Prime Minister to visit Indonesia, Singapore soon

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—At the invitation of His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia and His Excellency Mr. Lee Hsein Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein will pay official visits to the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Singapore in the near future.—MNA

Ngawun Bridge (Myokwin), Kanyin Dam, Ma Mya Dam inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe inspected progress of Ngawun Bridge (Myokwin) project and cultivation of beans and pulses and sunflowers in the sandbanks in Hinthada Township on 26 February morning.

The commander also viewed progress of Kanyin Dam project in Ingapu Township and installation of two generators at the right canal of Ma Mya Dam in Myanaung Township.

On 27 February, the commander looked into Basic Education High School and preparation for reconstruction of Myoma Market in Yekyi.

The commander accepted corrugated iron sheets donated by wellwishers and cordially greeted rice and bean merchants and rice millers.

After that, he viewed the participation of servicemen in the military code of conduct contest to mark the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.—MNA

Long-term ozone exposure linked to higher risk of death

SCIENCE DAILY, 12 March—Long-term exposure to ground-level ozone, a major component of smog, is associated with an increased risk of death from respiratory ailments, according to a new nationwide study led by a researcher at the University of California, Berkeley. The study followed nearly 450,000 people for two decades and covered 96 metropolitan regions in the United States.

The study found that for every 10 parts-per-billion (ppb) increase in ozone level, there is a 4 per cent increase in risk of death from respiratory causes, primarily pneumonia and chronic pulmonary obstructive pulmonary disease.—Internet

Atmospheric ‘Sunshade’ could reduce solar power generation

SCIENCE DAILY, 12 March—The concept of delaying global warming by adding particles into the upper atmosphere to cool the climate could unintentionally reduce peak electricity generated by large solar power plants by as much as one-fifth, according to a new NOAA study.

“Injecting particles into the stratosphere could have unintended consequences for one alternative energy source expected to play a role in the transition away from fossil fuels,” said author Daniel Murphy, a scientist at NOAA’s Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colo.—Internet
PERSPECTIVES
Friday, 13 March, 2009

Generous donations for sustainable development of self-reliant libraries

The government is fulfilling requirements in the economic, education, health, social and transport sectors for scaling up the development of rural areas.

As part of the plan, it is opening a large number of basic education schools, affiliated basic education high schools, station hospitals, health care centres, and rural health care centres in respective rural areas. As a result, rural youngsters have had easy access to education, and rural people, to better health care.

In like manner, more than 50,000 self-reliant village libraries have been established to expand the horizons of rural folks. And follow-up programmes are ongoing for sustainable progress of the libraries.

The donating of cash, daily newspapers, publications, and TV sets for building self-reliant village libraries and raising the funds of the libraries took place in Sittway, Rakhine State, on 15 February. At the ceremony, donor organizations and well-wishers presented cash and kind worth over 90 million kyats for building model libraries in 17 townships in Rakhine State.

Due to the emergence of the libraries, the number of rural residents with a good habit of reading will be on the increase. The facilities will help book lovers and adult literates do a life-long study.

Today, regional organizations and social associations are making generous donations to libraries, thus contributing towards the opening of more and more libraries and their perpetual existence and sustainable development.

Commander inspects extension of Kengtung Airport

NAW PYI TAW, 12 March — Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyo, accompanied by the deputy commander and officials concerned, inspected construction tasks of war veterans housing near Technological University beside Kengtung-Lwemwe motor road on 5 March.

Upon arrival at the worksite for extension of Kengtung Airport undertaken by airport construction special group of Public Works, the commander inspected gravel paving on the apron.

Development tasks under way in Ngazun

NAW PYI TAW, 12 March—Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung held a meeting with service personnel at Mandalay International Airport and inspected the airport on 2 March.

On 4 March, he addressed the donating of the river pumping water purifying machine and the lake in Ngazun. In the afternoon, he met with local people at Kanbila Village. On 5 March morning, he inspected Nganmyargyi Village station hospital and gave instructions on healthcare.

