YANGON, 27 Feb—A ceremony to launch the ninth National Sanitation Week (2006) jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF was opened at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here this morning.

Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered a speech.

In his speech, he said clean water, systematic garbage disposal, personal hygiene and clean hands and food are related one another and they contribute towards the improvement of health and socioeconomic development of the State.

The degree of improvement in water and sanitation level is indicator that shows the development of a country. This is why Myanmar has laid down the health policies to control air and water pollution. According to law, the public are responsible for carrying out environmental tasks under the supervision of the health officers in the respective regions.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National RacWes and Development Affairs are to implement the tasks for use of fly-proof latrines in villages and townships nationwide under the 20th resolution of 9 of the 20th meeting of the National Health Committee held on 30 November 1995. The government has laid down and is implementing the rural development project covering the task of providing clean water for the public. The people will have to systematically dispose garbage and to use only clean water. The people will be free from diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, parasite-related illness, jaundice and polio if they always keep their hands clean and prepare food in hygienic condition.

The National Sanitation Week has been held since 1998 to accelerate the sanitation work. There will be more difficulties in implementing the project as it now covers over 80 per cent of the population. The remaining 20 per cent may be of the poor and the underprivileged. At this stage the project is being implemented through conventional means. The project needs more inputs and assistance and correct management. All should give priority to ensuring sustainability in implementing the on-going project. YCDC and MCDC should issue directives to further accelerate the sanitation project, and all schools should be provided with fly-proof toilets and hygienic water.

The Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, the Myanmar Music Asiayon, the Myanmar Thabin Asiayon, and (See page 8)

The government has laid down and is implementing the rural development project covering the task of providing clean water for the public. The people will have to systematically dispose garbage and to use only the clean water.
Improve transport system of the nation

The government is constantly fulfilling the basic requirements for economic development and higher socio-economic status of the national people. As the transport sector plays a pivotal role in raising the socio-economic status of the people, the government is also implementing the plans for transport infrastructure development.

New motor roads and railroads are being built the length and breadth of the nation and at the same time the old ones are being upgraded. Not only that, bridges, big and small, are being constructed on the new motor roads and railroads. As a result, people in all parts of the nation can easily travel from one region to another.

Rail, road and water transports are the main modes of transport in the nation. The better and smoother the transport sector, the higher the socio-economic status of the national people. Therefore, measures are being taken sector-wise to improve the transportation of passengers and goods.

Since 1993, Myanmar Shipyards of the Ministry of Transport has been building and docking vessels for inland water transport as well as for foreign companies. According to the international vessel inspection agencies, vessels built by Myanmar Shipyards are of international standard. So far, Myanmar Shipyards has built 22 vessels for companies in Singapore, China and Indonesia.

In addition to ship-building, Myanmar Shipyards also engages in docking vessels. In the past, Myanmar Shipyards could dock only 1700-ton vessels but now it can dock 12000-ton vessels. At present, the 13000-ton cargo ship of Myanma Five Star Line MV Mandalay is being docked. In January, 2005, a dry dockyard was built and in the 2005-2006 fiscal year seven vessels were docked at the dry dockyard.

In the past, vessels were docked at foreign dockyards. Now, as the local dry dockyard can handle vessels, it saves a lot of foreign currency. We would like to call on all those responsible of the Ministry of Transport to try their best to improve the entire transport system of the nation including transportation of passengers and goods.

Myanmar PGA and MGF President Cup 2006 goes ahead for second day

YANGON, 27 Feb — Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation President Cup for 2006, organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation went ahead at Hanthawaddy Golf and Country Club in Bago Division this morning.

After an 18-hole event for the second day, Soe Kyaw Naing (Strixon) took the lead with total strokes 140 ahead of Zaw Zaw Latt (Strixon) and Aung Win (Strixon+YCDC) with total strokes 144 each, followed by Bo Bo with 152 KBZ Bank Ltd, KM Golf Centre, Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water, Grand Royal Special Reserve, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Eden Group Co Ltd, Hanthawaddy Golf and Country Club, Taunggyi Gem-Master Enterprises Ltd took part in providing assistance with the tournament. Moreover, Han Event Management organized the tournament.

An eighteen-hole event continues at the same venue tomorrow. — MNA

Teachership course on promotion of reproductive health opens

MMCWA Vice-President Dr Tin Lin Myint addresses the opening Teachership course No 1/2006 (Central Level). — MNA

Myanmar League matches continue at AS Stadium, Thuwunna

YANGON, 27 Feb — Myanmar League matches for 2005-2006 continued in Aung San Stadium and Youth Training Camp (Thuwunna) at 3.30 pm today.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team 1</th>
<th>Team 2</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Today’s Fixtures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F&amp;R</td>
<td>YCDC</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td>Construction Vs Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>YCDC</td>
<td>F&amp;R</td>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>Defence Vs Sunye</td>
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</table>

A total of K 100,000 was donated to Hninzigon Home for the Aged in commemoration of the birthday of Daw Yin Yin Myint (Retired Editor of Myanmar Language Commission) of 41, Myenu Street, Sanyo Township, Yangon recently. — MNA
Iran agrees in principle with Russia on enrichment offer

MOSCOW, 26 Feb — Russia and Iran have reached an agreement in principle on setting up a uranium enrichment joint venture, Iranian Vice President Gholamreza Aghazadeh said on Sunday, the Interfax news agency reported.

Aghazadeh, who is also the country’s nuclear chief, told a press conference in Bushir, Iran, that negotiations on the issue will continue.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said here on Sunday that Moscow will maintain “contacts” with Iran over the latter’s nuclear plans ahead of a 6 March meeting of the board of governors of the UN’s nuclear watchdog. “Contacts on this subject will continue until the meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 6 March in Vienna,” Lavrov told reporters. — Internet

11 Iranians shot dead as family feud boils over

TEHRAN, 26 Feb — A father and two sons shot dead 11 of their relatives and wounded six more in a family feud in the southern Iranian city of Jahrom, a judiciary official said on Saturday. Alimohammad Afsaneh, in his 40s, and his two sons, aged 17 and 20, burst into a garden where their relatives were gathering on Friday afternoon and opened fire with assault rifles, said the official who declined to be named.

“They killed two of (Afsaneh’s) brothers, a sister of his and other members of their family. Altogether 11 people were killed,” he said. — MNA/Reuters

Highest atmospheric pollution monitored in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 26 Feb — The highest atmospheric pollution monitoring station in the world has begun to collect data on the composition of the atmosphere over the Himalayas and the Asian plateau. Radio Nepal reported on Saturday. The Ev-K2-CNR Committee’s ABC-Pyramid station was set up in Khumbu Valley of Nepal at a height of 5,079 metres, the state-owned radio said.

“Continuous measurements are being carried out, using instruments like nephelometer, DMPS-SMPS, optical particle counter, black carbon and ozone analyzer. All meteorological parameters are also being monitored,” the radio quoted the Ev-K2-CNR Committee as saying.

“Hi-volume sampling for aerosol chemical composition (inorganic, organic, mass and gas) and steel flask sampling for the analyses of halocarbons relevant for climate issues have also begun,” the radio said.

ABC-Pyramid will make up for a lack of crucial information from remote, high altitude areas in the South Asian region on the environmental consequences of the rapid economic development of one of the most densely populated areas of the world. — MNA/Xinhua

Bus accident kills 23 in S-W China

GUANGYANG, 26 Feb — Twenty-three people were killed after a bus plunged 30 metres into a ravine in southwest China’s Guizhou Province Friday morning, local police reported.

