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

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

YANGON, 6 March — Member of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence arrived at the construction site of the Union Highway, a road section between Monywa Home for the Aged and Kyweyan Junction.

At the briefing hall, Director U Khin Maung Swe reported on construction progress of the road, building of two bridges out of the five and plans to tar the road. Sagaing Division PDC Chairman North West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave a supplementary report. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected tarring of road section between Station Road and Kyaukka Road in Monywa on the Union Highway.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the physic nut plantation in Ayadaw township where Township PDC Chairman U Mya Ngwe reported on growing of 8,400 physic nut plants on 5-acre land. Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed the thriving plantation.

On arrival at Ayadaw Station, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports by Lt-Col Aung Min on growing of 50 acres of physic nut grafts and nurturing of one acre of physic nut nurseries and collecting of 100,000 grafts and 153,000 seeds. He then gave necessary instructions and inspected the plantations.

Overflowing well No 1 in Myenat village-tract in Ayadaw Township produces 22,500 gallons of water per hour. Sagaing Division Water Resources Utilization Department has undertaken eight overflowing wells and it plans to do more. Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed farmers to carry out water supply tasks for crops cultivation.

Overflowing wells contribute to rural water supply

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects storage of water at a pond in Myenat village, Ayadaw Township. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects overflowing wells in Ayadaw Township as residents in Myenat Village-tract fetch water. — MNA

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Tuesday, 7 March, 2006

**PERSPECTIVES**

Give priority to conservation of environment

Environment is very important for the existence of all living things. Therefore, it is necessary to protect and conserve our natural environment in order that it is suitable for human beings to live.

Nowadays, the world is experiencing deterioration of natural environment such as deforestation, desertification, deterioration of soil quality and depletion of water sources on earth. Moreover, the air and the oceans are being polluted and forests and biodiversity adversely affected. Therefore, all the nations in the world are taking various measures to prevent the deterioration of natural environment. Myanmar has had a fine tradition of conserving natural environment for a long time. Lush and green scenes of rural and urban areas reflect the love for conservation of Myanmar people.

In accordance with the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on conservation of forests and natural environment, the plan for greening nine districts in central Myanmar has been implemented since 1994. Now the plan has been extended up to 13 districts. As a result, most of the central part of Myanmar is now lush and green.

The government is building dams and river water pumping stations and at the same time it is sinking tube wells and tapping underground water across the nation. This contributes not only to boosting production of the agriculture sector but also to the green working. Local authorities and people are accelerating the work on planting trees and extension of cultivation in watershed areas and conservation of forests, biodiversity and endangered species. Moreover, flora and fauna are protected through promulgation of relevant laws.

Farourable climate depends on forests. Therefore, planting trees and conserving forests regulate the climate. While the government is carrying out natural environment conservation work for the long-term interests of human beings, we would like to call on the entire people to fully cooperate with the government in the drive.

Special Appellate Bench hears cases

YANGON, 6 March — The Special Appellate Bench Comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Yangon) U Thein Soe, Supreme Court Judges Dr Tin Aung Aye and U Tin Aye sitting at Court room No 1 this morning, heard four Special Civil Appeal Cases under Section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000. — MNA

**Wellwishers donate cash to build refectory**

YANGON, 6 March — Wellwishers donated over K 17.9 million to Bombay Monastery in Tamwe Township to build a two-storey refectory in the compound of the monastery.

At the cash donation ceremony held on 2 March at the monastery, Adviser to the Ministry of Religious Affairs U Amin Maung accepted the cash donations.

Daw Khin Ohn Myint of Saya San Ward, Bahan Township, donated K 17 million; Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Than Htay K 300,000; Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Khin Nann Mon K 200,000; Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manjotdara U Kyaw Min K 100,000; Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Aye Mya Nwe K 100,000; Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Win Htay (a) Daw Ma Nge K 100,000; U Hla Myint of Hsinmin Ice Factory K 120,000 and Thudhamma Daw Nu Nu Nge K 100,000. — MNA

**Prizes distributed to ASEAN radio quiz winners**

YANGON, 6 March — An ASEAN radio quiz took place at Myanma Radio and Television on 1 March. Maung Thein Htak Aung stood first, Maung Kyaw Zeya second and Maung Di Di Hsaing Aung third in the contest. Maung Myo Min Aung won a consolation prize in the contest.

Interested persons regardless of age and qualification may contact MRTV on Pyay Road. — MNA

**CPT seals championship trophy after victory over Electric**

YANGON, 6 March — Communications Posts and Telegraphs Ministry team carried off the championship trophy after defeating Electric Power Ministry team with a 7-6 on penalties in the First Division Closing Cup for 2005-2006 on Paduma Sports Grounds at 3.30 pm today.


Both teams set up the final match in full swing to be able to win the championship trophy and were held to a draw in full time. Both teams could not break the deadlock in extra 30 minutes. The two teams shot penalty spots and CPT won over Electric Power. Ye Mon Paul scored the opening for CPT in 8th minute into the first half but Aung Tha Mway took the equalizer in 34th minute. Two minutes later CPT striker Thu Naung added second to extend their lead and the match ended with a 2-1 in the first half.

On the stroke of the second half, both teams set up several see-saw attacks. Electric Power Aung Ko Ko Than levelled the match in 14th minute and the result remained unchanged until the match was up. As a result they continued the match in an extra time of 30 minutes. Ye Lin Tun shot third at 5th minute to put Electric Power back in front. After conceding a goal, CPT geared up its attacking speed and Aye Chan Htet Aung levelled the match from a coner at 18th minute.

The match ended with a 3-3 draw. Both teams shot five penalty kicks each.

After the final match, officials presented cash prizes to the winning teams. — MNA

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**Donate blood**

* 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
China to spend 14% more in building “new countryside”

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao gestures during his speech at the opening session of the National People’s Congress in Beijing’s Great Hall of the People on March 5, 2006. INTERNET

BEIJING, 5 March — The Chinese Government will spend 339.7 billion yuan (42 billion US dollars) in agriculture, rural areas and farmers this year, which is 42.2 billion yuan, or 14.18 per cent, more than last year, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Sunday. The target, along with plans to shift the government’s priority in infrastructure investment to the countryside, to completely rescind agricultural tax and to increase input in rural education and medical care, signifies the drive to “build a socialist new countryside” will unravel in all fronts this year, observers say.

“We need to implement a policy of getting industry to support agriculture and cities to support the countryside, strengthen support for agriculture, rural areas and farmers, and continue making reforms in rural systems and innovations in rural institutions to bring about a rapid and significant change in the overall appearance of the countryside,” Wen said in a report on the work of the government at the annual session of the national legislature.

To build the “new countryside”, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has set objectives including “enhanced productive forces, higher living standards, civilized living style, an orderly and clean environment, and democratic administration”. MNA/Xinhua

Mosquito-borne epidemic kills 93 in Reunion

PARIS, 5 March — The mosquito-borne disease known as chikungunya has left 93 dead and infected almost a quarter of the population on the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion, French Health Minister Xavier Bertrand said on Friday.

A total of 186,000 people out of the 777,000 population in the Reunion have fallen sick with the disease, said Bertrand.

The word Chikungunya derives from a Swahili word, meaning “that which bends up” because of its arthritic-type symptoms that leave victims stooped. The disease is generally non-fatal and patients usually recover, although much about it remains unclear. — MNA/Xinhua

Grenade blast kills two Pakistanis girls

QUETTA (Pakistan), 5 March — An unknown attacker threw a grenade on a street in the Pakistani town of Quetta on Friday, killing two girls playing there, police said.

Three children playing on the street in the capital of Pakistan’s Baluchistan Province were wounded in the attack, whose motive was not known, police said. MNA/Reuters

Zambia plants chili to avoid elephant invasion

LUSAKA, 5 March — Stories of elephants invading people and destroying their crops have been the order of the day in most rural parts of Zambia for years, but now they have found that chili good remedy for ending this, reported Times of Zambia on Saturday.

People in Central Province are now adopting the chili cultivation as one of their cash crops, the newspaper reported.

A community relations coordinator said they started to plant chili last September and found the chili growing is an effective barrier to elephants as the beasts are scared of smell of the crop.

The other way to keep them away is boiling the chili, adding a bit of cooking oil and soaking a rope in the solution for a day. The rope can then be hanged around the field to ensure elephants never cross the field.

