Rakhine State needs intellectual, technical, technological resources to effectively utilize her riches

Sittway-An-Minbu railroad under construction to introduce rail service between Sittway and Yangon

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets townswelders, administrative staff and social organization members at Kissapanadi Bridge Yeiktha in Kyauktaw.
MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein on a visit to the region yesterday morning. Speaking to administrative staff, local elders and social organizations in Sittway, the Prime Minister continued to say that in order to produce such human resources, the government is building more basic education schools, upgrading the existing ones and so on.

(See page 8)

Electric Vehicle and Solar Panel Project

Byline: Maung Maung Myint Swe

I take interest in the special projects stated recently in daily newspapers. The Special Projects Implementation Committee held its meeting No 1/2010 on 5 March. Chairman of the Committee Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe at the meeting gave guidance. Ministers for Agriculture and Irrigation, Industry-2, Construction, Electric Power 2, Energy, and Rail Transportation presented reports sectorwise. The projects will be greatly beneficial to the State as they are to be undertaken by the ministries concerned.

Among the projects, the project to be implemented by the Ministry of Industry-2 attracted attention from me. I have written many bylines on factories, workshops, and vehicles and accessories produced by the Ministry of Industry-2. In addition, I have made many trips to write bylines.

A sample of electric automobile to be produced by the Ministry of Industry-2.

(See page 7)
In the process of national development

The government is in the process of developing the country in all sectors including socio-economy and education standard of the entire nation. Its development undertakings cover 24-region development project, border areas and national races development project and rural development project.

In its endeavours for harmonious progress of the whole Union, the government has been providing transport infrastructures for development to reach every region. It has already built a transport network covering over 70,000 miles of roads and many bridges large and small all over the nation. We are heartening to see that the transport network is now at the service of national development.

Moreover, we have witnessed the number of our country’s airports including two international facilities reaches 70. Building of many more new airports and upgrading of the existing ones have significantly cut the traveling time and help facilitate economic and social activities.

We have also seen marked development in maritime transport and the number of international wharfs reaching 26 at present from 13 in the past. Our country now has three international level container yards.

All regions across the Union now have sound foundations for progress regardless of their sizes and locations. The government is still in the process of implementing projects for national advancement with added momentum. We are sure that completion of the projects in time will accelerate national and socio-economic development.

Good news for cooks and bakers

YANGON, 17 March—With the aim of fulfilling a desire of those wishing to join hotels, restaurants and bakers, and to do in their own business as a professional, Star Resources Hospitality Management Academy will conduct International Culinary Course and International Bakery & Pastry Course in fourth week of March.

Moreover, experienced course instructors will teach English course in line with course guideline of Institute of Hospitality (UK) and Institute of AH & LA (USA) during the courses. The academy will provide necessary assistance for trainees who will be taking courses and accomplish the courses.

The courses will last three month. Interested persons may contact No. 267, Room No. 302, Pyay Road, Myaynigone, Sangyoung Township (Ph: 01-523623, 523200, 4412225, and 09-5020302).—MNA

i Stock for businessmen

YANGON, 16 March—The iTEGRA Systems Co Ltd has been distributing i Stock application software to control stock which is user-friendly in business.

The software can calculate not only Myanmar Kyat also FEC and US dollar. It can be used in any sale businesses. The software can run in both Myanmar and English languages. Safely storing the data is its strong point. The company also provides training service for using the software with ease.

The address of the iTEGRA Systems Co Ltd is No. 42 D, New University Avenue Road, Bahan Township, Yangon (Ph: 557638 and 09-5140716). Moreover, those who wishing to observe and buy the software are invited to come to Myanmar ICT Exhibition-2010 at Tatmadaw Convention Centre, Uwsaria Road from 19 to 21 March.

Talk on Privatization on 20 March

YANGON, 17 March—An educative talk entitled Privatization will be held at Myanmar Fishery Federation, Bayinnaung Road, Insein Township, here on 20 March. Dr Tin Latt (MAT college) will give talk. The talk was jointly organized by Myanmar Fishery Federation and Myanmar Shrimp Association, and sponsored by Aung Moe Khang Soft Crab Production Co Ltd.

Take Fire Preventive Measures

YANGON, 17 March—The new light of Myanmar Thursday, 18 March, 2010

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Thai Princess concludes private goodwill visit

NAV PYI TAW, 17 March—Thai delegation led by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn left Yangon for home after completion of her private goodwill visit this evening.

The Princess was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Major Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, officials and Thai Ambassador Mr Bansarn Bunnag and families of the embassy.

The Thai Princess arrived in Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw on 16 March. The Thai delegation then proceeded to Taman Village, Pyapon Township of Ayeyawady Division where they viewed construction of village health care centre contributed by Thai Red Cross Society.

The goodwill delegation also attended opening ceremonies of a 16-bed Daw Nyein station hospital in Daw Nyein Village donated by Thai Red Cross Society, and cyclone shelter in Kadonkani Village of Bogale Township, donated by the Thai Princess.

On arrival at No. 1 Kadon Ward, the delegation viewed donated stationery to Basic Education High School and observed course conducted by Thai and Myanmar agriculture experts.

Back in Yangon, the Thai Princess attended the opening ceremony for renovated National Blood Centre in Yangon General Hospital.

The Thai Princess paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda. She attended the ceremony to erect the bronze plaque for two Bo trees planted by Thai King and Queen in 1960 at Kaba Aye hill.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Thai ambassador spoke on the occasion. In the Thai hall of Kaba Aye Pagoda, the Princess and delegation paid homage to Buddha images. The Princess made cash donations for International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, International Abhidhamma Maha Therikpan Management Committee and Jivitadana Sangha Pagoda. The delegation also visited Kyakhtiyoe Pagoda in Kyaukhto, Mon State. The Princess offered golden robe, flowers, water, and lights. She also presented donation to the pagoda.

She visited the white elephant garden and paid homage to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image.
Police battle gunmen in southern Afghan town

KABUL, 17 March—Would-be suicide attackers killed at least two locations in a southern Afghanistan city and a gun battle was ongoing.

US soldier dies in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 March—A US soldier died and three others injured in a vehicle roll-over in northern Iraq, a statement of US military in Iraq said late Tuesday.

The statement said the accident happened on Monday when the soldiers were conducting a patrol.

The injured were evacuated to a military medical facility for treatment, said the statement, adding the incident was under investigation.

Afghan bomb kills two NATO soldiers

KABUL, 17 March—Two foreign soldiers have been killed in southern Afghanistan by a crude bomb, the main weapon used by Taleban rebels, NATO said on Wednesday.

In a brief statement, NATO’s International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said the soldiers died on Tuesday.

The nationalities of the soldiers were not revealed, according to policy.

The deaths bring to 125 the number of foreign soldiers to have died in Afghanistan so far this year, according to an AFP count based on a tally kept by the independent casualties.org website.

The toll far outstrips the same time last year — when deaths for the first three months were fewer than 80 — as the war against Taleban militants has escalated, especially in southern strongholds.