The deputy minister and wife donated K 900,000 to Nganmyargyi Basic Education High School; K 50,000 each to the station hospital and staff members; and K30,000 each to the village auxiliary fire brigade, the village Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the Village Women’s Affairs Organization.

Thongwa Township Association holds annual meeting

YANGON, 12 March—Thongwa Township Association (Yangon) held its annual meeting at Payaphyu Monastery, Pazandaung Township, here, on 22 February.

At the meeting, chairman of the association U Mya Thein stressed the emergence of outstanding students and youths as targeted by the association and participation in social services. After 84 over-75-aged oldies were paid respect, a total of eleven outstanding students—six distinction winners, two Phyu Thin Naung who stood sixth in the whole Myanmar, two five distinction winners, four four distinction winners, one three distinction winner, one two distinction winner and four one distinction winners—were honoured with prizes.

Myanma Gonyi magazine published

YANGON, 12 March—Myanma Gonyi magazine No. 30 came out yesterday.

The magazine covers poems, articles in Myanmar language, world classic short story, general knowledge, short stories, Myanmar classic short-story, religious story, articles in English, jokes and cartoons.

Those wishing to send manuscripts and advertisements may contact the Chief Editor of Myanma Gonyi Magazine at No. 455/457 on New University Avenue in Bahan Township.

Cover of Myanma Gonyi magazine.—MNA
US spy chief says Afghan situation deteriorates

WASHINGTON, 12 March — The security situation is continuing to deteriorate in Afghanistan, the US spy chief told Senators on Tuesday.

Being asked about whether US is losing the war in Afghanistan during a testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, US Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair did not answer directly, but said the situation there “is decreasing, and that is a bad trend.”

When Senator John McCain pressed him on the issue, Blair said he wasn’t sure.

“I can only say the president is more impatient than you are,” he said.

Obama last month decided to send 17,000 additional US combat and support troops to Afghanistan to help to stabilize the situation there, but a complete review of Afghan strategy hasn’t been finished.

MNA/Xinhua

US, China try to defuse tension, focus on economy

WASHINGTON, 12 March — US President Barack Obama has invited Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi to the White House after both powers tried to defuse military tensions and focus on stabilizing the global economy.

With China also angry at US criticism over Tibet, Obama is making the gesture to meet the foreign minister following his talks on Wednesday with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner.

It comes after Clinton said she and Yang agreed to ensure there would be no repeat of a standoff on Sunday between a US Navy surveillance ship and Chinese patrol boats in the South China Sea.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters than Yang and Obama — joined by US national security advisor James Jones — would discuss the standoff among other issues such as the global economic crisis.

“I don’t think it will overshadow it, but I think the president will continue to make clear our country’s position,” Gibbs told reporters.

With only a few weeks in office, Obama’s meeting with Yang is symbolic — something which is not standard protocol but has been used sparingly by previous presidents. Yang also met former president George W Bush.

Iranian shelling kills Kurdish child on Iraq border

SULAIMANIYAH, 12 March — Iranian shelling of Kurdish border villages in northern Iraq left one child dead, a local official said on Wednesday.

“Iranian artillery bombarded border villages on Tuesday evening killing a child and wounding his parents,” said Azad Wusu, mayor of Zarawa, 100 miles (160 kilometres) northeast of the Kurdish city of Sulaimaniyah. “The bombardment lasted nearly two hours... and targeted the villages of Rezka, Mara and Duiwu,” he said.

Iranian attacks on the border usually target the Party of Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK), an Iranian rebel group, which operates out of bases in the area and is close to the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

An elderly Kurdish stands outside UN-donated tents set up close to the village of Sinawa, northern Iraq, 2008.

Iraqi onlookers inspect the wreckage at the site of a car bomb explosion in the northeast of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

Two separatist rebels killed in Philippines clash

DAVAO, 12 March — Philippine troops killed two separatist rebel commanders as they clashed on Wednesday in the southern Philippine province of Zamboanga del Norte, an official said on Thursday.

