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

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

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

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**Secretary-1 inspects construction of Twantay Bridge, road linking No 5 Highway and Dalla-Twantay Road**

Yangon, 21 Feb — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and senior military officers and officials of the SPDC office, visited the Twantay Bridge construction site in Twantay township in Yangon South District this afternoon. The project is being implemented by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction.

At the briefing hall of the project Yangon Division Superintending Engineer U Soe Tint briefed the Secretary-1 on progress in construction of the road linking Hlinethaya Industrial Zone No 5 Highway and Dalla-Twantay Road and future work. The Secretary-1 stressed the need for timely completion of the project. Next, Twantay Bridge construction project Deputy Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Naing reported on construction progress of Twantay Bridge and future tasks. The Secretary-1 called for the timely completion of the project and the need for meeting the standard set.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe also briefed on construction of the road linking Dalla-Twantay Road and the eight villages on the other bank of Hline River and bridges along the road.

(See page 8)

Twantay Bridge is being built across Twantay Canal. It is 840 feet long with 2730-feet-long approach road. The two-lane bridge is 28 feet wide with a four-foot pedestrian lane on both sides.

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Mutual benefits through continued cooperation in all fields

The Union of Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China are close neighbours and they are cooperating with each other for their mutual interests. And leaders of the two nations exchange visits with the object of promoting mutual friendship and bilateral cooperation. Prime Minister General Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar, at the invitation of Chinese Prime Minister Mr. Wen Jiabao, visited the People’s Republic of China from 14 to 18 February.

During his visit, Prime Minister General Soe Win met with Mr. Hu Jintao, President of the People’s Republic of China, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and Mr. Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, and had frank and friendly discussions on promotion of bilateral cooperation in political, economic and social fields and in science and technology. Moreover, eight agreements and MoUs were inked.

Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province Mr. Tang Bingquans also met Prime Minister General Soe Win and hosted a dinner his honour. At their meeting, Prime Minister General Soe Win said that, as Myanmar had been striving for all-round national development through systematic implementation of various plans, there had been tangible results in various fields and that, in the drive for the national development, economic cooperation with countries in the region, especially the People’s Republic of China, was necessary.

Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province Mr Tang Bingquans said that, out of the provinces in China, Guangdong Province had the most social stability, the highest economic growth and the largest investment and that it was due to the assistance and support of friendly nations including Myanmar.

Myanmar and China have a tradition of supporting each other and safeguarding each other’s interests. It is necessary to make continued cooperation in all fields in accordance with the wishes of leaders of the two nations. We believe that the visit to China by Prime Minister General Soe Win will be a shot in the arm for the existing friendship between the two neighbours.

**LOCAL SPORTS NEWS**

**President of MFF leaves for Malaysia**

YANGON, 21 Feb — To attend the meeting of the working committees of Asia Football Federation, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and General Secretary U Tin Aung left here for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this morning. — NLM

**Kanbawza team beat Rail Transportation**

YANGON, 21 Feb — Myanmar League Football Tournament for 2005-2006 football season continued at Aung San Stadium this afternoon.

Aung San Stadium

Kanbawza team: 2
Rail Transportation: 0

Out of 11 matches, Kanbawza team won in 4 matches, 2 draws and 5 losses and stood at 8th position with 14 points. Rail Transportation team played 11 matches, won three, drew one and 7 losses and stood at 13th position with 10 points.

Today’s matches

Aung San Stadium

Finance and Revenue vs YCDC
Thuwunna Stadium

Construction vs Transport—NLM

**MFF President U Zaw Zaw and General Secretary U Tin Aung**

**Members of La-sa-ya (4) Hockey Team of Yangon Division seen together with the championship trophy on 19-2-2006. Yangon Division Team emerged the champion of Myanmar Olympic Committee President’s Trophy tournament on 19 February.**

**Commander, Mayor inspect upgrading of roads**

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

**Perspectives**

Wednesday, 22 February, 2006

The New Light of Myanmar

MNA

* 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

In memory of late U Phyu Tun Oo and Daw Aye Sein, U Khin Maung Oo and Daw Khin Kyi and family of No 714, Thein Nyo 1st Street, Ward-9, neighbours.

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Musharraf begins state visit to China

BEIJING, 20 Feb — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf arrived here Sunday, starting a five-day state visit to China. Musharraf came to relations. During his visit in Beijing, Musharraf will meet his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao and other senior Chinese leaders. The two sides will discuss how to further promote the friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation, exchange views on international and regional issues of common concern, and sign some cooperative agreements.

China and Pakistan are always considered as close neighbours enjoying an all-weather friendship. But the recent gun attack in southern Pakistan that led to the death of three Chinese engineers has shocked both countries.

France, Britain, Germany join UN call to close Guantanamo camp

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — The British, French and German envoys to Washington, on Sunday joined the UN call for closing the unpopular US detention camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte told CNN: “Guantanamo is an embarrassment, and so it has to be solved one way or the other”. Levitte made the comments during an interview alongside his British and German counterparts.

German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger said: “The sooner it’s closed, the better it will be for the image of the United States, not only as a military and political but also as a moral leader in the world”.

Beijing attracts record foreign investment

BEIJING, 21 Feb — Beijing attracted a record $35.3 billion US dollars of foreign investment in 2005, a rise of 14.4 per cent from the previous year, according to the city’s statistics bureau.

Beijing approved 2,136 overseas-financed projects last year, up 18.3 percent. The tertiary sector accounted for 65.5 percent of the total amount of foreign funds flowing into the capital last year, as more fields like commercial services, finance, insurance and logistics were opened up to overseas investors.

By the end of 2005, about 239 research-institutions, 146 investment companies and 45 regional headquarters of foreign corporations had been set up in Beijing.
Venezuela’s Chavez warns Rice, “don’t mess with me”

CARACAS (Venezuela), 20 Feb—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday warned US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice not to “mess with” him days after Rice described Venezuela as a menace to regional democracy in the midst of tense diplomatic relations between the two countries.

“Don’t mess with me Condoleezza. Don’t mess with me, girl,” Chavez said during his weekly Sunday broadcast, sarcastically offering her a kiss and jokingly referring to her as “Condolence”.

The warning comes days after Rice described Venezuela as one of the “biggest problems” for the Western Hemisphere and promised to develop regional alliances as part of an “inoculation” strategy to expose what the State Department calls anti-democratic behaviour in Venezuela.

Chavez has repeatedly accused Washington of trying to topple him, and says the United States will attempt to sow chaos.

Six bodies found in wreck of small plane in Iraq

SULAIMANIYA (Iraq), 20 Feb—Six bodies were found on Sunday in the wreckage of a small plane that crashed in the snow-covered mountains of northern Iraq three days ago, officials said.

The plane was carrying at least three Germans from Azerbaijan to Sulaimaniya Airport in Kurdish-run northern Iraq when aviation officials lost contact on Thursday.

