Taikkyi, Hmawby Townships on fast track to infrastructural development

YANGON, 12 March — In pursuance of rural development tasks, the government is striving for ensuring better transport, food sufficiency and improvement of living standard of rural people.

Yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint looked into progress of construction of Okpon-Phokhachoe inter-village gravel road in Taikkyi Township. After inspecting concrete bridge across left canal of Tabuha dam, he called for extended cultivation of summer paddy.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe oversaw Uto-Thanutchuang inter-village gravel road at Uto village in the township. After hearing reports on progress in construction of Taikkyi-Gyobyu Lake road, he stressed the need for completion of task prior to rainy season. On his arrival at Myaungdaga village in Hmawby Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected removal of different strains at a quality paddy strain farmland and supplying irrigation water to summer paddy farmlands, and met local farmers.

At Myaungdaga Industrial Zone, Lt-Gen Myint Swe visited Yangon Tharaphu Foundry Shop and Soe Moe Khine Steel Plant. (See page 8)

Union Election Commission holds first meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—The meeting (1/2010) of the Union Election Commission was held at the office of the Union Election Commission here today.

Chairman U Thein Soe of the Union Election Commission delivered an address and explained the works of the Commission.

Members of the Commission took part in the discussions on matters in detail. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chairman. Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe and all the members were present at the meeting.

DNA barcodes show migratory patterns very dynamic and caterpillar diets

Asota caricae moth. This moth has a two-inch wingspan and a 2,500 mile distribution.

SCIENCE DAILY, 12 March — University of Minnesota researcher George Weiblen and colleagues have found a faster way to study the spread and diet of insect pests.

Using a technique called DNA barcoding, which involves the identification of species from a short DNA sequence, Weiblen and an international team of researchers studied populations of numerous moth and butterfly species across Papua New Guinea. DNA barcodes showed that migratory patterns and caterpillar diets are very dynamic. In one case, a tiny moth that is distributed from Taiwan to Australia, has recently crossed thousands of miles of Pacific Ocean.

INTERNET

A new study has concluded that Amazon rain forests were remarkably unaffected in the face of once-in-a-century drought in 2005, neither dying nor thriving, contrary to a previously published report and claims by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.—INTERNET
A & I Minister receives European Commission Ambassador

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received European Commission Ambassador Mr. David Lipman. —MNA

Micro credit enhances livelihoods of women

General Secretary of MWAFO Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin gave supplementary discussion on disbursement of micro credit to the women. After the meeting, the general secretary and party visited the food stall established by Daw Nwe Aye with the use of micro credit in Middle Shwegondine Ward in Bahan Township. —MNA

Human trafficking under alert eyes of Mandalarians

Head of Division (Admin) Dr Daw Khin Aung Ngwe of Mandalay Division WAO reported on the improvement of women’s life security. —MNA

Doaru and dealers at dinner

YANGON, 12 March — Doaru Cosmetics hosted a dinner to dealers at Chatrium Hotel here yesterday.

General Manager Mr Premam of DKSH and Director U Tin Aung of Doaru Cosmetics extended greetings.

Prizes were presented to top selling dealers before the announcement of starting entertainment programmes. —MNA

219 drug-related cases exposed in February

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March — In February 2010, 219 drug-related cases were exposed: 50.8054 kilos of opium in 46 cases; 1.4373 kilos of heroin in 58 cases; 3.1726 kilos of opium oil in 15 cases; 5.0290 kilos of marijuana in 13 cases; 77516 stimulant tablets in 58 cases; 4.998 kilos of opium speciosa in six cases; 200 ecstasy tablets in one case; 15 tablets of alprazolan; 1.5 kilos of Ephedrine; 145.40 kilos of caffeine in one case; 3,919 kilos of Ice in one case; 255 diazepam tablets in two cases; 360 tramadol capsules in one case; 520 litres of chemical liquid in two cases; 4.38 litres of opium liquid in two cases; 0.03 litres of cough syrup; seven bottles of morphine in one case; 60 ativan tablets, and one other case.

Action was thus taken against 311 persons—248 men and 63 women—in 219 cases under the law. —MNA

improve social, economic conditions

With stability and peace, every region can enjoy development in the economic and social sectors. If so, the socio-economic status of the people will get higher and higher.

So, stability and peace are at the top of the government’s list of priorities. The government has been implementing various projects to improve the living conditions for the entire people.

It is also in constant pursuit of national education promotion plans for development of human resources. On the top of that, it is constructing infrastructural buildings in various sectors such as transport, education and health care.

Now, the government is working hard to materialize the democratization process in compliance with the desire of the entire people.

Carrying out the task to build a new nation must be based on the past experiences, objective conditions and potential results. Therefore, such an onerous task is the concern of the whole nation.

In other words, the entire people have to do their bit in the task with correct concept and conviction and a strong sense of patriotic spirit for progress of the Union.

Today, stability and peace have been restored across the nation. Even some regions in Shan State (North), which once lagged behind other regions in development, have been on the threshold of development in all sectors, and local people have been enjoying economic prosperity.

The process of building a new nation is now in progress in line with the national policy—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

A harmonious human society has been established with Union Spirit. The entire people are, therefore, to work hard, while maintaining the stability, peace and development momentum region-wise to be able to improve their socio-economic life.

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Chile lifts tsunami alert after 7.2-magnitude earthquake

SANAGO, 12 March — The Chilean government lifted the tsunami alert in the centre-south coast of the country after ruling out the presence of high waves which could be produced by the 7.2-magnitude earthquake on Thursday. Deputy Interior Minister Rodrigo Ubilla said.

“The alert has been lifted based on a recommendation of the Army,” Ubilla said, who took charge on Thursday together with Chile’s new President Sebastian Pinera.

The alert was issued after a strong earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale shook the country, which had its epicentre in Rancagua city, some 150 km south to the capital Santiago. This is the biggest aftershock since the 8.8-magnitude quake on 27 Feb.

The earthquake on 27 Feb killed about 500 people and left tens of thousands of people homeless. Most of the deaths were due to an ensuing tsunami on the coasts of Maule and Bio Bio regions, because the tsunami alert was not issued on time.

Xinhua

Gas line explosion reported in Oklahoma

HOUSTON, 12 March — A high pressure gas line exploded on Thursday afternoon south of state Highway 66 just west of Chandler, in the US state of Oklahoma.

There were large flames and smoke coming from the scene, about 2 miles west and half a mile south of Chandler, some 40 miles northeast of Oklahoma City, according to news reaching here.