If the chili growing magic works, the crop would be planted around all the national parks as a way of caging the massive wild animals, said the report. MNA/Xinhua

Weisz blossoms with win for ‘Gardener’

LOS ANGELES, 6 March —Rachel Weisz won her first Academy Award on Sunday for her performance as an impassioned activist who dies under mysterious circumstances in “The Constant Gardener.”

Earlier, George Clooney won best supporting actor at the 78th Academy Awards for his performance as a CIA man who starts unraveling the truth in the political thriller “Syriana.”

Clooney, who also was nominated for best director and best original screenplay for “Good Night, and Good Luck,” acknowledged critics who accuse the film industry of being out of touch with the American mainstream — but he said, “It’s probably a good thing.”

“We’re the ones who were talking about AIDS when it was just being whispered, and we talked about civil rights when it wasn’t really popular ... I’m proud to be a part of this academy, proud to be a part of this community and proud to be out of touch,” he said.

(“Watch how Middle America feels cut off from Hollywood —2.50)

“Syriana,” which explores the intertwining of oil and politics in the Middle East, is one of several films with social and political overtones among this year’s nominees. First-time Oscar nominee Matt Dillon said the five movies up for best picture this year reflect audiences’ desire for “authenticity.”

“I think audiences are into authenticity at this point,” said Dillon, nominated for best supporting actor for his role in “Crash” on his way down the Red Carpet into the Kodak Theatre for tonight’s ceremony.

“They are interested in films that are very specific, in things that are trying to look at things that are not usually addressed in films,” he told CNN. — Internet

Paraguay rejects US accusation of police protecting drug trafficking

BENSON ABRES, 5 March — The Paraguayan Government demanded on Friday that the United States prove its accusation that Paraguayan police were protecting drug traffickers.

Paraguayan Interior Minister Rogelio Benitez told reporters that it was very dangerous to accuse people without providing evidence, according to reports from Asuncion, capital of Paraguay.

The remarks were directed at Gregory Beloney, the local chief of the US Drug Enforcement Administration working at the US Embassy in Asuncion, who was referred to Benitez as the source of the allegations.

The US Embassy in Paraguay said in its annual report, published on Wednesday, that Paraguay suffered from police corruption and an inefficient justice system, both of which had a hand in helping drug trafficking. — MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb kills two Iraqis

BAGHDAD, 5 March — A car bomb targeting a police patrol went off south of Baghdad on Saturday, killing two civilians and wounding three policemen, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

“A car bomb detonated near a fuel station in Salman Pak Town, 30 kilometres south of Baghdad, at 10:35 a.m. (0735 GMT) while a police patrol was passing by,” the source said on condition of anonymity.

The blast damaged a police vehicle and several civilian cars queuing outside the fuel station, he added.

Earlier, another car bomb ripped through a minibus station in the southeastern suburb of Baghdad, killing seven people and injuring 20 others, the source said. MNA/Xinhua

Aedes Albopticus mosquito which transmits the chikungunya virus. Madagascan health officials said the island had recorded its first cases of a disabling mosquito-borne disease that has claimed 93 lives on the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion. INTERNET

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Chinese lawmaker promotes "edible" toothpick at Parlt session

BEIJING, 5 March — When Nan Shunji brought a lot of toothpicks made in her hometown to the annual session of China’s top legislature, she meant to promote a concept of environment-friendly consumption.

The toothpicks of the deputy to the National People’s Congress (NPC) are special not only in colour, but also in raw material. They were made of corn flour instead of bamboo or wood.

The lawmaker from Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture in Northeast China’s Jilin Province, said she will share the new product with her fellow deputies, hoping they can help bolster environmental protection.

Following her call for a ban on disposable wooden chopsticks at NPC’s annual session last year, she is focusing on wooden toothpicks this time, Nan said.

“We have wasted a lot of natural resources at our dinner tables,” Nan, board chairwoman of a local paper mill, said.

The deputy said that 1.6 million cubic metres of wood and 1.4 million tons of bamboo are used each year to make toothpicks in China. A ban on wood and bamboo toothpicks, she said, can not only save natural resources, but also help curb pollution, as the bleaching procedure in making wood or bamboo toothpicks inevitably produces pollutants.

Corn flour can avoid such pollution, she said. A survey showed that in China, 66.5 per cent of adults use toothpicks after meal, and the country consumes about 200 billion toothpicks a year.

Toothpicks made of corn flour are “edible”, and used ones can either be saved for feedstuff or buried in soil, which are easily degradable, she said — MNA/Xinhua

Study predicts rise in overweight children

LONON, 5 March — The number of overweight children worldwide will increase significantly by the end of the decade, and scientists expect profound impacts on everything from public health care to economies, a study published on Monday said.

Nearly half of the children in North and South America will be overweight by 2010, up from what recent studies say is about one-third, according to a report published by the International Journal of Pediatric Obesity.

In the European Union, about 38 percent of all children will be overweight if present trends continue — up from about 25 percent in recent surveys, the study said.

“We have truly a global epidemic which appears to be affecting most countries in the world,” said Dr Philip James, chairman of the International Obesity Task Force and author of an editorial in the journal warning of the trend.

The percentages of overweight children also are expected to increase significantly in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, Mexico, Chile, Brazil and Egypt, said comparable to fully industrialized nations.

He estimated that, for example, one in five children in China will be overweight by 2010. “They’re being bombarded like they are in the West to eat all the wrong foods. The Western world’s food industries without even realizing it have precipitated an epidemic with enormous health consequences,” he said — INTERNET

Snowfall blocks expressway sections in N-E China province

SHENYANG, 5 March — A snowfall hit northeast China’s Liaoning Province Saturday, blocking some expressway sections.

Parts of the expressway connecting Beijing and northeast China’s Liaoning Province were forced to close down, according to the provincial communications department. Other expressways in the province were also affected and some closed down due to low visibility.

The provincial meteorological observatory issued yellow snowfall alarming signal on Saturday morning to inform people of the snowfall effects on daily life. The yellow snowfall alarming is the slightest in the snowfall alarming system consisting of three colours: red, orange and yellow. Among them, red alarming represents the most serious influences upon the people.

MNA/Xinhua

Azerbaijan confirms first case of H5N1 bird flu

MOSCOW, 5 March — Azerbaijan on Friday confirmed the first case of the deadly H5N1 bird flu on a poultry farm.

“We are taking all measures to fight against bird flu in the affected area of Gilyazi as well as its environs where a complete quarantine has been imposed,” Agriculture Minister Ismet Abbassov told reporters.

Wild birds had been found to be infected with the H5N1 strain early last month in Azerbaijan, but this was the first case in domestic fowl. — MNA/Xinhua

Study shows most US rivers polluted by pesticides

WASHINGTON, 5 March — A US Geological Survey (USGS) study found that pesticides contaminated almost all rivers and streams of the United States between 1992 and 2001, but below concentrations that affect human health.

The study released on Friday said that pesticides were found less commonly in groundwater.

However, in many streams, particularly those draining into urban and agricultural areas, pesticides were found at levels that could affect aquatic life or fish-eating wildlife.

Pesticides are linked to neurological disorders, the study noted. “While the use of pesticides has resulted in a wide range of benefits to control weeds, insects and other pests, including increased food production and reduction of insect-borne disease, their use also raises questions about possible effects on the environment, including water quality,” said Robert Hirsch, the USGS associate director for water. — MNA/Xinhua

Graphic compares overweight and obesity levels of children by European country.

A Chinese military band conductor prepares to perform before the opening ceremony of the National People’s Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in China’s capital of Beijing on 5 March, 2006. — INTERNET

A dead hump-backed whale is washed up Nieuwpoort’s beach, northern Belgium on 5 March, 2006. The 10-metre (33 feet) long and 3 tonne whale was discovered dead in the Northsea on Saturday. — INTERNET

George Clooney poses with his best supporting actor Oscar during the 78th Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California. Clooney won the award for his role in “Syriana”. — INTERNET

Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California. Clooney won the award for his role in “Syriana”. — INTERNET

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Graphic compares overweight and obesity levels of children by European country. — INTERNET
Thousands of Japanese protest against US mily relocation plan

TOKYO, 6 March — Tens of thousands of people protested against a US military realignment plan on Sunday in Okinawa of southern Japan, Kyodo News reported.