“I am standing by the wreckage right now. There are six bodies and we have asked for a helicopter to come from the American base and pick them up,” said Kameran Ahmad, director of Sulaimaniya Airport.

“The plane crashed and experts are here to investigate what happened,” Ahmad said.

A German police spokesman said the Cessna plane was carrying three German employees of a company from a town north of Munich, along with an Iraqi business partner and two pilots whose nationality was not known. — MNA/Xinhua

Diamond necklace theft stuns Bangkok’s luxurious shopping centre

BANGKOK, 20 Feb—A five-million-baht (about 125,000 US dollars) diamond necklace was stolen from Siam Paragon on Saturday in the first theft case since the opening of the luxury shopping centre in central Bangkok on 9 December.

The necklace was discovered the 51-karat diamond necklace was missing after a group of foreigners had visited his shop which was located in the mall’s Hall of Mirror zone. He rushed to Pathum Wan police station to report the crime. — MNA/Xinhua

Ten injured in railway station blast in western India

NEW DELHI, 20 Feb—At least 10 people were injured in a blast at the railway station of Ahmedabad, major city of western India’s Gujarat, on early Sunday morning, NDTV reported.

A powerful device went off on Platform Two at 1.45 am on Sunday, the TV news said. There were very few people on the platform when the explosion took place shortly after the departure of two trains.

The explosion shattered glass panes on the adjoining platform and in the outside corridor of the station. Train traffic to the station was suspended for a few hours before it resumed at 4.30 am. — MNA/Xinhua

All 12 crew accounted for after US helicopter crash

NAIROBI, 20 Feb—All 12 crew members from two US military helicopters that crashed off Djibouti on Friday have been accounted for, the US military in the Horn of Africa country said on Saturday.

“Next of kin notifications are still ongoing; therefore, no further information regarding the status of or condition of the crew members will be released at this time,” it said in a statement. It had earlier on Saturday said 10 crew members were still missing after the crash during a training mission off the Red Sea state, while two were rescued on Friday. — MNA/Reuters

Two killed in accident at south African mine

JOHANNESBURG, 20 Feb—Two people were killed and one was injured on Saturday in a mine accident in South Africa’s central Free State Province, news agency Sapa reported. Sapa quoted President Steyn Mine executive Gerrit Kennedy as saying the accident in the gold mine may have been caused by earth tremors in the area.

“The accident occurred at 11 am on Saturday. The cause of the accident is being investigated but it is suspected that seismic activities in the area caused a collapse of ground at Shaft One,” he said. The President Steyn Mine belongs to Toronto-listed Thistle Mining Inc. — MNA/Reuters

US troops kill three civilians west of Baghdad

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 20 Feb—Three civilians were killed on Sunday after US troops opened fire at their car near Fallujah, medics told Xinhua.

“A US patrol shot dead three civilians, two brothers and their relative, as they were travelling in Ameriyat al-Fallujah area, some 7 kilometres south of Fallujah,” a medical source in Fallujah Hospital said on condition of anonymity. — MNA/Xinhua

Cholera death toll rises to 52 in south Sudan

Khartoum, 20 Feb—A cholera outbreak in south Sudan has claimed 52 lives with more than 2,000 cases of the deadly disease which spreads rapidly through brimming urban centres, the World Health Organization said on Saturday. The disease, identified this week as cholera, has infected 2,029 people in the towns of Yi and the regional capital Juba, and aid agencies are rushing to prevent the outbreak spreading to neighbouring towns. — MNA/Reuters
London policemen face charge for faking log on tube shooting

LONDON, 20 Feb—London police officers are facing criminal charges over allegations that they changed evidence after shooting dead an innocent Brazilian at a London Underground station.

British’s Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) officials investigating the killing of 27-year-old Jean Charles De Menezes plan to charge the officers who oversaw the operation, according to The Independent newspaper on Sunday.

The disclosure comes three weeks after reports that undercover police deliberately attempted to blame firearms officers for the shooting.

Police surveillance officers allegedly tried to disguise the fact that they had mistaken De Menezes for Hussain Osman, the alleged terrorist being hunted for a failed suicide bombing on the Tube.

Action is planned over the allegations that officers took part in the cover-up, in which words clearing them of any wrong-doing were written into the police log. Senior legal sources say that officers who were allegedly involved in altering the log, which detailed the last movements of De Menezes, face charges of obstructing public justice or conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

London, 20 Feb—Nearly half of motorists regularly talk to their cars, giving words of encouragement ahead of a long trip and lavishing praise for a job well done at journey’s end, according to research on Monday.

A survey of 2,000 owners also found 40 percent thought their car had a personality and was capable of being upset whilst 19 percent worried about how their car was feeling.

The poll, conducted by organizers of July’s British International Motor Show found women rather than men tended to have a close relationship with their car. Giving a pet name to their car but not their human partners was admitted to by 20 percent of women.

The survey that revealed fully 47 percent of drivers talked to their cars also looked at how people felt about their cars across the country.

More people chat happily to their cars in the southwest than anywhere else in the country, with 54 percent enjoying a good chat, compared with just 31 percent on East Anglian roads or 20 percent in the southeast.

A dwarf African goat stands on wooden posts at the “Living Desert” zoo in Palm Desert, California on 19 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

California woman, 62, gives birth to baby boy

REDING, 20 Feb—A 62-year-old woman gave birth on Friday to a healthy 6-pound, 9-ounce baby boy, becoming one of the oldest women in the world to successfully bear a child. Janise Wulf gave birth to her 12th child. She is also a grandmother of 20 and a great-grandmother of three.

Family members said the delivery went smoothly, despite earlier concerns about the mother’s health. Wulf, a diabetic, experienced swelling and higher blood pressure earlier this week, prompting doctors to perform the Caesarean section a week early.

Wulf and her third husband, Scott, 48, named the red-haired boy Adam Charles Wulf. He follows just 3 1/2 years behind his older brother, Ian. The oldest woman on record to give birth is a 46-year-old Adriana Ilescu of Romania, who had a Caesarean section on 15 January, 2005. The Guinness Book of World Records also lists two 63-year-old women who have given birth: Rosanna Della Corte of Italy in 1994 and Acheli Keh of California in 1996.

Nine foreign oil workers abducted in southern Nigeria

LAGOS, 20 Feb—Nigerian militants on Saturday abducted nine foreign oil workers for a subcontractor of the oil giant Royal Dutch Shell in the country’s restive south, Shell spokesmen said.

“I can confirm the kidnap, we have that report, but I don’t have details,” the spokesman told Xinhua. Another Shell spokesman said the workers were abducted from a barge, operated by US oil services company Willbros.

Militants from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, which held hostages four foreign oil workers for 19 days last month, in an email statement, claimed responsibility for the kidnap.