Norbi Edding, town mayor of Sibuco, said the fighting erupted after an undetermined number of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels, the country’s largest rebel organization, attacked a militia detachment there.

Firefight ensued and resulted in the death of two rebel commanders that include a certain Karao.

Rebel spokesperson Eid Kabalu confirmed the incident but said they are still verifying the identities of the slain rebels.

“We have active troops in that province,” Kabalu said.

Casablanca explosion kills one, injuring six

RABAT, 12 March — An explosion hit northwest Moroccan city of Casablanca on Wednesday, killing one person and injuring six others, local authorities said.

The authorities were quoted by local MAP news agency as saying that the blast occurred in the front of a video game room located at al-Joulane Boulevard of the city early on Wednesday.

The blast was likely a gas explosion, not a terrorist act, according to the authorities.

View of the cordoned-off area in the Salmia suburb of Casablanca, Morocco, on 11 March, 2009, after an explosion rocked the street, killing at least one person and injuring six.

Deadly Iraq bombings set off alarm bells

BAGHDAD, 12 March — Two major bombings in two days in Iraq have left scores of people dead and sparked new security concerns as US forces prepare to pull out.

Confident statements from the Iraqi government and the United States about greatly improved security six years after the US-led invasion are now being tested in blood on the streets.

In Washington, the White House denied that the spate of attacks was linked to US President Barack Obama’s decision to pull out most combat troops by August next year. A US military spokesman in Baghdad took the same line, telling AFP on Wednesday that there was no complacency on security.

“We are by no means complacent. We know that there are groups like Al-Qaeda, that are greatly reduced in capability and numbers, but still desperate to maintain relevance here in Iraq,” he said.

Near daily appeals from the Shiite-dominated government for national reconciliation have been rejected by Saddam Hussein loyalists, still flying the flag of the banned Baath party and pledging to fight on.
Fermi telescope produces new gamma-ray map

STANFORD, 12 March—New data from the US space agency’s Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope are giving scientists an un-precedented look at the high-energy cosmos.

A new map combining nearly three months of data from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration telescope shows the universe a blazer with gamma rays from sources both within the solar system and from galaxies billions of light-years from Earth.

“Fermi has given us a deeper and better-resolved view of the gamma-ray sky than any previous space mission,” said Peter Michelson of Stanford University, the lead scientist for the spacecraft’s Large Area Telescope. “We’re watching flares from supermassive black holes in distant galaxies and seeing pulsars, high-mass binary systems and even a globular cluster in our own.”

The LAT scans the sky every three hours while in survey mode, which involves most of the telescope’s observing time during its first year of operation, NASA said. The scans allow scientists to monitor rapidly changing sources.

A paper describing the 205 brightest sources the Fermi telescope has recorded has been submitted to The Astrophysical Journal Supplement for publication. NASA said the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope involves contributions from academic institutions and partners in France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Sweden.

Malaysia’s palm oil production drops in February

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 March—Malaysia’s crude palm oil production recorded 1.18 million tons in February, down 10.7 percent compared with the previous month.

This was reportedly the third month that the country saw a decreased production of crude palm oil. The total palm oil stocks, including crude palm oil, fell 14.7 percent to 1.56 million tons in the month, according to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board on Wednesday.

The country exported a total of 1.25 million tons of palm oil in February this year, down 7.2 percent from the previous month, but the exports of palm kernel oil were up 6.7 percent to 94,300 tons.

Crude prices retreat as US inventories jump unexpectedly

NEW YORK, 12 March—Crude prices retreated on Wednesday as US inventories jumped unexpectedly.

The Energy Information Administration said crude supplies in the US climbed unexpectedly by 700,000 barrels for the week ended 6 March. Analysts had expected a drop of 1 million barrels. Distillate demand fell 6.1 percent over the past four weeks from last year, with stocks off 2.1 million barrels last week, revealed the report.

The grim economic data also dragged down the prices. The US Labor Department said Wednesday that California, South Carolina, Michigan and Rhode Island registered double-digit unemployment rates in January.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which has already announced output quota reductions of 4.2 million barrels a day, is to meet Sunday in Vienna.

