponent Construction team. Although selected Myanmar players — Myo Hlaing Win, Soe Myat Min, Zaw Htaik and Yan Paing — were not playing in today’s match, the F&R team took an easy win over the Construction team with two goals for the F&R team came through striker Kyaw Kyaw Soe. At 42nd minute, the ball, a pass from Lin Lin Oo on the right side, deflected off defender Myint Soe Htwe of the Construction team into the goal.

Both teams did not score any more in the second half.

YTC (Thuwunna)
YCDC team: 1
Defence team: 0

Due to the winning result of today’s match, the YCDC team stood at the sixth place with 17 points from five wins, two draws and four losses. The Defence team held its position at the 12th with 10 points from two wins, four draws and five losses.

Today’s fixtures:
Aung San Stadium
The Banner Vs Transport
YTC (Thuwunna)
MAPT Vs Forestry

Striker Sithu Than of Construction (right) is challenged by defender Soe Lin Tun of Finance & Revenue for the ball. — NLM

Cyclists taking part in First Cycling Contest of Tachilek

Kyemon
Myanmar thanks China…

(from page 16)

for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Prime Minister’s Office, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw of the Ministry of Defence, Director-General U Nyan Lin of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directors, Posts and Officials.

Premier Mr Wen Jiabao was accompanied by Minister for Railways Mr Liu Zhijun, Minister for Information Industry Mr Wang Xudong, Vice Ministers, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and Senior Officers.

At the discussions, Prime Minister General Soe Win said he was paying an official visit to the PRC for strengthening the existing friendship and promoting economic cooperation of common interest between the two countries.

He said establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations has turned 56 years. The two countries maintained the good neighbourly relations based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence during these years. Bilateral relations have improved day after day.

New generation leaders will continue to strengthen deep-rooted Paukphaw friendship laid down by the great leaders of the two countries. Myanmar wishes to promote bilateral cooperation such as political, economic and social sectors and science and technology.

Myanmar’s internal affairs need to be dealt with by its own government and people. China condemns interference of Myanmar’s affairs and imposition of economic sanctions as well as submission of a report to UN Security Council to take action against Myanmar.

Premier of PRC Mr Wen Jiabao introduces Chinese ministers and officials to Prime Minister General Soe Win who then presents members of Myanmar delegation to the PRC counterpart.— MNA
Myanmar thanks China...

The government will continue to implement the tasks for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the seven-step Road Map. He explained about the holding of the National Convention.

In connection with economic cooperation, the Prime Minister went on to say that arrangements were made for signing eight economic and cooperation agreements including MoUs. He said there were some projects agreed by the PRC left to be implemented, and he wanted them to be completed as soon as possible.

He also explained clearing the waterway for 20,000-ton vessels to go in and out along the Yangon River in connection with Thilawa Industrial Zone Project, construction of Lashio-Muse Railroad, Glass Factory in Myeik and Tyre Factory in Taikkyi.

In his discussion, Premier Mr Wen Jiabao said the friendship between the two countries has always been cemented as both place emphasis on mutual amity and good neighbourliness. Besides, both countries protect each other's interest.

China praised Myanmar for its continuous support for the One-China policy. China, on its part, has underscored and will continue cooperation with Myanmar. He said the country also has a wish to cooperate with Myanmar in the area of international affairs. It is necessary to stimulate mutual interest and cooperation between the two countries. As a token of showing amity towards Myanmar people, China will pledge 70 million yuan. In addition, US $ 200 million will be loaned at low interest rates. The loans will be used in purchasing oil drilling platform and implementing work projects in Myanmar, he said. Moreover, China has granted tax relief on 133 kinds of goods and provided exemption from 87 kinds of goods from Myanmar. The Chinese government urged the Chinese companies to invest in Myanmar energy sector, said the Premier. China will provide continued assistance to Myanmar for its establishment of Thilawa Special Economic Zone. China also wants to be a partner of Myanmar for its establishment of Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Prime Minister General Soe Win expressed Myanmar’s affairs and imposition of economic sanctions as well as submission of a report to UN Security Council to take action against Myanmar. China wished the success of Myanmar democratization process. China is giving assistance to Myanmar as a good neighbour, the Premier added.

Later, Prime Minister General Soe Win expressed thanks to his counterpart and extended invitation to the Premier and wife to pay a cordial visit to Myanmar on opportune time. And the Premier thanked him and accepted the invitation.