They identified the workers as three Americans, a Briton, two Egyptians, two Thais and one Filipino.

Quake jolts Bulgaria, no casualties

SOFIA, 21 Feb — A earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale rattled Bulgaria on Monday, shuttering windows and sending people fleeing into the streets, officials said.

The tremor was centred 200 km (125 miles) south of the capital near the town of Kardzhali, said Rumen Angelov, an officer at Bulgaria’s national civil defence agency.

“There are reports of cracked walls, fallen chimneys and broken windows on the top floors of buildings. There is no sign of any casualties, nor has anyone reported damage to road infrastructure or dams,” Angelov said.

Half of Britons chat to their motor cars

LONDON, 20 Feb—Nearly half of motorists regularly talk to their cars, giving words of encouragement ahead of a long trip and lavishing praise for a job well done at journey’s end, according to research on Monday.

Half of all cars on East Anglian roads rejoiced in a pet name with 54 percent enjoying a good chat, compared with just 31 percent of cars in the southeast.

Half of all cars on

Iraqi residents look at the remains of a destroyed garbage bin at a park square after a bomb attack in Baghdad, on 20 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

India confirms bird flu in poultry, testing humans

NEW DELHI, 20 Feb—India confirmed its first bird flu infections in poultry on Saturday and began tests on eight human beings after 50,000 birds died in the western state of Maharashtra, officials said on Saturday.

“We are testing eight humans for (the) bird flu virus in the affected area of Maharashtra,” Federal Health Secretary PK Hota told Reuters.

“Their blood samples have been sent for testing in Pune. Four other people, including three children, are being kept under observation.”

But the official said so far there were no clinical symptoms in the cases. Test reports would be available in 72 hours, he said, adding all states had been advised to be on a “lookout”.

Maharashtra Animal Husbandry Minister Anees Ahmed earlier confirmed the presence of the H5N1 avian flu virus in some of the dead chickens in Nandurbar District, about 450 kilometres (280 miles) north of Mumbai, the country’s bustling commercial hub.

Samples sent to a government laboratory in the central town of Bhopal had confirmed bird flu, he said.— MNA/Reuters
Thailand, Japan to sign FTA accord in April

BANGKOK, 21 Feb—Thailand and Japan are expected to sign a bilateral free trade area (FTA) agreement in early April, according to Deputy Commerce Minister Preecha Laohapongchana.

After a meeting with Japanese Ambassador to Thailand Hideaki Kobayashi on Monday, Preecha said he discussed with the Japanese top envoy on preparations for the official signing of the Thai-Japanese FTA accord in early April.

The Thai negotiation team had managed to persuade Japan to ease strict rules on imports of Thai farm products in the agreement, Preecha was quoted by Thai News Agency as saying.

The Commerce Ministry had also persuaded Japanese businessmen to make more investment in electronics and auto industries as well as intellectual properties.

Thailand has been trade deficit with Japan mainly due to the import of machinery and raw materials for production.

Japanese investors are interested in a planned bidding for mega-projects in Thailand and want the bidding process to be implemented in a transparent manner, said the Deputy Minister.

Gum chewing helps bowel after surgery

CHICAGO, 21 Feb—Chewing gum after intestinal surgery can help reanimate paralyzed bowels and get patients out of the hospital sooner, a study said on Monday.

Patients who have undergone abdominal surgery often suffer a slowdown or shutdown of the bowels called ileus that causes shutdown of the bowels to work. Abdominal surgery often includes the official signing of the FTA agreement in early April, according to Deputy Commerce Minister Preecha Laohapongchana.

The study, published in the Archives of Surgery, found that chewing gum can stimulate the gastrointestinal system and work the bowels, allowing patients to return home sooner.

Gum chewing is also beneficial for patients undergoing surgery for digestive tract issues such as esophageal or colon surgery where they are unable to eat normally.

One study said that it may be possible for patients who have surgery for digestive tract issues to be discharged home earlier if they are allowed to use gum.

Cambodia sets up commission to save endangered Mekong dolphin

PHNOMPENH, 21 Feb—Amid fears that more Mekong River freshwater dolphins will die, Cambodian Government has formed a commission to save Mekong dolphins.

The commission is scheduled to take place from 20 February to 2 March in capital Hanoi.

On Monday, delegates from APEC Customs Organization in the Asia-Pacific Region arrived in Hanoi to discuss issues relating to electronic commerce, Customs procedures, electrical and electronic mutual recognition, and information protection of e-commerce and e-government.

Chinese experts presented reports on activities of the World Trade Organization.

Colombian Coast Guard seize nearly one ton of cocaine

BOGOTA, 21 Feb—Colombian Coast Guard have seized 930 kilos of cocaine, on board a motorboat abandoned in Pacific waters, close to the port of Buenaventura.

The small boat, with two outboard motors, was spotted Saturday night. It was setting off from a coastal village some 600 km from the Colombian capital, Bogota.

Pena said that the boat's two-man crew leapt into the water and fled for shore when the coastguard appeared. The small boat, with two outboard motors, was spotted Saturday night. It was setting off from a coastal village some 600 km from the Colombian capital, Bogota.

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Robots assemble Volkswagen cars in Wolfsburg, Germany. German producer prices, the price of goods at the factory gate, rose by 5.6 percent in January compared with the same month of 2005, the highest increase since July 1982.

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Myanmar held its first pearl emporium at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel in mid February where 427 lots or 92,864 pearls were displayed. Thirty-five merchants from 20 foreign companies bought 210 pearl lots at the sales that were held at the hotel for three days from 17 to 19 February as the Myanmar Pearl Auction (2006).

In the previous years beginning 1964, the nation sold pearl to foreigners at the Myanma Gems Emporiums where jade and gems were also put on sale together with pearl. Unlike jade, that needs a large place for display, pearl sales can be held in a single room with an appropriate space. Mostly, world nations organize pearl emporiums to buy jade, while pearl is preferred mostly by Americans, Japanese and Europeans.

The 35 merchants from three Australians companies, 12 from three Thai companies, two from one American company, five from three Hong Kong companies, and two from one German company.

Although Myanmar is producing more pearls these years, only a few foreign merchants are buying Myanmar pearl as its quality has not yet known worldwide. Besides, the number of pearls displayed at the Gem Emporiums was small.

We need to ensure harmony between the reserve price for the Myanmar pearl and the global pearl reserve price. The Myanmar Pearl Auction (2006) is included in the arrangements of the Myanmar Pearl Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines to address the weaknesses of the nation’s pearl industry. By holding such pearl sales, MPE can invite more merchants.

The MPE has years of experience in pearl culture, and it has formed joint ventures with entrepreneurs to run oyster farms on profit sharing basis. Myanmar is going to produce as many as 100,000 pearls or so annually.

Myanmar pearl once attracted buyers of the world market is gaining ground again, and the re-emerging pearl market in Myanmar will earn more foreign exchange for the nation.