According to organizers, an estimated 35,000 protesters joined the two-hour rally in Ginowan, Okinawa prefecture, urging the immediate closure of the US Marine Corps Futemma Air Station in the city and its relocation outside Okinawa.

"The city of Ginowan strongly demands that Futemma, the world's most dangerous base, be shut down immediately and relocated outside of Japan," Kyodo quoted Ginowan Mayor Yoichi Iha as saying.

In October, Tokyo and Washington approved a realignment plan of US troops in Japan, under which the Futemma Air Station's function is to be moved from Ginowan to Camp Schwab in Nago, which is also in Okinawa.

Okinawa hosts a large part of the 50,000 US troops stationed in Japan. Local residents have long complained about noise, social problems and crimes associated with the bases.

The participants adopted a resolution at the end of the gathering, demanding that the Japanese Government respect local opinions against the relocation and realignment plans.

Last Sunday, an estimated 8,000 people in Kanoya, southern prefecture of Kagoshima protested against a possible military transfer plan, under which the Futemma Air Station in Okinawa might be moved to Kanoya.

More than 30,000 people stage a rally against plans to relocate a US air base to another area on the island, demanding that the facility be moved outside the country, in Ginowan city, Japan's southern Okinawa island, on 5 March, 2006. A placard, partly seen foreground, read: 'Oppose the relocation plan'. Internet

British, US to withdraw Iraq forces by early '07

LONDON, 5 March — The United States and Britain are planning to pull all their troops out of Iraq by the spring of 2007, two British newspapers reported in their Sunday editions, quoting unnamed senior Defence Ministry sources.

The Sunday Telegraph said the planned pull-out followed an acceptance by the two governments that the presence of foreign troops in Iraq was now a large obstacle to securing peace.

"The British Government is understood to be the driving force behind the withdrawal plan but all 24 coalition members are likely to welcome the move, given the growing international unpopularity of the war," the Telegraph said.

The Bush Administration and Pentagon have stated repeatedly there is no timetable for withdrawing troops from Iraq, and a US military spokesman repeated that on Saturday. — MNA/Reuters

Motor industry displays several shades of green at Geneva Show

GENEVA, 5 March — The motor industry is going green but two sides to the coin are on display at the Geneva Motor Show until 12 March.

On the one hand, more environmentally-conscious cars with greater fuel efficiency are the rage. On the other, carmakers are also promoting gas guzzling all-terrain vehicles that only a few drivers will use to full purpose in the countryside.

The world’s second largest car maker, Toyota, introduced the hybrid electric and petrol powered car to the mass market, and all European car makers are investing heavily in more fuel efficient or smaller vehicles. Apart from high oil and petrol prices, the trend is also driven by tougher emissions standards and environmental demands.

"It’s clear that carmakers must offer cleaner models. There's a wide range of technology available," said Ford Europe chief executive John Fleming.

Fleming highlighted new biofuels — mixing petrol or diesel with fuel extracted from sugar or rapeseed — saying they can reduce emissions without forcing the owner to pay more.

Meanwhile, Peugeot-Citroen group (PSA) displayed prototypes of economical hybrid vehicles for the first time, using a combination of electric power and diesel rather than petrol. The group is aiming to market them in 2010.

"We are doing our ecological duty by offering cars that pollute less in terms of carbon dioxide emissions, but it's up to the customers to choose," said PSA Jean-Martin Folz.

"We're ready to bear our share of responsibility, but not all the sins of the world," Emmanuel Bulle, an industry analyst with the ratings agency Fitch explained: "Carmakers are giving themselves a green image more than anything else."

"On top of that, they know that once it comes to buying a car, consumers are swayed by their wallets or by the design more than by ecological considerations," he added.

Microsoft asks US to intervene in Europe case

BRUSSELS, 5 March — Microsoft said on Friday it had asked US Federal courts to force IBM, Sun Microsystems, Oracle and Novell to give it documents in its battle against the European Commission.

Microsoft is fighting against a fine of up to two million euros (2.4 million US dollars) a day for failing to carry out sanctions that the Commission, the European Union's executive arm, imposed in 2004 for violating EU antitrust laws. Microsoft had asked the EU executive to turn over communications between the companies and the Commission, a "Monitoring Trustee" in the case, and a technical adviser to the Commission known as OTR. Microsoft says it needs those documents for its defence.

Mortar kills seven in town near Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 5 March — A mortar round landed in a crowded market near a bus station killing seven people and wounding 20 in a town just southeast of Baghdad on Saturday, police sources said.

Iraq state television showed blood-stained stalls destroyed by the attack in the town of Gisr Diyala near Salman Pak.

The tin roof of a small restaurant was ripped open and shards of glass covered overturned tables and chairs. A mangled tea cart lay among the debris.

Police and firefighters rushed to the scene. "We were standing here. A mortar fell among us. This is a criminal act. The market and the bus station were crowded," a witness told Iraqiya.
Hundreds join anti-US protests in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 March — Thousands of Indonesians demonstrated against the United States on Sunday, calling it the world's enemy in general. Some 5,000 protesters, including many children, gathered in front of the US Embassy in Jakarta in the morning, with banners reading "Warning, Bush evil", "Get out from Muslim countries" and "America enemy of the world". The demonstration was peaceful, with about 1,000 police on hand to make sure the protesters stayed across the street from the embassy, which ahead of the weekend had warned Americans in Indonesia to stay away from the vicinity.

Two weeks ago a Sunday demonstration at the embassy got out of control with protesters breaking windows and battering the main gate.

US nuclear plant leaks fuel, health concerns

CHICAGO, 6 March — Years of radioactive waste water spills from Illinois nuclear power plants have fuelled suspicions the industry covers up safety problems and sparked debate about the risks from exposure to low-level radiation.

The recent, belated disclosures of leaks of the fission byproduct tritium from Exelon Corp.'s Braidwood, Dresden, and Byron twin-reactor nuclear plants — one as long ago as 1996 — triggered worries among neighbours about whether it was safe to drink their water, or even stay.

"How'd you like to live next to that plant and every time you turn on the tap to take a drink you have to think about whether it's safe?" asked Joe Cosgrove, the head of parks in Godley, Illinois, a town adjacent to Braidwood.

Cosgrove and some scientists and anti-nuclear activists who monitor health issues related to nuclear power say the delay in reporting the spills is indicative of industry's inclination to obfuscation bordering on cover-up.

"We don't know what else has been leaked from that site. When they close ranks, you can't believe them," Cosgrove said, referring to the plant owner and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which oversees safety at the nation's 103 commercial reactors, including 11 in Illinois.

Cosgrove recalled a 2002 spill of diesel fuel that was initially mischaracterized by Braidwood's operators as run-off from a parking lot.

Tornado kills 5 in southwestern Bangladesh

DHAKA, 6 March — Five persons were killed and over 100 others wounded as a tornado swept through six villages in southwestern Bagerhat District Saturday night, private television channel Ntv reported Sunday.

According to Ntv, four people were killed due to house collapse and one person died following a lightning in the six villages, which were levelled by the one-and-half-minute tornado. The television said the tornado also flattened hundreds of houses, trees and electric polls and damaged crops on farm lands.

Pigs die of mysterious disease in eastern Nepal

KATHMANDU, 6 March — Over 2,000 pigs have died of an unidentified disease in some villages of Morang District in eastern Nepal in the past two months, an official said Sunday.

The disease, first seen in Dangihat and Karanari Village of Morang District, some 300 kilometres east of Kathmandu, claimed the lives of over 1,000 pigs in Letang Village alone, Shambhu Yadav, an official of the District Livestock Services Office (DLSO), said, adding that eight boars and four buffaloes also died of the disease.

Over 50 killed in northwestern Pakistan clashes

ISLAMABAD, 6 March — More than 50 people were killed in Pakistan's northwestern tribal region in two-day clashes between tribal militants and government troops, the Pakistani military said Sunday.

A total of 40 militants and 5 soldiers were killed and 10 more injured in fighting in the North Waziristan region bordering on Afghanistan, according to Army spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan. Sultan told a news conference that the local administration had now re-taken control of the government buildings, earlier controlled by the militants in Miran Shah, the headquarters of North Waziristan.

Second Canadian dies of Afghan injuries

KABUL, 6 March — A second Canadian soldier died on Sunday of injuries received when an armoured vehicle overturned in southern Afghanistan and another was in serious condition following an axe attack during a meeting with tribal elders.