The ceremony to sign MoUs, agreements and contract notes between the Union of Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China and talks between the Prime Ministers of the two countries took place at Hebei Hall of the Great Hall of the People at 6 pm.

Present on the occasion were Prime Minister General Soe Win and ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to China and departmental heads, Premier of the PRC Mr Wen Jiabao, ministers, vice ministers, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and senior officials.

Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin and Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce Mr Wei Jianguo signed an Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People’s Republic of China and exchanged the notes.

Myanmar’s affairs and imposition of economic sanctions as well as submission of a report to UN Security Council to take action against Myanmar.

Myanmar’s affairs and imposition of economic sanctions as well as submission of a report to UN Security Council to take action against Myanmar.
Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe pay homage to Sacred Buddhist Tooth Relic in Beijing

YANGON, 18 Feb — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and Myanmar goodwill delegation members arrived at Ling Guang Si Buddhist Temple in Beijing at which the sacred Buddhist tooth relic is being kept, at 9 am on 15 February.

They were welcomed by officials of the Chinese Buddhist Association and members.

Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and party paid homage to Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Buddhist Association Ling Guang Si Buddhist Temple Sayadaw Ven Sheng Hui and members of the Sangha who are taking security measures of the Buddhist tooth relic.

Sayadaw Ven Sheng Hui explained the history of the sacred Buddhist tooth relic, visits of the tooth relic for public obeisance in Myanmar, and matters related to the Jade Buddha Image donated by Myanmar being kept in the Gandakuti Building of the tooth relic.

Next, the Prime Minister of Myanmar and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing at Myanmar prayer hall in the precinct of the Gandakuti Building.

Afterwards, they also paid homage to the Buddha Image donated by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing at Myanmar prayer hall in the Gandakuti Building.

The ministers and party also offered alms to Sayadaws. Sayadaw Ven Sheng Hui gave Dhamma gifts to the Prime Minister, wife and party.

The Prime Minister and party paid homage to Buddha images in the Gandakuti Building. The Sayadaws recited religious verses. Prime Minister General Soe Win, wife Daw Than Than Nwe and party paid obeisance to the Buddhist tooth relic and the Jade Buddha Image donated by the Union of Myanmar.

They posed for a documentary photo together with Sayadaw Ven Sheng Hui and officials of the Chinese Buddhist Association. Next, they went back to the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

After paying a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe arrived back home by air this evening.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Chairman General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives welcomed the Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe.

The Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister General Soe Win left Kunming International Airport by special aircraft and arrived at Beijing International Airport at 2.45 pm local time.

Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and delegation members were greeted by Chinese Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Cui Tian Kai.

Next, the Prime Minister took the salute of the Guard of Honour. The Myanmar goodwill delegation members were welcomed by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and wife and officials.

Afterwards, Daw Nwe Nwe Han, wife of Myanmar Ambassador U Thein Lwin, Military Attaché Col Sein George and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Oo, staff and families of the Myanmar Embassy and the Military Attaché’s Office welcomed the Prime Minister and party. Later, the Myanmar goodwill delegation led by the Prime Minister left for Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. — MNA
Myanmar thanks China…

(From page 9)

Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Governor Mr Li Ruogu of the Export-Import Bank of China signed a sub loan agreement, which loaned US dollar 31.50 million to MPT from Exim Bank, PRC and exchanged the documents.

Later, Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung of the Central Bank of Myanmar and Governor Mr Li Ruogu of the Export-Import Bank of China signed a loan agreement for urea fertilizer factory project between Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China and exchanged the documents.

Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Chairman Mr Yin Yimin of ZTE Corporation of China signed a supply contract.

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Chairman Mr Yin Yimin of ZTE Corporation of China signed a supply contract (phase-1) between Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and ZTE Corporation for Myanmar National Telecommunication Network Construction Project and exchanged the documents.

Director-General U Win Kyaw of Hydro Electric Power Department of the Ministry of Electric Power and Chairman of Yunnan Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Co Ltd Mr Feng Ke signed a contract for the supply of mechanical and electrical equipment and services for Paunglaung Hydropower Project Phase II, exchanged it and the ceremony ended.

Premier Mr Wen Jiabao hosted a dinner to Prime Minister General Soe Win, wife Daw Than Than Nwe and Myanmar delegation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing in the evening.

Also present at the dinner were the Minister for Foreign Affairs and his wife, the ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to the PRC and departmental officials, the ministers and the deputy ministers from the PRC, the Chinese ambassador and senior officials.

