Projects of Hydropower Turbine and Generator Factory, Multi-purpose Diesel Engine Factory, Bulldozer and Excavator Factory running well

NAY PYI TAW, 11 March—Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein inspected arrival of machinery, construction of machine foundations and installation of machines at Hydropower Turbine and Generator Factory Project in Thagara Industrial Region in Yedashe Township of Bago Division on 9 March afternoon.

At Multi-purpose Diesel Engine Factory Project, the minister looked into installation of machines in Machine Shop No. 1 and No. 2 and progress in construction of the machine foundation that can withstand 3,000 tons of loads for 16-ton Press Machine at the Forging Shop. The minister instructed officials to timely complete building of the machine foundation and other construction tasks. At the Bulldozer and Excavator Factory Project, the minister inspected the work site. After that, he instructed the officials to rise the production in coming financial year, to boost production of new items of machine parts to be localized, to submit the requirements of raw materials and to supervise manufacturing of products with the use of workmanship.—MNA

Moneyin Dam helps local farmers grow summer paddy

Moneyin Dam on Namhswan Creek, three miles southeast of Moneyin Village, Namtu Township, Shan State (North).

Article: Htein Lin (Myanma Alin);
Photos: Aung Than
(Mingala Taungnyunt)

Long ago, Moneyin in Namtu Township, Shan State (North), was a secluded region with poor transport and armed insurgency reigned supreme there.

After 1988, the Tatmadaw government managed to make peace with armed groups and expedited projects for all-round development of the regions across the nation. As part of the plan, it constructed roads and bridges to form a network of transport facilities covering the whole country along with dams wherever necessary and possible. So far, it has constructed 219 dams, including Zeechaung Dam in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State, that was inaugurated recently.

(See page 7)
PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 12 March, 2009

Conserve the environment

There exist atmosphere, water, land, forests, mountains and natural resources including human beings in the environment of all living things. So there must be better environment for mankind to earn their living.

Forests and trees not only provide useful materials for man but also make temperate climate. They also serve as natural habitat for birds and beasts. The people thus have to carry out the tasks on reforestation and maintenance of ecosystem.

In Myanmar the government conserves water, land, forests and natural resources. It also protects reserved forests, wildlife parks and natural lands in accord with the forest law. The Ministry of Forestry in cooperation with local people is establishing firewood plantations, watershed areas and special teak plantations.

The government is also establishing watershed plantations for development of natural forests and greening of Bago Yoma where teak grows well. In Hlegu Township, there are Paunglin, Mahuya and Kalitaw Reserved Forests. There are Ngamoeik Creek, Mahuya Creek and other creeks in its environs. In these reserved forests, teak, oil eugenia, Thitseint, Pyinkadoe, Sit, Mau, Pyinma and Padauk are grown. Every household in the township participates in the tasks for growing of teak and other hardwood plants on a manageable scale.

Forests and trees including teak and Pyinkadoe are vital for progress of the regions. Therefore all the local people are to actively take part in the government’s endeavours for conserving the environment.

Information Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 March—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Chinese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Ye Dabo at the ministry, here, yesterday evening. Also present at the call were Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Aung Nyin, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint, Acting Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Htun and Head of Office U Myint Hwe. They held discussions on further cooperation in information and media sectors between the two countries. MNA

Myanmar delegation attends 10th meeting of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 March—A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint arrived at New Delhi, the Republic of India by air on 3 March.

The Myanmar delegation attended the 10th meeting of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations held at the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India on 5 March. The Myanmar delegationcordially discussed with Indian delegation led by Foreign Secretary of India Mr Shivshankar Menon.

At the meeting, both sides discussed wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation and follow-up activities of the recent visit to Myanmar by the Vice-president of the Republic of India.

Afterwards, the signing ceremony of the Agreed Minutes of the 10th meeting of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations was held at the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India. Deputy Minister U Maung Myint and Foreign Secretary Mr Shivshankar Menon signed the Agreed minutes.

On 6 March, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint and party visited Kerala and arrived back here on 10 March.—MNA

Myanmar CP Tennis Tournament 28 March-1 April

Yangon, 11 March—As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Myanmar Tennis Federation will organize the Myanmar CP Tennis Tournament with the sponsorship of Myanmar CP Co Ltd at Thienbyu Tennis Court, here from 28 March to 1 April.

The tournament is categorized as the team event, the men’s open singles and doubles events, the women’s open singles event, the Above-35, Above-45 and Above-50 events and the U-10, the U-12 and the U-14 boys’ and girls’ events.

For taking part in the team event, every tennis squad may be constituted with 6-7 players including the players who had not been chosen as the State/Division level selected players, one player each of above-45, one above-50 and above-60 years old at State/Division level, and former selected players. The players must not be over-aged ones.

The federation will release K 30,000 each as travel expenses to the tennis teams from the countryside and K 10,000 each to the players in the age-wise youth events and accommodate all the teams and players.

Those wishing to take part in the tournament may get registered with the federation by dialing 372360, 381991/992 (extension:0), not later than 4 pm on 26 March. At 2 pm on 27 March, the fixtures for the tournament will be drawn, and a responsible person from each team has to attend the fixture drawing ceremony at the office of the federation.—MNA

The 10th meeting of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations in progress at the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India.—MOFA
No sign Iraqis will ask US to stay

BAGHDAD, 11 March—Despite ongoing violence, the Iraqi government is unlikely to ask American troops to remain in the country beyond a 2011 departure deadline, the top US military commander in Iraq said on Tuesday.

But Iraqi leaders must decide whether to waive an approaching end-date — 30 June — and allow an approaching end-date Tuesday.

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Odierno said in an interview with The Associated Press: “The progress we’re making now is what I see today, that I don’t see anything that would have us have to re-negotiate in 2011,” he said. “But again, I never say never.”

The four-star general, sitting in his office in one of Saddam Hussein’s former palaces, spoke broadly about Iraq’s tenuous security as the US military ratchets back its role in the war that began six years ago this month. As he spoke, a suicide bomber attacked Sunni and Shiite tribal leaders and high-ranking security officials who were touring a market about 15 miles away in the town of Abu Ghraib. Dozens died.

Under a 1 Jan agreement, US military bases and posts are supposed to be out of Iraqi cities after 30 June, clearing the way for Iraqi forces to step up their own security missions. President Barack Obama has ordered an end to all American combat operations in Iraq by September 2010. All US soldiers are scheduled to leave Iraq by the end of 2011.

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Iraqis stand around cars destroyed in a parked car bomb blast in the town of al-Hamadiyia, 40 kilometers north of Mosul, Iraq, on 10 March, 2009. Internet

Rocket attack on British base in Iraq kills one

BAGHDAD, 11 March—Rockets slammed into the British military base outside the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Monday, killing one civilian, the British Ministry of Defence announced. It was the first such attack on the base in nearly three months.

Rockets or mortar shells were also fired near the giant US base in Balad, 30 miles (80 kilometers) north of Baghdad, the US military said. There were no reports of damage or casualties.

A British military spokesman said that the attack outside Basra occurred about 9 p.m. and that one non-British foreign civilian was killed. A statement by the US-led coalition in Baghdad said the victim was a third-country national, meaning not an Iraqi either.

The British spokesman said it was the first rocket attack on the airport since December. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with military policy.

US Marine dies in noncombat incident in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 11 March—The US military says an American Marine in Iraq has died in an incident that did not involve combat.

A statement says the Multi-National Force—West Marine died on Tuesday without giving further details.

The military added that the incident is being investigated and has withheld the identity of the Marine pending notification of relatives.

The death raises to at least 4,257 members of the US military who have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

Biden warns of ‘deteriorating’ Afghan situation

BRUSSELS, 11 March—US Vice President Joe Biden urged NATO members on Tuesday to jointly confront al-Qaeda and other extremist groups in Afghanistan where he said instability threatens all of the alliance’s members equally.

Biden told the allies the United States was open to talks with Taleban moderates as part of a new approach, echoing comments made by President Barack Obama over the weekend.