Master Corporal Timothy Wilson died early on Sunday at a US military hospital at Landstuhl, Germany, three days after the accident in Kandahar Province. Canadian military spokesman Lieutenant Mark MacIntyre said.

Iraqi soldiers patrol in a tank near Taji, air base 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 5 March, 2006.

A man tries a Japanese Toyota one-seat, three-wheel concept car at the 70th Geneva International Auto Exhibition in Geneva, Switzerland, on 1 March, 2006.

A snowboarder enjoys a ride in a street packed with snow in downtown Zurich, Switzerland, on 5 March, 2006.

Heavy snow in northern Switzerland disrupted public transport and led to closures of roads as well as delays and cancellations of flights.

A snowboarder enjoys a ride in a street packed with snow in downtown Zurich, Switzerland, on 5 March, 2006.
Japanese scientists develop new blood test device

Tokyo, 6 March — Japanese scientists have developed a blood test device, with which the exact dosage of antithrombotic agent can be decided in 80 minutes in treatment of blood clots, the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper reported on Monday. The tool, which was developed by researchers from Tokyo University, Shimizu Corp and Toppan Printing Co, can also decide from a drop of blood the needed dosages in fighting rheumatism and cancer.

Warfarin, a widely-used antithrombotic drug, could cause chronic nosebleeds and cerebral hemorrhage if inappropriate dosage of the medicine is taken for a long time.

To solve this problem, the researchers studied two genes that are related to blood coagulation and metabolism and found they are directly linked to the amount of drugs that patients can safely be administered, according to the paper. The tool can also be used in the treatment of rheumatism, mental illnesses, leukaemia and lung cancer, said the researchers.

List of Oscar winners

LOS ANGELES, 6 March — Following is a complete list of winners of the 78th annual Oscars ceremony, which took place in Hollywood on Sunday.

Best Picture - “Crash” (Paul Haggis and Cathy Schulman, producers; Lionsgate)
Director - Ang Lee, “Brokeback Mountain” (Focus Features)
Lead Actor - Philip Seymour Hoffman, “Capote” (United Artists/Sony Pictures Classics)
Lead Actress - Reese Witherspoon, “Walk the Line” (20th Century Fox)
Supporting Actor - George Clooney, “Syriana” (Warner Bros. Pictures)
Supporting Actress - Rachel Weisz, “The Constant Gardener” (Focus Features)
Adapted Screenplay - “Brokeback Mountain” (Larry McMurtry & Diana Ossana; Focus Features)
Original Screenplay - “Crash” (Paul Haggis & Bobby Moresco, story by Paul Haggis; Lionsgate)
Foreign Language - “Tsotsi” (Gavin Hood, director; Miramax Films; South Africa)
Documentary Feature - “March of the Penguins” (Luc Jacquet, Yves Daroudeau; Warner Independent Pictures)

Documentary Short - “A Note of Triumph: The Golden Age of Norman Corwin” (Corinne Marrinan, Eric Simonson)

US actress Reese Witherspoon accepts her best actress Oscar during the 78th Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California. Witherspoon won the award for her role in “Walk the Line.” — INTERNET

Original Score - “Brokeback Mountain” (Gustavo Santaolalla; Focus Features)
Original Song - “It’s Hard Out Here for a Pimp” from “Hustle & Flow” (Jordan Houston, Cedric Coleman and Paul Beauregard; Paramount Classics)

Animated Feature - “Wallace & Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit” (Nick Park and Steve Box; DreamWorks Animation)
Animated Short Film - “The Moon”

Producer of best picture “Crash” Paul Haggis (R) celebrates at the 78th annual Academy Awards in Hollywood, on 5 March, 2006. — INTERNET

Malaysia targets 100,000 foreign students by 2010

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 March — The Malaysian Government hopes to woo 100,000 foreign students to study in local institutions of higher learning by 2010, a senior education official said.

Malaysia has the potential to become the choice country for foreign students to pursue tertiary education abroad, Higher Education Minister Mustapa Mohamed was quoted as saying by the Bernama news agency on Sunday. He said the social stability and reasonable cost of living were among those factors which helped draw foreign students to come to this country. — MNA/Xinhua

Belarus paratroopers pour water on themselves as they take part in ‘Maslenitsa’ celebrations in Minsk, on 5 March, 2006. Belarusians celebrate an ancient religious holiday ‘Maslenitsa’ (Pancake Week) ahead of the traditional Easter fast. — INTERNET

Philippines, Russia to sign tourism agreement

MANILA, 6 March — The Philippines and Russia will sign a tourism cooperation agreement this month to further boost travel between the two countries, the Philippine Daily Inquirer reported on its website Sunday.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano and Minister Vladimir Stazhalkovsky of the Russia Federation’s Federal Agency for Tourism are scheduled to sign the bilateral agreement on 14 March at the Philippine Embassy in Moscow.

The accord was first drafted in 1998. Russia is becoming a major source of tourists to the Philippines, with the number of Russian visitors here up 108 per cent from 2004 to 2005, said officials.

In January of this year, the Philippine Airlines hosted to 334 Russian tourists who visited Cebu, Bohol and Boracay, all in central Philippines.

The World Tourism Organization has ranked Russian travellers 10th in the list of biggest spenders. — MNA/Xinhua

Ang Lee wins best director for “Brokeback Mountain” at the 78th annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California. March 5, 2006. —INTERNET

and the Son: An Imagined Conversation” (John Canemaker, Peggy Stern)

Art Direction - “Memoirs of a Geisha” (John Myhre, Gretchen Rau; Columbia Pictures, DreamWorks SKG)

Cinematography - “Memoirs of a Geisha” (Dion Beebe; Columbia Pictures, DreamWorks SKG)

Costume Design - “Memoirs of a Geisha” (Colleen Atwood; Columbia Pictures, DreamWorks SKG)

Film Editing - “Crash” (Hughes Winborne; Lionsgate)

Live Action Short Film - “Six Shooter” (Martin McDonagh; Sundance Film Channel)

Makeup - “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” (Howard Berger, Tami Lane; Walt Disney Pictures)

Sound Mixing - “King Kong” (Christopher Boyes, Michael Semanick, Michael Hedges, Hammond Peek; Universal Pictures)

Sound Editing - “King Kong” (Mike Hopkins, Ethan Van der Ryn; Universal Pictures)

Visual Effects - “King Kong,” (Joe Letteri, Brian Van’t Hul, Christian Rivers, Richard Taylor; Universal)

Lionsgate is a unit of Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.

Focus Features and Universal Pictures are units of NBC Universal, which is controlled by General Electric Co.

Sony Pictures Classics and Columbia Pictures are units of Sony Corp.

Twentieth Century Fox is a unit of News Corp.

Warner Bros Pictures and Warner Independent Pictures are units of Time Warner Inc.

Walt Disney Pictures and Miramax Films are units of Walt Disney Co.

MNA/Reuters

Philip Seymour Hoffman (R), who won the Oscar for best actor in a leading role for ‘Capote’, and Mimi O’Donnell arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party at Mortons in West Hollywood on 5 March, 2006. — INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

Japanese scientists develop new blood test device

Tokyo, 6 March — Japanese scientists have developed a blood test device, with which the exact dosage of antithrombotic agent can be decided in 80 minutes in treatment of blood clots, the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper reported on Monday.

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The tool can also be used in the treatment of rheumatism, mental illnesses, leukaemia and lung cancer, said the researchers.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects physic nut plantations, road…

(from page 1)

per hour in Ayadaw Sta-
tion, overflowing well No 2 with a capacity of 4,300
gallons of water per hour in Myanat village-tract
and storage of water, corre-
gation, overflowing well No 3
22,500 gallons of water
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cultivation. They also in-
visited the physic nut
planted farmers to grow physic
and Ma Khin Mya
of Tamway Township sec-
first, Tun Tun Min
of North Okkalapa Town-
to present construction
Agriculture & Irriga-
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 afternoon at Youth Train-
ning Centre in Thawunna
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gation Team beat Banner
Team 1-0.

A & I beat
Banner 1-0

Grand Royal Special Reserve
Golf Championship 2006
on 11, 12 March

at Lashio Golf Club in
Lashio, Shan State (North)
on 11 and 12 March.