Images presented by TV news helicopters in the Oklahoma City area showed towering flames shooting into the sky in a rural area.

The explosion happened around 3:30 pm local time, local TV reported, adding that there are no homes or businesses within a mile of the explosion.

So far no injuries have been reported.

By 4:15 pm, local media reported that the gas line was turned off, and the fireball went away.

Joey Wakefield, manager of the Lincoln County Emergency covering the city of Chandler and surrounding area, said it is unclear exactly what caused the line explosion.

Xinhua

Iran launches production line of new surface-to-air missile

TEHERAN, 12 March — Iran’s Defence Minister Ahmad Vahidi said on Thursday that Iran has started the production of new medium-range surface-to-air missile, local satellite Press TV reported.

The smart missile has a range of more than 40 km and travels at supersonic speed before hitting the targeted enemy aircraft, Vahidi said in Iran’s southern port city of Bandar Abbas.

He said the technologically advanced missile can be used in electronic warfare and the missile breaks into small pieces and acts as shrapnel upon impact, according to the report.

The Iranian Navy successfully test-fired a new surface-to-air missile in the test-fire on Tuesday.

Xinhua

Four Brazilian soldiers killed in helicopter crash during training exercise

BRASILIA, 12 March — Four soldiers died after a Brazilian army helicopter crashed during a training exercise, the military announced on Thursday.

The accident happened on Wednesday night near Corumba, a municipality of the western state of Mato Grossos do Sul and bordering Bolivia, the military informed on Thursday.

The aircraft, a model Aeschylus belonging to the Third Aviation Battalion of the regional capital Campo Grande, occurred during operation “Cubure,” a routine training exercise for pilots and crew, a statement from the military said. A sergeant, two captains and an army corporal died in the crash. The cause of the accident is being investigated by experts from the Military Police and the Brazilian Air Force.

Xinhua

Policeman killed, 10 others wounded in Iraq’s violence

BAGHDAD, 12 March — A policeman was killed and 10 others were wounded in attacks in Iraq’s western Anbar Province and eastern Diyala Province on Thursday, local police said.

A policeman was killed and two others were wounded in a roadside bomb explosion near their patrol in Dhiha Djla area east of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast also destroyed one of the police vehicles, the source said. — Xinhua

Twin blasts kill five in Taleban hub

S AFGHANISTAN

ASHIRGAR G AH, 12 March — Two separate roadside bombings in Taleban hotheaded Helmand Province in south Afghanistan left five civilians dead on Thursday, officials said.

“In the first incident, which took place in Taleban former bastion Marja District, three civilians were killed and two others sustained injuries as their car ran over a mine this morning,” a senior police officer Ghulam Sakhi told Xinhua.

Xinhua
Japan’s economy not yet on self-sustaining recovery path

TOKYO, 12 March — Japan’s Finance Minister Naoto Kan said on Friday that the country’s economy grew an annualized 3.8 percent in real terms in the October-December quarter, slower than the initially reported 4.6 percent growth, as private-sector capital investment turned out to have improved less than previously expected.

“The government and the Bank of Japan (BOJ) are sharing a common goal and have been taking various steps to turn price moves positive this year if possible,” said Kan, who became Finance Minister in January, in Parliament recently.

Kan has been advocating for the government and the central bank to aim for a positive annual inflation rate of about 1 percent to pull the nation out of deflation — in November the government said Japan was in deflation, citing falling consumer prices.—Xinhua

Brazilian government optimistic despite GDP fall

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 March — Brazil’s Finance Minister Guido Mantega said on Thursday that the country’s GDP in 2009 was in fact a good result given the effects of the international financial crisis.

Compared to several other countries that registered much sharper falls last year, Brazil had an acceptable performance, said the minister.

He believed that his country has bottomed out and is growing with a good pace in the beginning of 2010. Brazil’s GDP may grow up to 5.7 percent this year, he added. Mantega said Brazil’s GDP may grow up to 5.7 percent this year, he added. Mantega said Brazil’s GDP was 4.6 percent growth, as private-sector capital investment moved persistently higher in January, indicating that the national economic recovery hasn’t yet translated into jobs for the Golden State, the paper said.

The state’s revised data for last year showing elevated unemployment indicate that a recovery could take longer than previously predicted, said the paper.—Xinhua

Unemployment tops 20% in eight California counties

LOS ANGELES, 12 March — Unemployment topped 20 percent in eight counties in the US state of California, leading to more than one in five people losing jobs, according to statistics published on Thursday.

Moreover, revised numbers for last year show that fewer people were employed than was previously believed, The Los Angeles Times said.

The state was one of five, along with Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, that reached their highest unemployment rates since the government began keeping track in 1976, according to the Bureau of Labour Statistics.

Most counties were still struggling under the burden of joblessness, especially the eight counties where rates were higher than 20 percent.

Merced County, for instance, had an unemployment rate of 21.7 percent in January, and Imperial County’s rate was 27.3 percent.

The state’s jobless rate of 12.5 percent in January was its worst on record and the fifth highest in the nation. For many California areas, unemployment rates moved persistently higher in January, indicating that the national economic recovery hasn’t yet translated into jobs for the Golden State, the paper said.

The state’s revised data for last year showing elevated unemployment indicate that a recovery could take longer than previously predicted, said the paper.—Xinhua

Peru expects building industry to grow 10% in 2010

LIMA, 12 March — Peru expects its building industry to grow by 10 percent this year, the country’s Housing, Construction and Sanitation Ministry said on Thursday.

It would be an increase of almost 4 percentage points over last year when the building industry posted a 6.14-percent growth rate despite the global financial crisis.

Ministry sources explained that overall improvement of the global economy is expected to assist a further growth of the building industry, which has been an engine for Peru’s growth in recent years.

Peru set a goal of building 250,000 more houses by July 2011, after building 168,000 houses in 2009.—Xinhua

Petrobras announces oil discovery in Colombia

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 March — Brazil’s state-owned oil and gas giant Petrobras announced on Thursday an oil discovery in the Balay onshore exploration block in Colombia.

According to Petrobras, the discovery was made at a depth of 4,652 metres in drilling in the department of Casanare.

An operation test proved an initial flow of 1,314 barrels of oil per day. Full potential of the discovery was yet to be confirmed.

Petrobras started operating in Colombia in 1972. The company currently holds stakes in seven production fields in the country.—Xinhua

France’s Kevin Rolland performs during the skiing super pipe men’s freestyle event of the X-games in Tignes.

