Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Minister of International Department of CPC Central Committee and party

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received a delegation led by Minister of International Department Mr. Wang Jiarui of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the People’s Republic of China at the Government Office, here, at 11 am today. Also present at the call were Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo, Central Executive Committee members Dr. Chan Nyein, Thura U Myint Maung and U Nyan Tun Aung and departmental heads.

The Minister of International Department of the CPC Central Committee and party were accompanied by Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Ye Dabo.—MNA

Beautiful
Buthidaung sets the pace in development

Article & Photos:
Reporter Singu Soe Win

Rakhine State is a beautiful place blessed with the breathtaking view of mountain ranges. Arriving in Sittway, I recently proceeded to Buthidaung Township in Maungtaw District where I fell in love with dramatic developments.

It was about 7 p.m. when I arrived Buthidaung and the cold weather greeted me. Next morning, Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Myo Tint Zaw gave an interview at his office (See page 10)
PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 5 March 2010

Expand the horizons of countrymen

Now, the number of rural libraries is rising in the nation, contributing to rural development. Libraries play an indispensable role in the drive for development of human resources. A library is, indeed, like a repository of subjects on culture, knowledge, and philosophies and aphorisms of philosophers, historians, poets and learned persons.

A book is a true friend for man. We should keep in touch with what is going on inside and outside our society. In this regard, reading is the best way.

Everyone should broaden their horizons in order to improve their qualifications and skills. Only then can they shoulder national duties in an effective way.

Libraries in rural areas help improve knowledge of local people. Therefore, the entire people including rural folks have to cultivate the reading habit and work together for sustainable development of the libraries.

Librarianship contributes towards materialization of the State’s political, economic and social objectives. People can catch up with latest changes through reading. So, the people are urged to read a lot and maintain the libraries for their durability.

Goodwill of i Love Myanmar for better education

YANGON, 4 March—The ceremony to open basic education post primary school in Kamaryant Village of Dayingaut Township, Kyaukse Township, Ayeyawady Division along with to hand its related documents over to Education Department was held at the newly opened school on 1 March.

Director U Danyal Lalin of Emmanuel Foundation and wife, Chairman Daw Levi Sap Nei Thang of i Love Myanmar group and Township Assistant Education Officer U Kyaw Htay formally opened the new school. The donor of i Love Myanmar group handed the related documents over to the assistant officer.

On 2 March, the similar ceremony was held at new BEPS in Phangyoe Chaung Village of Kokkosa Village-tract.

The two new schools, which are of RC type with 60 feet by 30 feet in the range of each building, were constructed by iLove Myanmar group.

Delegation led by Secretary U Zaw Moe Khaing of Myanmar Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for the Republic of Korea. (New reported) —MNA

USDA officials receive Chinese delegation

YANGON, 4 March—At the invitation of Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), a Chinese goodwill delegation led by Mr. Wang Jianui, Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) arrived here yesterday.

They were welcomed by CEC member U Maung Pa of USDA and officials from Chinese embassy. In the evening, CEC member U Aung Thein Lin hosted a dinner to the delegation at Sedona Hotel. The delegation flew to Nay Pyi Taw, welcomed by CEC member U Nyan Tun Aung and officials at the airport. In Nay Pyi Taw, they met Secretary-General U Htay Oo and officials at USDA (Headquarters). They paid homage to Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. The delegation called on Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, and visited construction of Pyuthu Hluttaw Building. They left here in the afternoon.

Entries invited to ASEAN Young Photographers’ Award Contest

YANGON, 4 March—The National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Council will organize the ASEAN Young Photographers’ Award Contest in Singapore in August in line with the motto “The Spirit of ASEAN-Through Sports”.

The entries must reflect the active participation in the sports contests with high sport spirit, friendly relations among ASEAN member countries and movements of sports.

The contest must be between 15 and 35 years old, use any camera type. The works must not be created with digital technology. The contestants must explain about their works in English. Any contestant may submit six 10-inch by 14-inch works with the attachment of captions. They may use digital camera with 6 mega pixel resolution at least. The work must be quality to be enlarged as 16-inch by 20-inch sized photo. All entries must be own creations. The winners must follow the disciplines of the organizing committee to use the prize winning works. The contestant must submit the name, CSC number, address and facts about the entries.

The winner will be sent to Singapore to visit the photo show sponsored by the respective organization. The winner may submit the entries by developing the prize winning work as the 16-inch by 20-inch photo and the original image file in the CD.

The winner must explain facts about the prize winning work and recount the experience of photographic society.

The entries must be sent to Director U Aye Kywe (Production) of Information and Public Relations Department, No. 228 on Theinbyu Street in Botataung Township, not later than 4 pm on 15 May.

Talks on Weather Forecast for 2010 on 6 March

YANGON, 4 March—To share the knowledge about meteorology to all, the Myanmar Fishery Federation and the Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association will jointly organize the talks on Weather Forecast for 2010 to be given by meteorologist Dr. Tun Lwin (Retd) at 2 pm on 6 March.

With the sponsorship of Ngwe Zar Pale Co Ltd, the talks will take place at Thiri Anawma Hall of the federation. Any interested person may attend the talks.

Foreign professors at technology conference

YANGON, 4 March—Research Papers on computer technology were read out at the Eight International Conference on Computer Application 2010 (ICCA 2010) at Sedona Hotel here today.

Resource persons, professors of universities and institutes from Japan and Korea, participated in the conference which will last till tomorrow. —MNA
Pakistan forces kill 30 militants

PESHAWAR, 4 March — Pakistan security forces have killed 30 militants in a tribal region, the state-run television reported on Thursday. One soldier was killed in the clash in Mohmand tribal region near Peshawar, the capital of North West Frontier Province, PTV reported. Four soldiers were also injured.

The clash took place after the militants attacked a security check post at Safi area of Mohmand agency. The security forces returned fire and killed 30 militants while one soldier also lost life. Private TV channels reported that four paramilitary soldiers were killed in the incident. Mohmand agency is situated between the Bajaur tribal region and Peshawar. Officials believed that militants have moved from Bajaur to Mohmand region.

Last year, the local tribal Lashkar or army had arrested central spokes-
mans of Pakistani Taliban Maulvi Omar in Mohmand who had taken shelter in the area. The army announced this week that the forces have taken control of the whole Bajaur agency, once con-
trolled by the Taliban militants.

Red Cross appeals for aid after Uganda landslide

KAMPALA, 4 March — Uganda’s Red Cross has launched an appeal to help survivors of mudslides which swept away three villages near the eastern town of Bududa. More than 80 bodies have been recovered from the mud which engulfed villages on the slopes of Mount Elgon.

At least 250 people are still missing. The Red Cross says it needs shelters, blankets and psychological support. In one village, eyewitnesses said schoolchildren took shelter in a health centre later engulfed by the mud. Beatrice Nabudula’s 12-year-old daughter was among those feared dead.

“I was shocked to learn that the whole village was under mud,” she told the Associated Press. “I have failed to find her or her body.” In the village of Nametesi, rescuers struggled to search through a wall of mud some 16ft (5m) high, which had buried most structures.

32 killed in triple bomb attack in central Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 March — Homicide bombers struck in quick succession on Wednesday in a former insurgent stronghold northeast of Bagh-
dad, killing at least 32 people just days before a crucial election that will determine who will govern the country as American forces depart.

The blasts in Baqouba — including one by a bomber who rode in an ambulance to a hospital and blew himself up there — were the deadliest in more than a month and illu-

strated the challenges facing Iraqi forces trying to prove they can secure the country after the full withdrawal of US forces by the end of next year.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombings but they bore the hallmark of Al Qaeda in Iraq, which has promised to violently disrupt Sunday’s parliamen-
tary vote and warned Sumsi not to participate in the balloting. Iraqi au-
thorities vowed not to let the insurgents derail the democratic process.