The accident, which also injured more than 20 people, occurred at about 6:30 am, when the bus ploughed through the highway’s guardrail about 12 kilometres from the provincial capital Guangyung. The Sithuan licensed bus travelling from Zhongshan City of Guangdong Province to Luzhou of Sichuan Province, was running on a highway linking Guangyung and Xinzhai Town of Guanzsi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Initial investigations indicate that careless driving is likely to the cause of the tragedy, said Wang Jianwu, a local traffic police officer at the scene.

Wang said injured passengers told him that the driver lost control when he tried to reach for something. The injured passengers have been sent to hospitals and the bus was retrieved from the valley by two cranes, the police said.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation and the exact number of people onboard has yet to be determined. — MNA/Xinhua

Zambia harassed by bomb scare hoaxes

LUSAKA, 26 Feb — Zambia’s capital Lusaka was harassed by hoaxes of bomb scares as different organizations and institutes in the city received anonymous calls of bomb scare within four days in the week.

Operations in the city’s Church House came to a standstill on Friday morning for more than two hours after it received a phone call saying a bomb had been planted in the building which houses the Council of Churches.

The bomb scare came only a day after the City Market and the Non-governmental Organization Co-ordinating Committee (NGOCC) received similar phone call and text messages on Thursday.

Marketers and workers for the NGOCC were evacuated after the bomb scares but police search proved to be fruitless as no bomb was found in neither places.

And on Tuesday, a similar bomb scare hoax derailed the trial of Zambian Former President Frederick Chiluba which was scheduled to be held at a magistrate court in the capital. — MNA/Xinhua

2,290 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 26 Feb — As of Sunday, 26 Feb, 2006, at least 2,290 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Department’s tally, last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 101 deaths: Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, one death each.

Iraqi soldiers hold their weapons on board a vehicle as they patrol a road in Baghdad, on 26 Feb, 2006. — Интернет

A general view of the nuclear power plant in Bushehr, about 1,215 km (755 miles) south of Tehran, Iran on 26 Feb, 2006. — Интернет

Snow, an American Bulldog tries to pull a sled carrying 1020 pounds of weight in it as his owner Donnavan Shangian encourages him during the lightweight division of the Fur Rondy World Championship Dog Weight Pull in Anchorage, Alaska, on 25 Feb, 2006. Snow won the division pulling 900 pounds. — Интернет
**New fossil may rewrite history of mammal evolution**

*Nanjing, 26 Feb—* With its forelegs upright like a dog and hind legs stretching out like a lizard, experts say a newly discovered fossil may rewrite the history of mammalian evolution.

In their joint research on mammal fossils in the western part of Northeast China’s Liaoning Province, two distinct bone characteristics in the fossil of a sharp-mouthed mammal were collected by Chen Piji, a Nanjing-based researcher of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

The British research journal, *Nature*, reported the unprecedented discovery, which is believed by some as holding the potential to change the traditional theory on the evolution of mammals. Li Gang, one of the co-authors of the paper, said existing mammals are classified into two groups — viviparous therians which have fully evolved bones, such as kanganous and elephants; and oviparous monotremes, which have rather primitive bones, like lizards.

The newly discovered fossil, however, has the characteristics of both, a trait that was never observed before, said the researcher with CAS Nanjing Institute of Geology and Paleontology.

An analysis of the fossil shows the mammal, which lived some 120 million years ago in the early Cretaceous period, was about 12 centimeters long and weighed between 15 and 20 grams. It looks very much like a gecko, but with the help of a microscope, experts saw it had straight front legs like a dog, while its hind legs resemble those of a lizard, with a 90-degree angle between the thigh and calf.

Further observation also found many evolutionary discrepancies. For example, it has the teeth of a therian but shares the lumbar ribs found only in primitive mammals.

It resembled a viviparous therian in the skull, upper limbs and shoulder bones but had the lumbar, pelvis and lower limbs of an ovipara.

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**Chirac eats chicken at Paris agriculture trade show**

*Paris, 26 Feb—* French President Jacques Chirac ate some pieces of chicken at the 43rd agriculture trade show opened on Saturday in Paris to show “no danger” to consume poultry and eggs.

Chirac inaugurated the annual agriculture trade show, chomping on chicken of the Bresse region, where the first case of bird flu on a European farm has been confirmed.

“There is no danger in consuming poultry and eggs,” Chirac reiterated at the trade show, said that while the spread of bird flu “is not yet a crisis”, it was an European problem with real economic consequences.

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**Guinea fishing boat sinks, 29 feared dead**

*Conacry, 26 Feb—* Twenty-nine people are feared to have drowned after a Guinean fishing boat illegally carrying passengers sank in the Atlantic Ocean, local government officials said on Friday.

The pirouge, a low, narrow craft often used for fishing or transport, foundered on Thursday just offshore at Kachec, in the west African country’s northern district of Kankanfluence, they said. “We are still looking for bodies. This morning we found two corpses. Of the 52 people on board, there are only 23 survivors according to a provisional assessment,” Kachec rural community council leader Fautin Bangoura told Reuters by telephone.

“It was a pirouge belonging to a local fishing company which, unknown to the owner, had illegally taken on passengers. Only those who managed to jump onto the sand were able to escape,” he said.

Fishing boats in the area are banned from taking passengers. Large numbers of people die every year in boating accidents on Africa’s lakes and inshore waters, many because they cannot swim. Rough waves broke up the boat and when the tide went out, local people found the badly damaged hull lying on the seabed, Bangoura said. —MNA/Reuters

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**Death toll reaches 64 in Moscow roof collapse**

*Moscow, 26 Feb—* The death toll has reached 64, with 22 people still hospitalized, in a roof collapse at a Moscow market, Russian Emergency Ministry officials said early Saturday.

Rescuers have retrieved a total of 63 bodies under the debris of the market, and one more person died in hospital, the Interfax news agency reported. The roof collapse happened at the Baumarkt market in eastern Moscow on Thursday, and all the victims were believed to be workers from Azerbaijan and other former Soviet republics.

Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said on Thursday night that work to clear the rubble of the roof may take about five days, and a special technical commission had been set up to look into the disaster.

Officials said heavy snowfall overnight, as well as design flaws, might be to blame for the collapse. Prosecutors had opened a criminal investigation on charges of negligence leading to deaths. —MNA/Xinhua

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**Light plane crashes in Indonesia**

*Jakarta, 26 Feb—* A privately owned small aircraft crashed in Indonesia’s central Java on Saturday, killing all three people on board, a local media report said.

The Super Rebel 2500 from a flying school was on a training flight from Jakarta to the city of Semarang on the northern coast of Java Island. It went down in a field near the town of Subang, 180 kilomètres east of Jakarta, El-Shinta radio station said that the two pilots had reported an engine problem just before the crash of the propeller-driven four-seater plane. —MNA/Xinhua

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*A bald eagle is seen at Cabarceno nature reserve near Santander in northern Spain on 22 Feb, 2006.* —INTERNET

*A South Korean male railway worker bows as he guides the passengers boarding a bullet train at Seoul railway station on 26 Feb, 2006.* —INTERNET

*Five thousand amateur singers belt it out Ludwig van Beethoven’s Symphony No 9 ‘Choral’ during the 22nd annual concert at Tokyo’s Ryogoku Kokugikan arena on 26 Feb, 2006.* —INTERNET

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Iran, China pledge to enhance all-round cooperation

TEHERAN, 26 Feb—Iran and China pledged on Saturday to promote the development of bilateral relations in all fields. During his talks with visiting Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Lu Guozeng, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad commended China’s achievements in its social construction and said that bilateral relations have undergone smooth development in recent years. Iran views China as a friend and cooperation partner and hopes to strengthen its cooperation with China in all fields, Ahmadinejad said. For his part, Lu said China attaches importance to developing relations with Iran and appreciates Iran’s adherence to the “one China” policy.