“It is worth engaging and determining whether or not there are those who are willing to participate in a secure and stable Afghan state,” Biden said.

Iran commander says US still “Warmongering”

TEHERAN, 11 March—Iran’s top military commander said the new US Administration was just as “warmongering” as its predecessor, but that the United States could not afford to attack Iran, an Iranian news agency reported on Tuesday.

Major-General Hassan Firouzabadi’s comments came despite an offer by US President Barack Obama to engage in direct talks with Teheran if it “unclenches its fist”, and may disappoint Washington. Iran has reacted cautiously to Obama’s offer, saying it wants to see real change in US policy after the Republican Administration of George W. Bush spearheaded a drive to isolate Teheran over its controversial nuclear programme.

CTV journalist shot dead in S Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 11 March—Esswah Ahmad Jajo, a reporter of Canadian Television, was gunned down by unknown men in Kandahar Province south of Afghanistan who was once arrested by US troops one year ago and set free some two months back.

Jajo was killed in his car when the unknown gunmen sprayed bullet killing him on the spot at 07:50 pm local time, said Xinhua reporter at the site.

No group or individual has claimed responsibility.

Iranian police stand guard at the site of a bomb attack in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, on 10 March, 2009. Internet

Major attacks in Iraq since 1 Jan

BAGHDAD, 11 March—Major attacks in Iraq since 1 Jan, when a new US-Iraqi security pact took effect:

• 10 March Suicide bomber targets tribal leaders at market in Abu Ghraib, killing 33.

• 3 March—Car bomb tears through livestock market in Hillah, killing 13.

• 13 Feb—Female suicide bomber targets Shiite pilgrims in Musayyib, killing 38.

• 12 Feb—Suicide bomber blows herself up among Shiite pilgrims in Karbala, killing eight.

• 11 Feb—Twin car bombs explode at a bus terminal and market area in Baghdad, killing 16.

• 4 Jan—Female suicide bomber strikes Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad, killing 38.

• 2 Jan—Suicide bomber hits luncheon at a tribal leader’s home in Youssifiyah, killing 23.

A policeman stands guard at the site of a bomb attack in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, on 10 March, 2009. Internet

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A wounded Iraqi rests on a bed inside Baghdad’s Al-Yarmuk hospital. The White House on Tuesday dismissed suggestions that two recent bloody attacks in Iraq were a reaction to President Barack Obama’s decision to pull out most combat troops by August next year. —INTERNET

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**Chinese, Russia FM agree to further strategic cooperative partnership**

**WASHINGTON, 11 March** - Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on Tuesday talked by phone with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov to discuss issues on bilateral relationship and other issues of mutual concern. During the conversation initiated by Lavrov, both sides agreed to take the opportunity of the 60th anniversary of China-Russia diplomatic ties to further move their strategic cooperative partnership forward by making joint efforts and enhancing exchanges and cooperation in various fields.

The two sides also exchanged views on the situation on the Korean Peninsula and hoped that all parties concerned maintain helpful contacts and show accommodations towards each other’s position in an effort to safeguard peace and stability on the peninsula. Yang is currently on a five-day visit to the United States, the first of its kind since the Obama administration took office in January. —Xinhua

**Quake hits eastern Indonesia**

**JAKARTA, 11 March** - An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.4 rocked the easternmost of Indonesia on Wednesday, but with no report of damage or casualty, the local meteorology agency said here.

The quake struck at 00:42 Jakarta time (1742 GMT) with the epicenter of 178 km northwest Jayapura of Papua and 10 km in depth, an official of the agency said.

Indonesia, with over 230 million population, lies on a vulnerable quake-hit zone so called the Pacific Ring of Fire, where two continental plates meet causing frequent seismic and volcanic movement. —Xinhua

**All items from Xinhua News Agency**

**HSN1 bird flu virus found in wild duck in Germany**

**BRUSSELS, 11 March** - The European Commission said on Tuesday that it has been informed of a confirmed case of highly pathogenic H5N1 bird flu string in a wild duck shot during a hunt near Starnberg, in Bavaria, Germany.

Germany is not taking restrictive measures given the fact that the hunt took place in January, said the Commission, the executive body of the European Union (EU).

During the duck hunt at the lake of Starnberg, samples were taken from 35 ducks and 4 Canada geese in the frame of routine surveillance for bird flu and one of these ducks has produced a positive result. —Xinhua

**Egyptian girl contracts bird flu virus**

**CAIRO, 11 March** - Egyptian Health Ministry confirmed on Tuesday that a baby girl contracted bird flu virus, which brings the number of human cases of the deadly avian influenza to 58 in the country, reported the state MENA news agency.

The girl is Habebaa Mahmoud Mohamed, who is at the age of one year and a half and comes from Minufiya governorate, some 65 km north of Cairo, the ministry spokesman Abdel-Rahman Shahine was quoted as saying.

The little girl showed symptoms of infection on Friday after contacting with infected birds, said Shahine, adding she was admitted to hospital on Monday and given the antiviral vaccine Tamiflu.

Egypt is the most affected country by the deadly avian influenza outside Asia. It reported its first H5N1 virus in dead poultry in February 2006 and the first human case in March of the same year. —Xinhua

**Climate scientists predict one-metre sea level rise by 2100**

**STOCKHOLM, 11 March** - Climate scientists warned on Tuesday that sea level rise could exceed one meter by 2100 if governments fail to control global warming effectively, said reports from Copenhagen.

“The upper range of sea level rise by 2100 could be in the range of about one meter, or possibly more,” said a statement released by climate scientists at a three-day gathering in Copenhagen from Monday in preparation for the UN Climate Change Conference due in December in Denmark.

The estimate almost doubles the projection of 18 cm to 59 cm by the end of the century made in previous studies.

“In the lower end of the spectrum it looks increasingly unlikely that sea level rise will be much less than 50 cm by 2100,” the statement said.

“This means that if emission of greenhouse gases is not reduced quickly and substantially, even the best case scenario will hit low lying coastal areas housing one in ten humans on the planet.” —Xinhua

**Tourist arrivals in Cambodia down by 2.19% in Jan**

**PHNOM PENH, 11 March** - Foreign tourist arrivals in Cambodia dropped by 2.19 percent in January, compared with the same month in 2008, the Phnom Penh Post reported on Wednesday.

It was a sign that another key economic driver was flagging in the face of the global financial crisis, the English-language daily newspaper quoted ministry official as saying.

“We recognize that the garment and tourism sectors have been affected to some extent,” said Ouk Rabun, secretary of state of the Ministry of Finance and Economy. —Xinhua

Iranian police stand guard as drugs burn during a ceremony in southern Teheran, on 9 March, 2009. Authorities burnt 3 tonnes of drugs confiscated in Teheran on Monday as a part of an anti-drug event. —Xinhua

**The Heishupu Bridge is shrouded by fog in Changsha, central-south China’s Hunan Province, on 9 March, 2009. The heavy fog blanketing the city affected local traffic on Monday. —Xinhua**
Taleban say Obama’s call on moderates “illogical”

KABUL, 11 March—Afghanistan’s Taleban on Tuesday turned down as illogical US President Barack Obama’s bid to reach out to moderate elements of the insurgents, saying the exit of foreign troops was the only solution for ending the war. Obama, in an interview with the New York Times, expressed an openness to adapting tactics in Afghanistan that had been used in Iraq to reach out to moderate elements there.

“This does not require any response or reaction for this is illogical,” Qari Mohammad Yousuf, a purported spokesman for the insurgent group, told Reuters when asked if its top leader Mullah Mohammad Omar would make any comment about Obama’s proposal. “The Taleban are united, have one leader, one aim, one policy… I do not know why they are talking about moderate Taleban and what it means?”.

In Iraq, the use of Sunni Muslim community leaders to employ their people to patrol their neighbourhoods has been credited as one of the main reasons behind sharp falls in violence. Obama did point out that compared to Iraq, the situation was more complex in Afghanistan, where nearly 70,000 foreign troops, 38,000 of them American, are due to be joined in coming months by another 17,000 US soldiers.—MNA/Reuters

US Embassy in Sudan warns Americans to leave

KHARTOUM, 11 March—The US Embassy in Sudan authorized nonessential staff and family to leave the country, saying on Tuesday that protests against the International Criminal Court’s indictment of the Sudanese president increased the danger of anti-Western violence.