INTERNET

Shanghai Expo giant pandas enjoy fresh bamboo shoots in Shanghai, east China, on 10 March, 2010. Fresh bamboo shoots are offered for Shanghai Expo giant pandas from Wednesday.—Xinhua

While the Brazilian government optimistically forecast 5.7% GDP growth, the US state of California was still struggling under the burden of joblessness.
Vietnam, US to boost cultural exchanges

HANOI, 12 March—Vietnam and the United States will organize a six-week cultural exchange programme beginning from Thursday, according to a Press conference held here on Thursday. The activity will be held in Vietnam’s capital city of Hanoi and southern Ho Chi Minh City, and Pasadena and Los Angeles cities in the American state of California.

Under the programme, a US musician delegation will come to Vietnam and perform from 11 to 21 March and a Vietnamese musician delegation will make their performance in the United States from 14 April to 4 May.

The activity is the biggest musical exchange event ever since the establishment of Vietnam-US diplomatic relations. It is also part of a series of activities to celebrate the 1,000th anniversary of Vietnamese capital city of Hanoi. The musical exchange is expected to give chances for Vietnamese audiences to enjoy current Vietnamese and international music, and bring opportunities for international friends to understand more about Vietnamese music and culture.

Within the programme, there will be many other activities such as seminars on music, culture, and art management.—Xinhua

Blaze engulfs four storey building in London

LONDON, 12 March—A major blaze on Thursday morning engulfed a four storey building here, causing no death or injury, a spokesman for London Fire Brigade said.

More than 100 firefighters tried to tackle the fire engulfing half of the roof in flames at a restaurant and office in Shoreditch, east London.

Crews were called in the early morning and a total of 20 engines arrived to tackle the flames, the London Fire Brigade added.

India, Russia expected to settle aircraft issue with Putin’s visit

NEW DELHI, 12 March—Six years ago, New Delhi signed a deal worth almost one billion US dollars with Moscow to pull out an abandoned aircraft carrier from the Russian junkyard and arm it with some of the most modern MiGs: the Mig29Ks.

Russia delivered the first four of the 16 combat jets recently but there is no sign yet of the carrier.

With Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin arriving here for a one-day visit on Friday, the two countries are expected to definitely settle the aircraft issue with a possible signing of agreement, said Indian official sources. India recently has agreed to shell out 2.34 billion US dollars for the aircraft.

According to highly placed sources in the Indian Defence Ministry, a price row between India and Russia had delayed the delivery of the carrier, which was originally named after the legendary Soviet Admiral Sergei Gorshkov and now rechristened by India as INS Vikramaditya, an ancient Hindu king.

Russia has told India that it cannot build the ship at the cost offered in 2004 and added a new price tag of 2.9 billion US dollars.

64 mainlanders make Forbes’ rich list

BEIJING, 12 March—A total of 64 people from the Chinese Mainland made the Forbes magazine list of the world’s richest billionaires, moving up to take second place for the first time. The US led the list, released on Wednesday, with 403 billionaires. Of the world’s 97 new billionaires, 62 were from Asia.

Among the super-rich from the Chinese Mainland, 27 made the list for the first time. In addition, 25 people from Hong Kong made it into the billionaires club, while 18 Taiwan people entered the list. More than 10 percent of billionaires on the list came from the Greater China Area, namely the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, Macau and Taipei.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Germany to show its image and imagination in Shanghai Expo, chief organizer says

BERLIN, 12 March—Germany is ready to make its own contributions for the Shanghai World Expo, with many “infotainment ideas” and the German-style insights of how to build a balanced city, said Dietmar Schmitz, commissioner general of the German Pavilion, in an exclusive interview with Xinhua on Wednesday.

“When Shanghai raised ‘better life, better city’ as the main theme of the 41st World Expo, I realized that it was a very interesting motto,” Schmitz said. “China is the first country who pick up urbanization as the subject of World Expo, with eyes on the human future.”

Many megacities in the world, such as Japan’s Tokyo, Brazil’s Sao Paulo, are facing similar problems like overpopulation and energy waste, as the global entertainment and climate has changed due to human’s industrialized activities, Schmitz said.—Xinhua

Eight killed in Indonesia landslide

JAKARTA, 12 March—Indonesian Social Affairs Minister Salim Assegaf Al Jufri said on Friday that eight people had died from a landslide that hit Cianjur, in West Java, on Thursday night, local media reported here.

“The search for people buried alive in the mud is underway at the moment. We also received reports on destroyed houses from the landslide following a flood from torrential rain last night,” the minister was quoted by the detik.com as saying on Friday.

The minister also said that 600 people living around the landslide have sought refugee to more safe places.—Xinhua

A German inn turns its pavilion into a fitness club at the International Tourism Bourse in Berlin, capital of Germany, on 10 March, 2010. The bourse opened to public on Wednesday.—Xinhua

Spectators walk by giant sculptures of the exhibits at an open air exhibition entitled “The Magnificent Innovations for Women” in Budapest.—Xinhua

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Thirty die in renewed Mogadishu fighting

MOGADISHU, 12 March — At least 30 people were killed and almost 83 others were wounded on Thursday as the fierce fighting continues between Somali government forces backed by African Union (AU) peacekeeping troops and militant fighters in Mogadishu, medical sources said.

The fighting which erupted on Wednesday resumed in the early hours of Thursday morning after it briefly stopped overnight with both sides claiming successes.

As many as 30 people were killed, 12 of them in one area in the north of Mogadishu while we have picked almost 83 wounded people including 35 children mainly in the northern districts of Mogadishu,” Ali Muse, head of local ambulance service told Xinhua.

Heavy artillery and intense gunfire was heard around the battle areas in the north of Mogadishu where witnesses said several shells landed in residential neighbourhoods.

Families in residential pockets in the north began fleeing their homes to join hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians on the outskirts of coastal Indian Ocean city of Mogadishu, the Xinhua Tribune said on Thursday.

Crouching named comedy king for 'virgin' quip

England footballer Peter Crouch was named the funniest man in British sport, topping a poll on Thursday of the best one-liners and comedy football moments of all time.

The gangly Tottenham striker was asked “What would you be if you weren’t a footballer?” Crouch quipped: “A virgin.”

Overall, the composition is 10.5 m long, 3 m tall, and weighs 227 kg. The structure was constructed under the condition that the builder uses no tape, glue or any other adhesives.

Three teens injured in drive-by shooting in Chicago

CHICAGO, 12 March — Three teenagers were wounded on Wednesday night in a drive-by shooting in Schaumburg, which located in the northwest of Chicago, the Chicago Tribune said on Thursday.