Chavez urges Spain to respect Venezuela’s sovereignty

CARACAS, 4 March — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez demanded on Wednesday Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero re-
spect Venezuela’s sover-
eignty. During a national TV and radio broadcast, Chavez rejected the accu-
sations of Spanish Na-
tional Audience’s judge, Eloy Velasco, that “there are links between the Ven-
ezuelan government and Spanish separatist groups and Colombian guerrillas.”

The Spanish National Audience is the country’s top criminal court. Chavez said those accusations were irresponsible and he does not have anything to explain to Spain. He also suggested Rodriguez Zapatero to observe the Spanish justice. Chavez said that Velasco’s accu-
sations “do not have proofs” and they are part of an international cam-
paign against Venezuela.

Chavez stressed that he had talked with Span-
ish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos on telephone, who af-


firmed that the govern-
ment of Spain does not have anything to do with Velasco’s accusations.

However, according to Chavez, Rodriguez Zapatero has told the me-
dia that he would ask the Venezuelan government for explanations about the accusations made by Velasco.

Many families left the town ahead of the US-led operation in 2004.—INTERNET

Iran arms smuggling ring broken in Italian crackdown

ROME, 4 March — Italian police claim to have broken a European arms-smuggling ring that was providing weapons to Iran in violation of interna-
tional sanctions. Seven people, including alleged Iranian secret service agents, were arrested yest-
terday on suspicion of supplying explosives and hitech military equipment to Teheran.

Investigators said the two Iranians and five Ital-
iens were involved in a plot to export tracer bullets, pre-
cession sights and explosives to Iran via three countries, including Britain, Romania and Dubai. The move came amid heightened tension between Iran and the West with growing calls for stronger sanctions over its nuclear weapons pro-
gramme.

British police are be-
lieved to have arrested a man implicated in the traf-
icking in the past few months. Telescopic sights designed for rifles were seized at Heathrow airport and police arrested a man alleged to be the gang’s contact in Britain.

The investigation was launched in June when more than 20 German-made telescopic sights were seized in Romania, allegedly on their way to Iran. A further 900 had reportedly been ordered by the Iranians. The sus-
ppects were also alleged to have been trying to smuggl-
g “mud-use” equipment, which can be easily con-
verted from civilian to military use.—INTERNET

Irish PM claims attacks were not political

SAN FRANCISCO, 4 March — Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen said Wednesday that the attacks on the British army in Northern Ireland were not motivated by politics but by a desire to disrupt the peace process.

“I want to be clear, the attacks are not motivated by political concerns,” Cowen said. “They are motivated by a desire to disrupt the peace process.”

The British government has been working with the Irish government to try to bring about a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

birth defects ‘have risen since US Fallujah operation’

BAGHDAD, 4 March — A BBC investigation in Iraq has confirmed a dis-
Turangently high number of birth defects among chil-
dren in the town of Fallujah.

Six years ago, in 2004, there were fierce battles as US forces subdued two uprisings in the town. Now, one hospital doctor told the BBC that they see two or three cases of birth defects each day.

The US military says it is not aware of any official reports showing an in-
crease in birth defects in the area. It says it always takes public health con-
cerns about any population now living in a combat theatre “very seriously”.

“No studies to date have indicated environmental issues resulting in specific health issues,” said US Military Health System Communications Director Michael Kilpatrick.

“Unexploded ordi-

nance, including improvised explosive devices, are a recognised hazard,” he added. But local people blamed the war caused by the US troops during the fighting. It was hard to find doctors at the brand-
new, US-funded hospital in Fallujah who were pre-
pared to talk about the problem.—INTERNET

Damage site of a suicide bombing in the restive city of Baqouba, northeast of Baghdad. Three suicide bombings, including one carried out by an attacker who rode in an ambulance to hospital before blowing himself up, killed 33 people in central Iraq.—INTERNET

Residents are using hoes to lift the mud and search for survivors.—INTERNET

Internet
China strictly follows WTO rules in foreign trade

BEIJING, 4 March — China has been strictly following the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in foreign trade since it became a member of the international organization, a spokesman for the annual session of the nation’s top legislature said here on Thursday.

“There is nothing to worry about as China has strictly followed the WTO rules in foreign trade, or both export and import, since it became the 143rd WTO member on 11 December, 2001,” said Li “What we need to do is... in line with the WTO rules, to stick to the principles of being fair, reasonable, equal and mutually beneficial in trade,” Li said.

The NPC session will open on day morning and is scheduled to last 10 days.—Xinhua

WTO sees no tsunami of trade protectionism after financial crisis

LONDON, 4 March — The financial crisis has not provoked a tsunami of trade protectionism as many economists feared, World Trade Organization (WTO) spokesman Keith Rockwell said on Wednesday.

Rockwell told journalists in a video Press conference that there has been some slippage with regard to trade policies, but all those measures together affect no more than 1 percent of global trade. “There has not been a tsunami of trade protectionism,” he said.

The crisis has led to unemployment and political pressure, which is the reason why some countries are using tools such as anti-dumping duty against foreign goods.

However, there is a negligible difference in openness between now and the pre-crisis situation, said Rockwell. He also pointed out that Malaysia and Mexico have even brought down their trade barriers.

Xinhua

Hyundai Heavy Industries develops world’s first eco-friendly marine engine

Seoul, 4 March — Hyundai Heavy Industries, the world’s largest shipbuilder, developed the world’s first eco-friendly marine engine that meets the new standards set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the company said on Thursday.

The new engine has successfully cut down nitrogen oxide (NOx) emission levels by 15 percent from the current model, which fulfills the IMO’s newly set Tier 2 requirement of limiting NOx emissions to 14.4 g per kwh, Hyundai said in a statement.

Xinhua
Beijing, 4 March — Baise — the city in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region is noted as a place of history — from both a very long time ago and modern China. Discovery of a Paleolithic Age hand ax in some 800,000 years ago in Baise in 1970s surprised anthropologists and re-wrote the history of human civilization in Asia. About 80 years ago, the Chinese Seventh Army was establishing a revolutionary base and Soviet regime in Baise along the Youjiang River. On 11 Dec, 1929, Deng Xiaoping and other revolutionaries launched the Baise Uprising, among the earliest battles in the fight against the ruling Kuomintang. A Baise Uprising Memorial Hall commemorating the event that opened in 1999 is now listed as a national key “revolution scenic spot”. The city has since pioneered “red tourism” to become a famed resort through a programme called “footprints of Deng Xiaoping”.

Baise now is the key city among the 12 national “red tourism” scenery areas. In 2009, the city held events to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Baise Uprising and set off a new surge in red tourism, host-ing 10.3 million visitors that year who generated 4.4 billion yuan in rev-enues in city tourism, in creases of 59 percent and 46 percent respectively.

China plans to launch second lunar probe in October

Beijing, 4 March — China plans to launch the Chang’e-2, the country’s second lunar probe, in October this year, an expert said on Thursday. The satellite would be sent into space aboard a Long March 4C carrier rocket, the official said, without specifying the exact date.

Currently, the satellite and rocket are in good condition, according to the official. Its predecessor, “Yaogan VIII,” was launched from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province in December.

China to launch “Yaogan IX” remote-sensing satellite

Jiuzhou, 4 March — China will launch a remote-sensing satellite, “Yaogan IX” in the coming days from the Jiuzhou Satellite Launch Centre in northwestern Gansu Province, an official at the centre said on Thursday. The satellite would be sent into space aboard a Long March 4C carrier rocket, the official said, without specifying the exact date.

Currently, the satellite and rocket are in good condition, according to the official. Its predecessor, “Yaogan VIII,” was launched from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province in December.