Some analysts expect the cartel would slash another 500,000 barrels per day. However, investors are doubting if OPEC may cut production again.

Int’l organization helps Vietnam in biosphere protection

HANOI, 12 March—Two international organizations from Australia and Germany have decided to provide 1.6 million euros (about 2 million US dollars) to help Vietnam conserve a key biosphere spot in southern Kien Giang Province, Vietnam News Agency reported on Wednesday.

AusAID, the Australian government’s overseas aid program, and Germany Technical Cooperation Organization (GTZ) will provide financial as well as technical assistance to the project, said the agency.

The Kien Giang biosphere reserve was officially recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2006.

The reserve, covering 1.1 million hectares, includes the U Minh Thuong National Park, which is one of Vietnam’s few remaining wetland forests.

The project, running until 2011, aims to enrich local forest resources, increase local residents’ income, and improve the management capacity of rangers in this area.

Afghan children are seen collecting water from a hand pump near Shuhada lake in Kabul. Surging population growth, climate change, reckless irrigation and chronic waste are placing the world’s water supplies at threat, according to a landmark UN report.

A man fumigates an area under a building to help control the breeding of dengue-transmitting aedes mosquitoes in Singapore on 12 March, 2009. Outbreaks of dengue fever have risen in the Asia Pacific region in the past year, killing three times more victims in 2008 than in recent years, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday.

Israeli man injured in minefield, falls to death while being flown to hospital

HAFRA, 12 March—An Israeli man died on Wednesday after falling from a helicopter that was flying him to a hospital after he sustained severe injuries in a minefield.

Numerous emergency responders were called to the scene after 24-year-old Alaa Agabriya lost his foot in a minefield located near the northern Israeli city of Beit She’an, according to Israeli news site Ynetnews.com. Medical teams stabilized Agabriya, then strapped him to a medevac’s gear and began transporting him to the nearest hospital. But somehow slipped from the straps and plummeted to the ground, Ynetnews.com reported.

A huge sandstorm engulfs the Saudi capital of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 10 March, 2009. The storm, which was still raging hours after it started, disrupted flights at the city’s King Khalid International airport, with weather authorities announcing that visibility would drop to zero, and warning residents to take precautionary measures.

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Some analysts expect the cartel would slash another 500,000 barrels per day. However, investors are doubting if OPEC may cut production again.
Hu calls for support from armed forces for Nat’l interests

BEIJING, 12 March —Chinese President Hu Jintao on Wednesday called on the Armed Forces to provide mighty support for national interests and social stability.

The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the armed police shall energetically speed up the modernization of defence, resolutely safeguard the country’s sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, and provide a mighty support for national interests and social stability, Hu said.

Hu, also chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at a plenary meeting of PLA deputies to the National People’s Congress (NPC), the top legislative body.

He stressed the Party’s leadership in the Armed Forces and called for the scientific development of defence and Armed Forces.

The Armed Forces shall voluntarily serve the overall work of the Party and the country, and contribute to economic development and social stability, he added.

He also told local Party committees and governments to support the development of defence and Armed Forces.

World population to exceed nine billion by 2050

UNITED NATIONS, 12 March —World population is projected to reach 7 billion early in 2012, up from the current 6.8 billion, and surpass 9 billion people by 2050, an official UN population report said here on Wednesday.

The 2008 Revision of the official United Nations population estimates and projections, released here on Wednesday, said that developing countries will add 2.3 billion inhabitants with 1.1 billion people aged over 60 and 1.2 billion of working age.

Most of the additional 2.3 billion people will enlarge the population of developing countries, which is projected to rise from 5.6 billion in 2009 to 7.9 billion in 2050, and will be distributed among the population aged 15–59 (1.2 billion) and 60 or over (1.1 billion) because the number of children under age 15 in developing countries will decrease.

In contrast, the population of the more developed regions is expected to change minimally, passing from 1.23 billion to 1.28 billion, and would have declined to 1.15 billion were it not for the projected net migration from developing to developed countries, which is projected to average 2.4 million persons annually from 2009 to 2050.