(Translation: TMT)

Colombian woman gives birth to gigantic baby in Spain

MADRID, 21 Feb — A Colombian woman and her newborn baby have made big news in Madrid. The baby girl, born by cesarean section a week ago, weighed seven kilos at birth, around twice the normal birth weight, it was announced at a Press conference held Monday in the Spanish capital.

The girl, 56.6 centimetres long, was the heaviest newborn at the La Paz hospital in its 40-year history, said Jesus Perez Rodriguez, head of the pre-natal department.

The Colombian parents of the child, Rocio and Juan Carlos, have lived in Colmenar Viejo, a town close to Madrid, for the last five years. They have named their daughter Arancha, said Rodriguez.

Rocio, 38, who appeared at the Press conference with Arancha in her arms, said she had had a difficult pregnancy—she put on 22 kilos and had difficulty walking.

“The size of the child must be a genetic factor, rather than a result of Rocio’s mild diabetes,” said Rodriguez, adding that Rocio gave birth to a five-kilo baby girl nine years ago, and a strict diet that she followed during the pregnancy did little to halt Arancha’s swift growth.

Doctors said both mother and baby are in good health and would soon leave the hospital. The Guinness Book of Records says the heaviest newborn ever recorded weighed 10.8 kilos, but only lived 11 hours.

MNA/Xinhua
Secretary-1 inspects construction...

(from page 1)

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 inspected construction of the bridge. The bridge is built with reinforced concrete frame with steel cables. It is being built across Twantay Canal. It is 840 feet long with 2,730-foot-long approach road. The two-lane bridge is 28 feet wide with a four-foot pedestrian lane on both sides. It can withstand 60-ton loads and its clearance is 45 feet high and 700 feet wide. The road linking Himethaya Industrial Zone No 5 Highway and Dalla-Twantay Road is being built by Special Road Construction Group-16 of Public Works. It is 11 miles and 1 furlongs long. Later, the Secretary-1 inspected the construction of Twantay-Dalla-Hlinethaya road with the use of heavy machinery. — MNA

Commander, minister supervise...

(from page 16)

of monsoon and summer paddy for local rice sufficiency in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, replacement with Hsinshweli hybrid paddy strain whose per acre yield exceeds 200 baskets, and speedy implementation of rural development tasks.

Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint reported on the process to produce Hsinshweli hybrid paddy strain; Shan State PDC Secretary Lt-Col Kyaw Shwe on cultivation of summer paddy in Shan State (North) and steps taken for exceeding production target; and officials on methods to achieve the target of per acre yield of over 200 baskets and supply of water from Humon Dam.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan stressed the importance of extensive dissemination of methods to grow hybrid paddy strains for local rice sufficiency in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State and extended growing of physic nut from which bio-diesel can be extracted and that can contribute towards rural development.

At the prize-distribution ceremony, the commander, the minister, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence and the deputy commander presented prizes to outstanding farmers and staff. — MNA

See page 10
Efforts being made for better results

(from page 16)

constantly conducting research and for application in the fields of disease control, treatment, diagnosis and medical science teaching.

At the symposium 41 papers and 14 posters will be discussed, four symposiums will be held and 11 academic talks will also be given by prominent experts from major hospitals in South East Asian region. The symposium also includes a clinic-pathological conference and question and answer session.

Human resource development is the most basic and important in making efforts for medical units to be organizations on which the State and the Tatmadaw rely. The role of research comes to the fore in international field and work is done through research orientation. Efforts are being made for better results in disease control, treatment, diagnosis and teaching sectors through research.

The medical units set up Defence Services Medical Academy and the academy conducts courses on master of science in medicine and Ph.D courses. Various medical degrees are conferred on graduates by Defence Services Nursing and Paramedical Academy. Cardiac, neuro, kidney and eye operations can be performed by local specialists in cooperation with experts from abroad.

He spoke of the need to apply the findings in practical fields.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thein Sein formally opened the 14th Myanma Tatmadaw Medical Conference and visited Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition.

A total of 10 papers were read at the symposiums which will be held till 25 February.

Road and bridge projects inspected

YANGON, 21 Feb — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected bridge projects in Hlaingthaya yesterday.

In the morning, the minister looked into the road upgrading tasks along Hlaingthaya-Kanbe-Twantay Road that is linking Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone No 5 Highway.

On arrival at the Twantay Bridge Project, the minister heard a report by in-charge of the bridge Deputy Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Naing on work progress, and future tasks on the project. The minister gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

On completion, the steel suspension facility will be 3,570 feet long with a 28-foot-wide motorway and two four-foot-wide walkways on it. It can withstand 60-ton loads.

He also inspected the Pyapon Bridge Project and instructed the officials to supervise the tasks for timely completion of the approach roads. The 3,932 feet eight inches long bridge will be able to withstand 60-ton of loads.

The minister supervised the road upgrading tasks along Pyapon-Kyaiklat-Maunbin Road, Yangon-Pathein Road and Puntanaw-Einme-Myaungmya Road.

Rakhine State WAO holds educative talks

YANGON, 21 Feb — Rakhine State Women’s Affairs Organization held educative talks on 15 February at the Prisons Department in Sittway, Rakhine State.

The talks focused upon activities of women participating in TB elimination tasks and environmental conservation and intellectual capacity of modern women, rights of women and preventive measures against human trafficking.

After the talks, Chairperson of Sittway Township WAO Daw Khin Pyone Kyi presented membership certificates to an official.

Mekong Exhibition from 20 to 24 Feb

YANGON, 21 Feb — A six-member Myanmar delegation led by Executive of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Sai Ba Nyan, on 19 February, left here for Japan to attend the Mekong Exhibition to be staged in Tokyo, Japan, from 20 to 24 February. The delegation was seen off at the airport by General Secretary of UMFFCCI U Sein Win Hlaing, CEC member U Tun Aung and officials.

Thai NDC delegation arrives

YANGON, 21 Feb — Thai delegation led by Maj-Gen Sirichai Ratanaavarata of Thai National Defence College arrived here by air this morning. Thai guests were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Commandant of National Defence College Brig-Gen Than Maung, senior military officers, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, Military Attache Col Prisssapa Suvanatat and officials.

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Thai guests paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda. The delegation leader signed the visitors’ book and made cash donation.

Accompanied by Military Attache Col Prisssapa Suvanatat, the Thai delegation this afternoon called on Commandant of NDC Maj-Gen Moe Hein who extended greetings.

The Commandant and leader of the Thai delegation exchanged souvenirs. The guest, next, viewed the 14th Myanma Tatmadaw Medical Conference.