Indian largest sounding rocket successfully flight-tested

Mumbai, 4 March — An Indian new-generation, high performance sounding rocket conducted a successful flight-testing on Wednesday, the newspaper the Hindu reported on Thursday.

The new sounding rocket, called the Advanced Technology Vehicle, lifted off from the space test base in Sriharikota off the coast of the southeastern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, and successfully flew at a velocity of more than 6 Mach for seven seconds, the paper quoted the rocket developer the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) as saying. The new sounding rocket, weighing about 3 tonnes, is the heaviest one developed by the ISRO, and carried a passive scramjet engine combustion module for testing its air-breathing propulsion technology, the ISRO said in its release.

UNESCO urges continue efforts for education for all

Paris, 4 March — The Paris-based United Nation’s Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization called on governments to redouble their financial and political support to achieve education for all especially after the impact of the economic crisis.

UNESCO pointed out in its latest statement that 42 million more children in Africa are enrolled in primary school this year than in 2000, but the economic recession has pressed some governments to curtail on education funding, which is not a positive trend.
Somali pirates seize empty Saudi oil tanker and crew

MOGADISHU, 4 March — Somali pirates have captured a small Saudi tanker and its crew, the EU naval force in the Gulf of Aden says. The tanker, travelling from Japan to Jeddah, was empty when pirates hijacked the vessel and took its crew captive.

The MT Nisir Al Saudi was outside the shipping lanes patrolled by naval warships, it was reported. Somali pirate attacks usually increase in the months between March and May because calmer months between March and May because calmer

authorities said. Police say an employee of a Redondo Beach disposal service found the body about 9 a.m. on Wednesday during normal curbside trash pickup, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The street is near busy Pacific Coast Highway. Redondo Beach Police Sgt Phil Keenan said, and someone passing through the area could have disposed of the body. The Los Angeles County coroner’s office was summoned to the scene to assist investigators, the Times reported. A cause of death of the newborn has not been determined. Authorities have not said whether the child was a boy or a girl. —Internet

**Body of newborn found in curbside trash**

REDONDO BEACH, 4 March — A trash collector found the body of a newborn baby in a household street on a residential street in a Southern California community, authorities said. Police say an employee of a Redondo Beach disposal service found the body about 9 a.m. on Wednesday during normal curbside trash pickup, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The street is near busy Pacific Coast Highway. Redondo Beach Police Sgt Phil Keenan said, and someone passing through the area could have disposed of the body. The Los Angeles County coroner’s office was summoned to the scene to assist investigators, the Times reported. A cause of death of the newborn has not been determined. Authorities have not said whether the child was a boy or a girl. —Internet

**Two moderate quakes hit Indonesia**

JAKARTA, 4 March — Two quakes measuring 5.3 and 5.2 on the Richter Scale rocked Western Java and North Sulawesi Province of Indonesia on Thursday morning, according to the country’s Meteorology and Geophysics.

The 5.3 quake struck at 02:34 am Jakarta Time on Thursday (1934 GMT on Wednesday) and with epicentre at 121 km southwest Ujungkulon of Banten Province and with the depth at 30 km, the agency said.

About one hour later, the other quake jolted with epicenter at 45 km southeast Melonguane of North Sulawesi Province and with the depth at 13 km, it said.

Indonesia sits on a vulnerable quake-hit zone called “the Pacific Ring of Fire.” —Xinhua

**Tribes show best camels at beauty pageant**

Camels are seen as spectators place their bids on them during the “Camel Beauty Contest and Camel Race Festival” in Ajman on 24 February, 2010.

Ten golden-coloured camels adorned with sparkling ornaments line up for the finale of a beauty contest in one of the UAE’s northern emirates, awaiting the selection of two proud winners.

Gulf Arabs from across the region gather in a large sandy plot in Ajman to sit in for a four-hour competition, which will see the selection of the best out of 150 camels every day.

The three-day spectacle should end with the top two finalists bagging luxury cars, while a remaining eight win cash.

In an effort to preserve the Gulf Arab country’s cultural legacy, the government encourages camel rearing through funding and festivals where the desert animal is paraded for beauty, and sold in auctions.

The festival also serves as a meet-

ing point for the country’s tribes, residing in the rural parts of the United Arab Emirates. Tribesmen are paid by the government to rear camels and preserve a pure lineage of the country’s breeds.

“The UAE’s heritage is linked to camels and this festival emphasizes this,” said Saeed al-Aameri, who owns a large camel farm and is a participant in the pageant.

Camels are judged on different criteria, depending on the breed. The body is divided into five sections, with 20 points each, to mark beauty and elegance.

After the prettiest camels are selected, based on the length of neck, curve of the humps, structure of the body, height and general appearance, the camels’ owners are sworn in to vouch for purity of lineage and proprietorship.

**Dinosaur-eating snake discovered**

NEW DELHI, 4 March — Scientists say they have identified the fossilised remains of a snake that dined on dinosaur eggs.

The 67-million-year-old skeleton was found in a dinosaur nest. The study, published in the journal Plos Biology, is said to show the first direct evidence of feeding behaviour in a fossilised primitive snake.

This 3.5m fossil snake is believed to have fed on the hatchlings of sauropods, as it was found wrapped around a baby titanosaur.

Fully grown, the plant-eating titano-saurs weighed up to 100 tonnes.

Many people have a fear of snakes and this research indicates that even giant dinosaurs may have been scared of them, too. “It was such a thrill to discover such a portentous moment frozen in time,” said Dr Dhananjay Mohabey from the Geological Survey of India, who unearthed the fossil. Experts at the University of Michigan and University of Toronto Mississauga studied and identified the find.

According to researchers, the fossil would have lacked the mobile jaws of modern snakes and would have struggled to eat dinosaur eggs.

However, the hatchlings of these dinosaurs would have been just the right size. —Internet

**Rescuers capture hairless raccoon**

Oklahoma animal rescuers said they have received multiple calls from the public concerned that a recently captured hairless raccoon “is a chupacabra.” Annette King Tucker, president at the Wild Heart Ranch animal rescue in Claremore, said the raccoon captured near the western-themed Christian camp Dry Gulch USA was the first she had seen to suffer from the hair loss disease mange. The Oklahoman reported on Tuesday. Tucker said the raccoon, which is not in pain, is receiving treatment for the condition and is expected to regrow its hair during the next four months.

She said the raccoon has become a local curiosity, and the topic of much debate, since the first sighting earlier in the winter.

“I have a lot of people calling me, arguing that it’s a chupacabra,” Tucker said, referring to a mythical creature rumoured to live in portions of the Americas, drinking the blood of goats.

“We’ve been doing this for 14 years and have 15,000 wild animals here, and I’ve never had anything that’s been considered a mythical animal.”

**Clueless docs leave man legless**

Peruvian doctors amputated the healthy leg of an 86-year-old man, then amputated the other leg when they realized their mistake.

“When I checked when I lifted the sheets and saw they had taken his left leg,” the man’s daughter, Carmen Villanueva, told Peruvian radio station RPP. “The ulcer was on his right leg and they had to amputate that one too to keep the infection from spreading.” she said.

**Photo shows a helpless female polar bear and her baby sitting on a piece of floating ice melting on the sea. It shows again to the people that global warming is destroying the world.**

**Resource Album**

A 3,000 year old wooden sarco- pa-gus dated back to the 21st Dynasty and belonged to a private individual called Imesy. Egypt says the United States has agreed to return a 3,000 year old wooden sarco- pa-gus that illegally left the country 40 years ago.

**Internet**

Reconstruction of the snake attacking a freshly hatched sauropod.