Japan’s Robot Saya can smile and scold

BEIJING, 12 March —Japan’s robot teacher calls roll, smiles and scolds, drawing laughter from students with her eerie life like face. But the developer says it’s not about to replace human instructors.

Unlike more mechanical-looking robots like Honda Motor’s Asimo, the robot teacher, called Saya, can express six basic emotions — surprise, fear, disgust, anger, happiness, sadness — because its rubber skin is being pulled from the back with motors and wiring around the eyes and the mouth.

In a demonstration, the robot’s mouth popped open, its eyes widened and eyebrows arched to appear surprised. Saya pulled back on its lips to make a smile, and said simple preprogrammed phrases such as “Thank you,” while its lips moved, to express pleasure.

“Robots that look human tend to be a big hit with young children and the elderly,” Hiroshi Kobayashi, Tokyo University of Science professor and Saya’s developer, said yesterday. “Children even start crying when they are scolded.” First developed as a receptionist robot in 2004, Saya was tested in a real Tokyo classroom earlier this year with a handful of fifth and sixth graders.

“Simply turning our grandparents over to teams of robots abrogates our society’s responsibility to each other, and encourages a loss of touch with reality for this already mentally and physically challenged population,” Kobayashi said.

World Kidney Day being observed in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 12 March —The World Kidney Day is being observed in Nepal Thursday with various programmes with the slogan “Are your kidneys OK?”

This day is going to be celebrated by organizing various programmes including awareness rallies and interactions, the National Kidney Treat-ment Center said.

According to the Center, 2.7 million people in Nepal have one or the other kind of kidney diseases, but there are only 12 doctors for it.

Nepal has 2,700 new kidney patients added each year.

China protests US measure blocking poultry imports

GENEVA, 12 March —China on Wednesday made a strong protest against a US act on poultry, saying the measure seriously violates basic World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and affects normal trade between the two countries.

The Omnibus Appropriation Act of 2009, approved by the US Senate on Tuesday, includes a section which bans any fund from being used to “establish or implement a rule” allowing the import of poultry products from China.

“We believe this is a typical discriminative and trade protectionist measure,” said the Chinese mission to the Geneva based WTO in a verbal note to its US counterpart.

“It violates the basic rules of the WTO seriously and affects the normal trade of poultry meat between China and US negatively and damages the rights of the Chinese poultry industries,” the Chinese mission said.

According to the verbal note, the US measure has triggered strong reactions in China, and the government is under increasing pressure from the poultry industries to adopt retaliatory measures.

The US move was “totally unfair and of a bad nature,” said the verbal note, adding that China would raise complaints to the WTO in this regard and maintain the right of further measures. “At the same time, we would like to urge the US to eliminate such kind of discriminative and trade protectionist provision as soon as possible in order to correct its wrong decision,” it said. —Xinhua

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Third H7 strain of avian flu found in Japan

Tokyo, 12 March—A third Aichi Prefecture farm has been tested positive for the H7 strain of bird flu virus, the Japanese Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said on Wednesday.

The government departments are trying to identify what N-subtype the virus belongs to, the ministry said in a press release.

The third case of avian flu virus was also found on a quail farm in Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture, where two weak-bloodshot eyes. A Breathalyzer test he driving without a rear passenger tire.

said an officer spotted a 27-year-old man driving a car with only three tires. Police Monday after police pulled him over for driving under the influence early on.

Tornado hits town in Philippines, destroys farmlands

Danao, 12 March—A massive tornado swept through a town in the Southern Philippines on Wednesday afternoon, destroying 18 hectares of farmlands but no one was reported injured or killed, officials said on Thursday.

About 8 million pesos (166,000 US dollars) worth of fruit trees were destroyed by the tornado that struck, the township of Tuyo in South Cotabato Province around 3:00pm local time (0700 GMT), said Gemma Rivera, social welfare assistant regional director in Central Mindanao.—Internet

Colliery gas blast traps six in China

Lanzhou, 12 March—Six people are trapped underground after a gas blast on Thursday at a coal mine in northwest China’s Gansu Province, according to the provincial coal safety production administration.