Maj-Gen Moe Hein of National Defence College receives Thai NDC delegation.—MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cuts the ribbon to open the Myanma Tatmadaw Medical Conference.—MNA

MNA
Minister inspects Chaungmange Dam construction in Lewe

The earthen dam is being constructed on Chaungmange Creek in Lewe and 40 percent of the main dam has been completed. Its 389-foot long conduit pipe is an iron reinforced-type. Spillway is 590 ft long and 80 ft wide. On completion, the dam is expected to irrigate 8,000 acres of farmland.

In the afternoon, the minister went to Agricultural Research Department in Pyinmana and inspected the physic nut nurseries and research plantation of paddies. — MNA

Commander, minister supervise…

(from page 8)

The commander, the minister and party inspected the 100-acre model field of Hsinshweli hybrid summer paddy. They visited the exhibition of the Myanmar Agriculture Service.

Next, they inspected Kundaw Chaung Hsinshweli Dam Project. Officials reported on the project, nurturing of physic nut saplings to grow physic nut around the facility, and prospects for benefiting about 400 acres of crops. The commander fulfilled the requirements for supply of sufficient clean water and irrigation water, and for launching the Namswhan Dam Project.

They visited the physic nut plantation near Humon Village. The in-charge of the farm reported on the nurturing tasks, putting 176.4 acres under physic nut, and the nurturing of physic nut seedlings and grafts. In response, the commander and the minister gave instructions on extended growing of physic nut, calling for access. The commander and the minister visited the 100-acre model field of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy near Yaypyusun Village in Lashio and viewed the thriving paddy plantations. — MNA

Next, they inspected the grafts and saplings nurtured at physic nut nursery in Pauktabin village in Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Division. The in-charge of the facility, and prospects for benefiting about 400 acres of crops. The commander fulfilled the requirements for supply of sufficient clean water and irrigation water, and for launching the Namswhan Dam Project.

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Head of the Information Department of MWAF Daw Kyi Kyi Win presents K40,000 and books for Pyogonyi Library in Bo Dawnagon Village in Hmawby Township to U Kyaw Htwe. — MNA

MWAF donates books to village library

YANGON, 21 Feb — Information Department of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation donated books and cash to a library in Hmawby Township today.

At the book donation ceremony held at the library of Dawngon Village in Hmawby, Head of the Information Department of MWAF Daw Kyi Kyi Win presented cash and handed over 1,120 books and journals to a responsible person of the library. Yagon Division Information and Public Relations Department also presented 600 books to the library. Well-wishers also donated cash and furniture to the library. — MNA

Myanmar extracts bio-diesel from physic nut

Production of bio-diesel

Physic nut is easy to be grown. It starts to bear fruits in a short time although it is a perennial plant. It is a multi-purpose crop. It is not difficult to extract oil from physic nut fruits.

Produce physic nut oil on small scale

There is no need to use large machines to extract physic nut oil. In rural areas, physic nut oil is extracted with the use of small machines. Physic nut seeds can be milled with a manual miller, hydraulic miller or a simple crushing machine to obtain oil.

Take systematic measures

If physic nut seeds are to be stored, the storing process must be proper. Otherwise, the oil content rate in the fruits may be reduced. The oil obtained by milling seeds is filtered through a thin cloth. And the filtered oil can be used directly in the engines of small tractors, generators, water pumps, reapers and small vehicles. In this regard, engines and pumps need to be cleaned regularly.

It causes no environmental pollution

Using bio-diesel can reduce air pollution. It causes no environmental pollution, so it is not harmful to the health of human beings. Use of bio-diesel in engines directly can reduce the global warming and contribute towards environmental conservation. So, producers and users are to produce and use physic nut oil efficiently.

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Grafts and saplings nurtured at physic nut nursery in Pauktabin village in Thabeikkyin Township, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Division.

Chairman of the Work Committee for Holding the Literary and Photo Competitions to mark the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein and members scrutinizing the photos at Myanmar Radio and Television on 21-2-2006. — MNA

Objectives of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day

* To work in concert with the people for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic new nation
* To strive for successful realization of the seven-point policy programme of the State
* To crush every danger posed to the State hand in hand with people
* To build a strong, capable and modern Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Chaungmange Dam construction project in Lewe township, Mandalay Division. — MNA

YANGON, 21 Feb — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo on 19 February inspected Chaungmange Dam construction project in Lewe township, Mandalay Division.

The minister went to Agricultural Research Department in Pyinmana and inspected the physic nut nurseries and research plantation of paddies. — MNA
Great Lakes Region nations meet to discuss anti-AIDS strategies
KINSHASA, 21 Feb — Delegates from six nations in Central Africa’s Great Lakes Region met here on Monday for a ministerial meeting to discuss anti-AIDS strategies.

Emile Bongeli, Health Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), said the region is home to about 3 million AIDS orphans and 6 million cases of AIDS infection, and accounts for a quarter of the total AIDS population in sub-Saharan Africa.

He also said AIDS-infection rates range from 4 to 9 per cent among the people aged between 15 and 49.

Confronted with such a grim situation, countries in the region have to cooperate actively with each other to hammer out strategies for the prevention of the disease, delegates to the meeting agreed.

Western diet helps raise S Korea breast cancer rate
SEOUL, 21 Feb — Breast cancer among South Korean women is increasing at a rapid rate due in part to a more Western lifestyle and consumption of unhealthy foods, according to a paper made available on Tuesday.

In the paper published in the February issue of the Archives of Surgery, a Journal of the American Medical Association, South Korean scientists found that South Korean women have increased risk factors for breast cancer in recent years.

“We believe that the younger generations of Korean women have been directly affected by the progressive Westernization of the Korean lifestyle,” the authors wrote.

Many of the developing nations that make up a majority of the UN membership have expressed outrage in recent days over what they see as a power grab by the 15-nation UN Security Council led by the United States.

A group of countries known as the Non-Aligned Movement and a bloc of 132 developing nations and China have formally protested that the Council, chaired this month by US Ambassador John Bolton, was trespassing on UN General Assembly turf by scheduling meetings this week on procurement fraud and sexual abuse by peacekeepers.

The two blocs argued these were General Assembly matters rather than the Council’s, a stand Annan supported.

Bolton dismissed their concerns, saying the two UN bodies shared jurisdiction over the matter and the Assembly was free to hold its own meetings.

Annan acknowledged the tensions triggered by the reform drive and the widespread unhappiness with the power wielded by the Security Council’s five veto-equipped permanent members, the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain.

Thailand to host 37th Bangkok Gems and Jewellery Fair
BANGKOK, 21 Feb — Thailand’s Export Promotion Department and Thai Gems and Jewellery Traders Association will jointly host the 37th Bangkok Gems and Jewellery Fair from 1 to 5 March at the Impact International Exhibition Centre of Bangkok, the Export Promotion Department Monday announced.

Chandra Buranarerk, Director-General of the Export Promotion Department, said a Press conference that Dr Somkid Jatusripitik, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce will preside over the opening ceremony of the internationally recognized jewellery fair, showcasing the best of Thai-made gems and jewellery, said the official.