Dinosaur-eating snake discovered

**Internet**

Somali pirates seize empty Saudi oil tanker and crew

**Internet**

Body of newborn found in curbside trash

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Clueless docs leave man legless

**Internet**

Photo shows a helpless female polar bear and her baby sitting on a piece of floating ice melting on the sea. It shows again to the people that global warming is destroying the world.
Shanghai to have one more airport terminal operational soon

SHANGHAI, 4 March — Shanghai will put the second terminal of its Hongqiao International Airport, which is part of a three-year airport expansion programme, into operation on 16 March, local airport sources said on Thursday.

The programme, involving construction of a 362,600-sq m terminal, a 3,300-metre-long runway that is the second of the Hongqiao Airport and some supporting facilities for cargo, aviation control and fuel supplies, has been checked and accepted by the China Administration of Civil Aviation.

The programme cost

China building world’s largest high-speed rail network

BEIJING, 4 March — China will expand its high-speed rail network to be the world’s largest in coming three years with a total length of 13,000 kilometres, according to Thursday’s China Securities Journal.

By the end of 2012, China would have more than 110,000 kilometres of operational railways, including 13,000 kilometres of high-speed rail, said Liu Zhijun, Minister of Railways at a national meeting on rail construction.

A damaged car is seen at the site of a suicide bombing in the restive city of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad.—INTERNET

Cambodia claims successful testing of rocket launchers

KOMPONG CHHNANG, 4 March — Cambodia claimed on Thursday that the first-ever testing of BM-21 rocket launchers was successful.

Speaking at a testing event in Kompong Chhnang Province, about 100 kilometres north of Phnom Penh, Tea Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence said the testing was “successful” and this success has proved Cambodia’s full competence in defending the country’s territorial integrity and sovereignty.

He said all the 215 shells tested had hit the target and goal from 20 km to 40 km as planned.

The testing was conducted while border dispute with Thailand remains unsolved. But Tea Banh said the testing of the rocket was not aimed at preparing a war with any country, but to get ready for any circumstance that Cambodia is met with foreign invasion.

Countries devise national sci-tech strategies to seize dominating position

BEIJING, 4 March — In order to occupy an advantageous position in the future world order and seize a dominance, many countries have made scientific and technological innovation and development a top priority in their political agenda.

In particular, the emphasis on exerting the important role of science and technology in readjusting industrial structure and fostering new growth areas in the economy.

Previous experience shows that economic crises tend to give birth to a new round of technological revolution. Countries that can seize opportunities effectively will take the lead in future economic growth and prosperity.—Xinhua

Raging forest fire in SW China threatening nature reserve

NANNING, 4 March — More fire fighters and a helicopter are now countering a fierce fire that broke out in a forest area in southwest China’s Guangxi on Tuesday.

The fire control headquarters in Longlin Autonomous County in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region confirmed on Thursday that the fire has burnt 1,400 Mu (93 hectares) of forest and bush in the mountainous region. The fire’s front sprawling 5.3 km is quickly approaching the Zhongshan National Nature Reserve where the protected black-necked pheasant lives.

The reserve has more than 200 black-necked pheasants. The species is on the state’s list of first-class endangered animals. A spokesman for the headquarters said more than 100 professional fire fighters and a Mi-26 helicopter arrived at the fire scene on Wednesday and were helping hundreds of locals trying to control the fire.—Xinhua

Air traffic controllers at JFK Airport reprimanded for allowing kids to direct planes

NEW YORK, 4 March — Two air traffic controllers and a supervisor at John F. Kennedy Airport of New York City have been “placed on administrative leave” after two children were allowed to give radio instructions to several pilots last month.

New York local TV NY1 reported on Wednesday that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), an agency of the US Department of Transportation with authority to regulate and oversee all aspects of civil aviation in the country, has suspended all unofficial visits to the FAA air traffic facilities as it reviews policies.

The first set of exchanges between a child and pilots waiting to take off from JFK reportedly took place on 16 Feb. They were recorded and posted on the website. On the recordings, the child appears to be repeating simple instructions given by his father, says NY1. Then, on 17 Feb, another child was allowed to speak to two departing pilots, FAA officials said.—Xinhua

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Explanade, a leading artistic performance centre in Singapore, is often called “The Durian” by locals for its unique dome.—Xinhua

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The reserve has more than 200 black-necked pheasants. The species is on the state’s list of first-class endangered animals. A spokesman for the headquarters said more than 100 professional fire fighters and a Mi-26 helicopter arrived at the fire scene on Wednesday and were helping hundreds of locals trying to control the fire.—Xinhua

Air traffic controllers at JFK Airport reprimanded for allowing kids to direct planes

NEW YORK, 4 March — Two air traffic controllers and a supervisor at John F. Kennedy Airport of New York City have been “placed on administrative leave” after two children were allowed to give radio instructions to several pilots last month.

New York local TV NY1 reported on Wednesday that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), an agency of the US Department of Transportation with authority to regulate and oversee all aspects of civil aviation in the country, has suspended all unofficial visits to the FAA air traffic facilities as it reviews policies.

The first set of exchanges between a child and pilots waiting to take off from JFK reportedly took place on 16 Feb. They were recorded and posted on the website. On the recordings, the child appears to be repeating simple instructions given by his father, says NY1. Then, on 17 Feb, another child was allowed to speak to two departing pilots, FAA officials said.—Xinhua

Cambodia claims successful testing of rocket launchers

KOMPONG CHHNANG, 4 March — Cambodia claimed on Thursday that the first-ever testing of BM-21 rocket launchers was successful.

Speaking at a testing event in Kompong Chhnang Province, about 100 kilometres north of Phnom Penh, Tea Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence said the testing was “successful” and this success has proved Cambodia’s full competence in defending the country’s territorial integrity and sovereignty.

He said all the 215 shells tested had hit the target and goal from 20 km to 40 km as planned.

The testing was conducted while border dispute with Thailand remains unsolved. But Tea Banh said the testing of the rocket was not aimed at preparing a war with any country, but to get ready for any circumstance that Cambodia is met with foreign invasion.

Explanade, a leading artistic performance centre in Singapore, is often called “The Durian” by locals for its unique dome.—Xinhua

Countries devise national sci-tech strategies to seize dominating position

BEIJING, 4 March — In order to occupy an advantageous position in the future world order and seize a dominance, many countries have made scientific and technological innovation and development a top priority in their political agenda.

In particular, the emphasis on exerting the important role of science and technology in readjusting industrial structure and fostering new growth areas in the economy.

Previous experience shows that economic crises tend to give birth to a new round of technological revolution. Countries that can seize opportunities effectively will take the lead in future economic growth and prosperity.—Xinhua

Raging forest fire in SW China threatening nature reserve

NANNING, 4 March — More fire fighters and a helicopter are now countering a fierce fire that broke out in a forest area in southwest China’s Guangxi on Tuesday.

The fire control headquarters in Longlin Autonomous County in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region confirmed on Thursday that the fire has burnt 1,400 Mu (93 hectares) of forest and bush in the mountainous region. The fire’s front sprawling 5.3 km is quickly approaching the Zhongshan National Nature Reserve where the protected black-necked pheasant lives.

The reserve has more than 200 black-necked pheasants. The species is on the state’s list of first-class endangered animals. A spokesman for the headquarters said more than 100 professional fire fighters and a Mi-26 helicopter arrived at the fire scene on Wednesday and were helping hundreds of locals trying to control the fire.—Xinhua

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Emergence of rural roads helps locals travel safe and sound

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—Hailing the 65th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Kyonta-Zayathla rural gravel road was inaugurated in Yekyi Township of Ayeyawady Division on 2 March, attended by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt. The new road constructed by Yekyi Township Development Committee is four feet and six furlong long.