Zhou Chunhui, head of coal mine supervision of the provincial administration, said rescue efforts were underway at Tainanhuang Coal Mine in Tianzha Town, bet Autonomous County.

No casualties have been reported and no further details are available.—Internet

Apple unveils first “talking” iPod music player

San Francisco, 12 March — Apple on Wednesday introduced a new iPod music player which the company said can speak song titles, artists and playlist names to users.

The 4-gigabyte iPod shuffle is Apple’s first music player that has the talking feature and also “the world’s smallest music player at nearly half of the size of the previous model,” the company said.

The new model is significantly smaller than a AA battery, holds up to 1,000 songs and is easier to use with all of the controls conveniently located on the earphone cord.—Internet

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No casualties have been reported and no further details are available.—Internet

Australian unemployment rate hits new high in February

Canberra, 12 March—More than 53,000 full time jobs were lost in February in Australia, pushing the unemployment rate to 5.2 percent, the highest rate in four years.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data released on Thursday showed total employment rose by 1,800 to 10,810 million seasonally adjusted, with part-time employment up 55,600 to 3.146 million.

The economic slowdown on jobs is likely to intensify in coming months with the Federal Government predicting a jobless rate of 5.5 percent by June this year, rising to 7 percent 12 months later.—Internet

Ancient golden jewellery found in Egyptian tomb

Egyptian officials say archaeologists have found ancient golden jewelry in a pharaonic-era tomb that belonged to a senior official under Egypt’s most powerful queen. The Supreme Council of Antiquities says five golden earrings and two rings were found in the tomb of Gahouti, the head of the treasury under Queen Hatshepsut, who ruled Egypt 3,500 years ago.

Tuesday’s statement says the tomb was located on the west bank of the Nile River in Luxor, a southern Egyptian city famous for its Valley of the Kings and other ruins from pharaonic times.

The tomb had been looted, and its gates were engraved with text from the “Book of the Dead,” which Egyptians believed would be needed in the afterlife.

Coffee taster’s tongue insured for $14m

A taste tester for Britain’s Costa Coffee said the company has taken out an insurance policy on his tongue worth $14 million. Costa Coffee taster Gennaro Pelliccia said the company took out the insurance policy with Lloyd’s of London as it prepares to open a planned 100 new stores during the year. The Daily Telegraph reported on Monday.

“My 18 years of experience enable me to distinguish between thousands of flavors. My taste buds also allow me to distinguish my defects, which enables me to protect and guarantee Costa’s unique Mocha blend.” While competitor Starbucks has been forced to close hundreds of locations around the world, Costa officials said their company has thus far evaded any recession-powered downturn and reported positive sales growth this year.

Man driving with 3 tires charged with DUI

Authorities charged a man with driving under the influence early on Monday after police pulled him over for driving a car with only three tires. Police said an officer spotted a 27-year-old man driving without a rear passenger tire.

The officer reported that the man displayed uneven balance and had bloodshot eyes. A Breathalyzer test he took registered a 0.2 blood alcohol level.

The man was charged with DUI and later released on his own recognizance.

French pastry chef Jean-Michel Raynaud unveils a 2.1 metre high ‘Barbie doll’ chocolate mud cake which was made to mark the 50th anniversary of the world’s most popular doll on the forehores of Sydney Harbour.

INTERNET

Vallejo Akaasha, a six-month-old Bengal tiger, enjoys an unlikely encounter with Maverick, a 14-month-old Atlantic bottlenose dolphin, while being taken for a walk at the Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, a theme park in Vallejo, California.

INTERNET

Third H7 strain of avian flu found in Japan

Tokyo, 12 March—A third Aichi Prefecture farm has been tested positive for the H7 strain of bird flu virus, the Japanese Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said on Wednesday.

The government departments are trying to identify what N-subtype the virus belongs to, the ministry said in a press release.