Croatia finds bird flu virus in another dead swan

ZAGREB, 26 Feb—Croatia said on Saturday it had found its second case this week of avian flu in another dead swan on the Adriatic coast and would take all necessary measures to contain it. Mate Brstilo, the H5 virus operation partner and development in recent weeks of avian flu in Croatia said on Saturday that the country had found its second case of avian flu in another dead swan.

Zambia bans export of surplus maize

LUSAKA, 25 Feb—Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa has directed the country’s Food Reserve Agency (FRA) to store enough grain before considering exporting any surplus from this year’s harvest, local media reported on Saturday.

“I have directed that this year around there should be no export of surplus maize until we have kept at least maize to last us four months,” the president was quoted by Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS) as saying when he was attending a traditional ceremony in the Eastern province.

Mwanawasa ad- mitted that the Zambian government had made a mistake by blindly exporting the 2004 farming season surplus in main- taining the country faced a serious food shortage in the year 2005 following a partial drought.

In November 2005, the President told the

President Susilo officially inaugurates country’s 9th satellite

JAKARTA, 26 Feb—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono inaugurated the country’s ninth satellite, which has wider coverage, in West Java Province, a media reported here on Saturday. The new satellite, operated by state-owned PT Telkom, is intended to cater to growing telecommunications needs, particularly for Internet, e-business and e-banking services.

Two attackers in one of the vehicles were killed in the explosions, said the official. Al-Arabiya said earlier that gunfire and explosions were heard in the refinery area, some 70 kilometres southwest of Damman, a port city in northeastern Saudi Arabia on the Gulf coast.

The injured persons were taken to western regional hospital in Pokhara City for treatment, the radio added.—MNA/Xinhua

Saudi forces foil two attempted car bomb attacks

CAIRO, 26 Feb—Saudi security forces foiled two attempted car bomb attacks against an oil refinery in the oil-rich kingdom’s eastern province, al-Arabiya channel said on Friday.

A pipeline was damaged in the car bombing attack targeting Baqiq oil refinery, a major oil complex in eastern province, the pan-Arab TV channel reported.

The attack briefly halted the oil flow which resumed shortly afterward, said the Dubai-based channel.

Two explosive-laden vehicles exploded after security forces fired upon them as the suicide drivers were attempting to ram the cars into the refinery’s gates, according to a Saudi security official.

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Saudi Arabia is on the top of the world’s oil production, with a daily output of about 9.5 million barrels.—MNA/Xinhua

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“The new satellite has a wider coverage area. It can reach other countries in South-East Asia, Southern Africa and Australia, as well as all the cities and villages in Indonesia,” said President Susilo who was quoted by the Jakarta Post.

Telkom-2 is the ninth Indonesian satellite to be deployed, and replaces the previous B4 satellite, which stopped operation last year. The new satellite was launched on a French Ariane 5 rocket last November after a number of cancellations due to technical problems.

The new satellite, operated by state-owned PT Telkom, is intended to cater to growing telecommunications needs, particularly for Internet, e-business and e-banking services.

President Susilo said that the satellite would also help enhance education and health services, and the country’s defence as it would be able to provide connections to even the most isolated areas.

Saudi Aramco is on the top of the world’s oil production, with a daily output of about 9.5 million barrels.—MNA/Xinhua

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Bus accident kills three in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 26 Feb—Three persons were killed and 16 others injured when a passenger bus skidded off the road in western Nepal on Friday morning, Radio Nepal reported.

The accident happened at Dulegaunda of Tanahu District, some 200 kilometres west of Kathmandu, along the Prithvi Highway; the state-owned radio said.

The bus was on its way to Sunauli from Baglung.

Two persons were killed on the spot while the third died while being taken to Pokhara City for treatment. The injured persons were taken to western regional hospital in Pokhara City for treatment, the radio added.—MNA/Xinhua

A plane flies over a snow-covered hill before landing at Madrid’s Barajas Airport on 26 Feb, 2006. A heavy snowfall hit the Spanish capital and the centre of the country in a wave of cold weather.—INTERNET
Indonesia launches fourth polio campaign

JAKARTA, 27 Feb — Indonesia launched the fourth massive nationwide polio vaccination on Monday to free the country from the crippling disease, that has hit more than 300 youngsters since March last year, Coordinating Minister for People’s Welfare and Poverty Alleviation Abakie said.

First Lady Kristiani Yudhoyono sprinkled a child in a post in East Jakarta District, marking the beginning of the campaign.

Minister Bakrie said that the fourth move targeted to more than 23 millions children.

“We expect to achieve at least 98 per cent of the target,” he said in a post in Central Jakarta.

Director of Disease Control and Environmental Health of the Health Ministry, Nyoman Kandun told Xinhua in telephone that the move was aimed to totally stop the development of the virus, especially in the areas which could not be reached during the three previous rounds, in August, September and November last year.

The latest case of polio was found in 15 January. (The vaccination) is still necessary, because the virus transmissions still occur, based on the advise of the World Health Organization’s experts, Indonesia still needs to conduct it,” he said.

Thousands protest against possible US miliy base transfer to S Japan

TOKYO, 27 Feb — Several thousands of residents in Kanoya, Japan’s southern prefecture of Kagoshima, protested on Sunday against a possible military transfer plan, under which a US air tanker fleet may move to the city, Kyodo News reported.

Under the US military realignment plan, the air tanker fleet from the US Marine Corps’ Futemma Air Station in Okinawa may transfer to a Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (MSDF) base in Kanoya.

Noise from the MSDF base, which is in the centre of the city, has already reached “an intolerable level”, Kyodo quoted Kanoya Mayor, Sakae Yasuhita as saying.

Organizers estimated around 8,200 people joined the protest held in an athletic field. A resolution was adopted which called on the Japanese Government to urge the United States to review the realignment plan.

Indian Ocean virus infections climb in Mauritius

PORT LOUIS, 27 Feb — The number of people in Mauritius infected with a mosquito-borne disease which is ravaging through the Indian Ocean region has risen to 962 from 341 the previous week, the government said.

“Cabinet has taken note that 962 cases of Chikungunya have been reported as at 23 February 2006,” the Cabinet said in a statement after its weekly meeting late on Friday.

The disease, first recognized in Tanzania, is marked by high fever and severe rashes, and while most people recover, it is extremely painful.

The World Health Organization says it does not believe the tropical virus is fatal, but health experts say it can weaken the immune system, allowing other deadly diseases to set in. The Mauritian Government says the situation is under control and is telling the island’s 1.2 million people not to panic.

Authorities blame the spread of the disease on heavy rains in recent months and have launched a country-wide public awareness campaign. Police have also been mobilized to help spray insecticides in areas where cases of the viral infection have been found, and screening is being conducted at the airport.

The island, which is heavily reliant on tourism, has also launched an international campaign to provide information to prospective tourists who may be concerned about the epidemic.

Bomb blast at French bank in Athens, no injuries

ATHENS, 27 Feb — A small, homemade bomb exploded outside a French bank in northern Athens early on Saturday, causing minor damage but no injuries, a police official said.