After the dinner, the Myanmar delegation returned to Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

YANGON, 18 Feb—Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the Myanmar Gems Emporium Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein this afternoon viewed Myanmar Pearl Auction-2006 of Myanmar Pearl Enterprise that commenced yesterday at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel, here.

The Myanmar Pearl Auction-2006 will be held till tomorrow. A total of 35 gem merchants of 20 companies from six countries are attending the auction. A total of 427 lots of pearl comprising 92,864 pearls weighing 53,571.3 mommes are being displayed at the sales.

Foreign gem merchants purchased 147 lots of pearl through tender system yesterday and today.

The third and final day of sales continues tomorrow.

UMFCCI meets German Business Mission

YANGON, 18 Feb—A 19-member German Business Mission led by Chairman of German Asia-Pacific Business Association Professor Dr Ing Eckhard Fohkamm met with CEC members and executives of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry led by Vice-President U Aung Lwin at the federation this morning.

The vice-president of the UMFCCI extended greetings. Joint-Secretary-1 Dr Maung Maung Lay explained matters on investment opportunities in Myanmar.

The two sides held cordial discussions on bilateral trade and investment.
Newmont to pay Indonesia over pollution dispute

JAKARTA, 17 Feb — US gold miner Newmont Mining Corp has agreed to pay the Indonesian Government 30 million US dollars to settle dispute over alleged water pollution in the company’s plant on Sulawesi Island, an official said here Thursday.

But the government warned that the payment would not end the criminal charges.

“This agreement doesn’t end the legal proceedings on the suspected crimes... It only resolves the commercial issues,” Coordinating Minister for People’s Welfare Aburizal Bakrie said at a news conference.

The minister said the “goodwill agreement” details Newmont’s initiatives for sustainable development and post-mining scientific monitoring worth 30 million dollars.

Newmont has pledged to pay off in 10 years and another 20 million dollars if the company is proven polluting the environment based on scientific research, he said.

The Indonesian Ministry of Environment last year lodged a civil case against Newmont and demanded 133 million dollars in damage compensation.

Miss Kimono of Japan Hiromi Yasuda shows off her Japanese obi belt during a news conference announcing an opening of a new kimono dressing class in Tokyo’s trendy Ginza district on 16 Feb, 2006. The school will offer courses on ways to wear kimonos and obi belt arrangement.

Vietnam to import more steel scraps

HANOI, 17 Feb — Vietnam plans to import 1 million tons of steel scraps in 2006 and 2 million tons in 2007, up from only 200,000 tons in 2005, according to the Vietnam Steel Association Thursday.

The anticipated rise is mainly because some new steel makers in Vietnam will go into operation this year. Besides, most of local steel producers use steel scraps for production, and the supplies in the country become thinner.

Vietnam imported 5.6 million tons of steel billets and finished steel products totalling 3 billion US dollars in 2005, posting respective rises of 8.7 per cent and 16 per cent against 2004, according to country’s General Statistics Office.

It imported nearly 2.3 million tons of steel billet worth 863 million dollars last year.

President says Iran’s nuclear progress irreversible

TEHRAN, 17 Feb — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday that Iran’s progress in the nuclear field was irreversible, the official IRNA news agency reported.

“The achievements of the Iranian nation in the field of nuclear technology are irreversible,” IRNA cited Ahmadinejad as saying.

Ahmadinejad made the remarks when travelling to the central town of Natanz, where the country’s uranium enrichment facilities were located.

The President also said that Iran’s “enemies”, who use the accusation of nuclear weapon development as a pretext, were rather “concerned over and panicked by the self-sufficiency and knowledge of the Iranian nation and the progress of youth in the nuclear field”.

Ahmadinejad also stressed that there would be “no end” to the country’s work on nuclear technology and that the Iranians could “always increase the speed of progress”.

Ahmadinejad’s comments came two days after Iran resumed some small-scale uranium enrichment work in the Natanz facilities, which had been suspended for nearly two and a half years.

On Tuesday, both Javad Vaidi, Deputy Secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, and Gholam-Reza Aqazadeh, chief of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, confirmed Monday’s resumption but said the resumed enrichment work was just for research purposes.

Both officials said that it would take several months for Iran to actually restart the full-scale industrial enrichment due to the suspension of more than two years.