The third case of avian flu virus was also found on a quail farm in Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture, where two weak-bloodshot eyes. A Breathalyzer test he driving without a rear passenger tire.

said an officer spotted a 27-year-old man driving a car with only three tires. Police Monday after police pulled him over for driving under the influence early on.

Tornado hits town in Philippines, destroys farmlands

Danao, 12 March—A massive tornado swept through a town in the Southern Philippines on Wednesday afternoon, destroying 18 hectares of farmlands but no one was reported injured or killed, officials said on Thursday.

About 8 million pesos (166,000 US dollars) worth of fruit trees were destroyed by the tornado that struck, the township of Tuyo in South Cotabato Province around 3:00pm local time (0700 GMT), said Gemma Rivera, social welfare assistant regional director in Central Mindanao.—Internet

Australian unemployment rate hits new high in February

Canberra, 12 March—More than 53,000 full time jobs were lost in February in Australia, pushing the unemployment rate to 5.2 percent, the highest rate in four years.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data released on Thursday showed total employment rose by 1,800 to 10,810 million seasonally adjusted, with part-time employment up 55,600 to 3.146 million.

The economic slowdown on jobs is likely to intensify in coming months with the Federal Government predicting a jobless rate of 5.5 percent by June this year, rising to 7 percent 12 months later.—Internet

Ancient golden jewellery found in Egyptian tomb

Egyptian officials say archaeologists have found ancient golden jewelry in a pharaonic-era tomb that belonged to a senior official under Egypt’s most powerful queen. The Supreme Council of Antiquities says five golden earrings and two rings were found in the tomb of Gahouti, the head of the treasury under Queen Hatshepsut, who ruled Egypt 3,500 years ago.

Tuesday’s statement says the tomb was located on the west bank of the Nile River in Luxor, a southern Egyptian city famous for its Valley of the Kings and other ruins from pharaonic times.

The tomb had been looted, and its gates were engraved with text from the “Book of the Dead,” which Egyptians believed would be needed in the afterlife.

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INTERNET

French pastry chef Jean-Michel Raynaud unveils a 2.1 metre high ‘Barbie doll’ chocolate mud cake which was made to mark the 50th anniversary of the world’s most popular doll on the forehores of Sydney Harbour.

INTERNET
**Open questions, open answers or determination to maintain peace**

Shin Thant

It was very pleasant to have an aerial view of the natural beauty of Kayin State from the helicopter. Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) over the Thanlwin River, and Myainggalay Cement Plant among limestone mountains reflected the cumulative development Kayin State was enjoying in the time of the Tatmadaw government. To put it another way, the magnificent bridge and the large cement plant testified to the fact that at the heart of regional development lay stability and peace of the region.

Stability is necessary for development of a region, and peace absolutely calls for stability. Today, local people’s desire is to lead a stable life through peace, which is evidenced by the heart-to-heart interview between the groups that have returned to the legal fold and United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar Mr Quintana on his tour of Kayin State.

On behalf of the people of Kayin State, representatives of national race groups expressed in an honest and frank way their opinions on the essence, benefits and taste of peace and the acts intended to disrupt peace. Showing their innate nature, responsible persons of various national race groups openly replied to the open questions of the delegation of the United Nations. The brief accounts of the frank talks were—

- why peace was made, and
- what those wishing to destabilize the nation are doing.

I witnessed regional development and effects of peace on local people as a result of peace. I believe that according to their clarification, the people of Kayin State have understood well the great difference between present and past conditions of their region.

I am sure that like me, the staff of the United Nations have realized the objective conditions of Kayin State. Regarding the making of peace, grandpa Thar Htoo Kyaw of Myainggyingu said that KNU had been very loud in shouting their objective to secure a prosperous future of Kayin national people since 1949, but it had not constructed even a school, health care centre or bridge; that instead it had burnt down school buildings, and blasted roads, bridges and gas pipelines; that KNU’s collecting extortion money and committing robberies were intolerable, but Kayin State dwellers had no choice but to bear all the stresses and strains of fear; that leaders of the armed group led a life of luxury with own businesses in Thailand and were commanding local battles from safe areas; that he had come to realize that Kayin nationals had to leave as refugees and were paid only a fistful of wrong ways; and that then the government showed its benevolent attitude and was taking care of them; and that he was looking forward to the best.