Two boys, 12 and 16, and a 14-year-old girl were shot around 8:30 pm on Wednesday as they were about to enter the parking lot, neighbours said.

The shots were fired from a pickup truck driving westbound. The pickup truck continued driving west after the shooting.

The 12-year-old boy who received gunshot wounds to the torso and the arm, remained in critical condition on Thursday morning, and the 16-year-old boy who received gunshot wounds to the torso, lower abdomen, and legs was listed in good condition.

The girl, who suffered a graze wound was treated and released on Wednesday night, according to the local hospital.

World’s oldest malt whisky costing £10,000 a bottle goes on sale

The world’s oldest malt whisky — costing up to £10,000 a bottle — went on sale today.

The Mortlach 70-year-old Speyside single malt whisky, which was filled into its cask on October 15 1938 on the order of John Urquhart, the grandfather of the firm’s joint managing directors, David and Michael Urquhart.

Exactly 70 years later, the decision was made to empty the cask and bottle its contents.

A bottle of Mortlach was piped into Edinburgh Castle today and tasted by guests in the Queen Anne Room.

The rare whisky was matured in a former sherry cask made from Spanish oak. It has been bottled in a teardrop-shaped hand-blown crystal decanter with a silver stopper.

Whisky writer Charles MacLean described the dram as ‘delicate, fresh, vital and fruity’, with hints of waxiness and smokeiness.

Crichton was asked “What would you be if you weren’t a footballer?” Crouch quipped: “A virgin.”

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The Mortlach 70-year-old Speyside was sampled by a select group of tastors at a ceremony in Edinburgh Castle.

Bottles of the rare piece of Scotland’s ‘liquid history’ have now hit the market.

Only 54 full-size bottles, costing £10,000 each, and 162 smaller bottles at £2,500 have been made available.

The whisky has been released under Gordon and MacPhail’s Generations brand.

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US troops to take over from British forces in Musa Qala

KABUL, 12 March — A town which played an iconic and controversial part in the British mission in Afghanistan is to be handed over to the Americans in a move signalling a major change in Western strategy.

Musa Qala, where 23 British soldiers died, will be passed over to the Americans as part of a rebalancing of forces. From next week, US forces will begin to take responsibility for the town, which played an iconic role in the British mission in Afghanistan.

The US military will begin to take control of the town, with British forces handed over to the Americans. This is a major step towards the end of the British military presence in Afghanistan.

Mercy killing wife takes life at Swiss clinic

LONDON, 12 March — A woman who walked free from court 10 years ago after the attempted mercy killing of her husband has ended her own life in a Swiss clinic.

Celebrated toymaker Vicki Wood, admitted the removal of her husband’s intravenous drip after he tried to end his life with a pillow in their Muswell Hill home. Mrs Wood, 67, was believed to have travelled to the Dignitas clinic in Switzerland in an attempt to take her own life.

Sources confirmed Mrs Wood had come under UK command and was to be freed as part of a rebalancing of forces. Sargin is expected to stay in British hands, but with the addition of an US contingent.

The 500-strong British force in Musa Qala, along with the troops withdrawn from other places under the plan, will move to the population centres of central Helmand.

In effect this will mean that they will be concentrating on providing security for reconstruction projects while the US forces take on more offensive operations against the Taliban.

British Airways employee faces terrorism charges

LONDON, 12 March — A British Airways employee accused of funding terrorism and planning suicide bombings — including his own — appeared in court on Thursday. Prosecutor Colin Gibb called the suspect, Rajib Karim, “a very dangerous individual, facing very serious offenses and likely to face a serious term of imprisonment.”

Kidnappers release two European aid workers

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 12 March — Kidnappers have freed two Swiss women Snatched off the streets of Haiti’s capital and held for five days, officials said on Thursday. It is the first reported kidnapping since Haiti suffered a magnitude-7 earthquake with catastrophic damage on 12 Jan. More than 5,000 prisoners fled jails that collapsed or were damaged in the temblor. Only about 200 have been captured.

Doctors Without Borders confirmed the Kidnapping. Agency spokesman Michel Peremans said the victims were released on Wednesday. Prosecutor Colin Gibb called the suspect, Rajib Karim, “a very dangerous individual, facing very serious offenses and likely to face a serious term of imprisonment.”

New Jersey man suspect in Yemen rampage

SANAA, 12 March — Federal authorities are investigating a New Jersey man suspected of being an Al-Qaeda member and going on a deadly rampage at a hospital in Yemen. The FBI is investigating Sharif Mobley, a 26-year-old from Buena, New Jersey, said Rich Wolf, a spokesman at the agency’s Baltimore office. He wouldn’t comment further.

Mobley had worked at nuclear plants operated by PSEG Nuclear for different contractors from 2002 to 2008, doing routine labour such as carrying supplies and assisting with maintenance activities, company spokesman Joe Delmar said. Mobley, who also worked at other nuclear plants in the region, satisfied federal security background checks required to work in the US nuclear industry as recently as 2008, he said.

Briton tells of torture during Iraq kidnap ordeal

LONDON, 12 March — A Briton held hostage in Iraq for more than two-and-a-half years has revealed harrowing details of the torture meted out to him by his captors.

In media interviews two months after his release, Peter Moore told how he was subject to mock executions and hung from a door by his arms as a punishment.

The computer expert was released unharmed in December after 31 months in captivity during which all four of his bodyguards — abducted with him — are thought to have been killed.

Moore, 36, told The Times on Friday how guards put a gun to his head and pulled the trigger, at the same time firing a live round from another weapon.

“I remember thinking: I’m dead. It’s not that bad. It’s not that painful.”
While visiting No (4) Fertilizer Plant Project of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise near Myaungdaga village, Lt-Gen Myint Swe heard reports on work progress and production process of the plant.

After inspecting the machine for producing ammonia, Lt-Gen Myint Swe called for safety first.

Ministry of Industry-1 holds round table discussion

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung attended round table discussion in English at the Ministry here today. It was held to hail the 65th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

Director-General U Win Myint of Directorate of Industries explained the purpose of holding the discussion.

Groups took part in the discussion under the titles of Tatmadaw, the core armed forces of our nation, the vital role of Ministry of Industry-1 and the Interesting Places in Myanmar.

The minister and the director-general presented prize winners.

Myanmar, Vietnam seek financial cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—in a discussion held at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue this afternoon, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and Executive Committee Chairman of the Vietnam Investment and Development Bank Mr Tran Bac Ha and party focused on mutual cooperation in finance and monetary affairs between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, Managing Director U Myat Maw of Myanmar Economic Bank, Director-General U Hsan Tun of Internal Revenue Department and officials.