Chandra said that Thailand had become an important production hub of gems and jewellery in the world.

US removing documents from public access
WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — US intelligence agencies have been secretly removing from public access at the National Archives thousands of historical documents that were available for years, The New York Times reported on Monday.

The restoration of classified status to more than 55,000 previously declassified pages began in 1999, when the CIA and five other agencies objected to what they saw as a hasty release of sensitive information after a 1995 declassification order signed by President Bill Clinton, the Times said on its Web site.

The secret programme accelerated after the Bush administration took office and especially after the 11 September attacks, according to archives records, the paper said.

It came to light after intelligence historian Matthew Aid noticed documents he had copied years ago had been withdrawn from the archives.

“Under existing guidelines, government documents are supposed to be declassified after 25 years unless there is a particular reason to keep them secret.

Some historians say the programme is removing material that can do no conceivable harm to national security and note that some of the documents have been published by the government, the Times said.

A thirty foot (9 metres) inflatable model of the animated film character Gromit is displayed in Trafalgar Square in London, on 20 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Europe uses Army, coops up poultry to stop bird flu
PARIS, 21 Feb — Europe called in the military and shut chickens in sheds and coops on Monday to halt the spread of deadly bird flu that has reached France and hit poultry sales across the continent.

With European cases so far limited to wild birds, authorities worked furiously to prevent the H5N1 virus infecting the European Union’s one-billion-strong domestic poultry flock and threatening an industry worth 20 billion euros ($23.88 billion US dollars) a year.

Veterinarians were busy on Monday checking all birds within the zone. Birds from other French regions were being tested too, but two suspected cases in the Somme region turned out negative.

Birds from other French regions were being tested too, but two suspected cases in the Somme region turned out negative.

The outbreaks have hit farms which had already been placed under quarantine by the state’s veterinary authorities.

The minister said that the ministry had quarantined the affected farms, and informed the Panamerican Animal Health Organization of the cases that have been located in the municipalities of Bela Vista do Paraíso, Grandes Rios, Maringá and Londrina.

“Our outbreaks have hit farms which had already been placed under quarantine by the state’s veterinary service. Nine farms in Paraíba were identified as suspicious in November last year,” he said.

Brazil confirms new foot-and-mouth outbreaks
RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Feb — Another six cases of foot-and-mouth disease have been confirmed among livestock raised in Brazil’s Paraíba State near the borders with Argentina and Paraguay, said Minister of Agriculture Gabriel Alvez Maciel on Monday.

The minister said that the ministry had quarantined the affected farms, and informed the Panamerican Animal Health Organization of the cases that have been located in the municipalities of Bela Vista do Paraíso, Grandes Rios, Maringá and Londrina.

“The outbreaks have hit farms which had already been placed under quarantine by the state’s veterinary service. Nine farms in Paraíba were identified as suspicious in November last year,” he said.
Domain names registered for donated pandas to Taiwan

BEIJING, 20 Feb—Sixteen domain names related to the two pandas donated to Taiwan have all been registered with marked price for all the 16 hitting as high as 3.33 million yuan (416,000 US dollars), the Beijing Morning Post reported Sunday.

The 16 domain names both in Chinese and English for Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan have all been registered by one person, an IT worker surnamed Peng in Shanghai.

“I’m engaged in IT industry. I’m quite confident in prospects of domain names of ‘tuantuanyuanyuan.com.’ and ‘tuantuanyuan-yuan.com.cn.’ ” Peng was quoted by the paper as saying.

Peng spent only about 2,000 yuan to register all the 16 domain names and wish to sell them each at price ranging from 100,000 yuan to 880,000 yuan, the paper said.

The Chinese Mainland announced the decision to donate pandas to Taiwan on 3 May, 2005. The two pandas were chosen from 11 candidates last January.

The names “Tuan Tuan” and “Yuan Yuan”, which mean reunion, were chosen as names for the two donated pandas during the Spring Festival.

“From 12 January, when the list of possible names for the two pandas were publicized, I think ‘Tuan Tuan’ and ‘Yuan Yuan’ will be the winners,” Peng said.

“Then I started to register all related domain names of ‘Tuan Tuan’ and ‘Yuan Yuan’, and finished registration for the 16 names before final result was unveiled,” he said. For his best four domain names including tuantuanyuanyuan.com and tuantuanyuan-yuan.com.cn, Peng said “many companies have contacted with me and all offered price exceeds 200,000 yuan.”

Study says India, China to be major beneficiaries of R&D investment

Silicon Valley, 20 Feb—India and China will continue to be major beneficiaries of research and development expansion drive of companies seeking new market opportunities and access to top scientific and engineering talent, according to a new study.

Contrary to popular belief, lower cost is not the chief factor driving companies to locate their R&D operations in foreign countries like India, the study sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation showed.

The quality of R&D personnel available and opportunities for university collaboration are often more important attractions, said Marie Thursby, professor of strategic management at Georgia Tech College of Management, and Jerry Thursby, professor and chair of economics at Emory University, in the study.

However, their survey of more than 200 multinational companies across 15 industries, mostly based in the US and Western Europe, also revealed that despite the trend toward offshoring R&D operations in Asia, companies are keeping their most cutting-edge research in developed countries where intellectual property (IP) protection is the strongest.

According to the study, only 22 per cent of the R&D effort in emerging countries is for new science. “While costs are higher in the United States and other developed countries, these economies still have a comparative advantage in R&D because of the high calibre of their scientists,” particularly given the IP environment,” said Marie Thursby.

“Not everything’s moving to China and India,” — MNA/PTI

Vietnam to have 3 oil refineries by 2009

HANOI, 21 Feb — Vietnam has planned to put into operation, by 2009, three oil refineries with total annual capacity of processing 14.5 million tons of crude oil, local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times reported Monday.

The country started to build its first refinery in central Quang Ngai Province late last year. Capitalized at 2.5 billion US dollars, the refinery with an annual capacity of 6.5 million tons of crude oil is expected to become operational in early 2008 or early 2009.

Recently, a feasibility study of another oil refinery project has been submitted to the country’s Ministry of Planning and Investment. The refinery with annual capacity of three million tons, to be located in central Phu Yen Province and invested by Britain and the Netherlands, has been planned to operate in 2009.

Vietnam has eyed to have two more oil refineries with annual capacity of seven million tons each in central Thanh Hoa Province and in the southern region by 2020, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua
Golden monkeys quadruple but still endangered in S-W China

GUIYANG, 20 Feb — The grey snub-nosed monkey, an endangered species only found in the southwest China’s Guizhou Province, has quadrupled to around 800 over the past 20 years, said a local official in charge of protection for the animal.

The monkey, the rarest among the three species of golden monkeys in China’s Sichuan, Yun-nan, Gansu and Hubei provinces, mainly lives in the Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve in northeast Guizhou.