The number of US and NATO-led troops is set to rise to 150,000 by August under a counter-insurgency strategy marrying military and civilian efforts to eradicate the militant presence and establish Afghan sovereignty.

The strategy is currently being tested in Helmand Province, where poppy-production is controlled by Taleban and drug traffickers in areas that have long been outside government control.

Casualties of Afghan people in invasion of NATO troops led by US

KABUL, 17 March—The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and are there for a long time.

A number of Afghan people are killed and injured due to invasion of the NATO troops led by the US.

Casualties of Afghan people

According to the Internet news, a total of 32687 Afghan people were killed and 39104 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 17 March.

A wounded civilian lies in a bed as Afghan paramedics help him in a hospital after he got wounded in an explosion in Kandahar, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 14 March, 2010.—INTERNET

BAGHDAD, 17 March—Eight people were killed and 11 injured in two bomb explosions on two minibuses in the town of Musayyib on 14 March, an Interior Ministry source said.

The attacks took place in the afternoon when two bombs stuck to two minibuses carrying passengers detonated within several minutes in Musayyib, some 50 km south of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.—Xinhua

A wedding hall is seen damaged in an explosion in Kandahar, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 14 March, 2010. The governor of Kandahar province demanded more security around Afghanistan’s largest southern city Sunday after 12 explosions killed dozens of people in the Taleban stronghold and operational hub in Helmand Province.—INTERNET

Eight killed in two bomb attacks in south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 March—Eight people were killed and 11 injured in two bomb explosions on two minibuses in the town of Musayyib in south of Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

The attacks took place in the afternoon when two bombs stuck to two minibuses carrying passengers detonated within several minutes in Musayyib, some 50 km south of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.—Xinhua

Iraqi security forces inspect the scene of a car bomb attack in Fallujah, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 March, 2010. A suicide car bomber killed four people and wounded 29 when his vehicle exploded in a busy street during the morning rush hour in western Iraq.—INTERNET

US and allies kill, injure Iraqi people

BAGHDAD, 17 March—There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 17 March reached 700631 and the total number of seriously injured people reached 1265337, according to the news on the Internet.

No. Subject Number
1. Death toll of Iraqi people 700631
2. The total number of seriously injured people 1265337
**New START treaty to combine offensive, defensive weapons**

**Moscow, 17 March—** Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reassured on Tuesday that the new strategic arms reduction treaty (START) with the United States will combine offensive and defensive weaponry.

Lavrov reiterated Russia’s stance concerning the issue in a joint Press conference with his Ukrainian counterpart Konstantin Grischchenko broadcast live by local TV station Russia Today.

“It would be comfortable for Moscow to sign the strategic arms reduction treaty with Washington in Kiev, but the choice is up to the Russian and American presidents,” said Russia’s top diplomat.

Lavrov also said that Russia would be happy to sign the new START treaty with the United States in Kiev, Russian news agencies reported.

“There will be a legally binding link with missile defence, so no problems will arise,” he said.

Earlier Russian media reported that Kiev had suggested to serve as the venue of the signing ceremony, in an effort from the newly elected Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych to position as a link between Russia and the West.

Grischchenko said at the Press conference held in Moscow that signing the new START treaty in Kiev would strengthen non-proliferation regime.

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**South Africa flag carrier denies price fixing**

**Johannesburg, 17 March—** South African Airways and its partners SA Airlink and SA Express denied on Tuesday that they had colluded with other airlines to hike prices during the Football World Cup.

“SAA has at no time held discussions with competitors in regard to FWC (football World Cup) pricing,” said CEO Chris Smyth in a statement issued after he testified to a parliamentary committee.

South African Competition Commission in January said it had opened an investigation into possible price-fixing by airlines during the tournament which kicks off on 11 June. — Internet

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**South African Airlines planes are pictured at Heathrow airport, in London in 2009—** Internet

**Moderate quake causes minor damage in Los Angeles**

**Los Angeles, 17 March—** A 4.4-magnitude temblor rattled large parts of the Greater Los Angeles area early on Tuesday, causing minor damages, authorities said.

The quake shaken thousands of people awake, putting first-responders on alert and rattling nerves, but there was no immediate report of injuries, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) said.

A previously repaired section of the Santa Ana Freeway in the area suffered minor damage as a result of the quake, according to the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The damage consisted of broken concrete on two right-hand lanes in a section of the roadway that had been under repair. — Xinhua

**L American countries seek to eradicate hunger, poverty**

**Quito, 17 March—** Agriculture ministers from Latin America and the Caribbean discussed on Tuesday how to eradicate hunger and poverty in their countries by 2025.

The ministers debated common strategies to fight hunger and poverty, though the situation in each country was different.

The meeting, entitled “Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025,” was convened in order to fulfill one of the UN Millennium Goals.

Ecuadorian Agriculture Minister Ramon Espinel said that the Latin American and Caribbean countries should eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2025. However, this goal has not been achieved by all.

“The joint effort is very important, but it is also of crucial importance what every country does to achieve this goal,” Espinel said.

“In Ecuador, we are working hard on this matter, because it is a constitutional mandate for the Ecuadorian people,” he added.

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**Mexico-bound bus crashes in Texas, killing two**

**Campbellton, 17 March—** A crowded bus carrying young families and spring breakers toward Mexico went careening off a Texas highway and flipped onto its side on Tuesday, killing two people and forcing dozens of bloodied passengers to climb to safety through broken windows and an emergency exit.

The Americans USA bus left San Antonio with 42 people on board and was headed to the Mexican border city of Matamoros, with planned stops in Falfurrias and McAllen, Texas.

About 45 miles from San Antonio, the bus driver heard a loud noise before the bus veered from the right lane of Interstate 37.

The bus spun toward the grassy median and landed on its right side, said Chuck Garris, the emergency management coordinator for Atascosa County.

Daryl Champagne, 17, of San Antonio, who was on his way to South Padre Island with two high school classmates for spring break, said he was thrown through a window and was wedged between the bus and the ground before he managed to crawl free.

“I think we did a 180. We flipped and I was out the window,” said Champagne, who had cuts from glass all over his back. “I went through to the ground and was out of the bus.” — Internet

**Two Haitian policemen killed by motorcycle gunmen in Port-au-Prince**

**Santo Domingo, 17 March—** Two off-duty Haitian policemen on Tuesday were shot to death by drive-by motorcyclists in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, reports reaching here said.

The Haitian police confirmed that the deceased policemen were sitting in a car near an open-air market near the La Saline area.

Eyewitnesses said that one policeman died in the back seat of the car while the other policeman managed to get out of the car but was killed on the pavement.

Garry Desroiers, spokesman for the national police forces, said that such shootings against police officers had increased since thousands of prisoners escaped during the 12 Jan earthquake.