Ingapu Township gets e-Library

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung visits Ingapu Township Library.—MNA

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung spoke on the occasion.

Responsible persons of the construction committee presented the documents related to the library and wellwishers, books to the minister.

A local spoke words of thanks.

The minister and officials sprinkled scented water on the plaque.

Later, they viewed keeping of books and application of e-library and Internet.
Indian delegation’s visit concludes

YANGON, 12 March— The visiting Indian delegation led by General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Corps Lieutenant-General NK Singh, AVSM, VSM of Indian Armed Forces, and party called on Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence at Nay Pyi Taw Paunglaung Yeikha here at 2 p.m. on 9 March.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Tha Aye and wife hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Indian delegation led by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Corps and wife at Aureum Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.

The Indian delegation arrived in Yangon on 8 March. While touring downtown Yangon, they paid tribute to King Zafar Shah’s Tomb on Ziwalka Street in Dagon Township and paid homage in Shwedagon Pagoda.

They arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 March. They visited National Landmarks Garden and viewed development of Nay Pyi Taw in a motorcade.

The Indian guests arrived in Monywa via Mandalay on 10 March. They called on Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe at the guest house of the command in the afternoon. The commander hosted a dinner to honour them in the evening.

Yesterday, the Indian delegation paid homage to Thanhodde Pagoda and Bawdihtaung Pagoda in Monywa and visited silverware shop in Sagaing.

Then they arrived in Mandalay in the afternoon. They toured downtown Mandalay. In the evening, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe hosted a dinner to honor them at Sedona Hotel.

Today, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Corps and party arrived back in Yangon, and left Yangon in the evening.— MNA

Women issue digested in round table discussion

YANGON, 12 March— To mark the International Women’s Day 2010, the Round Table Discussion on the Occasion of International Women’s Day 2010 took place at Sedona Hotel, here, this morning.

UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Bishow Parajuli read the message in commemoration of the International Women’s Day sent by the UN Secretary-General. UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Mohammed Abdel-Ahad explained the motto of the International Women’s Day “Equal rights, equal opportunities: progress for all”, and Assistant Representative Daw Pansy Tun Thein, posted Nargis assessments on protection of women issues.

Deputy Director-General U Aung Tun Thaung of Social Welfare Department discussed Plan of Action for Protection of Women in Emergence, Daw Nyunt Nyunt Thane of UNICEF, women and trafficking, Ms Annami Lofving of UNAIDS, women and HIV and U Billy Kan Myan of Gender Group, NGO efforts and programmers to empower women. Those present actively took part in the discussion.— MNA

New tarred roads opened in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe

YANGON, 12 March— Hailing the 65th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, three tarred roads—Phaungdaw-Chatma pagoda road, Yone road and Kanswe road was opened in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe today attended by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Mayor Col Then Nyunt, Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe, and officials.

Chairman U Aung Lwin of Lewe Township Peace and Development Committee and officials opened Pagoda road. The total length of newly opened roads is 7450 feet and total width is 18 feet.

Nay Pyi Taw DC is upgrading the three another roads that are 11000 feet long at a cost of 126.3 million kyats. The two other roads are underway to upgrade.

So far, Nay Pyi Taw DC has spent 340.4 million kyats on repairing and upgrading of 21 roads in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe since 2006-2007 financial year.— MNA

Ready to marry?

YANGON, 12 March— An ever brain storming word “Love” is on the cover of a book entitled “Love and Marriage” by writer Cetana Hlaing (Vesaygyo). “Love is blind”. But it may lead to an unhappy marriage. It is never late or early to know the knowledge on marriage. What is love and what is marriage? The book has all the answers. Yan Aung Publishing House (Ph: 722571) distributes the book.— MNA

Hospital equipment donated to Children’s Hospital

YANGON, 12 March— International Culture and Charity Group (ICCG) donated hospital equipment to Yangon Children’s Hospital, here, this morning.

Chairman of ICCG Mme, Dartin Norini Mazlan explained purpose of donation and donated a set of patient care monitor and laboratory-chemicals worth US$ 4,000 to Medical Superintendent of the Hospital Dr Aung Kyi Win.— MNA
EU assesses antitrust concessions by transatlantic airline alliance

BRUSSELS, 12 March — The European Commission on Wednesday invited comments from interested parties on concessions proposed by British Airways, American Airlines and Spanish carrier Iberia to address antitrust concerns.

The commission, the antitrust watchdog of the European Union (EU), said it may adopt a decision to make the concessions legally binding if the market test confirms that the proposed commitments remedy the competition concerns.

In September 2009, the commission formally charged the three airlines, citing concerns that their extensive cooperation, which involved revenue-sharing and joint management of schedules, pricing and capacity, may be in breach of EU antitrust rules.

British Airways, American Airlines and Iberia then jointly offered a set of commitments to avoid antitrust fines, which were primarily aimed at enabling competing airlines to start operating on the affected routes by lowering barriers to entry. Concretely, they offered to make available landing and take-off slots at London Heathrow or London Gatwick airports on routes to Boston, New York, Dallas and Miami. In addition, the three airlines undertook to provide access to their frequent flyer programmes on the relevant routes, allowing passengers of the qualified new entrants to accrue and redeem miles on the parties’ frequent flyer programmes. —Xinhua

Two missing after boat with 92 passengers sank in the Amazon

BRASILIA, 12 March — Two people were declared missing after a boat with 92 passengers aboard sank early on Wednesday in a river located in the Brazilian Amazon, official sources said.

According to the spokesmen for the Amazon state’s Fire Department, the other passengers were rescued by a boat nearby.

The sinking of the ship A Nunes was recorded at 1 am local time (0400 GMT) on Wednesday in the Solimoes River, which joins the Negro River to form the Amazon, in a place close to Anori, located about 190 km from Manaus, the capital of Amazon State and largest city in the region.

According to firefighters, A Nunes, a passenger ship that had departed from Manaus and was heading to the city of Tefe, began to sink after colliding with a tree trunk floating in the river, opening a hole in the hull.

The two missing persons were apparently crew members who jumped into the river to repair the ship and were washed away. Brazil’s Navy said that a patrol ship and a boat were sent to the accident site to search for the missing persons with the help of a team of divers. —Xinhua

Firing kills three in Pakistan’s Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 12 March—At least three men were killed and five others injured in a firing incident in south Pakistan’s port city of Karachi on Thursday, according to local media reports, some unidentified miscreants opened fire on people riding a car in Nazimabadal area of the city, killing three on the spot.