Sudan’s government expelled aid groups from Darfur and has accused them of cooperating with the war crimes court, which President Omar al-Bashir has described as a new form of colonialism.

The embassy said it has received information on terrorist threats aimed at American and European interests in Sudan. The embassy gave no details, but it has posted similar messages in recent years.

Iran does not have key nuclear material

WASHINGTON, 11 March—Iran does not yet have any highly enriched uranium, the fuel needed to make a nuclear warhead, two top US intelligence officials told Congress on Tuesday, disputing a claim by an Israeli official. US National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair and Defence Intelligence Agency Director Lt Gen Michael Maples said on Tuesday that Iran has only low-enriched uranium — which would need to be refined into highly enriched uranium before it can fuel a warhead. Neither officials said there were indications that refining has occurred.

Their comments disputed a claim made last weekend by Israel’s top intelligence military official, who said Iran has crossed a technical threshold and is now capable of producing atomic weapons.

Europe gives Rwanda $222m for govt. budgets

KIGALI, 11 March—Europe’s aid chief said on Tuesday that the continental body had given Rwanda 175 million euros (222 million US dollars) in budget support to help reduce poverty and spur economic development in the central African nation.

Louis Michel, Europe’s commissioner for development and humanitarian aid, said the money would be spent over a six-year period and was given to Rwanda for its strong performance and good economic management. “Budget support is a privileged way to deliver aid,” he told reporters in Kigali.

Overseas aid accounted for more than a quarter of Rwanda’s gross domestic product in 2005, according to UN data.—MNA/Reuters

Israel-Lebanon borders stable despite attacks

UNITED NATIONS, 11 March—Southern Lebanon and northern Israel have experienced their longest period of stability in many years despite the violations of a 2006 cease-fire during the recent war in Gaza, the UN’s special coordinator for Lebanon said on Tuesday. The cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah militants “continues to hold” but much remains to be done to fully implement Security Council resolution 1701 that ended their 34-day conflict, including disarming Hezbollah and all other militias, Michael Williams told reporters after a closed-door briefing to the UN Security Council.

In a report to the council, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the firing of rockets from southern Lebanon toward Israel during the Gaza conflict as “serious violations” of the cease-fire resolution. The fact that Israel returned fire without prior warning to UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon is also “a cause of serious concern,” he said.

“On the positive side, the resolution has continued to ensure a cessation of hostilities between the parties and the longest period of stability that south Lebanon has known in decades,” he said.

“There is a stability on Israel’s northern border which it has not known since the 1980s.”—INTERNET
Ala gunman kills nine, himself in shooting spree

SAMSON, 11 March—A gunman killed at least nine people on a terrifying rampage across two Alabama counties on Tuesday, burning down his mother’s home, killing members of his own family on their porch and shooting apparent strangers as he drove by, authorities said. He then fatally shot himself. Police were investigating shootings in at least four different locations in three neighbouring communities, all of which were believed to be the work of a single gunman named Michael McLendon. Investigators declined to comment on a motive for the shootings, in which at least four other people were injured, including a child.

UN experts to investigate secret US jails

GENEVA, 11 March—Two UN human rights experts said on Tuesday that they would conduct a global investigation of secret detention centres used by the United States and other countries in their counter-terrorism efforts. The yearlong investigation is aimed not only to clarify facts, but also to ensure that such secret jails would not be used in the future, according to Mike Mostyn, UN envoy for torture, and Martin Scheinin, UN envoy for human rights and counter-terrorism. Addressing the UN Human Rights Council, the two experts described secret jails as “one of the most horrendous practices” adopted by intelligence services.

Man walks 34 days home for family reunion after money stolen

A man walked 34 days home to join his 70-year-old mother for the Lunar New Year celebrations after his money was stolen in a railway station, the Dahe Daily newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Li Haitao, 30, a migrant worker from central China’s Henan Province, walked more than 800 kilometers from Beijing to Zhengzhou between on 3 Feb to 9 March to spend the Spring Festival with his mother, said the newspaper. It was surely too late as the Spring Festival, the most important occasion in China for family reunions, fell between 25 Jan and 9 Feb.

Li found his 2,000 yuan (292 US dollars) in his pocket had been stolen before he paid for a ticket on 21 Jan at the railway station of Baotou in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, where he worked as a welder, said the paper.

His identity card, electrician’s certificate and mobile phone were also stolen. He called the police but the police did not catch the thief, reported Henan Business News, another major newspaper in the provincial capital of Zhengzhou.

Israeli airstrike wounds three Palestinians in N Gaza

GAZA, 11 March—At least three Palestinians were injured, including one seriously, in an Israeli airstrike on Tuesday on a car that drove on the northern Gaza Strip coastal road. In the car there were three people, who were hurt and taken to the hospital. Gaza emergency chief Mo’aweya Has-sanein confirmed that three Palestinians were hurt, with one of them seriously in the Israeli attack.

One killed, two injured in helicopter crash in Austria

VIENNA, 11 March—A helicopter of Austrian Interior Ministry crashed in the west of Austrian state Steiermark on Tuesday afternoon, killing the 39-year-old captain on board. A 49-year-old policeman and a 52-year-old ambulance man on board were heavily wounded, one of whom was on the verge of death.

Local media said that the crashed helicopter was carrying out a searching task when the accident happened, and the crash may be caused by running into a house, said the report citing witnesses.

Klaus Zotter in charge of the Red Cross of the area Deutschlandsberg, where the accident happened, said that one of the two injured is now in stable condition. Last week, a person was missing in that area, so the local police sent a helicopter on Tuesday to assist the search.

Man ejects intruding kangaroo

An Australian woman said her husband wrestled a 6-foot-tall kangaroo into a headlock and threw it out of the family home after it jumped in through a window.

Verity Beman said the marsupial jumped through a window at about 2 am Sunday and landed on the bed she shares with her husband, Beat Ettlin, at their Garran, Australia, home. CNN reported on Monday. She said the home is on the border of a kangaroo reserve.

NEWS ALBUM

Brazilian environmental police bottle-feed an Amazonian manatee calf after rescuing it from a resident who had purchased it from an animal trafficker in the Amazon city of Sô vietas, Amazonas State. Manatees are a protected species in Brazil.

A giant balloon representing Belgium’s best known landmark the “Atomium” floats above participants of Balloon Day Parade in central Brussels. The parade is the opening event of “Brussels 2009 BD Comics Strip”, Brussels’ 2009 tourism campaign to the theme of the comic strip.

S African couple drives 170km with spitting cobra in car

A couple drove 170 kilometres (100 miles) from South Africa’s famous Kruger National Park with a highly venomous spitting cobra in their car, the Beeld newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Gordon Parratt, 69, felt the 85-centimetre (33-inch) long snake wind itself around his leg while he was driving. At first he thought an insect had brushed his leg and swiped it away, but when he looked down he saw the snake next to his left foot, the report said.

“Fortunately I’m not the panicky type. My wife immediately put her feet up on the dashboard,” said Parratt.

Eating fish makes kids more intelligent

Eating fish makes your children smarter, according to a Swedish study published on Monday.

It found that 15-year-old boys who ate fish at least once a week scored higher in intelligence tests when they turned 18 than those who ate it less frequently.

“We found a clear link between frequent fish consumption and higher scores when the teenagers ate fish at least once a week,” said one of the researchers, Professor Kjell Toren from the Sahlgrenska Academy at the University of Gothenburg.