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**Carmen Paz, left, 17, of Longview, Texas, walks with an Atascosa County sheriff’s deputy as emergency responders tend to victims involved in a bus accident on southbound Interstate 37 near Campbellton, Texas on 16 March, 2010. — Internet**
School girls compete in the final of the “Junior Moscow Girl 2010” contest in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 16 March, 2010. Prikazchikova Klavdia from the Moscow 1288th middle school won the first place at the “Junior Moscow Girl 2010” contest dropped its curtain on Tuesday.—Xinhua

S Korea picks site for its second research base in Antarctica

SEOUL, 17 March—South Korea has picked the site for its second research base in the Antarctic region following months of exploration there by a homemade icebreaker, the government said on Wednesday.

The country aims to build a new scientific research centre by 2014 in Terra Nova Bay, located at the southeastern end of the Antarctic, which would make South Korea the ninth nation in the world to have two or more research bases in the region, according to the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs.

The site was chosen over another candidate site in Cape Burks for easier accessibility and better weather conditions, based on the data collected by the 7,487-ton South Korean icebreaker named Araon and expert opinions, ministry officials said.

South Korea currently runs one research base, the Sejong Research Centre, on King George Island off the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula.—Xinhua

Indonesian plane receives bomb threat

JAKARTA, 17 March—Indonesia’s Riau Airlines (RAL) received a bomb threat on Tuesday to its newly-departed plane, which was carrying 54 passengers. “We received a phone call from a man who stated that the plane, which departed five minutes ago from the Tanjung Pinang airport in Riau Islands to the Soekarno-Hatta Airport in Jakarta, had a bomb on board,” local news portal Detik.com quoted RAL’s Emergency Assistance Coordinator Tri Heru Perwiranto.

He said that the pilot Abu Bakr ignored the threat and continued the flight. When the BAe RJ100 aircraft landed in Jakarta, all the 54 passengers were asked to leave without their items. By 20:00 Jakarta Time (1300 GMT), the plane and all baggages on board were still being searched at a location away from other aircraft.—Xinhua

Fire destroys 1,500 hectares of forest in Honduras

TEGUICIGALPA, 17 March—At least 1,500 hectares of forest have been destroyed by fire since the beginning of this year, Honduran Defence Minister Marlon Pascua said on Tuesday.

After a meeting of the ministers council, Pascua asked President Porfirio Lobo to declare a national emergency to call for the joint efforts of different institutions to prevent and control forest fires.

At the meeting, Pascua presented a video on how 2,000 troops of the Honduran armed forces fought forest fires.

According to the minister, at least 12 forest fires broke out last weekend across the country, most of them in Olancho Province in northeast Tegucigalpa.

The minister said the Honduran government will launch a national forest fire prevention and control campaign with the coordination of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the National Service of Aqueducts and Sewage System, the Ministry of Public Health, the National Company of Electrical Power and the media.—Xinhua

Belarusian President stresses strategic partnership with Venezuela

CARACAS, 17 March—Visiting Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko on Tuesday stressed the strategic partnership with Venezuela and how the partnership can benefit the peoples of both countries.

During his speech to the Venezuelan National Assembly, Lukashenko expressed satisfaction with the strategic partnership with Venezuela which he called a trading partner in Latin America. “Our countries are on different continents, but this does not interfere with our similar political insight. Both countries fight for their people, against oligarchy plans and imperial dominations,” Lukashenko said.

Belarus and Venezuela now have 70 cooperation agreements and the trade volume between two countries stood at 200 million US dollars in 2009, which is expected by Chavez to increase to some 1 billion US dollars.

Lukashenko told Venezuelan lawmakers the trading platform headquartered in their country for selling Belarusian products to Latin American countries will be used to sell goods at low prices to members of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA).—Xinhua

Chemical tanker set free by Somali pirates

NAIROBI, 17 March—Somali pirates have released a chemical tanker they captured in November with 28 crew members from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Kenya-based East African Seafarers Assistance Programme (SAP) said on Tuesday.

The Theresa VIII and all her 28 DPRK crew members had been freed early on Tuesday, SAP coordinator Andrew Mwangura told Xinhua via telephone from Mombasa. But the official said he did not know how much was paid in terms of ransom to secure their release.

The Kiribati flagged vessel was seized four months ago about 618 nautical miles Northwest of the Seychelles on its way to the Kenyan port of Mombasa.—Xinhua

Spain establishes Int’l centre for renewable energy

MADRID, 17 March—Spanish Vice President Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega on Tuesday approved the opening of an International Centre for Renewable Energy (CICER) in Valencia.

The aim of the centre is to battle climate change, provide access to energy sources and help developing countries use renewable energy sources through international cooperation. CICER will promote the use of renewable energy in developing countries with the help of national and international development agencies. It will try to identify development opportunities and propose projects with the help of experts in the field.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency
Shanghai Expo to boost China tour in Italy, says official

ROME, 17 March — The Shanghai World Expo will attract more Italian tourists to China, a tourism official from China’s National Tourist Office (CNTO) in Italy said.

“This year has begun in the best of ways,” director general of the CNTO’s Italian office Xiong Shanhua told Xinhua in a recent interview. “In January there was a 47 percent rise in arrivals from Italy to China and we expect this trend to increase by 9-10 percent throughout the year compared with 2009. It is for sure the best January we have ever had.” Xiong said.

More than 190,000 Italian tourists visited China in 2009 to savor the country’s culture, history and natural scenery, he said.

Despite a 1.47 percent drop compared with 2008, Italian tourist arrivals increased 10 percent year on year in the second half of 2009, according to statistics from the CNTO.

Xiong said the positive data on Italy’s growing China-bound tourism indicated the global economic crisis was about to end, adding that forecasts for the upcoming months were even brighter.

Yemen rebels free 178 soldiers, civilians

SANAA, 17 March — A Shiite rebel group which has fought the government troops in northern Yemen for more than five years released 178 captured soldiers and civilians on Tuesday, a ceasefire monitoring committee said.

The freed captives have been handed over to the government in Yemen’s northwestern province of Saada, a government official said on condition of anonymity.

Yemen has witnessed sporadic battles since 2004 between government troops and Shiite Houthi rebels whom the government accused of seeking to re-establish the clerical rule overthrown by the 1962 Yemeni revolution which yielded the Yemeni republic.

French policeman killed in suspected ETA attack

PARIS, 17 March — A French policeman died in a shootout southeast of Paris with Basque-speaking gunmen linked by Spanish media to the Basque armed separatist group ETA.

“Several leads were being explored” on Wednesday, said sources close to the inquiry, with the “most serious” implicating ETA after one of the men involved in the shootout was arrested and gave a Basque identity.

The firefight broke out near Dammarie-les-Lys, 50 kilometres (30 miles) southeast of the French capital, after a police patrol checked the identities of a group that had stolen cars from a garage.

Sources close to the inquiry said a police patrol tried to question three men and a woman in a stolen BMW near Dammarie-les-Lys when a second vehicle with two men on board pulled up and one of them opened fire.