Japan police accuse woman of killing 5-year-olds

TOKYO, 17 Feb — A Japanese mother was arrested on suspicion of fatally stabbing two of her child’s kindergarten classmates on Friday, killing a five-year-old boy and girl.

The woman had picked up the two children to drive them to school along with her own child, who was unharmed, said a police spokesman in Shiga Prefecture, some 356 kilometres west of Tokyo.

Venezuela, Iran to set up joint fund for trade, social projects

CARACAS, 17 Feb — Venezuela and Iran agreed on Wednesday to set up a joint fund of 200 million US dollars for social projects, businesses and trade, Venezuela’s Finance Ministry said.

Under the agreement, the two countries will contribute at least 15.5 million dollars in their first deposit within 15 days and build up the fund gradually afterward.

A high committee will be formed to work out guidelines for projects. Contributors will range from individual citizens to public institutions, according to a statement by the ministry.

The agreement was signed after an Iranian delegation arrived in Caracas Tuesday in a latest sign of strengthened ties between the two countries, which had recently agreed to work together to produce tractors, auto parts and cement.

Venezuelan Deputy Planning Minister Eudomar Tovar and Iran’s Export Development Bank chief Nowrouz Kohradi attended the signing ceremony of the agreement. —MNA/Xinhua

INternet

president says Iran’s nuclear progress irreversible
Renewable energy technologies to play an important role in a clean, clever, and competitive energy future

PARIS, 17 Feb — “Renewable energy technologies are a crucial element in achieving a balanced global energy future; renewables can make major contributions to the diversity and security of energy supply and to economic development”, said Claude Mandil, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) today in Paris, at the launch of a new publication: Renewable Energy: RD&D Priorities, Innovative RE Technologies Programmes. “Furthermore, considerable attention has been drawn to their potential for mitigating climate change”, Mr Mandil added.

He pointed out that in 2005, IEA Ministers had called for a clean, clever, and competitive energy future, and stated that renewable energy technologies as part of a balanced energy mix will need to play a significant role in this future.

“We need to use public funds as effectively as possible in achieving this”, Mr Mandil said. “Countries must improve their market deployment strategies for renewable energy technologies and above all, increase targeted renewables RD&D—simultaneously ensuring continued cost-competitiveness. There is much at stake.”

The publication recommends priorities for this important effort, drawing on studies, analyses and technology programmes carried out by the IEA technology network. It also reviews the trends in government RD&D spending and lists RD&D policies in IEA member countries.

Government energy RD&D budgets in IEA member countries increased sharply after the oil price shocks of the 1970s. By 1987 however, they had declined to about two-thirds of their peak level and thereafter stagnated until 2003. The share of renewable energy technologies in total energy RD&D spending remained relatively stable, averaging 7.8% for the whole period.

Among renewable energy technologies, the shares in global funding of biomass, solar photo-voltaic and wind have increased, while those of ocean, geothermal and concentrating solar power have declined—broadly reflecting the evolving consensus as to where the greatest potential lies. Of course, there are great variations in the balance of spending of individual countries, reflecting resource potential and national energy policies. The United States, Japan and Germany are the biggest total spenders on energy technology RD&D, although Switzerland, Denmark and the Netherlands are the leaders on a spending per capita basis.

The purpose of the IEA publication is to assist governments in prioritising their RD&D efforts for renewable energy. RD&D activities have played a major role in the successful development and commercialisation of a range of new renewable energy technologies in recent years. Successful RD&D programmes need to be well focused and should be co-ordinated with both industry efforts to promote commercialisation and competitiveness in the market, and with international programmes.— Internet

China sets up first patrol team to protect Great Wall

BEIJING, 17 Feb — China has established the first group of dedicated personnel to patrol over 7,000-kilometre-long Great Wall, one of the seven wonders of the world, to check wanton man-made damages to architectural marvel.

A dedicated team will guard its ancient facade, of which only less than 20 per cent has been well preserved, Yu said. It is the first time that the Great Wall in Beijing, a must-see tourist spot, has had a special team to

The owner (R) of a golden retriever rests his head on his dog as a veterinarian prepares the canine to donate blood at the Beit Dagan Animal Science Institute near Rishon Letzion on 15 Feb, 2006. A rare public appeal went out on Wednesday to Israeli pet owners to bring their dogs to donate blood to help save more than a dozen canines poisoned by toxic American pet food.—INTERNET

Singapore releases 4th five-year Science, Technology plan

SINGAPORE, 17 Feb — Singapore announced its fourth five-year Science and Technology Plan Thursday, aiming to transform itself into an innovation-driven knowledge-based economy.