A leader of the banned outfit Maulana Abdul Chafour Nadeem was seriously injured and his son was killed in the shooting incident, according to police sources. Rescue sources said that the bodies and the injured were moved to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital. Law enforcers soon arrived at the spot and cordoned off the area. —Internet

Shares in Air China rose on Friday after the nation’s flag carrier said it plans to raise more than US$50 million through a private share placement to boost capital and lower financing costs. —Internet

CIA used LSD to make French lose the loaf

PARIS, 12 March—In 1951, a quiet, picturesque village in southern France was suddenly and mysteriously struck down with mass insanity and hallucinations.

At least five people died, dozens were committed to asylums and hundreds afflicted.

For decades it was assumed that the local bread had been unwittingly poisoned with a psychedelic mould. Now an even more extraordinary explanation has emerged, with evidence suggesting the CIA peppered local food with the hallucinogenic drug LSD as part of a mind-control experiment at the height of the Cold War.

The mystery of Le Pain Maudit (The Cursed Bread) still haunts Pont-Saint-Esprit, in the Gard, south-east France.

On 16 August, 1951, the inhabitants suddenly suffered frightful hallucinations of terrifying beasts and fire.

One man tried to drown himself, screaming that his belly was being eaten by snakes. An 11-year-old tried to strangle his grandmother. Another man shouted “I am a plane” before jumping out of a second-floor window, breaking his legs. He then got up and carried on for 50 yards. —Internet

Nile cruises never boring

BEIJING, 12 March—The only way to travel between Luxor and Aswan is by ship, as overland travel is banned because of terror threats. There are several companies offering Nile cruises, ranging from modest to extravagant.

Dine on deck and watch the sun go down on the horizon, colouring the waters with its many hues, enjoy the evening entertainment of belly dancers in the ship’s interior, explore the onboard shop or make small talk with others onboard — a Nile cruise is never boring. But my abiding memory is not of any of these.

As I stood late one evening on the deck, I saw half a dozen boats come up to the ship and the peddlers shouting “hola, hola, gelabaya.” I knew that “gelabaya” referred to the long tunic worn by Nubians. —Xinhua

Bing sustains gaining nine months in row

BEIJING, 12 March — Microsoft’s new Internet search engine Bing is slowly and steadily gaining users for nine months in a row since it was unveiled in June, according to media reports on Thursday. In the US search market, Bing increased its share in February to 11.5 percent from January’s 11.3 percent, according to online tracking firm comScore.

Meanwhile Google is still dominating the online search business, its share edged up to 65.5 percent in February from 65.4 percent in January. Microsoft and Google have been consistently upgrading online search service. The competitors have been focused on improving mobile search offerings and incorporating real-time content from popular online communities such as Twitter and Facebook into search results. —Xinhua

Visitors look at a piece called “Cinderella” by Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos during her presentation of the “Nelless” exhibition at Belem Cultural Centre in Lisbon on 1 March, 2010. —INTERNET

People walk in sudden downpour on 12 March, 2010 in Manila, Philippines. The rain was a great relief to farmers experiencing El Nino-triggered drought in the agricultural areas of the country. —INTERNET
Normal birth or C-section?

BEIJING, 12 March — A panel of medical experts in US are working on reversing the trend that it becomes more and more difficult for pregnant women who had caesarean section to try to give vaginal birth, according to media reports on Friday.

Fifteen years ago, nearly three in 10 women who had a first C-section were able to deliver their next baby vaginally, a trend called VBAC for “vaginal birth after cesarean.” Now that rate has dropped to one in 10.

In part because a third of hospitals and half of physicians ban women from attempting VBAC, the panel convened by the American National Institutes of Health said.

“We found the use of VBAC is certainly a safe alternative for the majority of women who’ve had one prior cesarean,” provided that the incision is horizontal and low on the uterus, said Dr F Gary Cunningham, the conference chairman and a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas.

There is the rule that “once a Caesarean, always a Caesarean.” Doctors almost always recommend a repeat C-section, worrying the scar on the uterus would rupture during labour, which can be life-threatening for both the woman and the child.

In 1980 an expert panel declared vaginal birth safe for many women who had had Caesareans, citing evidence that their risk of a uterine rupture was less than 1 percent. —Xinhua

Australia goes from ‘best job’ to ‘best taxi ride’

PERTH, 12 March — Australian tourism authorities are seeking five foreign couples to take part in what is touted as the world’s longest, and most extraordinary, taxi ride.

Building on last year’s highly successful “Best Job in the World” campaign, officials are hoping to promote remote and rugged Western Australia by launching the “Extraordinary Taxi Ride”.

In a nine-week journey over some 11,000 kilometres (7,000 miles) of road, five couples — one from New Zealand, Singapore, Germany and Britain — will travel the state in the back of a taxi.

The couples, along with six Australian pairs, will travel one section each of the 11-leg journey, which starts in Perth on April 9 and traverses Outback and the beach-lined west coast before winding north to ex-pearing centre Broome. —Internet

Six injured in Indian stampede triggered by chimney collapse

MUMBAI, 12 March — Six people were injured in a stampede caused by the collapse of an under-construction chimney of a power station project in central India on Thursday afternoon, said the police on Friday.

The chimney, nearly 12 metres high and being constructed in Singrauli of the central Indian state Madhya Pradesh, suddenly collapsed at about 4:30 pm local time, the police said.

The chimney’s collapse caused panic in the surrounding area and sent many people on the run, triggering the tragedy. Among the six injured, three were in critical conditions.

No one was trapped in the chimney ruins, and the injured in the stampede were rushed to the nearby hospitals, said the police. The cause of the chimney’s collapse is being probed. —Xinhua

Great White shark gets a little too close for comfort

BEIJING, 12 March — It’s the toothy grin that nightmares are made of.

But despite staring into the jaws of death, this diver still had the presence of mind to take a picture.

This amazing image from photographer Don Carpenter show him fending off a Great White shark, pushing its snout, then putting his hand in its mouth.

More astonishing photos, taken from a nearby cage, show how powerful these killers are as the 15ft, one-and-a-half ton shark attacks.

The shots were taken off Guadeloupe Island, Mexico by Mr Carpenter, who spent two days diving with the female Great White.