Polar bear Taotao enjoys one year birthday cake at Dalian Laohutan Ocean Park, in Dalian, northeast China’s Liaoning Province. Artificially bred Taotao who was born in the park has grown up from the beginning of 495 grams to 102 kilograms now.
Moneyin Dam helps local farmers grow summer paddy

(from page 1) Moneyin in Namtu Township, Shan State (North), has been enjoying the taste of peace. Moneyin Dam constructed at a cost of about K 1690 million was put into service on 31 May 2008. With a maximum water storage capacity of 25,900 acre feet, the 1700 feet long and 100 feet high earthen type facility is on the Namhsanwian Creek. The dam also can generate 2.2 million kilowatt hours a year. Now, No (4) secondary canal of the dam has been dug, thus increasing the irrigated area of 1000 acres.

When asked about reclamation of fallow lands, Director U Nyo Win of the Highland Reclamation Project (1) of the Highland Reclamation Project, No (1) Highland Reclamation Project, Agricultural Mechanization Department said, “Moneyin is about 20 miles from Namtu. We had to pass through Namtu if we wanted to go to Lashio. The road was not in good condition in the rainy season. Mostly, local people do highland farming, grow beans and pulses and corn, cut down trees in the forests for firewood and charcoal. Due to Moneyin Dam, there has been a 20 miles long motor road between Lashio and Moneyin, and local people have broadened their horizons a lot. Now, they grow vegetables in addition to monsoon and summer paddy. We will grow rubber in the deforested areas and on barren hills.

Thanks to the facility, the paddy fields that relied on rainwater previously have become irrigated ones, and some vacant lands were reclaimed to grow paddy.

U Phone Tin (Deputy Director (Civil), Irrigation Department) under the Agricultural Mechanization Department told the Myanmar Alin Daily, “Our project is based in Lashio in northern Shan State. Now, we are reclaiming vacant lands around Moneyin Dam.” Deputy Director (Civil) U Phone Tin of the Irrigation Department said that the dam was irrigating farmlands in Weiknan, Mongyin, Ahtet-manti, Auk-manti, Kaungkye and Khoma villages in Namtu Townships; and due to the dam, some farmlands were not flooded any longer, and local people could grow summer paddy and the region’s rice supply had met the demand.

Manager U Win Hlaing Oo of Shan State (North) Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise said, “Moneyin Dam has emerged in Namtu. We had to pass through Namtu Township to go to Lashio. The road was not in good condition in the rainy season. Mostly, local people do highland farming, grow beans and pulses and corn, cut down trees in the forests for firewood and charcoal. Due to Moneyin Dam, there has been a 20 miles long motor road between Lashio and Moneyin, and local people have broadened their horizons a lot. Now, they grow vegetables in addition to monsoon and summer paddy. We will grow rubber in the deforested areas and on barren hills.

A farmer on a power-tiller ploughing a field to grow summer paddy.

Due to Moneyin Dam, we have got green light for 1200 acres of land. Local people are happy with the dam because they can not only enjoy safe water and irrigation water but also grow crops all year round.”

Farmer U Aung Pa of Weiknan Village said, “We had never grown summer paddy previously. But, now we can grow summer paddy due to the dam.”

It is indeed very challenging to reclaim farmlands following the construction of a dam, especially in mountainous regions like Shan State (North). Now, Moneyin Dam has emerged in Namtu Township, Shan State (North), and local farmers have enjoyed higher living standards due to enthusiasm of local farmers, the supervision of Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut of North-East Command, hard work of service personnel, and the government's benevolent attitude toward the people.

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Translation: MS

Moneyin Alin: 1-3-2009
Tunnel renovation tasks looked into

**NAV PYI TAW, 11 March—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye inspected tunnel renovation tasks on Buthidauaing-Maungtaw on 27 February.**

Upon arrival at the fourth miles timber extraction camp of Maungtaw, the timber extraction in-charge briefed the commander on extraction of timber and progress in building motor way for extraction of timber. After hearing reports, the commander gave necessary instructions.

Next, the commander looked into cultivation of summer paddy in the field of U Win Shwe of Atahlar village-tract and Buttagonna village-tract and also inspected progress of building the earth road linking Yathedaung and Padaleik village on 1 March.

Afterwards, the commander attended the opening ceremony of natural disaster preparedness management course No. 1/2009 and he together with Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein presented wall posters and handouts warning cyclone.

Next, the commander oversaw the chosen site for the construction of Kwantaung village railway station, finding of axis, progress in paving the gravel road and plantations of U Kan Gyi Maung near Apaukwa village in Kyauktaw township.

Afterwards, the commander inspected distribution of power by means of Zeecahung dam water and gave necessary instructions. **MNA**

Kodukwe Dam Project tasks inspected

**NAV PYI TAW, 11 March—Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min inspected tasks of Kodukwe Dam Project in Bago Township on 2 March.**

On 4 March, the commander looked over tasks of setting up of war veterans village near Nyaungbunghla village and dredging sandbank across Sittoung River near Zebinpwe village in Toungoo Township. **MNA**

Sports Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

**NAV PYI TAW, 11 March—Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint received Chinese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Ye Dabo at the ministry, here, yesterday evening.**

They cordially discussed matters related to progress of the sports of the two nations. **MNA**

Two innocent persons wounded in mine blasts in Kyaukkyi Township

**YANGON, 11 March—Maung Than Lwin Tun, 15, of Kyundaw Village of Kyaukkyi Township, Bago Division, together with his brother, went to Thitaw-winn Wood by bullock cart at about 5 a.m. on 7 March. On the way, the right wheel of the bullock cart rolled on a mine planted by insurgents. Due to the mine blast, the right ankle of Maung Than Lwin Tun was wounded (not serious), and he was rushed to Mone Station Hospital.**

In another incident, Ma Gyi, 30, of Tontaw Village of Kyaukkyi Township, stepped on a mine planted by insurgents at 9 a.m. on 7 March while she was picking vegetables near Naunggon Gaungkhwe Lake, one mile east of the village. Her both legs under knees were blown off in the mine blast, and she was treated as in-patient at Mone Station Hospital. **MNA**

183 drug-related cases exposed in February

**NAV PYI TAW, 11 March—The Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department exposed 183 drug-related cases in February.**

They seized 316.2438 kilos of opium in 37 cases, 2.6727 kilos of heroin in 62 cases, 63 kilos of morphine in one case, 7.9594 kilos of opium oil in 10 cases, 215.8362 kilos of moripha in 1 case, 2.6727 kilos of heroin in 10 cases, 215.8362 kilos of morphine in 1 case, 7.9594 kilos of opium oil in 10 cases, 215.8362 kilos of morphine in 1 case, 7.9594 kilos of opium oil in 10 cases, 215.8362 kilos of morphine in 1 case, 7.9594 kilos of opium oil in 10 cases, 215.8362 kilos of morphine in 1 case, 7.9594 kilos of opium oil in 10 cases. Action was taken against 280 persons —219 men and 41 women —in 183 drug-related cases in February 2009. **MNA**

Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt makes greeting speech at the opening ceremony of Traditional Medicine Conference of WHO South-East Asia Region. **—MNA**

Foreign Affairs Minister congratulates Cuban counterpart

**NAV PYI TAW, 11 March—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a congratulatory message to His Excellency Mr Bruno Eduardo Rodriguez Parrilla on his assumption as the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Cuba. —MNA**

Traditional Medicine Conference of WHO South-East Asia Region held

**YANGON, 11 March—The opening ceremony of Traditional Medicine Conference of WHO South-East Asia Region, jointly organized by Traditional Medicine Department under the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO), was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here yesterday morning.**

Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt of the Traditional Medicine Department made a greeting speech on the occasion. Dr Samlee Pluabang Chang, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia Region, delivered an opening speech. With a view to using traditional medicine more extensively, the nine countries of South-East Asia Region will discuss matters on exchanging traditional medicine information of health care services, more cooperation in research on traditional medicine and cooperation in traditional medicine sector of the countries of South-East Asia Region. The conference will be held till 12 March. —MNA

**Objectives of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day**

1. To work hard together with the people to accomplish the State’s seven-step Road Map in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation

2. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy at risk to life

3. To crush, in cooperation with the people, internal and external subversive elements that are disrupting stability, peace and development of the nation

4. To build a strong and patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation.
Articles on Success in Life

YANGON, 11 March—The book entitled “Articles on Success in Life” written by female writer Aye Phyu came out recently.