Similarly, the minister attended the opening of Mansakku-Kwinchauk-Thayakon rural gravel road constructed by Kyonpyaw Township Development Committee. The new road, which was earth road before, is 10,740 feet long. Thanks to emergence of the road, locals of Mansakku, Kwinchauk, Kwinhlya and Thayakon villages will be able to travel to Hinthada all year round.

Credits for elders over 75 yrs

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended respect paying ceremony to elders aged over 75 years held at Home for the Aged in Daydanaw village, Kungyangon Township. He presented assistance to the elder persons and cordially conversed with town elders.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi converses with elder persons of over 75 years old at Daydanaw Village Home for the Aged in Kungyangon Township.—MNA

Vietnamese delegation arrives Myanmar

YANGON, 4 March—A delegation led by Vietnamese Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Cao Duc Phat arrived here today. They were welcomed by Managing Director U Kyi Win of Perennial Crops and Farming Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and officials at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Vietnamese Minister Cao Duc Phat and party being welcomed by officials at the airport. —MNA

Great chance for medical professionals

YANGON, 4 March—As part of efforts to create a good chance for medical professionals, the Project Management Unit of the Myanmar Medical Association will conduct the Leadership and Management for Medical Professionals (Advanced) at its auditorium of No. 249 on Theinbyu Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

The four-day course will commence on 8 March. Those wishing to join the course may enlist at the MMA Office by dialing 380899 and 394141 with extension 119.—MNA

18th Military Band Contest continues

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—The 18th Military Band (Army, Navy and Air) Contest to mark the 65th Anniversary Armed Forces Day continued at the parade ground of No. 7 Transit Centre (Ywadaw), here, this morning. Among the spectators were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Military Band Contest Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and committee members.

No.(2) band company representing South-East Command, No. (1) band company representing North-West Command, No. (44) LID, and No. (22) LID, band company representing South-East Command, and band company representing Central Command band, No.(2) band company representing Coastal Region Command, band company representing No. (44) LID, and No. (22) band company representing Northern Command took part in today’s contest.

New section of CCNA on 6 March

YANGON, 4 March—With the aim of contributing to development of information and communication technology in Myanmar, NetInfo technology training school will open the new section of CCNA to be able to present Networking Certificate to the trainees.

Applying nine Cisco Routers and seven Cisco Switches, the trainees will have the opportunity to study the course to be able to stand as an international level computer networking professional.

The three-month course will commence on 6 March. The trainees are to attend the course every Saturday. IT enthusiasts may contact the training school at Room 1 of Building 2 at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hlinye Township, Tel: 507045 and 652248.—MNA

Hole-in-one

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—U Ye Htut (Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation) scored a hole-in-one at hole No. 5 from about 154 yards with Titleist ProV1 No.4 golf ball with the use of Homma Beres 712 Iron 8 golf club while playing with Lt-Col Soe Win (Reid), Dr Thein Htay, U Htay Hlaing (Malarmyaing), U Sein Tun (Shweywin) at Ngwethawdar golf course in City golf course of Yangon City Development Committee on 28 February.—MNA
ENSURING DURABLE ROAD FROM LASHIO TO KUNLONG VIA HSENWI

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — The Ministry of Construction has placed special attention on maintenance of already-built roads and bridges for durability.

While inspecting roadwork of Lashio-Hsenwi-Kunlong road and maintenance of Kunlong suspension bridge in Kunlong on 26 February, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint stressed the need to make constant efforts for durability of bridge.

At the office of Kunlong District Public Works, the minister gave necessary instructions and looked into containers of tar and trusses. On his return from Kunlong, the minister oversaw roadwork along Kunlong-Laukkai road. — MNA

Forestry Minister on inspection tour of sawmills, forest plantations

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung on 1 March arrived at the office of the Forest Department of Lashio. The officials reported matters regarding forest work to the minister.

The minister called for making efforts to meet the target in meeting with staff members. He later inspected sawmills and gave necessary instruction.

He also inspected conservation of Padauk plantations in reserve forest and timber plantations in Kyaukme Township.

The minister then oversaw stockpiling of logs and loading the logs in Pintain log yard of Lashio timber production region in Kyaukme Township, nurturing the saplings in Banbway nursery of Nawnghkio Township Forest Department, and construction of houses with the use of eucalyptus. — MNA

SHOW YOUR SEPAK TAKRAW SKILLS!

YANGON, 4 March — The opening of Myanmar Double Strong Sepak Takraw Championships, organized by Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation and Myanmar Double Strong, took place at MSTF in Thuwunna yesterday.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director General U Thaung Htuk of Sports and Physical Education Department made an opening address and the deputy managing director of Myanmar Brewery Ltd touched upon organizing the tournament.

Myanmar traditional cane-ball team and gold medalist Hoop Takraw team in XXV SEA Games demonstrated their skills.

A total of 62 teams are taking part in the tournament up to 7 March. Handsome prizes will be presented to winning teams and enthusiasts may enjoy the tournament free of charge. — NLM

LET’S STUDY TEAK CULTIVATION AT YEZIN

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — The opening of Course No. 2 on Techniques for establishment of private teak plantation by Department of Forest under Ministry of Forestry took place at Forest Research Department in Nay Pyi Taw-Yezin yesterday, with an address by acting Director-General U Aye Myint Maung of Department of Forest.

A total of 34 trainees from companies establishing private teak plantations are attending the course which will last till 8 March. — MNA
Minister for Information
Township yesterday,
Zeeyin Village of Pale
in the long term.
During his tour of
Zeeyin Village of Pale
Township yesterday,
Minister for Information
Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan
viewed borrowing of
books at Lawka Zeyyon
self-reliant library and
presented cash assistance
and books for renovation
of self-reliant libraries in
Kangyi, Kanthit,
Ywanaung, Monthwin,
Kyuhan, Kabayat,
Kyaithamyar, Minma
(West) and Pahtotha
villages.
The minister met
the fire victims from
Zeeyin Village that was
destroyed by the fire on
19 January, and presented
cash assistance and clothes
to the local people. He
stressed the need for the
local people to join hands
for taking fire preventive
measures.
At YaunggyiU self-
reliant library in
Hngetpyawdaw Village,
the minister looked into
tasks to develop the
library. He cordially
conversed with the readers
and presented books and
cash assistance for the
library.
In Zabase Village,
the minister visited Phu
Pwint Wai Library and
donated cash to the funds
of the library after meeting
with the rural people.
During his trip, the
minister urged the officials
to develop the self-reliant
village libraries meeting
five set standards with the
contributions of local
authorities and
wellwishers and the local
people to study various
subjects of books at the
libraries for uplifting their
living standards and
widening the range of their
knowledge.

Beautiful Buthidaung...
(from page 1)
where he explained to
me, “The major occupa-
tions of the township are
agriculture and fisher-
ies. Township PDC is
constantly striving for
regional development,
prevalence of law and
order and tranquility of
the region in accord
with policies of the State.”
The northwestern town-
ship in Rakhine State of
south-western Myanmar
is beautifully situated
east of Palerwa and
Kyauktaw Townships,
west of Maungtaw
Township, north of
Bangladesh and south of
Yatherdaung Township.
It is 23 miles wide from
east to west and 54 miles
long from south to north
and its area is 780 square
miles (49,919 acres).
Ministry for
Progress of Border Ar-
eas and National Races
and Development Affairs
has engineered eight
villages for ethnic groups
in Buthidaung Township
which has the population
of over 287,000. The agri-
culture business is boom-
ing in the region as the
State has disbursed loans
to farmers.
The weather pattern
of the township is hot and
wet climate. The township
has 73,442 net sown acre-
age and 206,984-acre for-
est reserves. It is renowned
for its self-sufficiency in
rice production and
packed with regular read-
ers, Kyauktaw State PDC also
contributed equipment and
publications to the library.
Deputy Staff Officer
U Mynt Swc of Township
Development Affairs Com-
mittee conducted me
around the upgrading of
Buthidaung-Taungbazar
motor road for enabling it
to be serviceable in every
season. Bridges on the road
are being maintained. The
local residents are in thrill-
ing mode as they feel the
goodwill of the State bring-
ing development to the re-
region by means of
transportation.Shops in
Buthidaung Myoma Mar-
et were crowded by sellers
and telephones connecting
international links were also
busy when I arrived there.
I am absolutely
sure to say that
Ministry for Information
Township.
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authorities and
wellwishers and the local
people to study various
subjects of books at the
libraries for uplifting their
living standards and
widening the range of their
knowledge.