Due to local regulations, he was not allowed to scatter fish guts, known as ‘chumming’, or put decoys in the water to attract the beasts - so meeting this shark really was a natural experience. —Internet

Er, too close for comfort: One of Mr Carpenter’s companions, presumably in a temporary moment of insanity, reaches his hand out to grasp the 15-foot shark by the nose. —Internet

Man ‘murdered wife in fake car crash then tried to kill second partner in copycat attack’

EDINBURGH, 12 March — A man appeared in court yesterday accused of murdering his wife in Scotland 15 years ago and making it look as if she had died in a car crash, and then trying to do the same to his second wife on the other side of the world.

Malcolm Webster, 50, is alleged to have obtained more than £200,000 in insurance payouts following the death of Claire Webster, 32, in Aberdeenshire. It is claimed that he remarried in New Zealand and that his new wife, Felicity Drummond, survived an attempt on her life. —Internet

Colombia to eradicate 13,000 hectares of coca

BOGOTA, 12 March — Colombia has launched a campaign to eradicate more than 13,000 hectares of coca in the north-western region of Nudo de Paramillo, the government said on Thursday.

The aim of the project is to get rid of coca to facilitate reforestation and productive projects so as to improve the livelihood of the peasants. Instead of coca, a large amount of areas in the region could be used to cultivate rubber plants, cacao, and trees, government officials said. —Xinhua

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Texas executes sheriff’s sergeant killer

HUNTSVILLE, 12 March—Texas on Thursday executed Joshua Maxwell for the robbery and murder of Bexar County, Texas, Sheriff’s Sgt Rudolfo Lopes.Maxwell and his girlfriend at the time, Tessie McFarland, killed Lopes and an Indiana man, Robby Bott, during a 2000 crime spree that began in Indiana and ended following a shootout with police in San Francisco, the San Antonio News-Express said.

McFarland, 30, is serving a life sentence before he was put to death in Huntsville, Texas, on Thursday, Maxwell apologized to his victims and their families. “I hurt a lot of people with the decisions I made,” he said. “I can’t be more sorry than I am right now. “This person who did that 10 years ago isn’t the same person you see today,” he said.

Lopes was 45 when he was killed in San Antonio in October 2000. A 15-year veteran in law enforcement, his body was found dumped behind a strip mall, authorities said. He had been shot in the head, bound and blindfolded. Maxwell was the fourth person executed this year at Huntsville, the newspaper said.—Internet

Identifying serial killer’s pics of women

SANTA ANA, 12 March—California prosecutors asked the public for help in identifying women pictured in photos found in the home and storage locker of a convicted serial killer. Orange County prosecutors say they believe Rodney Alcala took the photos before he raped and murdered 12-year-old Robin Samsoe in 1979. A jury convicted Alcala on 25 Feb of killing Samsoe; Jill Parenteau, 21.

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Pollution affects women's marathon times

BLACKSBURG, 12 March — A US researcher said women's marathon running times are affected by poor air quality.

Civil and environmental engineer Lynsey Marr of Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg said higher levels of pollution particles in the air were associated with slower running times for women.

However, men were not significantly affected.

Marr suggests the gender difference may be due to the smaller size of women's trachea's, which makes it easier for particles to deposit there and possibly cause irritation.

Marr and Matthew Ely of the US Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine evaluated marathon race results, weather data and air pollutant concentrations in seven marathons held in major US cities, including New York and Los Angeles, over a period of eight to 28 years.

"Although pollution levels in these marathons rarely exceeded national standards for air quality, performance was still affected," Marr said in a statement.

Gene causes neuropathy and brain disease

ROCKVILLE, 12 March — US and Australian scientists say they've determined a gene that causes a fatal childhood brain disorder can also cause peripheral neuropathy in adults.

The researchers say their findings are the first to show different mutations in the same gene can produce seemingly unrelated disorders.

Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease involves a broad range of inherited peripheral neuropathies that cause loss of muscle tissue in the hands, feet and lower legs of affected patients, usually starting in adulthood. Various genetic causes have been identified for the severe childhood brain disorder called Menkes disease that is fatal if not treated.

In the current study, the researchers said they determined people with a CMT-like neuropathy have a mutation in the same gene that causes Menkes disease. The researchers said the gene, called ATP7A, codes for a protein needed to move the trace metal copper between different compartments within the body's cells, or out of cells altogether.

Shellfish suffering in polluted marine environment

BEIJING, 12 March — Shellfish from water off the country's shores has become more toxic as more pollutants including heavy metals and oil damaged the marine environment, the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) reported on Thursday.

About 147,000 sq km of ocean failed to meet the standard for clear water last year, an area 7.3 percent greater than the previous year's, the SOA's annual report on the oceanic environment showed.

Most shellfish in offshore areas contained excessive harmful chemicals like lead, cadmium and DDT, a common pesticide in China, the report said. Lead detected in shellfish was 50 percent higher than standard levels, while cadmium and DDT levels were about 40 percent higher, test results showed.

DDT as "moderately hazardous." The lead in shellfish must be less than 1 mg for every kg for it to be safe. According to national seafood standards, DDT levels must be less than 1 mg for every 1 kg to meet safety standards.

More ethanol usage may be bad for Earth

WEST LAFAYETTE, 12 March — A Purdue University study suggests the increased use of corn ethanol might boost the Earth's greenhouse gas emissions. Professor Thomas Hertel and his five co-authors said their new economic analysis of the effects of increasing use of corn-derived ethanol on greenhouse gas emissions confirm the corn-based biofuel is unlikely to reduce global production of carbon dioxide.

The study focused on how mandated increases in production of the biofuel in the United States will trigger land-use changes domestically and elsewhere. In response to increased demand for corn, the scientists said farmers convert additional land to crops. That and conversion can boost carbon dioxide emissions, the scientists said.

The investigators said their main conclusion is stark: The indirect, market-mediated effects of greenhouse gas emissions "are enough to cancel out the benefits the corn ethanol has on global warming."

The study appears in the journal BioScience.

Garlic may be strong cancer fighter

COLUMBUS, 12 March — A new test hints garlic may be a strong cancer fighter. Ohio State University researchers say. Senior author Earl Harrison and colleagues say gas chromatography-mass spectrometry separates components of a mixture to detect specific substances to design a urine test to measure the extent of a potential carcinogenic process known as nitrosation.

The small pilot study, reported in Analytical Biochemistry, found the results of the urine test suggested the more garlic people consumed, the lower the levels of the potential carcinogenic process were. "Our results showed that those were inversely related to one another — meaning that the more we had the marker for garlic consumption, the less there was of the marker for the risk of cancer," Harrison says in a statement.

The nitrosation process is mostly initiated by consuming substances from certain processed meats, high-heat food preparation practices, or water contaminated by industrial or agricultural runoff called nitrates — about 20 percent of which convert to nitrites.