Main sponsor is
IBTC and co-sponsors are
Air Mandalay, Crusher
Club Soda, Srixon and
Grand Plaza Park Royal
Hotel. Han Event Man-
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champion.—MNA

Tomorrow’s fixtures
MAPT Team vs Kambawza (Aung San)
Energy Team vs Home
Affairs Team (YTC)

In Military Drill Songs
Contest (Level-1), Tekkathio Aye Ko of
Shwepyitha Township stood first, Tun Tun Min
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Managers (Upper Myanmar) of Myanma Economic Bank meet

YANGON, 6 March — The state/division/district and township managers (Upper Myanmar) of Myanma Economic Bank under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue held a coordination meeting for 2005-2006 fiscal year at the City Hall of Mandalay, Mandalay Division, yesterday with addresses by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman Mandalay Division Peace and Development Committee Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, heads of department, Managing Director of Myanma Economics Bank U Myat Zaw, Director-General of Internal Revenue Department U Hsan Tun, general managers of MCBs, state/division/district and township managers (Upper Myanmar) of Myanma Economics Bank and others.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw made a speech on the occasion.

Next, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun said that courtesy is vital for success of banking services. State/division/district and township managers are to make constant efforts for self-improvement in performance of their duties since they are responsible for the respective state/division/district and township banks (branch).

After that, the managers reported on work carried out in the respective banks (branch) and future tasks.

Afterwards, managing directors and officials of the Central Bank of Myanmar assessed and discussed work efficiency of state/division/district and township managers. This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the managing director of MEB.

Next, the Minister inspected the Central Bank of Myanmar (Upper Myanmar) and the Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank (Mandalay).

Number of Hlegu MCWA members increases

YANGON, 6 March — Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association today met with Hlegu Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association at the office of Hlegu Township MCWA and accepted the 300 membership applications of Hlegu Township MCWA.

At the meeting, Chairperson of the supervisory committee Daw Mar Mar Wai briefed on tasks to be carried out by township/ward/village MCWAs as part of a contribution to the success of the objectives of MMCWA.

After the meeting, Daw Mar Mar Wai and party went to the pre-primary school of No 11 LID MCWA and presented gifts to the children. Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division MCWA Daw Mar Mar Wai also met with members of Hlegu Township and No 11 LID MCWAs and briefed on the future tasks for 2006. — MNA

Buddha Pujaniya of Shwephonepwint Pagoda to be held

YANGON, 6 March — The 49th Buddha Pujaniya ceremony of Shwephonepwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township will be held from 15 to 19 March.

Sayadaws will deliver sermons on the nights of 15, 16, 17 and 18 March at the pagoda to mark the ceremony. A total of 15 Sayadaws will consecrate the pagoda on the morning of 19 March and provisions will be donated to 166 Members of the Sangha and 45 nuns on the afternoon of 19 March. Those wishing to donate provisions may contact Ph 290425.

Earthquake report

YANGON, 6 March — A slight earthquake of intensity (4.4) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar about 179 miles north of Kaba Aye Seismological Observatory (near Bago Yoma), was recorded at 21 hours 53 minutes 33 seconds at Myanmar Standard Time today. — MNA

All this needs to be known

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appeased
Top Chinese leaders join panel discussions with political advisers

BEIJING, 6 March — Top Chinese leaders, including President Hu Jintao, top legislator Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen Jiabao, on Saturday joined panel discussions with the country’s political advisers, who are holding their annual full meeting in Beijing.

The discussions of the advisers, or members of the Tenth National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China’s political advisory body, also attracted the participation of CPPCC National Committee Chairman Jia Qinglin, Vice-President Zeng Qinghong, and other senior Party leaders Wu Guanzheng, Li Changchun and Luo Gan.

The eight leaders are all in the nine-member Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the top decision-making body of the ruling party.

“In order to attain the development goals set for the next five years, we shall unswervingly rely on the general public and sincerely bring benefits to the people,” said President Hu while discussing the country’s 11th Five-Year National Economic and Social Development Plan (2006-2010) with advisers from the non-Communist parties. MNA/Xinhua

Libya names new Prime Minister, head of oil sector

TRIPOLI, 6 March — Libya’s top legislative and executive body on Sunday appointed al-Baghdadi Ali Al-Mahmoudi as prime minister, replacing the reform-minded Shokri Ghanem who was put in charge of the country’s oil sector.

The General People’s Congress also said in a statement that Fathi Omar Bin Shatiwan, who was Oil Minister during Ghanem’s premiership, lost the oil portfolio in the Cabinet reshuffle, with his department renamed the Industry, Electricity and Mining Ministry.

Ghanem was appointed chairman of the National Oil Corporation, replacing Abdallah Al Badri and giving him effective control over oil policy, it said.

The congress also named Farhat Omar Bin Guidara as the new central bank governor, replacing Ahmed Mohammed Monesi.

Moneisi takes the job of Finance Minister, replacing Mohammed Ali al-Houeiz, who becomes the North African country’s Deputy Prime Minister.

Deputy Interior Minister Salah Rajal al-Masmari was named as the new Interior Minister, replacing Nasser al-Mahbour Abdallah, who was fired last month. — MNA/Reuters

Thailand seeks way out for trade deadlock amid avian flu

BANGKOK, 6 March — Thailand’s Ministry of Commerce will invite trading partners from Europe and the Middle East to inspect chicken and shrimp production in Thailand in May with an objective to boost exports of the two products, said a senior ministry official.

Chantara Punnariksha, director-general of the Ministry’s Department of Export Promotion, said here on Saturday that the plan came after 46 countries outside the European Union (EU) had imposed an import ban on poultry from France following an outbreak of bird flu.

Saudi Arabia, which formerly imported poultry from France at about 80,000 tons annually, has lowered its import and this should give an opportunity to Thailand to export its boiled or cooked chickens to EU member countries and the Middle East, Mrs Chantara was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

Musharraf says he has introduced essence of democracy in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 6 March — Asserting that he has introduced the essence of democracy in Pakistan for the first time, President Pervez Musharraf Saturday said that the country’s Constitution had allowed him to wear the military uniform until 2007 and he will take a decision on whether to shed it beyond that time limit.

Wearing of the khaki “has been allowed by the Constitution until 2007 and I will go by the Constitution. Beyond 2007, the issue will be addressed according to the Constitution”, he said addressing a Joint Press conference with US President George W Bush.

Maintaining that freedom of speech, right to vote for minorities along with Muslims and opening of TV and print media had been done under his regime, the General said, “I introduced the essence of democracy in Pakistan, which was never there before”.

Responding to Bush’s observation that a sustainable democracy was needed in Pakistan as the two countries continued their fight against terror, he said elections to the National Assembly and provincial assemblies have been held as per adult franchise system. MNA/PTI

Sixth German state finds H5N1 strain of avian flu

BERLIN, 6 March — Lower Saxony has become the sixth German state to confirm that a wild bird tested positive for the H5N1 strain of avian flu, state officials said on Saturday.

“The grey goose fell from the sky in mid-flight,” said a spokesman for the food safety and consumer protection office in Lower Saxony, the German state home to the largest stock of farmed poultry in the country.

The dead bird was recovered from a field outside Sollau-Fallingbostel last Sunday. MNA/Reuters

TZ helicopter crash kills 2

WELLINGTON, 6 March — Two people died when their helicopter crashed in steep terrain in South Island Sunday morning.

According to police, the Robinson 22 crashed near Lake Wanaka at central South Island. The site of the crash was on a ridge in steep terrain. The helicopter then dropped away to a gorge.

Recovery operations were hampered by strong wind in the area but flying conditions had been “ideal” at the time of the crash, said the police. MNA/Xinhua

Taleban kill French officer in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan), 6 March — Taleban guerrillas killed a French special forces officer in Afghanistan on Saturday and a Canadian officer was in critical condition after being attacked with an axe during a meeting with tribal elders.

Elsewhere in the volatile south, a roadside bomb killed an Afghan intelligence agent and four other Afghans while US-backed government forces were holding a meeting with tribal elders.

The violence is part of a guerrilla campaign to topple the US-backed government of President Hamid Karzai that has claimed more than 1,500 lives since the start of last year.