A 52-year-old policeman died, hit in the thorax despite his bulletproof vest. His colleagues returned fire but it was not known if any of the group was hit.—Internet

Israel army kills Egyptian cigarette smuggler at borders

CAIRO, 17 March — Israeli army killed a suspected Egyptian cigarette smuggler, while he and his partners were attempting to cross borders into Egypt. Israeli Ynet News website reported on Tuesday.

Eyewitnesses told Xinhua the man was trying to traffic some goods into Israel on Monday when an Israeli soldier spotted him and opened fire as he failed to follow the order to stop.

Ynet news said the man was seriously injured when he was shot and opened fire at “two vehicles approaching the Israeli side of the border, apparently in an attempt to make contact with a man approaching from the Egyptian side to receive a delivery.”

The man died in a nearby hospital of the wounds he sustained, while his partners managed to escape.

Diamond-loving dog swallowed $20,000 gem

The owners of a Maryland jewelry store said a $20,000 diamond dropped in the shop by a dealer was immediately snapped up and swallowed by their dog.

Robert Rosin, one of the owners of Robert Bernard Jewelry Store in Rockville, said a diamond dealer brought the three-plus carat rock to the store to show the owners and dropped the valuable gem on the floor in front of Soh, a rescue dog owned by George Kaufmann, another owner of the store, WJLA-TV, Washington, reported on Monday.

“Twenty thousand dollars — that is all I could think about,” Rosin said.

Kaufmann said a vet told him the best way to get the diamond out of Soh’s belly was to wait for it to pass by naturally.

“Not that pleasant,” Kaufmann said. “I followed him; I had to pick up his stuff; I had to go through the things.”

He said that the diamond came out after three days and was returned to the dealer. “It was a happy ending to say the least,” Kaufmann said.

Fire guts down world heritage site in Uganda

Kasubi Tombs, enlisted for the World Heritage Site, leaving the main structure almost burned down.

Judith Nabakooba, the police spokesperson confirmed to Xinhua by telephone that the fire which gutted down the tombs where four Kabakas or Kings of the once most powerful Kingdom in the East African region,Buganda Kingdom, were buried, started at 8:40 pm (17:40 GMT).

She said the cause of the fire is still unknown as the crowd there is rowdy and did not allow the police to access the place.

“You can not establish the cause of the fire now because the people there are throwing stones at our officers. One of our policemen has been admitted at Mulago Hospital,” she said.

Peruvian surfer Domingo Pianezzi rides a wave with his alpaca Pisco at San Bartolo beach in Lima on 16 March, 2010. Pianezzi has spent a decade training dogs to ride the nose of his board when he catches waves, and now he is the first to do so with an alpaca.

Egypt unveils two ancient Pharaonic statues

Egypt unveiled on Tuesday two 3,400-year-old statues belonging to the 18th Pharaonic dynasty, state-run Middle East News Agency reported.

Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouq Hosni said an archeological team from Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) unearthed two large red granite statues, close to the mortuary temple of Amenhotep III in Luxor city, south Egypt.

SCA Secretary General Zahi Hawass said the first statue is for Thoth, the ancient god of wisdom and the other is the bust of a statue of Pharaoh Amenhotep III (1410-1372 BC) standing next to Pharaohic god Ra Hoor Akhuti.
“World Water Day 2010” on 22 March

YANGON, 17 March—
A ceremony to mark “World Water Day 2010” organized by Health Department under Ministry of Health and UNICEF took place at Traders Hotel here this morning with an opening speech of U Terence Kadoe, Officer-in-Charge of UNICEF Myanmar’s Water and Environmental Sanitation Section.

On the occasion, Deputy Director of Health Department under Ministry of Health Dr Than Htut explained arsenic in drinking water in Myanmar.


The officials concerned answered the queries raised by those present. Participants viewed photographs on marking “World Water Day 2010”. The motto of “World Water Day 2010” which falls on 22 March is “Clean Water for a Healthy World”.

Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe signing the bylaws. (News on page 16)—MNA

Electric Vehicle and Solar Panel Project

Byline: Maung Maung Myint Swe

So, I was eager to write that Industry-2 projects the ministry will have to implement.

I was warmly welcomed by officials of the Ministry of Industry-2 when I asked them for the projects. Due to their wholehearted help, I got facts about the new projects: the project to produce one-ton, 1.5-ton and two-ton electric automobiles, Solar Panel Project, small dredger project, Technical Institute (Magway) Project, and the project to produce rice milling machines that can mill rice from three to five tons a day.

The Ministry of Industry-2 has gained a lot of experience in auto industry.

The vehicles the ministry produces are fine, strong, and user-friendly, thus winning customer satisfaction. Now, the ministry has a plan to manufacture electric automobiles with the aim of catching up with the global changes in the auto industry.

The documentary photos and statistics on electric vehicles produced with international auto technology are very interesting and eco-friendly. They help curb air pollution because they consume less fuel.

Electric automobiles will be of one-ton, 1.5-ton and two-ton units, which are common sizes in workplaces. The ministry carried out thorough research to produce electric automobiles so as to avert potential weaknesses in the products.

Electric automobiles are useful, irrespective of worksite.

They will make contribution towards the transport sector. They are suitable for factories, mills, airports and hospitals. In particular, they can be used with convenience in transporting goods of light weight, and passengers.

Under the programme, the ministry plans to produce 200 units a year at the automobile factory in Yangon.

Now, fuel problem is common throughout the world. Each country is taking innovative measures to manufacture suitable automobiles. So, it is fair to say that the ministry’s project is prudent. I am confident that the project will bring a lot of benefits to the nation since the products are eco-friendly and they help reduce air pollution.

I was also informed about the Solar Panel Project of the Ministry of Industry-2 that is new to me. Once a thought came into my mind. “How nice it will be if the ministry produces solar panels.”

Now, a dream has come true. The Ministry of Industry-2 is now in a position to fulfill the public requirements of household electrical apparatuses. Now, it is gearing up to pursue the Solar Panel Project in line with the global changes.

The Solar Panel Project is designed to introduce new methods on producing solar panels; to produce military and civil apparatuses, to generate electric power from the rays of sun at low cost; and to help curb environmental degradation. So, it is, indeed, a welcoming project.

According to the demands, two megawatts of solar panels are due to be produced a year at the plant in Yangon under the ministry. Without doubt, the ministry will have to manufacture solar panels on a commercial scale for the domestic demand of solar panels is likely to be on the increase.

The Ministry of Industry-2 will soon install necessary machines to produce thin film solar panels locally.

Generation of renewable energy has been common in many countries. Today, fossil fuel is somewhat exhausted, and the world has turned its attention to solar power. Therefore, the Solar Panel Project will bring substantial benefit to the people.

On the whole, the project will surely serve the interest of the nation and the people to a certain degree.

Translation: MS
Rakhine State needs intellectual, technical...

(from page 1) has opened an arts and science university, a university of computer studies and a technological university in Sittway, the capital of the state. So, local youths can now pursue their higher education till completion in their own region, he added.

The 200-bed specialist-run hospital in the regional capital is now helping turn out healthy and fit human resources and offering health care services at low cost, he noted.