An anonymous call was made to two local TV stations warning of a time bomb placed at the BNP Paribas branch (in the northern Athens suburb of Marousi), the official said. Police cordoned off the area after the call. The caller did not say who was responsible for the attacks.

Fire destroys 70 shops in Dhaka

DHAKA, 27 Feb — A fire broke out at a market in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka early Sunday, destroying 70 shops, private news agency UNB reported.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit in a shop at New Society Market at 2 a.m. (20:00 GMT Saturday) and soon spread, burning down adjoining shops.

The shops that were burnt in the fire included 20 groceries, 20 meat shops and 10 shops of edible oil and 10 of spices. On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and doused the fire after one hour of frantic efforts.

Afflicted shop owners claimed that the extent of loss could go up to ten million taka.

Bus accident kills four, injures 26 in N-W China

XI’AN, 27 Feb — Four people were killed and 26 others injured on Saturday when a bus turned over in Xianyang, northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, local police said. The accident took place at 1:50 pm Saturday in Qindu District of Xianyang City. The four died on the spot, while two of the 26 injured were in critical condition.

The bus with 33 on board was heading for Xi’an, capital of Shaanxi, from Qingyang of neighbouring Gansu Province, the police said.

Three US soldiers killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 27 Feb — Two US soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in western Baghdad on Sunday, and a third was shot dead in the Iraqi capital. The deaths bring the number of US personnel killed since the invasion in March 2003 to at least 2,291.

One soldier was killed immediately by the bomb, according the US military, while the second died from wounds after being evacuated to a military hospital. In a separate attack, a US soldier was killed by small arms fire on Sunday evening in central Baghdad, the US military said in a statement.

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French gendarmes man a Chikungunya crisis headquarters at La Reunion island, on 26 Feb, 2006. ‘Chikungunya’ fever, a mosquito-borne disease has directly or indirectly killed 77 people on France’s Indian Ocean island of La Reunion and had affected some 130,000 people on the island off the southeast coast of Africa. —INTERNET

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Villagers rescue their car after being hit by flash floods caused by heavy rain in the northeast of Kuala Lumpur, early Sunday. Scores of Malaysians were evacuated and others were trapped in their homes after heavy overnight rain triggered flash floods, a disaster response official said. —INTERNET
The activities on National Sanitation Week that started in 1998 have now turned nine years. Myanmar was the first ever to launch the nationwide activities and is meeting with success in this regard.

The salient points of the project are as follows:
1. The nation has been able to make progress most in the coverage of fly-proof latrines in terms of the number and time frame.
2. The entire national people have been able to materialize the policy laid down by the State.
3. They have been able to materialize it on self-reliant basis.
4. They have materialized it along with other sanitation measures such as ensuring supply of clean water, personal hygiene and wholesome food.

There was 40 per cent coverage of fly-proof latrines in the nation before the project. At present, there is over 80 per cent coverage. The coverage of fly-proof latrines has doubled during the nine-year period. When compared with the coverage in developing countries, Myanmar has made progress most in the use of fly-proof latrines. Research organizations at home and abroad have confirmed that data and figures on the activities compiled by the Ministry of Health were correct after conducting field surveys.

Although there is over 80 per cent coverage of fly-proof latrines, the actual coverage is about 70 per cent only as some of them have fallen into ruin due to various reasons. In this regard, the necessary measures had been taken since the 6th National Sanitation Week and this led to renovation and upgrading of the remaining fly-proof latrines. The conveniences have now improved quantitatively and qualitatively.

The 7th National Sanitation Week activities launched in 2004 adopted a motto “Use hygienic latrines to enjoy a healthy life” with a view to building fly-proof latrines for a family in putting in place hygienic latrines. In setting up a hygienic one, more care should be taken to be in conformity with its basic requirements. It is required to change the habits in the use of latrine with emphasis on health consciousness. At the same time, parents must play an exemplary role for the children to follow in the use of toilet.

It is not easy to introduce a fly-proof latrine. It is more difficult to maintain it as a hygienic one. However, thanks to concerted efforts of the entire national people, the project laid down by the State was successfully implemented in Myanmar.

This is a motto “From Policy to Action”. Every country has policies. But, it is not easy for them to put the policies into action. Myanmar managed to build about one million fly-proof latrines during the 1st National Sanitation Week activities. This accomplishment drew the attention of the international community.

Fly-proof latrines are indispensable in improving the health standard of rural areas. The establishment of a healthy environment also contributes much to urban development. The project has secured the active participation of the entire national people, because has covered over 60,000 villages. The average cost of one fly-proof latrine is K 10,000. The construction of four million fly-proof latrines costs K 40 billion. Myanmar people have spent such a lot of money on this project.

The active participation of the entire national people is also a contributing factor for the success of the project. As fly-proof latrines are a must for rural regions, wards and villages made concerted efforts in the use of toilets.

At first, people found it difficult to build and use fly-proof latrines. But when they are getting used to it, they come to put a high value on the use of such latrines. They organize others to build more and more. In a village near Pyu, for example, the project of building fly-proof latrines faced difficulties at first. Although a latrine pit is said to last five years, it sometimes falls into ruin in a week because of rodents. However, the villagers remained undaunted and tried to build the latrines with better looks. Now, almost all of the households in the village are using fly-proof toilets with septic tanks.

The whole world has recognized that the building of a fly-proof latrine is the most difficult task. The project has not met its success although enough materials and loans and in some cases, free services plus the overall cost are provided for building them. Therefore, it has been targeted in the millennium goal that the number of households across the globe without the toilets is to be reduced by half in 2015. With the 80 per cent coverage of fly-proof latrines in Myanmar, building 10 per cent out of the remaining 20 per cent will cover 90 per cent of the whole country.

In the 1980s, the world had been investing billions of dollars in clean water supply projects. But it could not achieve success to a satisfied degree. The health standard of people will not improve if the investment does not go together with environmental sanitation, especially with the use of fly-proof latrines. Diarrhea outbreaks will remain if the latrines are built without proper use of clean water.

Myanmar has given priority to supply of clean water since its establishment of National Sanitation Week. Personal hygiene is also highlighted. It is important to ensure that latrines cannot cause water pollution. Viruses from human excrement can get into the mouths of people through their hands or meals. As a result, people can suffer from bowel disorders, hepatitis and typhoid. Such kinds of diseases can infect individually or they can break out in the form of epidemic. Hence, preventive measures should be taken first.

Human waste and excrement must not spread into the water and environments. Building fly-proof latrines can not only prevent diseases but also produce numerous benefits. Each and every family should have health consciousness and knowledge to see that water is free from bacteria, viruses and chemicals. One of the facts about personal hygiene is that people are to cultivate the habit of washing their hands with soap. This habit alone can prevent many kinds of diseases. Another fact is that food must be cooked, kept and eaten in a hygienic way. For the people to be fit and healthy, they are to ensure cleanliness of toilets or latrines, water and food plus personal hygiene.

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(Translation: TS+ST)
Sustainability required in realizing ...

Myanmar Radio and TV should help promote the health and sanitation project.

Health staff, related departments, and internal and external social organizations should also render more assistance to the project.

UNICEF Resident Representative Ms Carroll C Long also gave a speech.

The Secretary-1 cordially conversed with diplomats and other guests who attended the ceremony. The Secretary-1 and party visited the exhibition displaying documentaries of the week.