Canadian Lieutenant Trevor Greene from British Columbia was with a civilian-military team meeting tribal elders in Kandahar Province’s Shinkai District when he was attacked. Canadian military spokesman Lieutenant Mark Machtyne said. MNA/Reuters

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Canadian Lieutenant Trevor Greene from British Columbia was with a civilian-military team meeting tribal elders in Kandahar Province’s Shinkai District when he was attacked. Canadian military spokesman Lieutenant Mark Machtyne said. MNA/Reuters

Germany’s Jan Fischtien wins the men’s 3,000 metres final at the European Athletics Indoor Cup in Lievin, northern France, on 5 March, 2006. Fischtien clocked 7 minutes 58.08 seconds. — INTERNET

International Women’s Day (8 March 2006)

An Afghan boy receives polio vaccination drops during an anti-polio campaign in Kabul, Afghanistan on 5 March. The three-day anti-polio drive, which began on Sunday, aims to reach out to about 7.2 million children below five years of age across the country. — INTERNET

EIJING, 6 March — MNA/Xinhua 8 March 2006 8 March 2006 8 March 2006 8 March 2006 8 March 2006

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India PM to participate in G-8 dialogue

NEW DELHI, 6 March — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will attend the G-8 summit at St Petersburg, Russia, in July, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said Sunday.

The Prime Minister accepted the invitation made by Russian President Vladimir Putin to participate in the G-8 summit when the two had a 20-minute telephone conversation late Saturday evening, the ministry said in a statement.

The Indian side made the phone call 24 hours after US President George W Bush concluded his three-day visit. “The two leaders discussed implementation of areas of cooperation identified during their last summit in Moscow in December 2005” in the context of the mid-March visit of Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, the statement said. — MNA/Reuters

World’s largest open access e-journals portal launched from India

NEW DELHI, 6 March — The world’s largest open access e-journals portal, www.openj-gate.com, was launched by Bangalore (in South India)-based Informatics (India) Ltd recently.

A free service for everyone across the globe, Open J-Gate is India’s contribution to global research and towards promoting the open access movement, Informatics said in a release here on Saturday.

The portal was launched by Jean-Claude Guedon, a global expert of open access movement, on the occasion of the 12th Annual Lecture on Informatics at Indian National Academy of Sciences (INSA).

Open J-Gate is the first portal to index over 3,000 open access e-journals on a single searchable platform using a standard database, overtaking a comparable initiative by Lund University, Sweden, which covers less than 600 e-journals.

The portal will have over 2 million articles published in about 2,000 peer-reviewed research journals, besides those from over 1,000 trade and professional journals. — MNA/PTI

Bangladesh to build more export processing zones

DHAKA, 6 March — Bangladesh plans to build two more export processing zones (EPZ) in southeastern Chittagong as investors from both home and abroad are showing more interest in investing in those kind of zones, said a government official on Sunday.

The official with the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) said investors are showing more interest in these zones because they have ready-made infrastructure facilities.

The official added that they could not manage all the foreign investors in the current export processing zone at Adamjee, which also made the government to go for establishing more EPZs.

Exports from Bangladesh EPZs stood at 870 million US dollars in the first half of the current fiscal (July 2005-June 2006). — MNA/Xinhua

India’s Nambiar appointed Annan’s Special Adviser

UNITED NATIONS, 6 March — Veteran Indian diplomat Vijay Nambiar has been appointed Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan with the rank of Under-Secretary General.

Nambiar, India’s Deputy National Security Adviser, will advise the Secretary-General on a range of matters and will both follow the issues and represent Annan in the United Nations and elsewhere at a high level, the world body said.

At the United Nations, Nambiar will be liaising with Permanent Representatives. He will also be a member of the Policy Committee. — MNA/PTI

Slovak PM breaks leg while skiing, undergoes operation

BRATISLAVA, 6 March — Slovak Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda, campaigning for re-election, had to undergo an operation after suffering a complicated fracture of a lower leg while skiing on Saturday, local media reported.

“It is quite a common injury for skiing,” Health Minister Rudolf Zajac told a news conference. “It required special treatment, no extraordinary steps were needed”.

Dzurinda was attending an event for families in northern Slovakia before the accident, news channel TA3 reported.

Zajac said it was too early to say whether Dzurinda would be able to make a planned trip to Washington to meet US President George W Bush next weekend.

The injury came as Slovakia began preparations for 17 June parliamentary elections, in which Dzurinda will try to stay in office for a third consecutive term. — MNA/Reuters

Bomb blast in Turkish city hurts man, causes damage

ANKARA, 6 March — A small bomb wounded one man and damaged dozens of buildings in western Turkey on Saturday, the state-run Anatolian news agency said.

The makeshift bomb exploded in a wheelbarrow near a police station in a mainly Kurdish district of Izmir, Turkey’s third biggest city, located on the Aegean coast.

The wounded man, aged 54, had been crossing the street at the time of the blast, which shattered glass and caused other damage to more than 40 buildings in the vicinity.

Police suspected the hand of the rebel Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which is fighting for an ethnic homeland in southeast Turkey, Anatolian said.

A wide variety of militant groups ranging from Kurdish rebels to ultra-left radicals and Islamists operate in Turkey and small-scale bomb blasts are not uncommon. — MNA/Reuters

Photo taken on 1 March, 2006 shows a German Volkswagen concept car displayed at the 76th Geneva International Auto Exhibition in Geneva, Switzerland. —INTERNET
**Claims Day Notice**

MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (283)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (283) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expense subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**Sri Lanka targets 600,000 tourists in 2006**

**Colombo, 5 March** — The Sri Lankan Tourism Ministry and the Sri Lanka Tourist Board have set a target of 600,000 tourist arrivals by end 2006. Daily News reported on Saturday. To achieve the goal and promote Sri Lanka’s tourism both regionally and globally, several crash programmes have already been introduced and other plans and policies are to kick off shortly, said Tourism Secretary P. Ramanujam.

Up to 52,000 tourist arrivals were recorded in January this year, said the official. The total number of tourist arrivals to the country stood at 566,202 in 2004 and 549,308 in 2005.

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**Militants killed in Afghan firefight**

**Kabul, 5 March** — At least eight Taleban militants were killed and 10 others arrested on Friday in firefight in Afghan southern province of Helmand, an Afghan official said. “This morning at about 10 am a group of Taleban militants ambushed Afghan police in Sangin District. The police fired back afterwards. During the firefight between two sides, eight Taleban militants were killed, 10 of them were arrested, four police were injured,” Haji Mohauddin, deputy provincial governor told Xinhua.

The ambush comes just two days after US President George W Bush paid a sudden visit to this war-torn country. In the past two days, Taleban militants have already been introduced and other plans and policies are to kick off shortly, said Tourism Secretary P. Ramanujam.

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**Cross-Straits relations improve in past year**

**Beijing, 5 March** — The relations between the Chinese Mainland and Taiwan have improved in various aspects in the past one year after Chinese President Hu Jintao made public his four-point guideline on cross-Strait relations, Xinhua said here on Friday. The news agency said, however, the fighting against “Taiwan Independence” activities and “secessionist forces” has remained arduous and complicated.

The door for dialogues between political parties from cross-Strait has opened. The Inter-Party exchanges and dialogues between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Taiwan based Kuomintang, PeopleFirst Party and New Party had won applause from both home and overseas, it said.

In the meantime, the Mainland and Taiwan have made progress in various fields including trade, tourism, education and banking.

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**Blair ally splits with husband linked to Italy probe**

**London, 5 March** — A British Government minister and close ally of Prime Minister Tony Blair is to separate from her husband, who faces a high-level corruption probe in Italy, her husband’s lawyer said on Saturday.

Culture Minister Tessa Jowell survived an inquiry this week into whether she had broken a ministerial code over the couple’s financial arrangements.

But she remained under pressure after the investigation left open the possibility of links between her tax lawyer husband David Mills and a bribery allegation against Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

The lawyer, David Kirk, said the couple were separating because of “the dreadful strain” caused by the inquiries.

“They hope that over time their relationship can be restored, but, given the current circumstances, they have agreed a period of separation,” he said in a statement. Jowell, responsible for preparations for London’s 2012 Olympic Games, is to step down and before that was an Olympic Games。“

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**Briton moves into second highest UN post**

**United Nations, 5 March** — Briton Mark Malloch Brown was named deputy secretary-general of the United Nations, the second highest post in the organization, to replace Canadian Louise Frechette, the United Nations announced on Friday. Malloch Brown, 52, became Annan’s chief of staff in January 2005 in a reshuffle aimed at instituting UN managing reforms and combating scandals in the oil-for-food programme in Iraq and sexual abuse by peacekeepers.