The Prime Minister also said that the Head of State gave guidance to facilitate transport to Rakhine State from all regions of the Union as the state was difficult to access due to a large number of natural watercourses crisscrossing it and mountain ranges and hilly areas.

Transport between the state and other states and divisions of the Union has improved significantly thanks to the three major motor roads – Sittway-An-Minbu-Magway road, Thandwe-Taungpu-Pyay road, and Gwa-Ngaingchaung-Yekyi road.

The government has also upgraded Thandwe and Sittway airports. Sittway-An-Minbu railroad is under construction at present to introduce a rail service between Sittway and Yangon, the commercial hub. Sittway-Yechanbyin section of the railroad has already been commissioned into service. Efforts are being made to launch the Sittway-Ponnagyun section soon and for completion of the remaining courses.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets administrative staff, town elders and social organization members in Bandoola Hall of Sittway.—MNA

Head of State gave guidance to facilitate transport to Rakhine State from all regions of the Union as the state was difficult to access due to a large number of natural watercourses crisscrossing it and mountain ranges and hilly areas.

The Prime Minister said that Kyauktaw has brighter prospects as it is on Sittway-Yangon road and Sittway-An-Minbu railroad under construction. The town had to rely mainly on water transport in the past. He then spoke of the need to effectively use the infrastructures, grow crops at least twice a year as the region has suitable climate and soil for cultivation, conduct integrated farming, and to cooperate with administrative staff to boost peace, stability and progress. He presented gifts to town elders.

Upon arrival at Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image, the Prime Minister offered flowers, water and lights to the Buddha Image, and made cash donations to the trust funds. He inspected tasks for all-round renovation of the Pagoda.

The Prime Minister signed the visitors’ book.

The Prime Minister and entourage helicoptered to Paletwa in Chin State. In meeting with local people, the Prime Minister gave instructions on fulfillments of public requirements in the education, health and economic sectors. They held a meeting with town elders, members of local administrative bodies, and social organizations at Kimo Hall of Kyauktaw.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister eloborated (See page 9)

All citizens who love nation must accept national security, and peace, stability and progress of the State as their duty.
Rakhine State needs intellectual, technical,...

(from page 8)

on the efforts the government has been making to construct infrastructural buildings in the transport, education and health care sectors for equitable development of all parts of the Union including border areas, and arrangements for building of local people.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe reported on tasks for the rule of law, and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, on programmes for regional development.

In response, the Prime Minister gave instructions on constant restoration of security and stability, and further development of the region, saying that Maungdaw District is strategic in the political, security and economic affairs as it shares the border with neighbouring Bangladesh. He called on local people to work together in the national interest and to be loyal to the State.

He presented clothes, medicines and gifts to townselders.

Prime Minister and party stopped over in Sittway for a night.—MNA

A & I Ministry cooperates with FAO for boosting food and agriculture

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received a resident representative of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at the Irrigation Department, Yankin Township of Yangon yesterday.

They focused on future plan for cooperation on food sufficiency and agriculture sector.—MNA

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Prime Minister General Thein Sein presenting clothes, medicines and utensils to a townselder in Buthidaung.—MNA

Aerial view of Kissapanadi Bridge.—MNA

Business diploma courses to be conducted

YANGON, 17 March—Targeting the students who have done the 2009-2010 matriculation examination, Noble Nine Education is going to conduct Business Management and Marketing Course through continuous progress system on 1 April.

The course consists of foundation units and level 3 units such as Investigating Business Resources, Working in Administration, Projects, Management Accounting, Human Resource Management, Exploring Team Development, Health and Safety in Workplace, Internet and e-Business, Computer Applications for Financial Management.

Those who have finished the course will have to pick up two certificates from the Noble Nine Education and Sun-derland College in Singapore.

A 15 percent discount will be offered to interested students wishing to attend the course. For further information, please contact Noble Nine International (Tel-01-396915 and 01-73002966) at No 7, Wut Kyaung Street, Ye Kyaw, Pazundaung Township, Yangon.—MNA
Greece needs solidarity from Europe, not money

BUDAPEST, 17 March—Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou said on Tuesday that Greece needed support from Europe rather than financial aid.

Speaking in Budapest, Hungary, after meeting Hungarian Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai, Papandreou said that Greece was taking necessary measures to overcome its current economic problems but needed “breathing space” so that the measures could have “oxygen to survive.” Greece needed immediate help from the EU, Papandreou said, but he stressed that “we are not asking for money, rather a safety net for our reform package.” The Greek measures aim to cut its budget deficit from 12.7 percent to 8.7 percent in 2011, and 4 percent by 2012. He proposed an EU instrument of “solidarity” that would intervene in the markets so that Greece could borrow at rates similar to other countries in the eurozone and not too expensive for the country in the medium or long-term. Papandreou said that beyond the short-term, Europe needs new financial and economic architecture such as a European Monetary Fund or eurobonds to combat financial and market instability.—INTERNET

Rocket attack destroys NATO oil tanker in NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, 17 March—Suspected militants fired a rocket on a tanker carrying oil for NATO troops in Afghanistan, in northwest Pakistan’s Khyber tribal agency on Wednesday, residents said. The tanker caught fire after hit by the rocket at Landikotal, the main city in Khyber agency, which is the main route for supplies to over 100,000 US-led NATO forces in Afghanistan. No one was hurt in the attack but the tanker was destroyed.

Residents said that traffic on the main road between Afghanistan and Pakistan was blocked after the attack. No group claimed responsibility for the attack. But several militant groups including Tehrik-i-Taleban Pakistan (TTP) are active in the region.—Xinhua

Two US missile attacks kill nine in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 17 March—Suspected US drones fired missiles at vehicles and hit a militant hide-out in a tribal region of northwestern Pakistan on Wednesday, killing at least nine militants, two officials said.

In the first attack, the drones fired four missiles at a vehicle and flattened a nearby house near Miran Shah, the main town in North Waziristan tribal region, killing six militants, an army and an intelligence official said. About 50 minutes later, drones fired three more missiles at a vehicle in the Madakhel town, about 25 miles (40 kilometres) west of Miran Shah, killing three militants, said the officials on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. Other militants were also wounded in the two strikes, they said.

The CIA has stepped up attacks in Pakistan’s tribal regions since December, when a suicide bomber killed seven CIA employees in neighbouring Afghanistan.

The latest attack came a day after the US missile attack destroyed a militant facility in the same region, killing nine suspects.—INTERNET

Two people row down the block to inspect the amount of water in their homes after the Passaic River flooded on 16 March, 2010 in Little Falls, NJ.—INTERNET

Moderate quake strikes off Sumatra, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 17 March—A moderate earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richer scale rocked waters off Bengkulu Province of Sumatra island, Indonesia on Wednesday, according to the country’s Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

The quake occurred at 11:46 am Jakarta Time (0446 GMT) with epicentre at 64 km northwest Bintuhan town of the province and the depth at 26 km under sea bed, official of the agency Rudi Tegeh told Xinhua.