Present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the deputy ministers, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members, ambassadors, Charge d’Affaires a.i. of embassies, resident representatives of UN Agencies, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, rectors, medical superintendents and guests.

Dealers’ Night 2006 held to honour sale agents

YANGON, 27 Feb — Dealers’ Night 2006 took place at Traders Hotel, here, yesterday evening to honour agents who put the sale of goods produced by Nibban Electric and Electronics top on their lists of priorities.

Entrepreneurs U Thein Kyi of Nibban Electric and Electronics extended greetings followed by introducing of new items such as Nibban Auto and Manual Voltage Regulator, Nibban Auto Voltage Regulator and Safeguard, Nibban Auto Inverter and Nibban Digital AVR by General Manager Dr Aung Thein who also replied to queries raised by agents.

The best sale agent awards for 2005 were also presented at the ceremony. Nibban Electric and Electronics holds the certificate of ISO 9001:2000 and is manufacturing and distributing high quality Nibban TV Antenna and Boosters, Nibban Protection Devices and others.

YANGON, 27 Feb — With a view to enabling rural people to widen their scope of knowledge, Volume 3, Number 5 of Dokyeywa Journal has been in circulation.

The journal carries various pieces of works such as articles, stories, tales, humour, cartoons, poems and news. They are informative and entertaining.

The journal is available at the offices of Information and Public Relations Department across the nation.

For manuscripts and advertisements, contact No 30-32, 10th Street, Lanmadaw Township (Tel 371340 or 371342).
C-in-C (Air) Office wins Defence Services

(from page 16) nearest pin awards to the winners.

Afterwards, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein presented championship trophies to the team representing Office of Commander-in-Chief (Air) who stood first in the handicap event and team representing the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) who took first in the scratch event.

After the prize presentation ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party posed for a documentary photo together with golfers.

In the scratch team event, the team representing Yangon Command Team took the silver with 693 strokes and the Eastern Command took bronze with 709 strokes.

In handicap event, the team representing the office of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) won the first prize with 535 strokes, South-East Command won the second prize with 563 strokes and the Central Command the third prize with 566 strokes.

In handicap individual event, Capt Khant Nay Thway of the office of C-in-C (Air) took the gold with 127 strokes, Maj Zaw Win of the South-East Command took the silver with 128 strokes and Capt Zaw Win Htaik of the office of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) took the bronze with 132 strokes.

Zaw Win Htaik of the office of C-in-C (Navy) took the bronze with 132 strokes.

In scratch individual event, Maj Nyan Ko of the Yangon Command won the first prize with 155 strokes; Capt Zaw Min of the office of the C-in-C (Navy) with 155 strokes the second and Maj Zaw Win of the South-East Command the third with 161 strokes.

Energy Minister goes on inspection tour of Nyaungdon oil and gas field

YANGON, 27 Feb — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected Nyaungdon oil and gas field in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division yesterday afternoon.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports presented by officials concerned on drilling of new No 32 well and current production and oil and gas deposits in Nyaungdon and Maubin regions.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave instruction on continued drilling of new wells in Nyaungdon region, exploration of new oil and gas deposits in Maubin and Yayeikalay regions and timely completion of survey works.

Next, the minister presented cash awards to staff who successfully carried out drilling tasks and inspected drilling of new No 32 well. The new well produces 3.5 million cubic feet of gas and 20 barrels of condensate daily.

USDA CEC member meets Shwepyitha, Hlegu Townships USDA members

YANGON, 27 Feb — Member of Central Executive Committee of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint met with the Secretary and members of Shwepyitha Township USDA at its office on 24 February.

The CEC member instructed the officials to implement tasks and observe policies and rules and regulations of USDA. He also urged them to take part in successful implementation of seven-step Road Map.

CEC member Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint proceeded to Hlegu Township USDA office and met with the secretary and members of USDA. He encouraged members of USDA to participate in regional developments together with local authorities. The CEC member inspected a bridge in Kalitaw village and an earth road that links Kyakan village and Magyikan village. He asked the officials to grow physic nut plants on each side of the earth road.
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects dam projects...

(from page 16) Gravel on DaikU-Myintkyo-Nyaungkhase earth road and building of a bridge. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than proceeded to the bridge across Bago-Sittoung Canal.

He instructed officials to take measures for maintenance of the bridge and viewed construction of a new railroad. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also visited Nagapauk Bridge across Nagapauk Creek in Myitkyo village in Waw township and left necessary instructions.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party visited Ye Nwe township and left necessary instructions. The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called on the officials to complete the project as scheduled and inspected construction work. On completion of Ye Nwe Hydro-electric power plant, 118,500 acres of land will be benefited and 25 megawatt of electricity will be generated. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended a ceremony to grow physic nut plants in Oktwin Station. Afterwards, he proceeded to the briefing hall of Public Works at Khabaung.

Information Minister receives Korean Ambassador

Yangon, 27 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan this afternoon received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Union of Myanmar Mr Lee Ju-Heum at Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road, here.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Counselor of the Korean Embassy in Myanmar Mr Jongmoon Choi, heads of departments under the ministry and officials.

IPRD Director-General to participate in ASEAN+3 Copyright Seminar

Yangon, 27 Feb — Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing yesterday to participate in ASEAN+3 Copyright Seminar. The three-day seminar will start on 1 March in Tokyo. Officials of IPRD saw off the director-general at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

France frees suspect in Hariri case, no extradition

Paris/Beirut, 27 Feb — France has freed from jail a Syrian accused by Beirut of having an indirect role in the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik al-Hariri, judicial officials said on Sunday.

The officials in France and Lebanon said French magistrates had rejected Beirut’s request to extradite Mohammed Zuhair al-Siddiq because they had received no guarantees that he would not face the death penalty.

Siddiq was arrested in a Paris suburb last October after an international arrest warrant was issued for him. Lebanon’s prosecutors had charged him with murder that month because they believed he had an indirect role in the Febraury 14, 2005 killing of Hariri and 22 others near Beirut’s seashore.

“France has rejected Lebanon’s request to extradite him because Lebanon applies the death penalty. They asked for guarantees we would not apply the death penalty on Siddiq,” a Justice Ministry official in Lebanon said. “We said we cannot provide any guarantees because abolishing the death sentence requires a decision by the Parliament. Then they informed Lebanese authorities they would release him,” he said.

An interim UN report in October said Siddiq had signed a confession implicating himself in the murder “which adds to his credibility.” Siddiq told investigators he had attended several meetings at a Beirut suburb to plan the truck bombing. A UN report in December, however, said DNA samples taken from Siddiq did not match evidence gathered from that location or the crime scene. — MNA/Reuters
Bird flu hits 6 Russian regions

MOSCOW, 27 Feb — Bird flu has been registered in wild fowl in six regions of southern Russia and in domestic fowl in four of these regions, the country’s Agriculture Ministry said on Sunday.

“Pockets of infection in wild fowl have been registered in Kabardino-Balkaria, Dagestan, Chechnya, Kalmykia, Krasnodar and Stavropol regions,” the ministry said in a statement.

It added the virus had been registered in domestic fowl in Dagestan, Kalmykia, Krasnodar and Stavropol and that, in the Krasnodar Region, bird flu is suspected to have hit a large poultry farm.

It did not specify the strain of the virus.

More than half a million chickens were culled in Russia this year after new cases of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain were discovered in domestic fowl in Dagestan, Kalmykia, Krasnodar and Stavropol regions,” the ministry said on Sunday.