His promotion had been rumoured and de- nted for months but became official when UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan informed diplomats on Thursday of a reshuffle in his executive office following re- signations of key staff members. Annan’s second five-year term ends at the end of 2006.

Frechette announced her resignation several months ago and will leave on 31 March to join a research institute in Canada. Malloch Brown was a former director of the UN Development Programme, or UNDP, and before that was an official at the World Bank in Washington.

The United Nations is releasing a major management reform report on Tuesday. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Malloch Brown would work “with senior UN staff and member states” in a follow up to the report.

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**China hikes sci-tech input by 19.2%**

**Beijing, 5 March** — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Sunday that the central government will allocate 71.6 billion yuan this year for investment in science and technology, representing an increase of 19.2 percent year-on-year.

“China has entered a stage in its history where it must increase its reliance on scientific and technological advances and innovation to drive social and economic development,” Premier Wen told the opening ceremony of the Fourth Session of China’s Tenth National People’s Congress (NPC).

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**A truck passes aircraft as it removes snow from the manoeuvring area of Munich international airport on 5 March, 2006. In southern Germany, snow fall has disrupted local transport and domestic flights.**

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US launches drive to plug leaks

WASHINGTON, March 6 — The Bush Administration has launched several investigations to discourage government employees from leaking classified information to news reporters, The Washington Post reported in its Sunday edition.

FBI agents have interviewed dozens of employees at the CIA, the National Security Agency and other intelligence agencies in recent weeks as they investigate possible leaks that led to reports about the NSA’s domestic spying programme and secret CIA prisons in Eastern Europe, the Post said. Employees at the FBI, the CIA, the Justice Department and other agencies have also received Justice Department letters prohibiting them from discussing the NSA programme, the Post said, citing anonymous sources.

Republican lawmakers like Kansas Senator Pat Roberts are considering legislation that would stiffen penalties for leaking. FBI agents have contacted reporters at the Sacramento Bee about their coverage of a terrorism case that was based on classified documents, the Post said.

CIA Director Porter Goss has warned employees at the agency against speaking to reporters, and called for prosecutors to call reporters before a grand jury to force them to reveal who is leaking information, the Post said.

Several reporters have already been forced to reveal anonymous sources to a US prosecutor investigating the leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame’s identity after her husband accused the Bush Administration of twisting intelligence to justify its invasion of Iraq.

Thailand's exports expected to grow 17.5% this year

BANGKOK, 6 March — Thailand’s exports in 2006 are projected at 130.3 billion US dollars, up 17.5 per cent from 2005, Thai News Agency reported Sunday.

The increase is due to continue expansion of global trade and an assertive trade strategy adopted by the government, the agency quoted a forecast from the Ministry of Commerce as saying.

Exports of electronic goods and spare parts will be the major driving force in boosting this year’s exports, while exports of agricultural goods will also rise on the back of an expected decline in global agricultural production of between 4-5 per cent due to natural calamity.

Thailand is expected to ship more tapioca, rubber and maize this year, the ministry said.

In this undated image made available from NASA on 5 March, 2006, which shows the central region of a group of galaxies 300 million Light-years away known as tephan's Quinted. —INTERNET

Models pose next to a Ferrari used in last year’s Formula One motor racing which is on display at the Formula One Grand Prix season promotional event held at a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur, on 5 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Thailand to stock more bird flu vaccine

BANGKOK, 6 March — Thailand is to overhaul the management of its flu vaccine stock to cope with a shortage which is likely to become serious as the global spread of the virus set to push vaccine demand higher, according to local news media report on Sunday.

Supamit Chun-suttiwat, a senior medical officer who takes care of the bird flu preparedness plan, was quoted by the Bangkok Post as saying that demand for the influenza vaccine is higher in cold weather countries such as the United States, Japan and South Korea than in tropical countries like Thailand, which uses less.

But the current bird flu situation will lead to higher demand for the flu vaccine.

Malaysia considers overhauling exam-oriented educational system

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 March — Malaysian Education Minister Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said Sunday his ministry is looking for best ways to overhaul the heavily examination-oriented system functioning in schools.

The Education Ministry has realized the current system in primary and secondary schools is impractical, burdensome to students and fails to reflect their capabilities, said Hishammuddin. “I don’t deny the examination system is burdensome to teachers and students alike, that is why we want to come up with a new system,” Hishammuddin said after opening a student course in the Pahang State.

Indonesia plans massive increase in Tamiflu

JAKARTA, 6 March — Indonesia, which has suffered more deaths from bird flu this year than any other country, plans a massive increase in its supply of anti-flu Tamiflu tablets, the Jakarta Post newspaper reported on Sunday.

If taken within two days of contracting the virus, Tamiflu can work against the often deadly H5N1 flu, which international tests show has killed nine people in Indonesia so far in 2006. The government plans to distribute 12 million Tamiflu tablets to affected areas of the sprawling archipelago, although currently it has just 16,000 in stock, the Jakarta Post said.

“I expect we will have up to 5 million tablets by April,” Health Minister Fadillah Supari was quoted as saying on Saturday.

She said pills would be handed out to health institutions in provinces with recorded outbreaks.

Another minister has said the pills would have to be imported since local companies have yet to start making the drug.

Dancers perform during the play of 'Giselle' by Maria Gimenez classic ballet in the Maestro Padilla auditorium in Almeria, southeastern Spain on 4 March, 2006. —INTERNET

In this undated image made available from NASA on 5 March, 2006, which shows the central region of a group of galaxies 300 million Light-years away known as tephan's Quinted. —INTERNET

Finnland’s Samir Abbassi competes in the men’s long jump final at the European Athletics Indoor Cup in Lievin, northern France, on 5 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Another minister has said the pills would have to be imported since local companies have yet to start making the drug. — MNA/Reuters

Employees at the FBI, the CIA, the Justice Department and other agencies have also received Justice Department letters prohibiting them from discussing the NSA programme, the Post said, citing anonymous sources.

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Several reporters have already been forced to reveal anonymous sources to a US prosecutor investigating the leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame’s identity after her husband accused the Bush Administration of twisting intelligence to justify its invasion of Iraq.
Manchester City beat Sunderland 2-1

LONDON, 6 March— Manchester City striker Georgios Samaras scored two goals in as many minutes as his side laboured to beat bottom club Sunderland 2-1 on Sunday.

It looked ominous for the visitors when Samaras angled in a drive after nine minutes before lashing in his second.

But City eased off and Kevin Kyle pulled one back for Sunderland, who gained in belief as the game wore on.

Bradley Wright-Phillips was denied a penalty for City, who held on, with the visitors’ Gary Breen sent off late on.

City had wasted little time at the start of the match in immediately pinning back Sunderland and they used the expansive Eastlands pitch to probe a path through the visitors’ defence.

Sunderland looked out of their depth and gifted the home side the lead when central defender Danny Collins lingered in possession and was robbed by Samaras.

The Greek international powered an angled drive past keeper Kelvin Davis before adding a second a minute later when he lashed home a shot from Trevor Sinclair’s cross.

City’s main danger was complacency and it duly proved their downfall as they allowed Sunderland back into the game with a goal from a set-piece.

Sunderland’s Kevin Kyle, bottom left, celebrates scoring against Manchester City during their English Premier League soccer match at The City of Manchester Stadium, Manchester, England, on 3 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Roma’s record run ends after 1-1 draw with Inter

ROME, 6 March— AS Roma’s record-breaking run in Serie A was ended when a late goal by Marco Materazzi gave Inter Milan a 1-1 draw on Sunday.

The result interrupted Roma’s sequence of 11 consecutive league wins.

Inter are third in the table with 59 points from 28 matches, three points ahead of Fiorentina who climbed to fourth with a 2-1 win over Siena. Roma slipped to fifth on 55.

Juventus (73 points) and AC Milan (63) occupy the top two places after respective wins over Sampdoria and Empoli on Saturday.

Inter played their early advantage and were camping up the area as Roma pressed forward and Inter were not able to get the ball away from them.

As they did in the first half, Inter started the second period on the attack by winning a series of corners and pushing Roma back to the edge of their area.