The intensity of the quake was felt at 3 to 4 MMI (Modified Mercally Intensity) at Bengkulu the capital of the province and 2 to 3 MMI in Kerpihang town of the province, he said.—Xinhua

Commander says tough year ahead for US military in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 17 March—David Petraeus, commander of US Central Command, told Congress on Tuesday the military faces a tough year ahead in Afghanistan, but violence level there is unlikely to rise as high as the 2006 peak in Iraq. Petraeus told the Senate Armed Services Committee in a hearing that US military and its NATO allies have “spent much of the past year working to get the inputs right in Afghanistan,” and “we’re starting to see the outputs.”

The United States has added a third of the 30,000 additional forces it plans to have in place in Afghanistan by August, Petraeus said. NATO partners have committed to adding 9,000 forces to the effort.

He said the recent offensive in Afghanistan’s Helmand Province is the beginning of a larger campaign which will “unfold over the next 18 months, and it’s going to likely get harder, before it gets easier.”

“We’re not likely to see the levels of violence we saw at the peak in Iraq, but 2010 will be a difficult year. We will see a reversal of the Taliban, but it’s going to be tough fighting and periodic setbacks,” he acknowledged.

US President Barack Obama’s July 2011 target for the start of a US drawdown in Afghanistan has given Afghan leaders a sense of urgency in building up their own forces, Petraeus said.—Xinhua

Three-year-old toy poodle Mizuho is placed in ‘Dog Wash Machine’ by pet shop staff Ayana Tada, getting ready for a shampoo at Pet World Joyful Honda in Tokyo, Japan, on 16 March, 2010.—INTERNET
Chinese, Russian enterprises to seek cooperation in China’s North East

MOSCOW, 17 March — Chinese and Russian enterprises of mechanical and electronic products will seek opportunities for cooperation during an upcoming fair held in May in China’s northeast province of Heilongjiang.

In a Press conference of the 2010 Sino-Russian (Dong Ning) Fair for Mechanical and Electronic Products held here on Tuesday, Ren Kan, head of the Dong Ning county said more than 200 Chinese companies and some 100 Russian enterprises are expected to participate in the fair.

The fair slated for May 16-18 was cosponsored by the people’s government of Hei Longjiang Province, Russian regional government of Zabaikalye Krai, China Chamber of Commerce for Imports and Exports of Machinery and Electronic Products, and Sino-Russian Chamber of Commerce of Machinery and Electronic Products.

Oil above $82 as traders eye US supplies, OPEC

SINGAPORE, 17 March — Oil prices rose above $82 a barrel on Wednesday in Asia after a report showed US crude inventories grew less than expected last week. Benchmark crude for April delivery was up 38 cents to $82.08 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose $1.90 to settle at $81.70 on Tuesday after the Federal Reserve said it plans to hold interest rates at record lows.

Crude inventories rose 400,000 barrels last week, the American Petroleum Institute said late Tuesday. Analysts had expected an increase of 1.9 million barrels, according to a survey of Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos. Inventories of gasoline and distillates fell, the API said. —Internet

Russia to complete Far East gas pipeline by 2011

MOSCOW, 17 March — A gas pipeline project in Russia’s Far Eastern region of Sakhalin is expected to finish construction and start operation by October to December next year. The first batch of steel tubes and equipment needed for the construction work has reached the designated site, said the Itar-Tass news agency.

The 1,800-km Sakhalin-Khabarovsk-Vladivostok gas pipeline is scheduled to complete construction by the end of 2011. Russia’s Primorye region in the Far East has an annual gas demand of 460,000 cubic meters, said the report. —Xinhua

Honda recalls 412,000 US vehicles for ‘soft’ brakes

CHICAGO, 17 March — Honda announced the recall of an estimated 412,000 vehicles in the United States because of problems with “soft” brakes, in the latest blow to the embattled Japanese auto industry.

Honda said the problem can result from air accumulating in a “vehicle stability assist modulator,” which causes the pedal to get closer to the floor than normal before the vehicle stops.

The move came a month after Japan’s second-biggest carmaker recalled more than 437,000 vehicles worldwide to fix airbags that it said can explode and spray out potentially deadly metal shards.

In January, some 646,000 Honda Fit and Jazz vehicles were recalled worldwide because the power window switch could short out and cause a fire if too much water got into the door handle.

Google sells smart phone for AT&T 3G network

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 March — Google on Tuesday launched a new model of its own Nexus One smartphone that is compatible with AT&T’s 3G wireless network in the United States, which is seen as the Internet search company’s latest attack against rival Apple.

Starting from Tuesday, the new model can be purchased from Google’s online store without a service plan for $299 US dollars.

In addition to AT&T’s 3G network, the new model can also run on the 3G network of Rogers Wireless in Canada, Google said in a statement posted on its online store. —Xinhua

Seizure of energy, food may incite new world’s conflicts

JAKARTA, 17 March — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said that the world’s future conflicts could possibly be incited by the seizure of energy, food and water resources, local media reported here on Wednesday.

“In the past, conflicts used to be fomented by ideology-, religion- and territory-related issues. Now it is already over,” the president was quoted as saying by the local media the Detik.com.

He said there are less chances of conflicts incited by those factors and that the future conflicts could be incited by the efforts to secure energy, water and food resources.

According to the president, major countries in the world are now taking efforts to secure energy, water and food resources for their people amid the diminishing volume of those resources in the world.

“The problems become more complex as the world is now facing impacts of climate change,” the president added.

President Yudhoyono pointed out four efforts necessary to be exercised by global community to avoid the conflicts fomented by the countries’ efforts to secure those three resources. —Xinhua
CLAMS DAY NOTICE
MV SEA SUNNY VOYNO (04)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA SUNNY VOYNO (04) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 18.3.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claim Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SANG THAI SHIPPING CO., LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

OPEC has no need to change output ceiling
ABU DHABI, 17 March—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has no need to change its output ceiling as current oil prices between 70 and 80 US dollars per barrel are “acceptable and reasonable” for both producers and consumers, United Arab Emirates (UAE) Energy Minister Mohammed bin Dhaen Al Hamli said on Tuesday.
The current levels of oil prices will enable OPEC member states to secure investment for boosting crude oil output capacities in the years to come to catch up with pace of economic growth,” Al Hamli was quoted by the state news agency WAM as saying ahead of an OPEC ministerial meeting in Vienna on Wednesday.
It is unreasonable to predict that the meeting will put forward a resolution on production ceiling in the coming period, he said, adding that current data in the oil market do not invite a change in the targeted output level.