“We have acquired through research detailed data concerning the number, clans, distribution and existence of the animal,” said Yang Yeqin, director of the reserve, who participated in a decade-long field investigation on the species. The findings of the systematic research provide us with valuable first-hand data for better preserving and protecting this animal, he said.

Groups of the snub-nosed animal were not found by Chinese scientists until early in the 1980s, when they estimated the number of the animal was around 200. The systematic field investigation, which began in 1987, lasted more than ten years, under the instruction of the State Forestry Administration.

China’s golden monkeys, a species more endangered than giant pandas, have made a surprising comeback with populations quadrupling in the past two decades. —INTERNET

Japan successfully places satellite into orbit

The H-2A rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southern Kagoshima Prefecture and is carrying a 4.7-ton satellite, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said.

A JAXA spokesman described the launch as a success, adding the rocket had placed the satellite into the right orbit.

The satellite will be used for controlling air traffic as well as gathering meteorological data.

“It shows that the reliability of the H-2A is surely rising and that our nation’s space programme is steadily progressing.” Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said of the launch, according to Kyodo news agency.

After a lapse of nearly a year, the H-2A, the largest rocket in Japan’s space programme, successfully put a land-observation satellite into orbit in January.

Both launches will likely bolster Japan’s confidence among the country’s space community, after two unsuccessful launches of the H-2, the H-2A’s predecessor, in the 1990s.

More recently, Japan’s space programme appeared to have made history when JAXA announced in November that an unmanned probe successfully collected rock samples from an asteroid nearly 300 million kilometres (186 million miles) from Earth.

But jubilation soon turned to disappointment as data sent from the probe showed that it had probably failed to collect samples.

MNA/Reuters

Two powerful explosions rock central Baghdad, two killed

BAGHDAD, 20 Feb — Two powerful explosions rocked central Baghdad near the entrances of the heavily-fortified Green Zone on Sunday, killing two Iraqis and wounding 10 others altogether, a police source said.

The first blast caused by a car bomb parking near a blocked suspension bridge near the Green Zone went off when a convoy of an unidentified Iraqi senior official passed by, said Captain Ahmed Abdullah, from Baghdad police.

The official escaped unhurt, he said, adding that two Iraqi civilians who happened to be close to the bombing scene were killed and six others wounded.

“Following the first blast, a suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest blew himself up near an Iraqi Army checkpoint located at one of the entrances of the Green Zone,” Abdullah said.

The blast damaged four civilian cars and wounded four Iraqi Defence Ministry employees who were heading to office in the Green Zone.

The carefully guarded zone, lying in central Baghdad, houses the Iraqi Government and the US Embassy. It has frequently witnessed bomb attacks.

MNA/Reuters

China exports dairy cows to Mongolia for first time

HONHOR, 20 Feb — China has exported 26 high producing black-and-white cows known as Holstein-Friesia to neighbouring Mongolia for the first time, according to local authorities.

The 26 cows were from North China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and underwent 21 days of quarantine and testing for seven kinds of epidemic diseases before going to Mongolia, said Feng Yongsheng, an official with the Erenhot City Inspection and Quarantine Bureau in Inner Mongolia.

MNA/Xinhua

66 trapped in Mexican coal mine after blast

MEXICO CITY, 20 Feb — Sixty-six miners were trapped two-mile (3-kilometres) underground in a remote, semi-desert region of northern Mexico on Sunday after an explosion ripped through a coal mine, rescue workers said.

Soldiers and civil protection staff were working with specialist mine teams to free those trapped in the mine, in the northern part of Coahuila state, which borders Texas.

“The information that we have is that 66 people are trapped and seven others, who were outside the mine but affected by the explosion, are injured,” said Miguel Angel Beltran of the civil protection agency in Saltillo, capital of Coahuila state.

MNA/Reuters

Palestinian security men perform a stunt during a graduation ceremony in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on 19 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Moto GP riders Nicky Hayden (C) of the United States, Dani Pedrosa (L) of Spain and Makoto Tamada of Japan pose with Honda’s new ‘RC211V’ for 2006 at a news conference in Tokyo on 20 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET
Champions League.—

is due to play English team Arsenal in the Europe’s season. I will weigh things up.”

He added that he would consider his future at the end of the season.

“In Bernabeu stadium... I was never treated with affection. I never felt at home where people don’t love me,” he told a Press conference.

“At the moment, I am concentrating on winning the League and the European Cup, but at the end of the season I will weigh things up.”

Ronaldo made this statement just a day before Real is due to play English team Arsenal in the Europe’s Champions League.— MNA/Xinhua

Wenger says defence key in Arsenal-Real match

Arsene Wenger, head coach of England Premier League side Arsenal, rated on Monday a very special day for Thierry Henry: although it is a tough game, big players rise to the challenge of important games, and Henry is one of the biggest players in the world.

The first knock-out round match of Champions League between England Premiership and Spanish Primera Liga former champions will take on Tuesday in Madrid’s Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

“We need to be united as a team on the field, to be disciplined and know what to do when we have the ball at our feet,” Wenger told a press conference.

“I feel it is going to be a
day for Thierry Henry: although it is a tough game, big players rise to the challenge of important games, and Henry is one of the biggest players in the world.

The first knock-out round match of Champions League between England Premiership and Spanish Primera Liga former champions will take place in Madrid’s Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

At Monday’s press conference, Wenger faced the press with smiles and jokes, and said that despite missing players due to injury, his team would fight hard in the game.

MFA/Xinhua

United’s Smith has surgery on double leg injury

Manchester United’s Alan Smith had an operation on Sunday on the broken leg and dislocated ankle he suffered during the 1-0 FA Cup defeat at Liverpool.

“The operation was a success. Alan will remain in hospital for a couple of days, and the leg will be in plaster for several weeks,” a United spokesman said.

The 25-year-old midfielder suffered the horrific injury to his left leg when he landed badly trying to block a shot by defender John Arne Riise late in Saturday’s fifth-round match at Anfield.

Liverpool reached the quarter-finals with their first victory over United in 10 FA Cup ties spanning 85 years. “Everybody connected with the club is wishing Alan well for a speedy recovery”, the spokesman told United’s website.— MNA/Reuters

Italy striker Totti fractures ankle

Roma, 20 Feb.— AS Roma striker Francesco Totti is expected to be out of action for about two months after breaking his ankle during a Serie A match against Empoli, the Gazzetta dello Sport’s website said on Sunday.

The Italian international was carried off after going down under a heavy challenge from defender Richard Vanigli in the 12th minute of the game, which Roma won 1-0 to equal the record of 10 Serie A wins in a row.

MFA/Reuters

Lyon out to settle score with PSV

Lyon (France), 20 Feb.— Olympique Lyon will be out for a revenge when they visit PSV Eindhoven in the first leg of their Champions League knockout round tie on Tuesday.