The pressure paid off a minute from time when Doni saved a volley from Esteban Cambiasso.

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Sunderland’s Kevin Kyle, bottom left, celebrates scoring against Manchester City during their English Premier League soccer match at The City of Manchester Stadium, Manchester, England, on 3 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Valencia miss chance after draw at Malaga

MADRID, 6 March— Valencia missed the chance to reclaim second spot in the Primera Liga when they were surprisingly held 0-0 by basement side Malaga on Sunday.

Malaga, who had lost three of their four games since Manuel Hierro took charge as coach last month, produced a gritty defensive display to keep Valencia at bay.

The result means Valencia remain in third place, level on 51 points with Real Madrid who put a week of turmoil behind them with a gutsy 2-1 victory at home to Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

Valencia’s slip-up allowed reigning champions Barcelona to extend their advantage at the top of the table to 10 points following their 3-2 win at home to Deportivo Coruna on Saturday.

Valencia host Real Madrid at the Mestalla next weekend while Barcelona face a tricky away trip to Osasuna.

Osasuna dropped off the pace and are now five points adrift of Real and Valencia in fourth place in the table after their 2-0 loss at Celta Vigo who are now hot on their heels in the race for the Champions League places.

Brazilian striker Fernando Baiano gave the Galicians an early lead when he fired a curling shot inside the far post from the edge of the area and midfield Fabian Canobbio added a second 19 minutes from time with a virtuoso solo goal.

The Uruguayan gathered the ball after pushing it past two defenders, rounded the keeper and then slotted it home.

MNA/Reuters

McCarthy ends gold drought as Porto sweep past Nacional

LISBON, 6 March— South Africa striker Bennie McCarthy ended a goal drought lasting since September by netting in Portuguese Premier League leader Porto’s 3-0 home win over Nacional Madeira on Sunday.

Sporting restored their three-point cushion over third-placed Benfica with a 2-0 home victory over Gil Vicente, Spanish striker Koke scoring twice.

Porto have 54 points from 25 matches following by Sporting on 52.

Former European champions Porto took the lead after 16 minutes when McCarthy fired his second league goal of the season from a pass by Brazilian Adriano.

Simon Dyson of England kisses his trophy after winning Indonesia Open golf tournament at Emeralda Golf Club on the outskirts of Jakarta, on 5 March, 2006. Dyson took the first position with 20 under par.—INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

Tottenham Hotspur’s Robbie Keane, left, controls the ball past Blackburn Rovers’ Andy Todd to score during their English Premier League soccer match at the White Hart Lane ground in London, on 5 March, 2006.—INTERNET

Tottenham beat Blackburn 3-2

LONDON, 6 March— Spurs tightened their grip on fourth place after securing a thrilling 3-2 win over Blackburn on Sunday.

Robbie Keane scored twice in the opening half, first with a superb effort after a contentious throw-in and then with a close-range finish.

Blackburn argued Keane’s second should have been disallowed for handball but on 43 minutes FlorentSinama Pongolle’s header reduced the deficit to 2-1.

On 70 minutes Bellamy drilled home the ball to level the scores but then Mido turned in Aaron Lennon’s cross. The win moved Spur six points clear of fifth-placed Arsenal and six ahead of Blackburn, who are also chasing a European place.

Blackburn were probably unlucky not to claim at least a point, given the nature of Keane’s goals and the visitors’ domination of possession.

In the 90th minute Michael Gray hit the Spurs bar with a looping header as Blackburn desperately searched for that third goal to square the game.

Keane’s first goal was a wonder to behold, even though it stemmed from a throw-in that should have been awarded to Blackburn.

Television replays clearly showed the ball touched Mido before it went out but instead the throw was given to Spurs.

The Egyptian quickly took the throw, picking out Keane, who -- with his back to goal as well as being closely marked by Robbie Savage -- still had plenty to do. Despite that unpromising position, Keane nonchalantly flicked the ball over Savage, slipped inside Andy Todd with a second, sharp piece of skill, before hammering a shot past keeper Brad Friedel.

MNA/Xinhua
Democrats insist Congress must decide on US ports

WASHINGTON, 6 March — Democrats on Saturday kept up the drumbeat of criticism of the Bush Administration for approving a state-owned Arab company’s plan to manage US ports, saying Congress must decide whether the deal should go through.

In their weekly radio address, the Democrats also called for a dramatic increase in the screening of cargo arriving at US ports, and increased resources for the US Coast Guard.

“I was outraged to learn that the President wanted to outsource operations at some American ports to the United Arab Emirates,” said Francine Busby, a candidate for the congressional seat left vacant in California by disgraced former Representative Randy “Duke” Cunningham.

“Congress should review and decide on whether or not this deal should proceed,” Busby said in the radio address.

She is running in an open primary next month for the seat vacated by Cunningham, a Republican. He was sentenced on Friday to eight years and four months in prison for taking 2.4 million US dollars in bribes.

Dubai Ports World, which is owned by the United Arab Emirates, plans to buy British port operator P&O for 6.85 billion US dollars, including its terminals in six major US ports.

The Bush Administration approved the deal in January, and a London court has said it can go ahead. It is expected to close next week.

Amid an outcry from US lawmakers of both parties, who fear the deal could be a Trojan horse for militants wanting to attack the United States, the White House backtracked last weekend and said it would conduct an other 45-day review of the purchase on national security grounds.

The company formally sought that new security review on Friday, and it has promised to abide by the result.

Busby complained the UAE had been one of only three countries in the world that recognized the Taliban as a legitimate government in Afghanistan, and had served as a financial staging ground for the 11 September attacks on the United States.

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16th plenary meeting of fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held

YANGON, 6 March—The 16th plenary meeting of fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was held at WizayaMingaladhamma Thabin, Kaba Aye Hill, here this morning.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw of Maha Visutarama Monastery in Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara presided over the meeting.

Sayadaw Bhadanta Kumara delivered an Ovadakatha. The Sayadaw said that some unscrupulous persons using such facilities as loudspeakers and vehicles went round the residential areas and solicited donations from the public saying that the donations would be used for building religious structures like pagodas, monasteries and others.

Such being the case, efforts are to be made in cooperation with the authorities concerned to do away with such unscrupulous persons who collected donations in the name of religion.

Therefore, Sayadaws led by member Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee are to play an exemplary role in leading all members of the Sangha and lay disciples for perpetuation of the Sasana, through the observance of the vinaya rules in order that all the Buddhist faithful would follow their example.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung submitted the supplications related to religious affairs.

He said the Lord Buddha assigned religious duties to Sangha organizations and today Theravada Sasana has flourished in the world. He said he was very much pleased to see that over 500,000 members of the Sangha and over 30,000 nuns are shoulder- ing religious duties and carrying out the tasks for purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Sasana under the leadership of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

The minister said Pali and English subjects will be included in the entrance examination of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities. A workshop on upgrading of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities was held the previous year.

Academic members of the Sangha are compiling international level curriculum, he added.

Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadha YwaU Sandayon Sarthintaik of Tatkon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sanda Siri submitted the report of the committee.

Afterwards, members of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee from various states and divisions reported on Vinaya affairs and religious matters.

Member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee discussed Vinaya affairs and religious matters and made decisions.

The first day of the meeting ended in the afternoon and the meeting continues tomorrow.

Wellwishers Daw Myint Myint Thein of Parami Yeikha and Daw Khin Win Myint of Bahan Township offered alms to the Sayadaws. — MNA

Bo Teza gymnasium opened in Natmauk

YANGON, 6 March — Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe attended the opening ceremony of Bo Teza gymnasium in Natmauk, Magway Division yesterday.

Col Phone Maw Shwe and Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Zaw Lin formally opened the new gymnasium and the minister later unveiled the bronze plaque. They posed for a photo with those present.

The minister presented sports gear worth K 460,000 to Magway Division SPEC, sports gear worth K 400,000 to six townships in the division and provided cash and sports gear worth over K 600,000 to the division’s youth teams. The dance groups to the ceremony also demonstrated their skills and the ceremony ended. After that, the minister cordially greeted those present.

The new gymnasium cost K 54 million.

The minister proceeded to Pyawbwe and met with township’s SPEC members and executives of Union Solidarity and Development Association. He provided sports gear and inspected the sports ground and tennis court there. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and guests pose for a photo. — SPE