The book carries various topics of articles on general knowledge not only for the youth but also for the persons discharging duties in the leading role at the organizations.

Cho Tae Than Literary House publishes the book at K 1,400 per copy across the country.—MNA

Hole-in-one

YANGON, 11 March—U Zaw Naing scored an ace at hole No. 16 at Myodaw Golf Course in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 March while striking Titleist ( Pro V-1 ) ball with PING (I-3)( Iron-5). His partners were U Phone Ko, U Zaw Myint Naing and U Kyaw Phyo Aung. —MNA

Inactivity of proteins behind longer shelf life when freezing

Frozen biological material, for example food, can be kept for a long time without perishing. A new study is close to providing answers as to why.

GOTHENBURG, 11 March — Frozen biological material, for example food, can be kept for a long time without perishing. A study by researchers at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, is close to providing answers as to why.

A cell’s proteins are programmed to carry out various biological functions. The protein’s level of activity and its ability to successfully carry out these functions is dependent on the amount of water by which it is surrounded. For example, dry proteins are completely inactive.

Internet

Khabaung Dam to benefit 10,000 acres of farmlands on completion

NAY PYI TAW, 11 March—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo inspected the right main canal and secondary canals, waterworks and sluice gates of Khabaung Dam being constructed by the Irrigation Department Construction No. 5 in Ottwon Township, Toungoo District of Bago Division, on 3 March.

He also looked into the irrigation of summer paddy fields, digging the canals and summer paddy fields.

In his speech, the minister said that the government is investing heavily in the agriculture sector to improve the living and working conditions of farmers, calling for completion of the project on schedule, meeting the standards and fuel and budget control.

Khabaung Dam is designated to supply irrigation water to farmlands in Toungoo Township, and farmlands in Ottwon Township. So far, it has benefited 7,000 acres of summer paddy. The irrigation system will go on in the dry season to irrigate the remaining over 3,000 acres of arable lands by the end of 2008-2009 fiscal year. —MNA

No. 2 BED Director-General visits examination centres

YANGON, 11 March—Director-General U Aye Lwin of No. 2 Basic Education Department and officials inspected examination centers for matriculation examination 2009 in Nay Pyi Taw today.

The director-general visited examination centers of BEHS No. 1 Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, BEHS No. 3 Nay Pyi Taw, BEHS Nos. 1 and 2 Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, BEHS No. 1 Yamethin, BEHS Yindaw and Pyawbwe and BEHS No. 3 Meiktila.

Next, Deputy Director-General U Ye Lwin Aung inspected examination centers of BEHS Nos. 1, 4, 7, 9, 25, 26 and BEMS Nos. 5 in Mandalay and U Myint Soe, In-charge of supervision or examination centers of Nay Pyi Taw, also inspected schools in Nay Pyi Taw. They supervised delivery of question papers in time by supervisors and assistants taking the examination of students, keeping answer papers and fulfilled the needs. —MNA

Winning professional, amateur golfers awarded

YANGON, 11 March—The Myanmar Masters golf tournament 2009, organized by Myanmar Professional Golfers Association and sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd, kicked off at Punhlaing Golf Resort in Hlinethaya Township this morning. Patron of MPGA and Myanmar Golf Federation Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), President U Teza, Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min and U Min Thein, General Secretary U Aung Kyi and executives, responsible persons of Punhlaing Golf Club and guests enjoyed the golf tournament.

In the evening, IBTC Executive Director U Tint Oo presented first, second and third prizes to Miss Lily Yang, Miss Jeon Mi Ok and Ma Su Su Hlaing respectively in the women’s singles event; and Mr. Frankie Tan gave the first prize to William Houng Lee in the men’s gross category event and first, second and third prizes to Kim Young Jin, McIntosh Gregory Douglas and Khin Zaw Win in the men’s professional golfers division.

President U Teza awarded the first prize to the team comprising professional golfer Kim Yong Jin, Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), U Min Thein and U Chat Khaing, the second prize to the team comprising amateur golfers Min Lwin, Kyaw Maung Maung Hein, Ko Ko Aung and Shwe Thwin and the third prize to the team comprising professional golfer Hla Myo and amateur golfers Lin Lin, Sein Myint Aung and Zaw Lin Tun, and the hold-in-one prize to Mr Matt (Srixon).—MNA

Ultra-thin chip embedding for wearable electronics

BRUSSELS, 11 March—At the Smart Systems Integration Conference in Brussels (Belgium), technologists from IMEC and its associated laboratory at Ghent University present a new 3D integration process enabling flexible electronic systems with a thickness of less than 60 micrometer.

This ultra-thin chip package (UTCP) technology allows integrating complete systems in a conventional low-cost flex substrate. This paves the way to low-cost, unobtrusive wearable electronics for e.g. wearable health and comfort monitoring.

For the integration, the chip is first thinned down to 25 micron and embedded in a flexible ultra-thin chip package. Next, the package is embedded in a standard double-layer flex printed circuit board (PCB) using standard flex PCB production techniques. —Internet
Technological University in Lashio with equitable learning opportunity

Article: Htein Lin (Myanma Alin); Photos: Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

Principal Dr U Zaw Min Oo, Technological University (Lashio).

(from page 16) Most of the students are attending the classes from Lashio, Hsipaw, Muse, Nawngkhio, Namtu and Momeik townships. While living together with the parents and relatives nearby towns and villages of the university, the students have the opportunity to pursue the engineering technology. To be able to save money and to enjoy better transportation, the All Bus-line Control Committee and the Road Transport Administration Department made arrangements for the runs of ferries for the students.

The active scene of the students who will become intellectuals and intelligentsia for the State in the future, riding motorcycles into the campus of the university was like the garden with colourful flowers in bloom.

While observing the enthusiastic and happy faces of the new generation students, I had an interview with a female student.

She said, “My name is Nan Theint Yadana. I am pursuing modern technology at the first year course (civil engineering major). I come from Kutkai. I also thank the government for opening the Technological Universities in States and Divisions.”

In another interview, Ma Margaret Ja Sam Pan (Kutkai) First year student of civil engineering major.

Ma Nan Theint Yadana (Kyaukme) First year student of civil engineering major.

Ma Honey Win Tint (Kyaukme) First year student of civil engineering major.

Ma Honey Win Tint of first year student of civil engineering major said, “I live in Kyaukme. The youth from our town attended the universities in Yangon and Mandalay in the past. Now, we have easy access to the university. Due to better transportation, I return home frequently. I am pleased with opening this university that will turn out the outstanding engineers.”

Ma Khin Yin Mon, first year student of civil engineering major, disclosed her feeling, “I am a student from Hsipaw. I thank the government for the opening of this technological university in Shan State.” At present, the equitable educational opportunities have been created by the government for national brethren in the region. With a view to enabling the local youth to enjoy the learning opportunity and turning out a number of intellectuals and intelligentsia, necessary assistance is being provided for the region. As a result, the interest of the region can be served with the capability of the local educated persons. *****

Translation: TTA Myanma Alin: 4-3-2009

New genre of sugar-coated 'quantum dots’ for drug delivery

BARCELONA, 11 March — Scientists in Switzerland are reporting an advance that could help tap the much-heralded potential of “quantum dots” — nanocrystals that glow when exposed to ultraviolet light — in the treatment of cancer and other diseases.

They are publishing the first study showing that giving quantum dots an icing-like cap of certain sugars makes these nanoparticles accumulate in the liver but not other parts of the body. That selective targeting could be used to deliver anti-cancer drugs to one organ, without causing the body-wide side-effects that occur with existing cancer drugs, they suggest.

Their study is in the Feb. 18 issue of the Journal of the American Chemical Society, a weekly publication.

New fish discovered in Antarctic Ocean

BARCELONA, 11 March — The new species of Antarctic fish, Goisotonyx antarctica, has been discovered at a depth of 650 metres in the Bellingshausen Sea in the Antarctic Ocean, an area which has not been studied since 1904 and where the fauna is “completely” unknown. Jesús Matalánas, the Spanish researcher responsible for the find, collected four specimens of the new species during Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO) campaigns in the southern hemisphere summers of 2003 and 2006.