EU to review trade policy towards developing countries
BRUSSELS, 17 March—The European Commission on Tuesday launched a public consultation on review of the European Union (EU)’s trade policy towards developing countries.
EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht announced the launch of the consultation at a conference, which was designed to discuss publicly how to maintain the effectiveness of the EU’s General System of Preferences (GSP) in promoting development, how to make the most of regional trade agreements with developing countries, and how to encourage sustainable development.
But the consultation was specifically about the review of the EU’s GSP scheme, under which the EU grants tariff preferences to developing countries. The results of the consultation would feed into the commission’s future proposal on an updated GSP regulation.
“In formulating its trade policy towards developing countries the EU needs to take into account recent changes in the global economic landscape with emerging economies playing an increasingly important role. However, more vulnerable developing countries are still facing challenges in exploiting the full potential of trade,” said De Gucht.

Asian’s first-ever EUREKA conference held in S Korea
SEOUL, 17 March—Asia’s first-ever EUREKA Day event, a European-led research and development (R&D) conference, was held here on Wednesday, enhancing cooperation in investment and technology between the two regions, the South Korean government said. The Ministry of Knowledge Economy said South Korean laboratories and companies will be able to expand its R&D network in the European region through this event, while improving personal networking and understanding of the programme in the future as well.
“South Korea and Europe are compatible partners because we share similar technological foundations, and more economic cooperation will follow after the expected signing of a free trade agreement,” Vice-Minister Rím Che-min said.
Approximately 400 local engineers, businessmen, and EUREKA representatives attended on Wednesday’s event, with roughly 70 coming from European countries, the ministry said.—Xinhua

LA superior court lays off 329 employees, closes 17 courtrooms
LOS ANGELES, 17 March—The Los Angeles Superior Court on Tuesday laid off 329 employees and closed down 17 criminal and civil courtrooms.
The layoff is to be followed by 500 more job cuts in September this year, said presiding judge Charles McCoy.
The job cuts and courtroom closures were caused by a large court budget shortfall, which is expected to reach 79 million US dollars for the year. Though judges were protected from layoffs, they started from last summer to take furlough days to help reduce expenditures.
The presiding judge said that the layoffs and courtroom closures have forced remaining staff to be more efficient.
But even with the layoffs, courtroom closures and furlough days, the superior court is still to face a deficit of over 130 million dollars in the years to come, according to the court official.—Xinhua
Some breast cancers detected by exam

ROCHESTER, 17 March — Some breast cancers are still detected as a palpable lump rather than through mammographic screening, US researchers say. Patients who presented with palpable tumors — those detected as a result of breast complaint or during examination — had larger tumors and were at a more advanced stage at diagnosis. The women who underwent annual mammographic screening had the lowest rate of palpable presentation. “We found that 43 percent of breast cancers at Mayo Clinic Rochester in 2000 had a palpable presentation and most of the women had undergone some prior screening mammograms, but not always at the recommended annual interval.”

A total of 115 women were in the 40-49 age group with 67 breast cancers identified by the patients or their doctors and 48 found by mammography, the study concluded.

The findings are published in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons—Internet.

Quake-torn Haiti needs more aid: official report

SANTO DOMINGO, 17 March — Quake-ravaged Haiti needs more than 11 billion US dollars for reconstruction and development, said an official report released on Tuesday.

The report was presented here at a preparatory conference related to an international donors’ conference to be held at the end of March.

According to the report, the Haitian government needs about 11.5 billion dollars for relief work and an extra 200 million dollars to finance the national budget and pay Haitian public servants’ salaries.

The report also said economic loss suffered by Haiti reached 7.754 billion dollars, leaving 71 percent of the Haitians in extreme poverty.

Moreover, the 7.3 magnitude quake on 12 Jan, killed 222,570 people, leaving 869 people missing, 3,109,228 people injured and 1.5 million affected.

Healthy weight advised before pregnancy

LITTLE ROCK, 17 March — A child’s body-weight-regulating mechanisms might be permanently altered by a mother-to-be’s signals linked to the mother’s overweight, US researchers say.

Kartik Shankar of the Arkansas Children’s Nutrition Centre in Little Rock, Ark, and colleagues are taking a closer look at how influences that occur in the womb — and perhaps during the first few months of life — might affect development of a child’s ability to regulate his or her weight later in life.

Shankar looked at weight gains among rat pups whose dads were lean and whose mothers, called “dams,” were either lean or overweight — from overdosing before conception and throughout pregnancy.

All offspring were of normal weight at birth and at weaning. However, when the weaned offspring were given free access to an unlimited amount of high-fat rations, the offspring of overweight dams showed remarkable sensitivity to the high-fat rations.

The pups gained significantly more weight, and more of that weight as fat mass, than did the offspring of lean dams, the researchers say.

The study is published in Agricultural Research magazine.

Chile to investigate tsunami warning failures

SANTIAGO, 17 March — The Chilean justice authorities will investigate why a tsunami warning was too early cancelled in the wake of a massive quake while the tsunami later caused a significant loss of life and property, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday.

The Navy Oceanography Service (SHOA) and the emergency management agency had issued a tsunami warning after an 8.8-magnitude quake hit Chile on 27 Feb. However, the warning was cancelled one hour later, and the tsunami that followed badly hit the coastal villages and left hundreds of people killed or missing.

“The fact that the warnings were not issued in an adequate manner justifies an inquiry,” national prosecutor Sabas Chahuana said on Tuesday. “I’m preparing the opening of an inquiry.”

Italy to celebrate for first time World Theater Day

ROME, 17 March — Italy will celebrate for the first time on 27 March the World Theater Day with a series of initiatives aimed at spreading awareness on this important artistic form, officials said at a press conference on Tuesday at the government’s headquarters.

Undersecretary of State Gianni Letta, president of the organizing committee, said the festivity offers an “opportunity to celebrate and make people get familiar to the theater by conveying its values and significance.”

On 27 March theaters across the country will be open with non-stop performances. School students will be granted free tickets and other special offers are planned to attract the highest number of people.

“Italians must learn to feel the theater as a need, as part of their lives,” said Letta, who described it as an instrument of education, social well-being and democratic progress.

Letta noted that the Italian theater’s tradition is rich and cannot die.

The Under-secretary of State recalled the support given to the sector by the centre-right government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, which has allocated this year a 70 million euro budget for its promotion.
**Sports**

**Rooney is Real’s top target**

**Madrid, 17 March**—Big-spending Real Madrid, who suffered an embarrassing Champions League exit are eyeing Manchester United star Wayne Rooney as they prepare for next season, according to reports on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old is the “favourite” of Real chairman Florentino Perez “for the new plan,” the newspaper ABC said.

Perez “has had his eye on Rooney for a long time, even more so in view of the great season he’s having.”

The England striker has unleashed an incredible burst of 24 goals in his last 22 matches that have kept United in contention in both the Premier League and Champions League.

But Spanish media say it is unlikely that Rooney will follow United star David Beckham to Spain. Real are unlikely to accept the probable 70-million-euro price tag and United manager Alex Ferguson is unwilling “to lose a player who is a substitute for Cristiano Ronaldo,” the Portuguese winger who was signed by Real last year for a world record fee.

**Sevilla rue Palop howler as CSKA progress**

**Madrid, 17 March**—A costly goalkeeping blunder from Sevilla captain Andres Palop helped CSKA Moscow qualify for the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time with a 2-1 win here on Tuesday.