UNESCO highlights culture protection in Haiti reconstruction

BEIJING, 12 March — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on Thursday highlighted the importance of salvage of culture heritage in Haiti's reconstruction, saying culture should be an integral part in humanitarian aid.

"Culture must go hand in hand with humanitarian aid. It must be present in Haiti's reconstruction strategies because culture and development are closely linked," UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova said in a Press release summarizing her two-day official visit to the Caribbean nation hit by a devastating earthquake on 12 Jan.

She visited several national heritages and met with the Haitian Culture Minister and local officials before leaving on Wednesday.

"We are aware that emergency humanitarian aid is not the only appropriate response to the country's needs and that your knowledge and your traditions must be taken into account in the reconstruction effort," said Bokova while reiterating UNESCO's commitment to safeguarding Haitian heritage.

A kangaroo is seen in an enclosure in the zoo in Dhaka. People in a Japanese mountain region have reported a number of kangaroo sightings, and journalists are now trying to stalk the marsupials.
Drogbas is the skipper of Ivory Coast and a key player for them.

**SPORTS**

**Chelsea's Didier Drogba wins African football award**

Cameron forward Samuel Eto'o were also shortlisted for the award. Drogba, who turned 32 on Thursday, had previously won the award in 2006, while Kaka was named team of the year at the ceremony in Accra, Ghana.

Drogba qualified for the World Cup finals in South Africa after defeating Egypt in a play-off game.

Drogba has scored 25 goals so far this season for Chelsea, who are in contention for the Premier League title and remain in the Champions League and FA Cup.

And the Ivorian claimed as he celebrated his 32nd birthday that his appetite for the game is as strong as ever.

**Real give vote of confidence to Pellegrini**

Wednesday night.

The nine-time European champions were held to a 1-1 home draw in the Bernabeu to go out 2-1 on aggregate to the Spanish side, who won the first leg 1-0.

It is the sixth in a row that Real have failed to get beyond the last 16 in the Champions League.

**Manchester United in Telkom Malaysia sponsorship deal**

the deal, chief executive David Gill said the partnership was proof of the Glazer family’s long-term commitment to the club.

“We will be around for the length of this deal and many more in addition to that,” Gill said. “This demonstrates the strength of the club. It is a long-term partnership for five years.”

But Gill admitted that the green and gold scarves used by anti-Glazer fans during the side’s 4-0 victory over AC Milan on Wednesday had gone unnoticed.

**Arsenal captain Fabregas to miss Hull clash**

A late goal gave Lille (photo) a 1-0 victory over English giants Liverpool in the first leg of their Europa League last-16 tie. Italy’s Juvent defeated Fulham (3-1) as Valencia were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Werder Bremen.

Juventus overwhelm Fulham, Lille put Liverpool in danger.

LONDON, 12 March—Juventus assumed command of their Europa League last-16 tie against Fulham with a 3-1 first-leg win on Thursday, after beleaguered English giants Liverpool were beaten at Lille.

Juve took an early lead in Turin when centre-back Nicola Legrottaglie headed home from a ninth-minute corner before right-back Jonathan Zebina extended their advantage with a thunderous 25-yard effort.

Dickson Etuhu’s deflected shot reduced the arrears but former France international David Trezeguet restored the home side’s two-goal cushion by volleysing home in first-half injury time after his shot came back off the post. Liverpool, a disappointment sixth in the Premier League after losing 1-0 to Wigan on Monday, were short of fluency on an uneven playing surface and sank to defeat when Eden Hazard’s 94th-minute free-kick drifted straight in from wide on the left-hand flank.
MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (13-3-2010)(Saturday)

Transmissions Times
Local - 09:00am - 10:00am MST
Europe - 15:30pm - 16:30pm MST
North America - 23:30pm - 01:30am MST
Oversea Transmission - 13-3-10 11:30 am ~ 14-3-10 11:30 am MST

Local Transmission
* Signature Tune
* Ywama Floating Market: A Place of Matchlessness
* News
* Poem Garden “Bobby”
* “Pop in Teenagers’ Fidelity of Love
* Panca Rupa
* News
* Record Album
* Myanma Endeavours Towards Water Resources Management (Part-II)
* News
* Traditional Meritorious Deeds Ceremony
* Myanma Traditional Musical Instruments
* Traditional Meritorious Deeds Ceremony
* Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments
* (String Instruments) (Myanmar Harp)
* News
* The Artsworks of Bagan Gift Centre
Oversea Transmission
* Signature Tune

8:00 am  1. Martial Song
11:10 am  4. Game For Children
11:45 am  7. Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (4) mph
12:15 pm  9. News
1:00 pm  11. Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments
1:30 pm  12. News
1:40 pm  13. Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

WEATHER
Friday, 12th March, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan and Rakhine States, Upper Sayaing, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4 °C) above March average temperatures in Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayin States, Sayaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Mandalay, Magway and Hpa-an (40°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 11-3-2010 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 12-3-2010 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on12-3-2010 was 69%. Total sun shine hours on 11-3-2010 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 12-3-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (4) mph from Northeast at (16:30) hours MST on 11-3-2010.

Forecast valid until evening of 13th March 2010: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

State of the sea: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in the strong wind may reach (35) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 13-3-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-3-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-3-2010: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for third weekend of March 2010: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
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

Entire people urged to realize, take part in four clean edutainment programme

Myitkyina sub-printing house rehearse fire drill

Myitkyina Sub-printing House in Kachin State rehearsed fire drill on 7 March.

Local authorities and Officials supervised the drill. Educational talks on the causes of fire outbreak and fire preventive measures were also held at the house.

An official from the township Fire Services Department demonstrated the methods of fire extinguishing and staff of the house practised systematic fire extinguishing processes together with firemen.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivers speech at the opening of National Sanitation Week 2010.

Health Committee; that National Health Plan (2006-2011) is also underway in order to carry out thoroughly; that food, water, hand and latrine cleans are interrelated; that everyone should be fully aware of diarrhoea and it is required for everyone to realize and take part in four clean edutainment programme; that sanitation activities in Myanmar is on the right track to Millennium Development Goals of the UN thanks to collaborative efforts of the departments concerned and the people; that efforts should be made with added momentum to fulfill the requirements prior to UN Millennium Development Goals (2015); and that the ministry is organizing health education talks at grassroots level in order to raise the public awareness on water, sanitation and hygiene.

Next, UNICEF Resident Representative Mr. Ramesh Shrestha spoke on the occasion.

After the ceremony, the minister, the deputy ministers and party viewed the commemorative booth on display.