Meeting schedule changes
Yangon, 4 March— Myan-
mar Info-Tech Corporation has changed timetable of its 8th Annual
General Meeting to be held at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Town-
ship here at 8 am on 6 March (Sunday)
instead of 9 am. Share holders are to be there by
7.30 am. For more information,dial -01-
652272-74,652279 and 652279.—MNA
EU unveils new 10-year blueprint, receiving mixed responses

BRUSSELS, 4 March — The European Union (EU) on Wednesday unveiled a 10-year blueprint for reviving the economic growth in the 27-nation bloc, only to receive mixed responses. Critics doubt whether the new plan, named the EU 2020 Strategy, can work.

“The Europe 2020 is about what we need to do today and tomorrow to get Europe back on track,” European Commission President Jose Barroso told a Press conference.

The new plan is supposed to replace the Lisbon Strategy, a 10-year blueprint adopted in 2000, which was seen to have failed to meet its target to transform the EU into the “the most competitive knowledge-based economy” by 2010.

Badly hit by a global economic crisis starting in 2008, the EU’s economy contracted by 4 percent last year and the jobless rate reached a record high of 9.5 percent.

Barroso said that the EU was already falling behind before the crisis and that the crisis exposed “fundamental weaknesses and unsustainable trends” that could not be ignored any longer.

“There is a real sense of urgency in this economic strategy that we are presenting today,” he said. The president said that increased economic interdependence demanded a more determined and coherent response at the political level. “That clearly makes the case for a stronger economic governance in the EU,” he said.

Israel, US hail Arab talks support

CAIRO, 4 March — Israeli and American officials welcomed an Arab League decision reached in Cairo on Wednesday approving indirect Israeli-Palestinian talks for four months as a means of getting the peace process on track.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that it appeared “conditions were now ripe” for renewing negotiations.

In a speech to the Knesset, he said that as a result of Israel both expressing a willingness to return to talks and taking concrete measures on the ground to make them happen, fewer countries were willing to agree to Palestinian preconditions to the talks.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has said for months that he will not talk with Israel unless there is first a complete halt to Jewish construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. The green light given Abbas by the Arab League’s follow-up committee to the Arab peace initiative to enter into indirect talks for four months is widely seen in Jerusalem as the “ladder” he needed to come down from his demands and accede to repeated requests by the US, EU, Egypt and Jordan to return to talks.

Military plane crashes at India air show

NEW DELHI, 4 March — An Indian military jet crashed during an air show in southern India on Wednesday, killing the pilots and injuring two civilians on the ground, authorities said. The pilot and copilot died in the crash of the Kiran MK-II, according to Murli Krishna, a deputy police commissioner.

Indian Navy chief Nirmal Verma told reporters that the pilot and the co-pilot probably avoided ejection in a bid to minimize damage on the ground. The plane hit a three-storey building in a residential area near Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad, injuring two civilians, he said.

A mother and her son, who were watching the air show from the balcony of their apartment suffered minor injuries, Hyderabad police commissioner AK Khan said. The plane was flying as part of a four-plane formation by a Navy aerobatics team when it went down.

Indonesian police arrest 13 suspected militants in Aceh

JAKARTA, 4 March — Police in Indonesia say they have arrested 13 men suspected of taking part in training for militants in a remote part of Aceh Province.

The men have been detained in several raids since 22 February, when the first four were arrested in Aceh’s mountains.

Rifles and thousands of bullets were seized in the raid, along with DVDs on the Bali bombings of 2002 that killed more than 200 people, police said.

But it is unclear to which group the suspects might belong. Police are still searching for a number of people who fled the raids, but say they are investigating possible links with Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), which was blamed by the authorities for the Bali attacks. However, analysts say JI has not previously been active in Aceh.

Sidney Jones, the head of the International Crisis Group in Indonesia, says the Islamist militant group has never had a base in the province, even though the executed Bali bomber Imam Samudra originally came from there.

Suspect arrested in Ill triple killing

DARIEN, 4 March — A suspect was arrested on Wednesday in the fatal shooting of a couple and their 20-year-old son in a suburban Chicago home, authorities said.

Jacob B Nodarse, 23, was found asleep in a vehicle outside his parents’ home near Fort Myers, Fla., Deputuy US Marshal Rick Jessup said. Police called Nodarse a prime suspect in the slaying on Tuesday of Jeffrey R. Kramer, 50 — the owner of a towing and auto repair company in Cicero — his wife, Lori Kramer, 48, and their son Michael J Kramer, the Chicago Tribune reported.

The victims were killed as the couple’s daughter, Angela, 25, hid in a closet and called 911, police said. The house in the Tara Hill subdivision, west of Chicago, appeared to have been targeted, Deputy Police Chief John Cooper said.

“It wasn’t a random thing,” Cooper said.

Small earthquake strikes US Silicon Valley

SAN FRANCISCO, 4 March — An earthquake measuring 3.4 on the Richter Scale hit the Silicon Valley region in the United States on Wednesday afternoon, the US Geological Survey (USGS) reported.

The quake occurred at 12:36 pm local time and was centred about 12 kilometres east of Milpitas, a Silicon Valley city in the US state of California.

The small tremor had a depth of about 10 kilometres, according to information posted on the USGS website. So far there have been no reports of injuries or damage related to the earthquake.

6.1-magnitude aftershock rocks central Chile

WASHINGTON, 4 March — A strong aftershock measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale jolted central Chile on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey (USGS) reported.

The aftershock occurred at 10:59 pm (0159 GMT on Thursday) in the ocean 39 km west of Valparaiso, the USGS said on its website.

The tremor followed two strong aftershocks measuring 6.0 and 5.9 on the Richter Scale respectively on Wednesday within one minute to each other.
**Five Pakistani road workers shot dead in Afghanistan**

KANDAHAR, 4 March—An Afghan official says five Pakistani road construction workers have been shot dead in the southern city of Kandahar.

The city's deputy police chief, Mohammad Shah Farooqi, says the workers were travelling to their construction site when two gunmen on motorbikes opened fire on their minivan on Thursday morning. Five of the labourers died and one was wounded.

The Pakistanis work for Saita Construction Co., a Japanese joint-venture with a contract to repair the road from Kandahar to Punjab District. Taleban militants dominate much of southern Afghanistan and often attack aid projects launched by the government and NATO forces.—Internet

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**S Korea, Japan to discuss ODA on Friday**

SEOUL, 4 March—South Korea and Japan will hold a meeting on Friday on official development assistance (ODA) to discuss international development issues and aid policies in both countries, the government said on Thursday. The 11th such a meeting, slated to be held in Tokyo, will serve as a good chance to strengthen bilateral cooperation on developmental issues, according to S Korea’s Foreign Ministry.

The two countries are the only two Asian members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a body comprised of donor nations, according to the ministry.

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**Central America, EU to discuss migration, trade**

MANAGUA, 4 March—Representatives of the European Union (EU) and Central American nations will hold a new round of talks at the end of March to discuss migration, trade and fiscal governance, an EU official said here on Wednesday.