“The study of the biodiversity of the Bellingshausen Sea has been systematically ignored by international projects because it is quite inaccessible and its beds are not mapped”, SINC was told by Jesús Matalánas, the study’s main author and researcher from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB).

The work, which appears in the journal Polar Biology, is based on the IEO’s Bentart-03 and Bentart-06 campaigns, in which Matalánas participated as an expert in taxonomy of Antarctic fish. Internet
**Blood, ultrasound tests catch ovarian cancer**

WASHINGTON, 11 March—Blood tests and ultrasound scans can catch deadly ovarian cancer at the most early and treatable stages, British doctors reported on Tuesday, saying it may finally be possible to screen women for the disease.

Nearly half the cases were in the early stage I or stage II phases, when the cancer has not spread far and can sometimes be cured. As there is no current good test for ovarian cancer, having a reliable screening test could save many lives, Ian Jacobs and Usha Menon of University College London reported in the journal *Lancer Oncology*.

“The initial findings of this long-term study are encouraging, particularly because almost half of the ovarian cancers detected were at an early stage (stage I), when survival rates can be as high as 90 per cent,” Peter Reynolds of Britain’s Ovarian Cancer Action said in a statement.

Ovarian cancer is one of the most deadly cancers, in part because the symptoms are so vague that women often are not diagnosed until it is too late. It was diagnosed in more than 21,000 women in the United States in 2008 and killed more than 15,000; in Britain it affects about 7,000 women a year and kills more than 4,000.—MNA/Reuters

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**Thailand’s cabinet approves $2b loans plan**

BANGKOK, 11 March—Thailand’s weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday approved a plan to borrow foreign loans worth of two billion US dollars to finance investments in mega projects in a bid to boost the domestic sluggish economy.

A source of the loans is from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the website by Thai-language newspaper *Kruenghoph Taruij* reported. It is expected that the Thai Government will be able to withdraw the loans from the three institutions during the third quarter of this year.

The huge foreign loans to finance investments in mega projects is parts of the Thai Government’s attempts to shore up the country’s economy as other key sources of the economic growth include the exports, private investments and tourism industry have been hard hit by the rising global economic turmoil.—MNA/Xinhua

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**Malaysia announces $16.2b stimulus package**

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 March—Malaysia announced on Tuesday a 60-billion ringgit (about 16.2-billion-US-dollar) stimulus package in an attempt to fight against looming economic recession.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak unveiled this stimulus package in the Parliament here to spur the country’s economic activity and help keep the economy from slipping into recession.

This was the second economic stimulus package introduced by the Malaysian Government since November last year. "I am pleased to announce that the government will implement a Stimulus Package totalling ringgit 60 billion...over two years, 2009 and 2010," Najib said.

The newly-unveiled pro-growth mini package included a fiscal injection of 15 billion ringgit, 25 billion ringgit as guarantee funds, 10 billion ringgit as equity investment, seven billion ringgit as private finance initiative and off-budget projects, and three billion ringgit in tax incentives.—MNA/Xinhua

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**India to deploy space-based surveillance systems**

NEW DELHI, 11 March—India is mulling to deploy space-based surveillance systems to counter any threat posed to its indigenous ballistic missile defence (BMD) system, a top Indian Defence official said on Monday night.

“We are certainly looking to develop space-based surveillance capabilities for the BMD. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is working on the project,” Indian Air Defence Programme Director V. K. Saraswat told the media.

He also said that to tackle enemy attack, missiles with a striking range of over 6,000 kilometres and hypersonic interceptor missiles will have to be developed for the phase II of the air defence programme.

In the phase I of its air defence programme, India had successfully tested the BMD system in November 2006 outside atmosphere at a 48-kilometre altitude and inside atmosphere at an altitude of 15-kilometres in December 2007.

India last week successfully testfired its indigenous ballistic missile shield in the eastern state of Orissa. The interceptor missile was fired from the Wheeler Island off the Orissa coast and destroyed the “enemy” missile at an altitude of 80 kilometres.—MNA/Xinhua

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**Study shows Smallpox vaccine good for biological attack**

HONG KONG, 11 March—A smallpox vaccine which was first given to infants in Japan in the 1970s, scientists in countries such as Japan and the United States are still trying to develop vaccines in case the virus is ever used in a biological attack.

“Developing a vaccine that is safer than first-generation vaccines yet highly immunogenic is crucial to constructing a prevention plan in the event of a bioterrorist attack,” wrote the authors of the study, which was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

In the trial, scientists tested a smallpox vaccine which was first given to infants in Japan in the 1970s. They gave single shots of the LC16m8 vaccine - which uses a live, attenuated virus — to 3,221 participants from the Japan Self-Defence Forces between 2002 and 2005, wrote the researchers, led by Tomoya Saito of Keio University in Tokyo.—MNA/Reuters
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BUNGA MAS-11 VOY NO (811)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BUNGA MAS-11 VOY NO (811) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.3.2009 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 up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MAXICON CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (434)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (434) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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 up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HAN FENG VOY NO (0910E)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAN FENG VOY NO (0910E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 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 up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SHANGHAI HENGXIN SHIP CO, LTD

Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

Safety violations kill six at Mongolia coal mine, investigators say
HUHOT, 11 March — Safety violations led to the deaths of six coal miners in the northern Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, a team investigating the accident told Xinhua on Wednesday. The miners were killed by coal gas poisoning at the Luxinju Coal Mine on Monday, the investigators said.
Four people responsible for the tragedy, who were taken into police custody on Tuesday, admitted that the privately-owned facility, although licensed, had been ordered to suspend production until safety requirements were met. Six of the 15 miners on duty died in the accident, which occurred at about 10:20 pm on Monday. Six others escaped safely. The three injured miners are still hospitalized.
He Ping, one of the mine’s deputy heads, acknowledged that he signed the suspension notice issued by the coal mining administration of Jungar Banner on 15 Dec the investigators said. The order was issued because of inadequate ventilation and lack of safety training for miners. The local production safety bureau found miners did not wear personal oxygen tanks when working and some even smoked.
However, the investigators said, the owners ignored the order because they wanted to take advantage of rising coal prices.

S Korea to extend debt repayment periods
SEOUL, 11 March—South Korea plans to extend the repayment periods for overdue loans for about a year, South Korea’s Korea Herald reported on Wednesday.
According to the Financial Services Commission, only loans that are less than three months overdue will be subject to the extension, Korea Herald said.
The financial watchdog didn’t specify on the number of borrowers or the amount of household debt that would be benefited by the policy.
South Korea’s household debt, the sum of loans and credit purchase, climbed to a record high of 688.2 trillion won (456 billion US dollars) in the fourth quarter, up 9.1 percent from a year earlier, the Bank of Korea said last month.

S Korean company allowed to explore oil in Colombia
SEOUL, 11 March—A South Korean oil company was allowed to explore three oil blocks in Colombia after signing an agreement with the South American nation, the South Korean government announced on Wednesday.
According to the agreement between the Seoul-based Golden Oil Corp and the National Hydrocarbons Agency in Bogota, the South Korean firm will explore the three blocks, which cover a total of 1,320 km-square km and all located in the Medellana and Llanos inland basins, for six years.
It may extract oil for a period for 24 years if it discovers a deposit, South Korea’s Ministry of Knowledge Economy said.

United Technologies to cut 11,600 additional jobs
NEW YORK, 11 March—United Technologies Corp, an aerospace industry giant, said on Tuesday it will reduce additional 11,600 workers as conditions in the aerospace deteriorate further.
That will take total job reductions to 18,000, the company said in a statement.
The company also lowered its full-year forecast across all its businesses, with revenue to decline in its Otis elevator and Carrier ventilation-system divisions because of the slump in commercial and housing construction. In aerospace, United Technologies cut its expectations for new Pratt & Whitney jet-engine deliveries, with double-digit reductions now forecast in its after-market services business.
Pregnant women with migraines at higher vascular diseases

BEIJING, 11 March—Women who suffer migraines during pre-gnancy are at a heightened risk of getting various stroke and vascular diseases, said a US population based case-control study on Wednesday. The findings, which were published in this week’s issue of BMJ, an international general medical journal, found that pregnant women with migraines are 15 times more likely than other women to suffer a stroke, twice as likely to have heart disease and three times more likely to have blood clots and other vascular problems during pregnancy.