The government will invest 13.55 billion Singapore dollars (about 8.3 billion US dollars) over the next five years in research and development (R&D), said Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang at a Press conference announcing the Plan 2010.

The Plan 2010 “aims to sustain innovation-driven growth by strengthening R&D capabilities in both public and private sector”, Lim said.

The Plan will support four key programmes in the areas of developing talent, deepening and strengthening public research capabilities, promoting private sector R&D and providing excellent R&D infrastructure.— MNA/Xinhua

A child from the Miao Ethnic Minority Group looks on during a traditional Lusheng (reed-pipe wind instrument) Festival in Kaili, southwest China’s Guizhou Province on 17 Feb, 2006. Miao people make friends by singing and dancing at Lusheng Festival.—INTERNET

NASA chief warns of gap in US spaceflight programme

WASHINGTON, 17 Feb — The US human spaceflight programme is “strained to the limit”, NASA’s chief said on Thursday, warning against any long gap between the end of the shuttle era and the first flight of a planned new spaceship.

“The United States risks both a real and a perceived loss of leadership on the world stage if we are unable to launch our own astronauts into space for an extended period of time when other nations possess their own capabilities to do so,” NASA Administrator Michael Griffin told a congressional committee. Griffin acknowledged that NASA already expects a gap between the shuttle’s planned retirement in 2010 and the start-up of a new crew exploration vehicle in 2013 or 2014. But he said extending this gap would over-stress an already stretched programme. “Our human spaceflight programme is not an optional programme,” Griffin told members of the House of Representatives Science Committee. “We are already strained to the limit.”

Griffin fielded pointed but largely sympathetic questions about the Bush Administration’s 16.8-billion-US-dollar budget request for NASA for fiscal 2007. “I am extremely uneasy about this budget,” Representative Sherwood Boehlert, a New York Republican who chairs the committee, told Griffin. “This budget is bad for space science, worse for Earth science and possibly worse for aeronautics.”

A large slice of the US space agency’s resources are focused on achieving President George W Bush’s ambitious plan to return US astronauts to the moon by 2020 and eventually send humans to Mars. But before that can happen, NASA must satisfy its commitments to finish building the orbiting International Space Station by 2010, and that cannot occur without a working space shuttle fleet. — MNA/Reuters
**ORPHAN**

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

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23. Room in roof
24. Room in roof

**DOWN**
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**SPORTS**

**Cobham** (England), 18 Feb.—Jose Mourinho described his Stamford Bridge pitch as a potato field on Friday in the run up to Chelsea's high profile Champions League encounter with Barcelona. The Chelsea manager told reporters it was far from the worst in the Premier League, however, and it would do his side no more favours than the Spanish champions next Wednesday.

Before that first knockout round first leg game, the pitch will be churned up again during the FA Cup fifth round tie against Third Division Colchester United on Sunday.

Spanish newspapers have suggested Chelsea deliberately let the playing surface deteriorate to ruin Barcelona's flair-filled passing game.

"We know the pitch is not good, the criticism is fair," said Mourinho, though he cited Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Everton as having worse surfaces.

"But only stupid people can think that a team like Chelsea with the quality Chelsea have can be happy with a pitch like this."

"All we can do is take care of it the best we can," he said, adding Chelsea had not trained on it since the start of the season and would not do so before Wednesday's game.

With heavy irony, Mourinho added: "Because we have no technical players we need a potato field, so we play on a potato field."

There is no love lost between Chelsea and Barcelona following last season's Champions League South America lost after which Mourinho was fined for suggesting rival coach Frank Rijkaard spoke to referees Frisk at half-time.

On Friday, Mourinho took a gentle sideswipe by referring to a spate of injuries among the Catalans.

"Maybe you have to ask in Barcelona why they have so many injuries to knees," he said. "Maybe it's because the pitch is too good."

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**Eriksson sees Rooney as future England captain**

Stockholm, 18 Feb.—England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said Friday that Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney has matured to the extent he sees him as a possible future national captain.

"When he came into the team he was 17 years old and hardly said a word. When he did say something I did not understand what he said because of his accent," he told Swedish news agency TT.

"But now he has not only grown on the pitch, but also as a person. I can really see him having a future as a leader, he has those sorts of qualities," he said.