“It will be discussed for the first time the negotiation agenda for issues related to labour and environment issues,” Mendel Goldstein, EU representative in Central America and Panama, told reporters.

“During the coming negotiation round in March in Brussels, the two sides will also talk about milk products, services and establishments, and sustainable development related to labour and environment issues,” Mendel Goldstein, EU representative in Central America and Panama, told reporters.

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**Toyota’s Prius maintains top spot in Japan auto sales**

TOYKO, 4 March—Toyota’s hybrid car, the Prius, was the biggest-seller in Japan in February, marking the ninth consecutive month that the vehicle has been on top in the nation, according to data released by the Japanese Automobile Dealers Association on Thursday. The Prius sold 22,306 units in February, an increase of 497 percent from a year earlier.

Toyota had four other models in the top ten selling vehicles for the month in February. The Vitz was third, selling 13,967 units, an increase of 46.2 percent on the previous year. The automaker’s Freed also made the top ten at number seven, selling 8,192 units. The Step V oxy ranked ninth, selling 6,851 units. The second largest-selling car in Japan in February, marking the ninth consecutive month that the vehicle has been on top in the nation, according to data released by the Japanese Automobile Dealers Association on Thursday. The Prius sold 22,306 units in February, an increase of 497 percent from a year earlier.

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Lebanese plan to sue Boeing for Ethiopian crash

BEIRUT, 4 March—Lebanese civil defence members carry debris from an Ethiopian airliner that crashed off Lebanon after searching the coast of Beirut on 30 January.

INTERNET

Rescuers pull out 79 survivors from collapsed building in Chile

CONCEPCION, 4 March—Rescuers on Tuesday pulled out 79 survivors and seven bodies from the debris of a collapsed building in Concepcion.

The man accused of murdering a San Diego teenager who had pleaded guilty to seeking capital punishment was found innocent of the charge by a jury.

John Albert Gardner III, 30—a registered sex offender who has been charged with one count of murder in the death of Chelsea King—also pleaded innocent to a charge of assaulting a jogger. The San Diego Union-Tribune reported that the murder charge was accompanied by a special allegation that King was killed during a rape or attempted rape, a condition that would permit prosecutors to seek capital punishment.

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis said her office will take into consideration the wishes of the victim’s family in deciding whether to seek the death penalty. “We include everyone in that process and we understand the somber nature of the death penalty and that it should be used and exercised in those cases that are the most serious,” Dumanis said.

India to conduct fourth anti-missile interception test

MUMBAI, 4 March—India will conduct its fourth test of the mocked interception of ballistic missile in less than two weeks, the Indian newspaper The Hindu reported on its website on Tuesday evening.

The launch window would be chosen between March 10 and 15, the paper quoted Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) spokesman VK Saraswat as saying. During the test day, an intercepting missile, named the Advanced Defence missile, will blast off from the Wheeler Island off the coast of Orissa, after a simulated ballistic missile lifts off from the Integrated Test Range at Balasore in Orissa, said Saraswat.

Sydney police used explosives to blow up suspected bombs found throughout a dead man’s house but then discovered they were fake, officials said on Wednesday. More than 50 bomb-like devices were found in the house and in the man’s car, New South Wales State Detective Superintendent Gavin Dengate said.

The recently deceased man, a 69-year-old former electrician known as a recluse, apparently wanted to scare people away, Dengate said.

Friends of the man, whose identity was not released, called police after visiting his home on Tuesday and spotting what looked like bombs. Neighbours were then evacuated as bomb squad officers sent in robots and detonated six of the devices, Dengate said.

“All of the devices were inert... they weren’t capable of actually detonating,” he said.

Some of the fake bombs were wired to appliances, and one included a pressure switch linked to two gas cylinders in a car.

The man, who died in a hospital more than a week ago, had also covered the windows in the house with aluminium foil.

SANTIAGO, 4 March—Three strong aftershocks jolted Chile on Wednesday four days after the 8.8-magnitude earthquake, sparking panic in the south American country. An aftershock measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck late Wednesday following two aftershocks measuring 6.0 and 5.9 respectively earlier in the day.

In the southern-central town of Concepcion, one of the hardest-hit cities in Saturday’s quake, sirens were heard and hundreds of people rushed out their shelters to higher ground. Chilean authorities issued a tsunami warning after the two earlier aftershocks, but later lifted the alert. However, most of the people in the affected areas said they would still choose to stay outside during the following days, out of fear of more aftershocks.

Saturday’s 8.8-magnitude earthquake has killed 802 people, Chilean Vice Interior Minister Patricio Rosende said Wednesday, adding the death toll could rise as rescue work is ongoing. According to the National Office of Emergency, the number of affected people was probably 2 million.

As Chile saw a flurry of aftershocks, President Michelle Bachelet called on the people to remain calm and urged them “to work together on the recovery of Chile.” She said Chile is ready to recover from the disaster. “We are in conditions to stand up again. This is a moment when we cannot be defeated by the adversity,” she said.

More aftershocks, new tsunami warning spur panic in Chile

In 2010, the Indian Navy successfully tested a new missile, the BrahMos, which uses a supersonic anti-ship missile. The Indian Army also successfully tested a new anti-tank missile, the AK-103, which uses a rocket-propelled grenade. The Indian Air Force also successfully tested a new air-to-ground missile, the五氧化二磷, which uses a high-explosive warhead. These successful tests showed that India is making progress in developing its own military technology, and is no longer relying on foreign suppliers.

The recent tests come as India is facing increasing threats from China, Pakistan, and other countries in the region. India is developing new military technologies to address these threats, and is also working to improve its relations with other countries in the region.

India conducted a successful test of a new anti-missile interception system on Wednesday, March 4, 2010. The system, named the Advanced Defence System, uses a high-speed missile to intercept and destroy incoming threats.

India’s military has been developing new technologies to address increasing threats from China, Pakistan, and other countries in the region. The Indian Navy recently tested a new anti-ship missile, the BrahMos, and the Indian Army tested a new anti-tank missile, the五氧化二磷.

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India successfully tested a new air-to-ground missile, the五氧化二磷, in 2010. The missile uses a high-explosive warhead and is designed to be launched from a fighter jet.

India’s military has been developing new technologies to address increasing threats from China, Pakistan, and other countries in the region. The Indian Navy recently tested a new anti-ship missile, the BrahMos, and the Indian Army tested a new anti-tank missile, the五氧化二磷.

India conducted a successful test of a new anti-missile interception system, the Advanced Defence System, in 2010. The system uses a high-speed missile to intercept and destroy incoming threats.

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SPORST

Italy held to goalless draw by Cameroon in friendly

PARIS, 4 March — World Cup qualifiers Italy and Cameroon came to a goalless draw in Monaco on Wednesday. Both teams were trying out experimental teams for the soccer gala in South Africa in June. Italy coach Marcello Lippi gave debuts to Leonardo Bonucci and Andrea Consi among his defending champions’ squad.

Cameroon will now meet Slovakia and Portugal in friendlies before flying to South Africa, while Italy meets Mexico and Switzerland before it begins its World Cup defence. Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini thought he had opened the scoring following a corner but his effort was ruled out for offside in the first half. Antonio Di Natale had a number of chances but failed to find the target with any of his efforts. Cameroon did not produce many opportunities either.—Xinhua

England beats Egypt 3-1 in friendly match

England manager Fabio Capello (2nd right) and Egypt manager Hassan Shehata (right) direct their teams during their friendly international at Wembley Stadium in London, on March 3. INTERNET

LONDON, 4 March — Two substitutes scored in the second half to help England beat African champions Egypt 3-1 on Wednesday.

Worasee the second half by上来 to help England beat Egyptian in the World Cup.