Asian Aerospace Exhibition closes, deals of record volume signed

SINGAPORE, 27 Feb — The 13th Asian Aerospace Exhibition closed at Singapore’s Changi Exhibition Centre Sunday with dozens of deals worth 15.2 billion US dollars being concluded, more than four times the amount achieved in last show two years ago.

This result came beyond the organizers’ expectations, President of Asian Aerospace 2006 Ed Ng said in a statement on Friday after four days of trade show ended that day.

Most of the contracts signed this year are commercial in nature and the contents range from diverse products such as aircraft, engines, components and aerospace electronic equipment, to repair and maintenance services.

Iran urges IAEA to avoid political decision

TEHRAN, 27 Feb — Iran on Sunday warned the UN nuclear watchdog to avoid political decision at its upcoming board of governors’ meeting, reiterating rejection of returning to a moratorium on its sensitive nuclear activities.

“We hope that the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) upcoming meeting will not be politicized, and harsh decisions will just run counteractive to their benefits,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi told a weekly news briefing.

Asefi said Iran would not re-suspend activities related to uranium enrichment, stressing that mounting pressure would just make the country stand more firmly. The spokesman noted that the sensitive nuclear activities that Iran had resumed since January were just research-oriented and should not be viewed as actual uranium enrichment.

US holds hundreds of terror suspects in Afghanistan indefinitely

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb — The US military holds some 500 terror suspects at a prison in Bagram, Afghanistan, indefinitely and without charges, The New York Times reported on Sunday.

The military has quietly expanded the less-visible prison, where terror suspects are held in more primitive conditions, compared with the detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which has sparked an international debate over its future, the report said.

Some of the detainees have been held at Bagram, some 60 kilometres north of the Afghan capital of Kabul, for as long as two or three years, and unlike those at Guantanamo, they have no access to lawyers, no right to hear the allegations against them and only rudimentary reviews of their status as “enemy combatants”, military officials were quoted as saying.

The report said Pentagon officials have often described the detention centre at an American air base at Bagram as a screening centre, and that they said most of the detainees were Afghans who might eventually be released under an amnesty programme or transferred to an Afghan prison that is to be built with American aid.

While Guantanamo offers carefully scripted tours for members of Congress and journalists, Bagram has operated in rigorous secrecy since it opened in 2002. It bars outside visitors except for the International Red Cross and refuses to make public the names of those held there. The prison may not be photographed, even from a distance, the report said.

Singer George Michael arrested in drugs probe

LONDON, 27 Feb — British singer George Michael was arrested on Sunday on suspicion of possessing drugs after he was found slumped in a car in central London, a police source said.

Michael, 42, who has sold more than 80 million records worldwide during a 25-year career, was arrested in the Hyde Park area of the capital early on Sunday, the source said.

A London police spokesman issued a statement saying a 42-year-old man had been held on suspicion of possessing Class C drugs, a group in British law that includes cannabis, tranquillizers and some painkillers. “We were called by a member of the public to a man seen slumped over the steering wheel of a car,” the statement said.
China to provide rail carriages to Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 26 Feb— China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC) on Friday signed an agreement with the Sri Lankan Railway Department to provide 100 rail carriages to Sri Lanka.

Zhao Jun, General Manager of Railway Business Division of CMC, and K.A. Premasiri, General Manager of Sri Lanka Railways Department signed the agreement at the department.

According to the agreement, each carriage is capable of carrying over 4,000 people and is expected to be brought to Sri Lanka within a year. There is a severe shortage of train coaches at the moment in the Sri Lankan railway, the carriages were needed to provide a satisfactory train service to commuters," Premasiri said after the signing ceremony.

CMC donated machinery and equipment worth 200,000 US dollars to Sri Lanka for the tsunami-hit country to repair its railway tracks on 25 January, 2005.

Pakistan induces two fast Attack Missile Crafts in Navy

ISLAMABAD, 26 Feb— Pakistan on Friday inducted, in its naval fleet, two indigenously built fast Attack Missile Crafts, the country's Naval Chief said.

Addressing at a ceremony held in Karachi Shipyard, Naval Chief Admiral Muhammad Aizal Tahir said that commissioning of these missile boats heralded a new era for Pakistan Navy in missile craft construction. "This significant achievement had laid the foundation of a viable shipbuilding industry which Pakistan Navy would continue to further capitalize upon," the Naval Chief said, adding "in the changed maritime scenario, Navy undertakings had increased manifold and warranted development of a balanced Navy capable of safeguarding our legitimate maritime interests".

"Tooth and tail, our Frigate Project has already been materialized which will commence soon with the collaboration of some other countries in our region. Induction of these Fast Attack Missile Crafts in Pakistan Navy Fleet will certainly enhance its offensive punch," he added, noting that the third submarine will be launched by the last quarter of this year.

He said the launching of submarine HAMZA would be followed by its sea drive and phase-wise acceptance. With the effort of Pakistan Navy and the cooperation and support assured by the government, the programme of building of these submarines would continue in future as well.

India, Saudi Arabia discuss employment conditions of Indian workers

NEW DELHI, 26 Feb— India and Saudi Arabia discussed providing better employment conditions to Indian workers in Saudi Arabia and ways to check various fraudulent practices that will create problems in Saudi Arabia, the Indian Ministry of Overseas Affairs said here Friday.

A seven-member delegation of the Saudi Arabian National Recruitment Committee met with Indian Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi here. The Saudi delegation apprised Ravi of the various steps taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to provide better conditions to the workers in Saudi Arabia.

The delegation called for closer cooperation from Indian recruiting agencies so as to prevent and take care of various problems that Indian workers face in Saudi Arabia. — MNA/Xinhua
China to tackle dropping rate of premarital tests

BEIJING, 25 Feb—China is going to tackle the falling percentage of couples getting premarital medical check-ups and rising number of hereditary and infectious diseases among infants.

The State Council will issue a document focusing on how to raise public awareness and to make the check-ups more convenient, Wang Bin, director of the Division of Women’s Health with the Ministry of Health on Friday.

Social workers will be available at every registration station to inform couples of the advisability of getting the check-up, Wang was quoted by China Daily as saying.

Before the law in China was changed in October 2003, all couples had to show the result of the check-ups to get a certificate. However, the rate dropped significantly in many places to 1 per cent or lower after the law was revised.

Of all reported HIV/AIDS cases last year, mother-baby infections account for 1 per cent, said Wu Zunyou of the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, noting that absence of the premarital tests removes the last line of defence against those infections.

Wang said it is not only a question of money but of public awareness. The cost of such a check-up is about 100 yuan (12 US dollars), not a burden for most couples. In rural areas, a family usually spends at least 10,000 yuan (1,200 US dollars) on a wedding.

The document will caution against such diseases as hepatitis, syphilis, and tuberculosis, and will suggest that patients delay their marriage if treatment for at least one of those diseases is necessary.

Donation contributes to 95% of China’s clinical blood used in 2005

BEIJING, 26 Feb — Ninety-five percent of blood collected for clinical use in China last year came from voluntary donation, said the Ministry of Health on Friday.

According to the figures released by the ministry, voluntary donation in blood collection rose by 7 per cent in 2005 over the previous year.

In Central China’s Henan Province, 100 per cent of clinical blood use came from voluntary donation.

Beijing ranked 22nd on the list revealed by the ministry, of which only 75.46 per cent clinical blood demand was met by voluntary donation.

Voluntary donation is believed as the basis of blood safety. Experts say virus involving HIV and hepatitis through voluntary donation is very unlikely through the channel of transmission in blood donation. Voluntary donors provide patients with safe and stable source of blood.