“More than taking a revenge over them we will aim at settling scores,” said Olympique Lyon’s chairman Jean-Michel Aulas, who is still bitter over the manner of last year’s elimination.

“Despite missing players due to injury, his team would fight hard in the game.”

MFA/Xinhua

Last chance for Arsenal against rejuvenated Real

Lyon (France), 20 Feb.— It is the last-chance saloon for Arsenal when they face a rejuvenated Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League knockout tie at the Bernabeu on Tuesday.

For Arsene Wenger’s side the game represents their only remaining hope of saving a season that is threatening to disintegrate around them and to make matters worse they appear to have caught the Spaniards just when they have rediscovered their best form.

The Londoners, who impressed in the group stage, have gone into freefall in recent months and hardly look to be in the best shape to face up to their first-ever meeting with the nine-times European champions.

They are out of both English cups and are struggling in fifth place in the league, 25 points behind runaway leaders Chelsea.— MFA/Reuters

Primera Liga match reports

Cadiz 1 — Osasuna 3

Osasuna kept pace with the leaders by coming from behind after Cadiz had taken the lead when Argentine forward Lucas Lobos dinked a free kick over the wall after 15 minutes.

Serbia & Montenegro striker Savo Milosevic equalized with a header in the 35th minute and two minutes later David Lopez curled a free kick round the wall.

Cadiz had Uruguay striker Alexander Medina sent off 14 minutes from time and Raúl Garcia scored the third from a free kick in the 82nd minute.

Deportivo Coruna 1 — Real Zaragoza 0

King’s Cup finalists Zaragoza took the lead after 17 minutes when Alvaro headed Leonardo Pontzo’s free kick to Argentine striker Diego Milito to head his 12th goal of the season. Depor, who could meet Zaragoza in the Cup final, have struggled to all through this season but they levelled in the 55th when Pedro Munitis scored direct from a free kick.

The home side finished with 10 men after Argentine defender Fabbricio Coloccini was sent off in the 82nd minute.

Getafe 0 — Atlético Madrid 3

Atletico made it five wins in a row with a convincing derby victory.

A poor clearance from a free kick after half an hour allowed French midfielder Peter Luccin to score with a low shot and another free kick after 49 minutes broke to Argentine forward Maxi Rodriguez, who buried his effort at the near post.— MFA/Reuters

Deportivo Coruna's Nilmar (2nd L) celebrates after scoring against Real Zaragoza.

Gazzetta dello Sport's Roma soccer game in Italy.

Jeff Burton in the number 31 Chevrolet leads the field for the start of the 48th Daytona 500 race at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida on 19 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Manchester City's Micah Richards (3rd L) scores against Aston Villa during their English FA Cup soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England, on 19 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

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Deportivo Coruna's Nilmar (2nd L) celebrates after scoring against Real Zaragoza.
Opening ceremony of Asian Aerospace held in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 21 Feb — The opening ceremony of this year’s Asian Aerospace, the world’s third largest and Asia’s biggest airshow, was held in Singapore’s Suntec City Convention Centre on Monday night.

Some 154 delegations from more than 40 countries, as well as 800 exhibitors and 27,000 trade visitors will attend the four-day trade show, which is to open on Tuesday through Friday at the Changi Exhibition Centre. Channel NewsAsia reported, adding that the two public days during this weekend expect to see 60,000 visitors.

More than 40 civil, military and business aircraft, including the Apache helicopter, the F-15 and F-16 fighters and the world’s biggest commercial airliner Airbus A380 will be displayed in a static area outside the exhibition hall during the show.

F-16 fighters, two Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and the Airbus A380 are also to be seen during the daily flying displays.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister S. Jayakumar said that the aviation sector is an integral part of the global economy.

“Ay according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), aviation’s global economic impact is estimated at close to 3 trillion US dollars, with the industry accounting for about 29 million jobs globally,” Jayakumar noted.

This year’s Asian Aerospace, the 13th in its series, is the last one to be held in Singapore. It will move to Hong Kong next year.

A new series of airshows called the Singapore Airshow, which was originally named the Changi International Airshow, is scheduled to make its debut in 2008 to replace the Asian Aerospace.

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Indonesian police say women used in new terrorist strategy

JAKARTA, 21 Feb — The Indonesian police have said there is increasing evidence that women are being used by terrorist groups here to smuggle and receive explosives and weapons, a report said on Monday.

Five women in two separate cases have been arrested and charged recently with smuggling bomb detonators and explosives materials from Malaysia into Indonesia.

National Police spokesman Brigadier General Anton Bachru Alam said the women could be playing important roles as couriers and recipients of smuggled materials, reported The Jakarta Post daily.

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Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Tuesday, 22 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been scattered in Taninthayi Division, and weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine and Mon States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin State and Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions.

The significant night temperature was Haka (6°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (0.94) inch and Myeik (0.67) inch.

Maximum temperature on 20-2-2006 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 21-2-2006 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 21-2-2006 was (80%). Total sunshine hours on 20-2-2006 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 21-2-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Northwest at (03:10) hours MST on 21-2-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22-2-2006:
Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin State, upper Sugaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of light rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-2-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-2-2006: Fair weather.
Efforts being made for better results in disease control, treatment, diagnosis and teaching sectors through research

14th Myanma Tatmadaw Medical Conference opens

YANGON, 21 Feb — The 14th Myanma Tatmadaw Medical Conference was opened at Defence Services Orthopedic Hospital (500-bed) in Mingaladon Township this morning, with an address by Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Also present were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers, commanding officers of medical units under the Directorate of Medical Services, specialists, postgraduate students, specialists of Institute of Paramedical Science, officials of the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and International Federation of Red Cross and researchers.

In his address, Lt-Gen Thein Sein said medical symposiums have been held since 1990 under the leadership of Tatmadaw Medical Research and Development Committee. Tatmadaw Medical Research and Development committee formed as a research and development committee under the military technological development committee is mainly responsible for (See page 9)

Various medical degrees are conferred on graduates by Defence Services Nursing and Paramedical Academy. Cardiac, neuro, kidney and eye operations can be performed by specialists in cooperation with experts from abroad.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein speaks at the 14th Myanma Tatmadaw Medical Conference. — MNA

Commander, minister supervise agricultural tasks in Lashio

YANGON, 21 Feb — A ceremony to mark the completion of ploughing 705 acres to grow Hsinshweli strain summer paddy was held along with prize-presentation ceremony at Hsinshweli hall near the 821-acre model field in Humon Dam irrigated area in Lashio yesterday morning.

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing elaborated on extended cultivation (See page 8)

Myanmar pearl once attracted buyers of the world market is gaining ground again, and the re-emerging pearl market in Myanmar will earn more foreign exchange for the nation.

ARTICLE: MYINT LWIN
PHOTOS: THAUNG MYINT (MNA) AND TIN LWIN (MNA)