The Russians march on to uncharted waters at the expense of Sevilla having secured a 3-2 aggregate victory.

With the last 16 tie level at 2-2, Palop allowed Japan international midfielder Keisuke Honda’s long-range free-kick to creep in on 55 minutes and Sevilla could not find the two goals they needed as they joined Spanish counterparts Real Madrid in exitting the competition. Tomas Nectid shot CSKA into a 39th minute lead only for Argentine Diego Perotti to equalise two minutes later and level the tie 2-2 on aggregate. Palop then underestimiated the ferocity of 23-year-old Honda’s free-kick which forced its way in and proved the decisive moment in the tie.

**Gerrard ban could take shine off Liverpool win**

**Liverpool, 17 March**—Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard is in danger of a three-match ban after appearing to elbow Portsmouth’s Michael Brown in an off-the-ball incident during his side’s 4-1 victory on Monday.

The Football Association may yet take action after studying film of the clash which happened during the second half at Anfield and it could bring a suspension that would rule Gerrard out of their meeting with Manchester United next Sunday.

Gerrard was substituted shortly after Brown was flattened in an incident that was not punished by referee Stuart Attwell, who thought it was a “coming together” between the players. “They were asking me about it, but I didn’t see it. I prefer to enjoy the game,” said Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez afterwards.

**Mourinho warns Abramovich as Inter beat Chelsea**

**London, 17 March**—Inter Milan manager Jose Mourinho has warned Roman Abramovich that Chelsea may never win the Champions League after the former Blues boss returned to dump his old club out of the competition.

Mourinho masterminded Inter’s 1-0 victory in the last 16 second leg at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday which clinched a 3-1 aggregate success and left Chelsea owner Abramovich still waiting to fulfil his dream of winning Europe’s elite club event.

Ever since he was sacked by Abramovich in September 2007 following a lengthy power struggle with the Russian billionaire, Mourinho must have dreamed of the moment he would exact his revenge.

Thanks to his inspired game-plan, Inter’s resolute defending and a superb goal from Samuel Eto’o, Mourinho was able to prove his point and deny his former employer the trophy he prizes most.

Mourinho resisted the temptation to gloat too much but he made it clear there is no guarantee Chelsea will ever win such a demanding competition. “I know that Roman is a very intelligent person. And because of this he is not the same person he was one year, three years or five years ago,” Mourinho said.

**Baghdatis topples Federer in Indian Wells**

**Indian Wells, 17 March**—Marcos Baghdatis topped Roger Federer 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (7/4), saving three match points on route to his first victory in seven tries against the Swiss world number one.

“Seven is my lucky number,” Baghdatis said on Tuesday after polishing off the 16-time Grand Slam champion in two hours and 22 minutes to reach the fourth round of the Indian Wells ATP Masters 1000.

He finished it off with a service winner on his first match point - after surviving a match point in the 12th game of the third set, when Federer netted a backhand.

**Villa push for Europe back on track**

**Wigan, 17 March**—James Milner put Aston Villa back at the heart of the battle for Champions League football next season with the decisive strike in a 2-1 win over Wigan here on Tuesday.

The England World Cup hopeful scored just after the hour mark after Gary Caldwell had cancelled out the James McCarthy own goal which had gifted Villa the lead.

The victory left Villa in seventh place in the Premier League table but they are just three points off fourth-placed Tottenham with a game in hand over their rivals.

Villa had top scorer Gabriel Agbonlahor back in action following his recovery from a virus, with Emile Heskey making way.

**Woods will return to golf at Masters on 8 April**

**Palm Harbor, 17 March**—For Tiger Woods, this figures to be a Masters like no other.

Woods said Tuesday he will end more than four months of seclusion and play at Augusta National in three weeks, shielded by the most secure environment in golf as he competes for the first time since a sex scandal shattered his image.

“The Masters is where I won my first major and I view this tournament with great respect,” Woods said in a statement.

“After a long and necessary time away from the game, I feel like I’m ready to start my season at Augusta.”

The Masters begins April 8.

No other major championship attracts such a large television audience, and that’s under normal circumstances.

Already the most
Chinese lunar calendar this year. Folklore addresses it as “dragon lifting head”, meaning the spring awakens after winter hibernation, who people have their hair cut to bring good luck.—Internet

Four killed, two injured in Karachi shootout

KARACHI, 17 March.—At least four people were killed and two others injured on Wednesday as gunmen ambushed vehicles in south Pakistani port city of Karachi, police said.

Locals said some unknown armed persons opened fire at Taxi and cars on Tipu Sultan Road in Karachi. Police said that several assailants were riding on motorbikes.

Karachi, the biggest city in Pakistan, has been witnessing sectarian as well as militants violence since long. Last week, a leader of a banned outfit was killed by unknown gunmen along with his son. On Tuesday, at least one person was killed and another two injured in an explosion in the city.—Internet

WEATHER

Wednesday, 17th March, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Kayin State, and weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, Mandalay 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 Kashin, Rakhine and Kayin States, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) below March average temperatures in Eastern Shan State and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature were Minbu, Thayawady and Hpa-an (40°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myawady (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 16-3-2010 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 17-3-2010 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on17-3-2010 was 70%. Total sun shine hours on 16-3-2010 was (6.7) hours approx. Total rainfall on 17-3-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (Tri) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed Y Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 16-3-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18th March 2010: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay, upper Sagain and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will partly cloudy in Rakhine and Kayah States, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 18-3-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-3-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-3-2010: Partly cloudy.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 18 March, 2010
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

Meeting (6/2010) of Union Election Commission takes place

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—The meeting (6/2010) of the Union Election Commission took place at the meeting hall of the UEC Office here this morning. It was attended by Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Thein Soe and commission members. After giving an opening speech, the chairman approved, signed and issued the Political Parties Registration Bylaws, Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bylaws, Amyotha Hluttaw Election Bylaws, Region Hluttaw Election Bylaws and State Hluttaw Election Bylaws.

Next, the commission members discussed general affairs related to the election and the chairman reviewed the discussions.

Chairman U Thein Soe delivers an address at the meeting (6/2010) of the Union Election Commission.—MNA

Political Parties Registration Bylaws, Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bylaws, Amyotha Hluttaw Election Bylaws, Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Bylaws issued

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—The Union Election Commission of the Union of Myanmar today issued the Political Parties Registration Bylaws under the Notification No. 1/2010, the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bylaws under the Notification No. 2/2010, the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Bylaws under the Notification No. 3/2010 and the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Bylaws under the Notification No. 4/2010.

The said bylaws will be inserted as supplements in the dailies as from 18 March, and the book of the bylaws is available at Sarpay Beikman Bookshop on Merchant Street and the bookshop of the News and Periodicals Enterprise on Thiri Bha Road in Yangon, at the Sub-Printing House of the NPE in Pale Ngweyaung Ward, Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay and at offices of the Information and Public Relations Department in states and divisions.—MNA