“Good prenatal care is essential. Women with persistent and severe migraine during pre-gnancy should be aware of their risk factors, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, history of blood clots, heart disease and prior stroke,” the study’s lead investigator, Dr. Cheryl Bushnell, a neurologist at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, said.

“There also seems to be a relationship between migraines and preclampsia, one of the most common and dangerous complications of pre-gnancy,” added Bushnell. Bushnell and her colleagues analyzed data from 33,956 pregnant women diagnosed with migraine.

Russian, US astronauts perform spacewalk

MOSCOW, 11 March—Russian and US cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) started a spacewalk on Tuesday, the Mission Control Center near Moscow said.

The ISS commander American Michael Fincke and Russian engineer Yuuri Lonchakov opened the station’s hatches and launched extravascular activities (EVA) at 7:22 p.m. Moscow time (1622 GMT) on Tuesday, a source with the Mission Control was cited as saying by the Itar-Tass news agency.

The spacewalk will last for five hours and 45 minutes, the report said.

The astronauts are expected to install and connect gadgets for the Expose-R experiment on the outer surface of the ISS. They will also fulfill a number of technical missions, which they had no time to accomplish during their first spacewalk in December 2008.

Cocaine-carrying plane crashes in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, 11 March—A plane that was carrying more than 2 tons of cocaine crashed on Tuesday in northern Honduras, killing the pilot, Honduran authorities said.

Authorities estimate the plane was carrying about 2,200 lbs (1,000 kilos) of cocaine, although all but 220 lbs (100 kilos) of the drug burned in the crash, Vice Minister of Security Mario Perdomo said.

Perdomo told reporters that two US Drug Enforcement Administration helicopters were pursuing the aircraft, which went down near El Negrito town in northern Honduras. Perdomo said the plane left Venezuela and was heading to Honduras’ Bay Islands, a transit point for US-bound cocaine.

Later Tuesday, US Embassy spokeswoman Ledy Perdomo told reporters that two US Drug Enforcement Administration helicopters were pursuing the aircraft, which had reached a depth of 4,015 metres.

The well had encountered 21 meters of net hydrocarbon pay, finding a good quality light crude oil accumulation in a rock formation of similar age to the rock formation of similar age to the rock formation in which the nearby Jubilee field that is 25 kilometers to the west was found.

Thomas Manu, GNPC Director, Exploration and Production said in a statement. The statement said that the Tweneboa-1 well, which had reached a depth of 3,593 metres, was being deepened further and was expected to reach a depth of 4,015 metres. It was being drilled in a water depth of 1,148 meters using the Erik Raude semi-submersible rig.

Progress in Mexico drug war is drenched in blood

MEXICO CITY, 11 March—Headless bodies in Tijuana, kidnapped children in Phoenix and shootings on the streets of Vancouver: These are the unwanted byproducts of progress in the Mexican drug war.

While the headline-grabbing chaos creates the appearance of a drug trade escalating out of control, evidence suggests Mexico’s cartels are increasingly desperate due to a cross-border crackdown and a shift in the cocaine market from the US to Europe.

Those pressures are forcing Mexico’s criminal networks, once accustomed to shipping drugs quietly and with impunity, to wage ever more violent battles over scraps and diversify into other criminal enterprises, in-cluding extortion and kidnapping for ransom on both sides of the US border.

“This is not reflecting the power of these groups,” Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora told The Associated Press in an interview. “This is re-flecting how they are melting down in terms of capabilities, how they are losing the ability to pro-duce in-come.”

Ghana announces fresh new oil, gas discovery

LAGOS, 11 March—The Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) on Monday announced that a significant new oil and gas discovery has been made in the offshore Tano Basin.

According to the reports of the Ghana News Agency, GNPC and its partners, Tullow Oil, Kosmos Energy Anadarko and Sabre Oil and Gas, made the discovery during the drilling of the exploration well, Tweneboa-1.

The well has encountered 21 meters of net hydrocarbon pay, finding a good quality light crude oil accumulation in a rock formation of similar age to the rock formation of similar age to the rock formation in which the nearby Jubilee field that is 25 kilometers to the west was found.

Thomas Manu, GNPC Director, Exploration and Production said in a statement. The statement said that the Tweneboa-1 well, which had reached a depth of 3,593 metres, was being deepened further and was expected to reach a depth of 4,015 metres. It was being drilled in a water depth of 1,148 meters using the Erik Raude semi-submersible rig.

NASA guests Sophia Borraste, 2 and her brother William, 4 play outside pad 39A with Space Shuttle Discov-ery in the back round, on 10 March, 2009 at Kennedy Space Center, in Cape Canaveral, Fl. Discovery is scheduled to liftoff Wednesday on a 14 day mission to the International Space Station. Internet

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**SPORTS**

Beckham twists ankle while training with Milan

ROM, 11 March—English soccer icon David Beckham has injured his ankle after training with AC Milan on Tuesday, said the Serie A club on its official website.

Just few days ago, the 33-year-old midfielder signed an extension to his loan deal at the Italian giants from Los Angeles Galaxy, keeping him at the club until the end of June.

Milan did not reveal for how long the former England captain would be sidelined but said that they would try to evaluate the seriousness of his injury over the coming days.—INTERNET

Garcia has a shot at No 1 in the world

DORAL, 11 March—For the first time in his career, Sergio Garcia has a mathematical chance to be No 1 in the world. Tiger Woods has been atop the world ranking for the past 144 weeks — dating to 12 June, 2005 — and his 21.542 points were more than twice his nearest challenger after winning the US Open in June.

But he missed the next eight months following knee surgery, and while Garcia has only won twice since then, the Spaniard has been runner-up four times, including two FedEx Cup playoff events and the PGA Championship. Garcia, who was 16.278 points behind Woods after the US Open, trails him by a mere 1.59 points. To become No 1 in the world, Garcia would have to win the CA Championship and have Woods finish 27th or worse.—INTERNET

Klinsmann delighted by record-breaking Bayern

MUNICH, 11 March—Bayern Munich coach Jürgen Klinsmann says his side are determined to make their record-breaking win over Sporting Lisbon count as they prepare for the Champions League quarter-finals. Bayern hammered Lisbon 7-1 at Munich’s Allianz Arena on Tuesday night to win the Round of 16 tie with a staggering 12-1 aggregate scoreline after winning 5-0 in Lisbon a fortnight ago.

The German giants have now set records for both margin of victory and aggregate scoreline in a post-group stage knockout tie in the Champions League.

“We took this game very seriously,” said Klinsmann, whose side has been erratic in the Bundesliga where they currently lie second in the table behind leaders Hertha Berlin.—INTERNET

Former Italian coach Donadoni to take Napoli from Reja

ROM, 11 March—Former coach of the Italian national team Roberto Donadoni will take over the Serie A club Napoli after Edy Reja was sacked on Tuesday for poor results.

“Napoli announce that they have relieved Edoardo Reja of his duties as first team coach and have appointed Roberto Donadoni,” a club statement said.

“The club has taken this decision with a heavy heart given the fundamental role of Reja during the last five seasons, where Napoli were propelled from Serie C to Serie A and the UEFA Cup.”

Mid-table Napoli lost 2-0 at home to Lazio on Sunday to extend their winless league run to nine. Benfica has eliminated them from the UEFA Cup 4-3 on aggregate in the first round last October.—INTERNET

Federer set to shake off rust at Indian Wells tennis

INDIAN WELLS, 11 March—Roger Federer will shake off the rust following a six-week break from competition by playing in the ATP and WTA Indian Wells tournament which begins on Wednesday. The world number two’s last competition was the Australian Open final on 1 February, which featured a lopsided trophy ceremony as the Swiss lost to Rafael Nadal.