China’s Law of Blood Donation took effect on 1 October, 1998. Proportion of voluntary donation has been rising since then.

However, problems are still existing in blood safety and voluntary donation. For instance, acts of paid blood collection are still seen in parts of the country and some local governments set quotas for voluntary donation, according to officials with the ministry.

The ministry will continue to promote voluntary blood donation in the coming years, in a bid to expand stable source of blood donation and eliminate paid blood collection. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia rules out bird flu in 10 suspects

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Feb — All 10 people quarantined in Malaysia with suspected bird flu this week have tested negative for the deadly H5N1 strain, a government official said on Friday.

The 10 were hospitalized with flu-like symptoms after the H5N1 virus was detected in 40 chickens found dead last week in Malaysia’s first poultry infection in over a year.

“The test results on the last two patients were also negative and they have been discharged. There’s no new admission,” Disease Control Division director Ramlee Rahman told Reuters.

No human cases have so far been reported in Malaysia, which last reported the H5N1 virus in an chicken in the northern state of Kelantan in 2004.

Health officials have combated through 505 houses, screening more than 2,000 residents living within a 300-metre (1,000-foot) radius of the infection site on the fringe of the capital. Mustapa Abdul Jalil, acting chief of veterinary services, said more manpower has been mobilized for the culling operation within a one-kilometre radius of site.

Surveillance tasks would be extended to a 10-kilometre (six-mile) zone, Mustapa said, stretching into the heart of Kuala Lumpur in an operation that will run until March.

Another house crow tested H5 suspected in HK

HONG KONG, 25 Feb — Another house crow in Hong Kong was found H5 suspected Friday, said the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The department said preliminary test result indicated the dead house crow found in Shek Kip Mei was H5 suspected and further tests were being conducted.

The authority again warned the public to observe good personal hygiene and avoid personal contact with wild birds and live poultry as the risks of a possible breakout of bird flu intensified.

Meanwhile, backyard poultry keepers who lost their birds under the recent ban are still seeking compensation from the government. The government said it would consider the feasibility of allowing poultry keepers to continue rearing pet poultry. — MNA/Xinhua
**S P O R T S**

**Kewell goal edges Liverpool past Man City**

**LONDON, 27 Feb — Liverpool kept the pressure on Manchester United in the race for second place in the Premier League with a 1-0 win over Manches-
ter City at Anfield on Sunday.**

Australian midfielder Harry Kewell got the only goal in the 40th minute but Liverpool, and specifically England striker Peter Crouch, could have had several more.

With United busy win-
ing the League Cup with a 4-0 thrashing of Wigan Athletic, Liverpool moved alongside them on 54 points, albeit from a game more. Leaders Chelsea, who beat Portsmouth 2-0 on Saturday, are 15 points clear. Fourth-placed Tottenham Hotspur are eight points back on 46. Bolton Wanderers climbed to sixth on 42 on Sunday when Kevin Nolan got a 68-minute winner in a 2-1 home suc-
cess over Fulham after Heidar Helguson had put the Londoners ahead but then scored an own goal just before halftime.

In the other game, Middlesbrough beat West Bromwich Albion 2-0 away with two first-half goals by Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink to move five points clear of their oppo-
nents and eight clear of the relegation zone. West Brom's Nigel Quashie was sent off in the 54th minute for kicking out at George Boateng. At Anfield, Liv-
erpool were on top throughout the first half but made the breakthrough only five minutes before the interval.

England midfielder Steven Gerrard showed fine control to bring the ball down in the centre circle and then released Kewell with a pass over the top of covering de-
fender Danny Mills, al-
lowing the Australian to sprint away and fire low past David James. Mills then cleared a Crouch header off the line in first-half injury time.

- MNA/Reuters

**South Korean team members celebrate on the podium following their gold medal win in the men's 5000 metres short track speed skating relay at the Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy, on 25 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET**

**Hamburg suffer 2-0 home defeat to Stuttgart**

**BERLIN, 27 Feb— Third-placed Hamburg SV suffered a 2-0 home defeat to VfB Stuttgart on Sunday and fell 11 points behind Bundesliga leaders Ba-
ners Bayern. Silvio Meissner scored for Stuttgart two minutes before the interval and Mario Gomez doubled the lead in stoppage time, outpunting Rafael von der Vaart to put the ball into Hamburg's empty goal. Stuttgart's victory, their first in Hamburg in 10 years, sent them up to fifth with 33 points. Bayern crushed Eintracht Frankfurt 5-2 on Saturday and top the table with 58 points from 23 matches. Ham-
burg, the only team to beat Bayern this season, play at Munich next weekend.**

- Jastine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium lifts her trophy after defeating Maria Sharapova of Russia during the final of the Dubai Open tennis tournament in Dubai on 25 Feb, 2006. Henin-Hardenne won 7-5 6-2. —INTERNET

**Real beaten at Mallorca, Valencia held by Getafe**

**MADRID, 27 Feb— Third-placed Real Madrid lost 2-1 at lowly Mallorca on Sunday, ending their six-match win-
ning run in the Primera Liga. With second-placed Valencia held to a 1-1 home draw by Getafe, Barcelona strengthened their grip at the top thanks to Saturday's 2-0 victory at Real Zaragoza. The champions have 58 points from 25 games, Valencia have 50 points and Real 48. Osasuna, on 46, can rise from fourth to third by beating Deportivo Coruna later on Sunday. Real were cautious and disjointed as they set out to put their midweek Cham-
ions League defeat by Arsenal behind them. The visitors took the lead against the run of play through Sergio Ramos after 32 minutes but 16th-placed Mallorca al-
ways looked dangerous. —MNA/Reuters**

**Rooney leads United to 4-0 League Cup final win**

**CARDIFF, 27 Feb— Manchester United outplayed an overawed Wigan Athletic to win the English League Cup final 4-0 on Sunday, with England striker Wayne Rooney scoring twice.**

- MNA/Reuters

**Juventus beat Lecce in clean sweep of top trio**

**ROME, 27 Feb— Serie A leaders Juventus led a clean sweep of victories for Italy's top three when they came from behind to beat relegation-threat-
ened Lecce 3-1 on Sunday. Goals by Emerson, Robert Kovac and a late Alessandro Del Piero penalty cancelled out Gennaro Delvecchio's goal for the visitors to give Juve 70 points from 27 matches.**

**They are 10 points ahead of second-placed AC Milan, who won 2-0 at Palermo. Inter Milan lies third on 58 points after a 3-1 victory against Udinese. Later on Sunday AS Roma will attempt to set a record of 11 consecutive Serie A wins if they defeat Lazio in the Rome derby (kickoff 1930 GMT).**

**Lecce had taken just four points on the road this season prior to arriving at Turin's Stadio delle Alpi, but took the lead when Delvecchio lived to head Alfonso Camorani's cross past Gianluigi Buffon in the tenth minute. The champions hit straight back, Emerson backheeling Adriano Mutu's low shot into the net eight minutes later. —MNA/Reuters**

**Argentine Heinz could be fit for World Cup**

**MANCHESTER (England), 27 Feb— Argentina defender Gabriel Heinz is winning his battle to be fit for the World Cup finals in Germany starting in June, according to Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson.**

- *Danny Williams, right, in action against Matt Skelton during the Commonwealth Heavyweight Championship bout at the Excel Centre, London, on 25 Feb, 2006. Williams beat Skelton on a split points decision to retain his Commonwealth heavyweight boxing title. —INTERNET*

Heinz looked likely to miss the tournament after suffering a serious knee injury in a Euro-

**European Championships League match at Vilarreal on September. But after a successful opera-
tion to repair cruciate ligament damage, the 27-year-old has been working his way back to full fitness in Argentina.**

"His progress is very good now. He's on full throttle and training very well every day," Ferguson told reporters.