Mohamed Zidan put the visitors ahead in the 23rd minute following a mistake by defender Matthew Upson and England was levelled off at halftime. Second-half substitute Peter Crouch made it 1-1 with a shot at the near post from Gary Barries right-wing cross.

Shaun Wright-Phillips scored from a rebound in the 74th and Crouch got his second goal from Wright-Phillips’ cross five minutes later.—Xinhua

Tomic youngest Australia Davis Cup player since 1933

BIRMINGHAM, 4 March — Bernard Tomic became Australia’s youngest Davis Cup player in 77 years when he was named on Thursday to lead off the Asia Oceania Group One tie against Taiwan. The 17-year-old was preferred to his higher-ranked compatriots.

The enigmatic 58-year-old has seen his popularity plummet since leading France to the 2006 World Cup final and the defeat will increase calls for him to step down before this summer’s finals in South Africa.

Spain puts Domenech in doldrums as French lose friendly match

David Villa and Sergio Ramos, inflicting upon their hosts a first defeat in 11 home games. Worse for France was their powerlessness in the face of Spain’s masterful control and the home fans made their feelings known at regular intervals by imploring for an under-fire coach Raymond Domenech to resign.

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Key Spanish dangermen Xavi and Fernando Torres did not even make an appearance until half-time, but although the scoreline remained the same until the end, the damage had already been done.—Xinhua

Netherlands beats US 2-1 in World Cup warm-up

AMSTERDAM, 4 March — The Netherlands beat the United States 2-1 in a World Cup warm-up on Wednesday. Dirk Kuyt converted a 39th-minute penalty after Jonathan Bornstein had fouled Wesley Sneijder. Klaas Huntelar got the second in the 72nd, firing in a close-range shot that took a deflection off Bornstein.

Captain Carlos Bocanegra scored a consolation goal for the United States, heading home substitute DaMarcus Beasley’s cross in the 88th minute. It was the Americans’ first-ever goal against the Netherlands. The match was the final warm-up before U.S. coach Bob Bradley names his squad for the World Cup, where his team has been drawn into Group C with England, Slovenia and Algeria.—Xinhua

Maradona says Argentina can go all the way

Argentina’s coach Diego Maradona.

MUNICH, 4 March — Argentina’s larger-than-life coach Diego Maradona thinks that his players can win the World Cup if they show the form that saw them beat fellow favourites Germany 1-0.

“I am very happy because my players were so committed. They fulfilled my expectations. After 24 years Argentina needs the title, and playing at this standard we can do it,” Maradona said after Wednesday’s match.

“It was a tough game, but we showed that we were a great team, one of the best in the world,” he added. “God willing, we are going to give our people a good World Cup.”

Ninety-nine days before the World Cup in South Africa, the clash found “El Diez” under pressure after the 1978 and 1986 winners — the latter victory over the then West Germany virtually singlehandedly delivered by Maradona — came within a whisker of not qualifying and for his use of over 100 different players.—INTERNET

Capello puts Crouch in frame as England move on

LONDON, 4 March — Fabio Capello has never given the impression that he regards Peter Crouch as anything more than an impact substitute but the Italian appears to be warming to Tottenham’s beanpole striker.

Crouch’s second-half double was instrumental in England coming from behind to beat African champions Egypt 3-1 at Wembley on Wednesday evening and the 6’7” (2.0m) forward may just have put himself in pole position to be Wayne Rooney’s partner in attack when Capello’s men start their World Cup campaign against the United States, in Rustenburg on 12 June.

Capello has, in the past, often appeared dismissive of Crouch’s prolific scoring record for his country — Wednesday’s sharp-eyed brace made it 20 goals in 37 appearances. But there was nothing equivocal about his praise this time.—INTERNET

Levein pleased to see return of feelgood factor

Craig Levein’s reign as Scotland manager got off to a winning start on Wednesday with Scott Brown, firing them to a 1-0 win over the Czech Republic at Hampden.

The manager watched as his side were dominated by a slick passing Czech side but still managed to claim their first friendly win at the national stadium in 14 years.

Despite countless chances for the Czechs it was Scotland who took the lead just after the hour mark when Scott Brown converted Barry Robson’s headed pass in the box. And Levein said the result would leave them in good standing for their European Championship qualification campaign, where they will face the Czechs again.—INTERNET

Nicklaus thinks Woods will play Masters

Jack Nicklaus.

PALM BEACH GARDENS, 4 March — Jack Nicklaus is thinking Tiger Woods will play the Masters.

Nicklaus said on Wednesday that “it would surprise me” if Woods did not return to competitive golf in time for the Masters, a tournament the embattled world No 1 has won four times in his career.

“I suspect he’ll play something before Augusta,” Nicklaus said behind the 18th green at PGA National, where the Honda Classic opens on Thursday.

“You’re guess is as good as mine. I’d be very surprised if he doesn’t play something before Augusta.”

Nicklaus has been reluctant to comment much about Woods since the saga involving revelations of infidelity began late last year, saying more than once that someone else’s private life isn’t any of his business.

He reiterated that belief again Wednesday after finishing his Pro-Am at the South Florida course he redesigned.

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GLASGOW, 4 March — Craig Levein said his first match in charge of Scotland had been a positive experience after his side defeated the Czech Republic 1-0 at Hampden on Wednesday.

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Olympus eyes 20 percent share in high-end digicam

Tokyo, 4 March—Japanese group Olympus Corp is aiming for its small, lightweight models to have 20 percent of the high-end digital camera market in three years, up from 5 percent now, its president said.

The camera and endoscope maker is also targeting 500-600 billion yen ($5.7-6.8 billion) sales of medical gear in five years, Tsuyoshi Kikukawa told Reuters on Thursday, in a glimpse of a mid-term business plan due out in May.

In 2008, Olympus bought British keyhole surgery specialist Gyrus Group for $935 million pounds ($1.41 billion) to bolster its position in the medical tools market.

WEATHER

Thursday, 4th March, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin, Shan, Chin, Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above March average temperatures in Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperature was Chauk (41°C), Kalay, Monywa, Minbu Magway and Pyay (39°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Machanbaw (0.32) inch and Putao (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 3-3-2010 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 4-3-2010 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 4-3-2010 was 68%. Total sun shine hours on 3-3-2010 was (7.7) hours approx.

Rainfall on 4-3-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from South at (16:30) hours MST on 3-3-2010.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 5th March 2010: Rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin and Northern Shan States, Upper Sagaing Division, weather will be generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. 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 continuation of light rain in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 5-3-2010: Fine weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-3-2010: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-3-2010: Fine weather.
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop

Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC—sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB—generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Shwebo, Ayadaw, Monywa Townships advancing in rhythm with development

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 March—On his inspection tour of Shwebo, Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe and officials looked into progress of repair work and inflow of water into Maha Nanda Lake, cleaning and beautifying and setting up nurseries around the lake, sluice gate, installation of water supply pipeline, downtown roads and irrigating farmlands for summer paddy cultivation on 1 March.

After hearing reports on progress in works at the briefing hall on Shwebo-Ohndaw road, Lt-Gen Tha Aye oversaw condition of road sections.

In meeting with officials in Ayadaw, Lt-Gen Tha Aye coordinated requirements on education, health and transportation sectors of the region.

Next, he encouraged patients who are undergoing treatment and given eye surgeries at Ayadaw Township People’s Hospital and provided them with eyeglasses.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye and the commander accepted cash donations of wellwishers.

While in Ayadaw, Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected artisan wells and water tanks. After inspecting Ayadaw-Monywa road section, he visited Electric Power Supply Project (North) of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise in Monywa, and viewed tension towers and installation of power lines and earthwork along Strand road in a motorcade.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects nurseries on the bund of Maha Nanda lake in Shwebo. — MNA