Federer, who has 13 grand slam titles just one behind the all-time record of 14 held by Pete Sampras, is keen to kick start his spring season. And he appears to be finally lining up another world-class coach in former Andre Agassi mentor Darren Cahill, who has been working with him over the last week in Dubai. Federer has lifted three trophies on the trot in the Californian desert, the last in 2006. Since then, rivals Novak Djokovic and Nadal have taken the honours at the Tennis Garden.—INTERNET

Argentine star Riquelme quits national team

BUENOS AIRES, 11 March—Playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme blamed Argentina coach Diego Maradona as he quit the national team for the second time in three years on Tuesday.

“The national team is for me. I will watch the World Cup on the television,” said the former Barcelona and Villarreal player in an interview with the Canal 13 television station.

“We don’t share the same codes of ethics. While he is the coach of the national team, we can’t work together.”

Riquelme, who returned to Boca Juniors last year after falling out with the coaching staff at Villarreal, previously quit his national duty after the 2006 World Cup but backtracked less than one year later.—INTERNET

Chelsea oust Juventus after 2-2 Champions League thriller

TURIN, 11 March—Goals from African pair Didier Drogba and Michael Essien earned Chelsea a 2-2 draw at Juventus in the Champions League on Tuesday to send last year’s finalists through to the quarter-finals 3-2 on aggregate.

In a pulsating match Juve finished with 10 men following the second half dismissal of Giorgio Chiellini but goals from Vincenzo Iaquinta and evergreen Alessandro Del Piero had briefly given them cause to hope. Instead the first of three anglo-Italian ties in the second round went the way of the powerful Premier League. But Chelsea had to come back from a goal down on the night, something that had coach Guus Hiddink purring about their reaction.—INTERNET

Bayern Munich’s coach Jürgen Klinsmann (left) and team manager Uli Hoeness celebrate Lukas Podolski’s goal during the Champions League second-leg of the first knockout round match FC Bayern Munich vs Sporting Lisbon in Munich, on 10 March. Bayern Munich won 7-1 for a 12-1 aggregate triumph - the first time a side has netted a round dozen over two legs.—INTERNET

Top seed Rafael Nadal (seen here on March 8) will defend his ATP Indian Wells desert trophy after leading Spain into the Davis Cup quarter-finals over Djokovic’s Serbia.—INTERNET

Real Madrid beaten 4-0 in Champions League

MADRID, 11 March—Spanish soccer giant Real Madrid was eliminated on Tuesday from the European Champions League after being beaten 4-0 by England’s Liverpool.

Headed by former Real coach Rafael Benitez, Liverpool scored the first goal through Fernando Torres at 15 before a double from Steven Gerrard on 27 and 47 minutes and a late Andros Townsend goal to seal a 5-0 aggregate win for the home team.

Real could have left the Anfield stadium with more goals conceded, but thanks to goal keeper Iker Casillas, it was not worse.

Chelsea’s Ivorian forward Didier Drogba (R) fights for the ball with Juventus’ defender Giorgio Chiellini during their Champions League second leg first knockout round football match at Olympic Stadium in Turin. The match ended in a 2-2 draw and Chelsea goes through on aggregate.—INTERNET

Panathinaikos loses 2-1 to Spain’s Villarreal

ATHENS, 11 March—Panathinaikos Athens lost 2-1 in the game with Villarreal of Spain in UEFA Champions League second leg match of last 16 which played at the Athens Olympic Stadium on Tuesday night.

Panathinaikos was eliminated from the tournament while Villarreal entered the quarter finals.

Panathinaikos’ goal was scored by Vangelis Mantzios at the 55th minute and Villarreal’s goals by Ariel Ibagaza at the 49th minute, and Joseba Llorente at the 70th minute. The first leg match had ended in a 1-1 draw in Spain.—INTERNET
Two Ukrainian citizens confirmed dead in Ugandan plane crash

Kyiv, 11 March—Two Ukrainian citizens were killed in a Ugandan plane crash on Monday, Vasyl Kyrylych, a spokesman for the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has instructed the country’s embassy in Ethiopia as saying. He noted that the airplane was flying from Uganda to Somalia as part of a peacekeeping mission when it crashed.

“All the eleven people aboard, including two Ukrainian citizens, are believed to have been killed in the crash,” Kyrylych quoted the information from the Ukrainian Embassy in Ethiopia as saying. He noted that the plane was flying from Uganda to Somalia as part of a peacekeeping mission when it crashed.

“A search has been launched at the site of the crash,” Kyrylych said. Ukraine Foreign Ministry has instructed the country’s embassy in Ethiopia to take effective measures to find out the victims.

The Ugandan civil aviation authority said that an Il-76 airplane, which was owned by the Aeroflot airline company, on Monday caught fire and crashed into Lake Victoria in Uganda just two minutes after take-off. All the 11 people aboard were feared dead.—MNA/Xinhua
Raul ‘sorry’ after Anfield humbling

MADRID, 11 March—Real Madrid captain Raul apologized to his side’s fans following their Champions League exit at the hands of Liverpool, describing the 4-0 Anfield mauling as his “most painful” defeat in the competition.

Raul was little more than a helpless bystander as Liverpool swept aside nine-time winners Madrid in comprehensive fashion thanks to two goals from captain Steven Gerrard, another from former Atletico Madrid striker Fernando Torres and a late fourth from substitute Andrea Dossena.

That four-goal demolition completed a 5-0 aggregate victory for Rafael Benitez’s men and meant Madrid failed to get beyond the last 16 stage for the fifth successive year.

“They (Liverpool) were better in every respect. Once again we are out of the Champions League,” said Raul, who has won three Champions League crowns and played well over 100 matches in the competition.

“We had high hopes for the match, but all that remains is to congratulate Liverpool because they’ve shown themselves to be a better team. There are no excuses.”—Internet

Rising sea levels set to have major impacts around the world

COPENHAGEN, 11 March — Research presented March 10 at the International Scientific Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen shows that the upper range of sea level rise by 2100 could be in the range of about one meter, or possibly more. In the lower end of the spectrum it looks increasingly unlikely that sea level rise will be much less than 50 cm by 2100.

This means that if emissions of greenhouse gases is not reduced quickly and substantially, even the best case scenario will hit low lying coastal areas housing one in ten humans on the planet hard.

Dr John Church of the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia and the lead speaker in the sea level session, told the conference, “The most recent satellite and ground based observations show that sea-level rise is continuing to rise at 3 mm/yr or more since 1993, a rate well above the 20th century average. The oceans are continuing to warm and expand, the melting of mountain glacier has increased and the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica are also contributing to sea level rise.”—Internet

Technological University in Lashio with equitable learning opportunity

Article: Htein Lin (Myanma Alin); Photos: Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

With the aims of ensuring equitable creation of learning opportunities across the nation and turning out the qualified human resources in the respective regions, the government upgraded 49 science and technological colleges to the universities established in 24 special development regions of the nation as of 20 January 2007.

Technological University (Lashio) was one of these upgraded universities. The facility was opened as Government Technical Institute on 27 December 1999. It was upgraded to the technological college on 10 September 2001. On 20 January 2007, the facility became a technological university.

Technological University (Lashio) is located near Hopaik Village, north of Lashio and east of Lashio-Hsenwi Road. It is a three-storey building built on 36 acres of land. During the visit to Lashio, the news team of the Myanmar Alin Daily arrived at Technological University in Lashio to observe the learning opportunity for higher education of the local youths.

We had an interview with Principal Dr U Zaw Min Oo of the university. He said, “A total of five courses are being conducted at Technological University (Lashio). These courses are the Civil Engineering Course, the Electrical Communication Engineering Course, the Electrical Power Engineering Course, the Mechanical Engineering Course and the Machine Tools Engineering Course. A total of 67 faculty members in the academic section are providing 582 students with modern engineering knowledge.”

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