Eriksson said he was still undecided over his next role after his decision to leave his position with the English Football Association after the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany. —MNA/Reuters

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**Vogts to scout for Germany at World Cup**

Berlin, 18 Feb.—Former Scotland and Germany coach Berti Vogts will coordinate the scouting of Germany's World Cup opponents, the German Football Association (DFB) said on Friday.

Vogts had been a candidate for the post of technical director but turned it down after the DFB rebuffed his demands to make a quick decision. The refusal was a disappointment for Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann who had played for Vogts and won the 1996 European Championship with him. —MNA/Reuters

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**Benitez says Anfield crowd may sway Man Utd tie**

Liverpool (England), 18 Feb.—Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez says the Anfield crowd may prove the difference when his side meet Manchester United in the FA Cup fifth round on Saturday.

"The last game we played (against United) was very close," Benitez told a news conference on Friday. "We made one mistake at the end and that was the difference. "But playing with our supporters behind us at Anfield will make it difficult for them and having beaten Arsenal (this week) we are playing with more confidence."

"Alex Ferguson's team beat Liverpool in the Premier League last month with a last-minute goal from Rio Ferdinand, leaving Benitez without a victory in four matches against United."

"People said we couldn't win against these teams but we have beaten Arsenal and maybe we can beat United," said Benitez.

"Maybe tomorrow we will start changing the statistics and we can beat United. It will be good to finish the FA Cup record at 85 years," he added in reference to Liverpool's nine-match barren run against these teams but we have beaten Arsenal and maybe we can beat United," said Benitez.

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"Maybe tomorrow we will start changing the statistics and we can beat United. It will be good to finish the FA Cup record at 85 years," he added in reference to Liverpool's nine-match barren run against these teams but we have beaten Arsenal and maybe we can beat United," said Benitez.
First Chinese shopping centre in LatAm opens in Chile

SANTIAGO, 18 Feb—Wholesalers from a southern Chinese boom town Thursday opened in Chile their first major Chinese shopping mall in Latin America.

The Chinese Commercial Centre, located in Chile's capital Santiago, is also the 14th shopping mall opened overseas by businesses from Wenzhou, China’s eastern Zhejiang Province.

The shopping centre, which costs 500,000 US dollars, is a joint project with the local government, a city official told Xinhua on Thursday.

It houses 54 shops selling clothes, shoes and handicrafts from Wenzhou. All the shops are owned by businessmen from Wenzhou, whose economy has enjoyed vigorous development in the last two decades thanks to China's economic reforms.

"It is a privilege for the City of Santiago that the Chinese business people have chosen this spot to begin their trade in our domestic market. It is something that will stimulate development in this area," said Hector Feely, deputy mayor of Santiago.

Lai Zhouchi, an official from Wenzhou, thanked the Santiago government on behalf of his city authorities for the opening of the mall, saying that Wenzhou would guarantee product quality and low prices to Chilean customers with its 54 factories doing businesses with 150 overseas countries. MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Saturday, 18 February, 2006
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been scattered in Kachin State, isolated in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Yangon Division and (5°C) below normal in Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine State and Magway Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan, Pinaung and Haka (4°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Machambiw (0.24) inch.

Maximum temperature on 17-2-2006 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 18-2-2006 was 59°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 18-2-2006 was (90%). Total sunshine hours on 17-2-2006 was (8.7) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 18-2-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (11:30) hours MST on 17-2-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19-2-2006: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin, Chin and northern Shan States and Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-2-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-2-2006: Generally fair weather.
Myanmar thanks China...
(from page 1)
After the ceremony, they held a discussion at the east hall of the Great Hall of the People. Also present at the discussion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister (See page 8)

**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

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

**Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe arrive Beijing to pay goodwill visit to China**

*YANGON, 18 Feb — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe, ministers, and departmental heads, left here by special aircraft of Myanmar Airways International at 7 am on 14 February to pay a goodwill visit to China.*

*Next, Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife and party were welcomed by Vice-Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Qing Guan Rong, General Secretary of the People’s Government of Yunnan Province Mr Huang Yi and provincial level departmental officials, Consul-General U Myo Tint and wife Daw Maw Maw Myint, staff and family members of Myanmar Consulate-General in Kunming.*

*Furthermore, two Chinese girls and two Myanmar children presented bouquets to Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe.*

*Members of the Myanmar goodwill delegation took rest at the special lounge of Kunming International Airport. General Soe Win and Vice-Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Qing Guan Rong held a cordially talk.*

*(See page 10)*