"He wanted a particu-
lar surgeon to do the op-
eration, which every player is entitled to and the surgeon who did the operation is in complete control of his rehabilita-
tion. "Our latest develop-
ment is that he will possi-
mally be here at the begin-
ing of April with the pos-
sibility of playing before the end of the season."

Heinz said earlier this week he was aiming to start playing in a month's time. —INTERNET

- *Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium lifts her trophy after defeating Maria Sharapova of Russia during the final of the Dubai Open tennis tournament in Dubai on 25 Feb, 2006. Henin-Hardenne won 7-5 6-2. —INTERNET*

- *Juventus' Adrian Mutu (L) fights for the ball with Lecce's Alfonso Camorani during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Delle Alpi Stadium in Turin, northern Italy, on 26 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET*
AOC agrees on steps to prevent misunderstanding

KUWAIT CITY, 27 Feb — Qatari First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamad bin Jasim Al-Thani said a final agreement was signed by the High Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations (AOC) in Doha, Qatar, to prevent world misunderstanding, the Qatar News Agency reported on Sunday.

Hamad made the remarks at a joint Press conference with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the Arab League Amr Moussa and Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu.

Hamad said the AOC agreement could contribute to preventing any misunderstanding in the future, noting that participants discussed the means of avoiding any offences in the future and how to deal with the current situation.

Annan would bring the final communiqué to the UN General Assembly, the official added. The AOC is a 2005 initiative by the prime ministers of Spain and Turkey aimed at bringing together institutions and civil societies to eliminate misunderstandings between peoples of different cultures and religions. — MNA/Xinhua

Israel’s Sharon turns 78 in coma

JERUSALEM, 27 Feb — Family and close friends of comatose Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon marked his 78th birthday on Sunday with subdued visits to his hospital bedside.

Other well-wishers flooded into the Jerusalem Hospital, bringing flowers, cards and prayers for the recovery of Sharon, who suffered a stroke on 4 January as he campaigned for re-election on a platform of ending the occupation and avoiding misunderstandings, the lead role in anti-terrorist operations, but the military may be called in to stop aircraft or ships being used for terrorist attacks or hijacked by terrorists, Russian news agencies reported.

Under the bill, the Armed Forces are allowed to shoot down an aircraft or destroy a ship if it does not respond to or obey radio orders.

The President is given the power to decide on the use of the Armed Forces in fighting terrorism outside Russia in keeping with international accords Russia signed. — MNA/Xinhua

Russian President Vladimir Putin talks to Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev (off picture) during their meeting in Baku. Russia’s Lower House of Parliament has approved a sweeping new anti-terrorism law defining terms under which the military may shoot down hijacked passenger planes, strike at suspected terrorist targets and intercept communications for security reasons.

Russian Parliament passes anti-terrorism bill

MOSCOW, 27 Feb — Russia’s Lower House of Parliament passed on Sunday an anti-terrorism bill that would allow the Armed Forces, under certain circumstances, to shoot down hijacked planes or destroy ships being used by terrorists.

The bill gives the Federal Service to the lead role in anti-terrorist operations, but the military may be called in to stop aircraft or ships being used for terrorist attacks or hijacked by terrorists, Russian news agencies reported.

Under the bill, the Armed Forces are allowed to shoot down an aircraft or destroy a ship if it does not respond to or obey radio orders.

The President is given the power to decide on the use of the Armed Forces in fighting terrorism outside Russia in keeping with international accords Russia signed. — MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Monday, 27 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Pindaya (6°C) and Lashio (7°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Machanbaw (0.20) inch.

Maximum temperature on 26-2-2006 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 27-2-2006 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 27-2-2006 was (83%). Total sunshine hours on 26-2-2006 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 27-2-2006 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 (7) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 26-2-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-2-2006: Isolated light rain are likely in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin 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 isolated light rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-2-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-2-2006: Fair weather.

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** Article/Music 9.15 pm -Everybody's everything 8.45 am National news / Slogan 9:00 am Music 8.30 am Brief news 8.35 am Music It’s your life 8.40 am Perspectives 8.45 am Music Everybody’s everything 8.50 am National news / Slogan 9:00 am Music Take it easy 9:05 am International news 9:10 am Music Hello, goodbye 1:30 pm News / Slogan 1:40 pm Lunch time music -Anyone of us -Evergreen -May be -Do you remember 9:00 pm English Speaking Course Level-III Unit-(29) 9.15 pm Article/Music 9.25 pm Weekly sports reel 9.35 pm Music for your listening pleasure 9:45 pm News / Slogan 10:00 pm PEL **


** 8:20 am 9. Song of yester years 8:30 am 10. International news 8:45 am 11. Let’s Go 4:00 pm 1. Martial song 4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit 4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use 4:40 pm 4. Musical programme 4:50 pm 5. 5. 6. Dance of national races 5:20 pm 7. 7. 5:30 pm 8. 8. **
C-in-C (Air) Office wins Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s trophy in handicap play

YANGON, 27 Feb — The 2005-2006 Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air Force) golf championship was held at Yedagun Taung Golf Resort in Mandalay on 25 February.

Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, and Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw teed off tracer balls to open the championship tournament. Golfers from 15 teams took part in the first day match. The second day match continued at the same golf course the next morning. The tourney ended in the evening.

At the prize awarding ceremony held at the golf course at 5 pm, vocalists sang songs to the accompaniment of modern music troupe of Mandalay City Development Committee.

Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun presented first prize to Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), second prize to South-East Command, and third prize to Central Command in team handicap play, and he also presented the first prize to Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Yangon Command, and Eastern Command in team scratch play. Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the individual handicap play and individual scratch play.

Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shiwe presented most par, most birdie, and best golfer (handicap) and best golfer (scratch) awards to the winners. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw presented day long drive and (See page 9)

Lt-Gen Ye Myint presents prize to a winner. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects dam projects, cultivation of summer paddy, physic nut in Bago

YANGON, 27 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence arrived at the 1445-acre plantation of summer paddy in Pauktaw village in Bago Township on 25 February morning.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects construction tasks in Ye Nwe Dam. — MNA

Bago Division PDC Chairman Southern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko reported on cultivation of summer paddy through irrigation from Zaungtu diversion weir, cultivation of 6,000 acres out of 15,000 acreage in Bago and Waw Townships last year and cultivation of 10,000 acres of paddy this year. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed the plantations and gave necessary instructions. Bago Division has cultivated 275,977 acres of summer paddy in 2005-2006.

On arrival at Sittoung (Satthwagon-Myitkyo-DaikU Railroad project site, he heard a report by the deputy general manager of Myanmar Railways on progress of the railroad in cooperation with Myanmar Golden Crown Construction & General Trading Co. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than stressed the need for timely completion of the project and meeting the set standard. The new railroad on Bago-Mottama Railroad will go to DaikU on Yangon-Mandalay railroad. Bago Division Superintending Engineer U Tin Htut also reported on paving of (See page 10)

On completion of Ye Nwe Hydro-electric power project, 118500 acres of land will be benefited and 25 megrewatt of electricity will be generated.