U Hein Maung of Htokawkoe said that his group had made peace for two years; that each Kayin soldier favoured peace; that all the peace groups were working together to sustain peace; that the government was working hard in the interest of the nation; that they were in support of the government as it was trying its best for well-being of the entire people; and that they would always join hands with those serving the public interest with positive attitude. With respect to the refugee camps, he said that Kayin nationals were forced to stay as refugees and were paid only a fistful of aid; that they felt depressed by such miserable conditions; that to be frank forcing Kayin nationals to be refugees for some funds from international community and providing Kayin people with just a small amount of money was somewhat like killing Kayin people; and that KNU had been committing terrorist activities and unscrupulous acts under the pretext of security of the refugee camps, taking a stronghold in the neighbouring country.

Phado Aung San of Phayagone said that his troops’ desire to enjoy the taste of peace was the same as that of the people of Kayin State; that while he was with KNU he was arrested twice for his proposal for peace talks; that he was forced to swear oaths not to return to the legal fold, and he escaped from attempts on his life two times; that he was one of KNU leaders and owned a house and car; that however KNU’s objective and acts and circumstances pushed him to make peace; that the government gave him a warm welcome; that it built houses for his members and provided land allotments to earn their living; that it provided them with electric power and dug canals to supply irrigation water; that the government provided his group with all necessary assistance; that they no longer held arms in their village for security of the region; and that they had surrendered their arms because they did not need to take security measures.

National race groups explained their objective conditions with their own views to Mr Quintana and party. In expressing their feelings, they did not represent their group, and their individual desire was similar to that of the entire people. I think Mr Quintana noticed the great difference between what he learnt from the western media and anti-government groups and what he witnessed on his tour. The answers of members of each group to open questions were the same.

Open answers to open questions showed that the interview was not conducted superificially, and that indicated the desire of the entire local people. Indeed, the desire of the entire local people is to witness greater development of Kayin State and hear the sounds of Kayin traditional drum and peace songs, not the sounds of gun fires from Dawna mountain range.

Being sensitive to public wishes, the government is now trying its utmost to restore peace and stability across Kayin State like in Htokawkoe, Myainggyingu and Phayathonesu. Mr Quintana may relay the message to the international community that the groups that have returned to the legal fold are maintaining peace and stability for regional development and peace. In other words, local people’s open answers to open questions depicted determination to maintain peace for the people of Kayin State.

Translation: MS

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Commander meets with staff in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye met with officials concerned and service personnel at the meeting hall of Rakhine State Information and Public Relations Department on 26 February.

At the meeting hall of Rakhine State PDC Office, the commander met with senior engineers at state, district and town-level, met with senior engineers at state, district and town-level, met with senior engineers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at the meeting hall of Rakhine State Agriculture Service.

The following day the minister inspected progress in taking measures at Sai Tin Hydropower Project, gave cash assistance to staff and cordially greeted local people in Mawmayi-chaung village.

CPT Ministry holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telecommunications held its work coordination meeting at the ministry here today.

The meeting was opened with an address by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the minister.—MNA

No. 2 BED D-G visits examination centres

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—U Aye Lwin, Director-General of No. 2 Basic Education Department, inspected examination centres of the Ministry of Education for the March examination.

In addition to examination centres of BEHS Nos 10, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 25, he visited examination centre of BEMS No. 15 being kept in reserve.

The director-general viewed students taking the examination in the centres, and supervised timely delivery of question papers and keeping of answer papers by supervisors and assistant supervisors.—MNA

Old students to hold respect paying ceremony

YANGON, 12 March—Old students who had concluded their study at Yangon Institute of Technology (Civil) between 1987 and 1991 will hold the respect paying ceremony and get-together at Kyaukseintwin Dhammayon on Shwedagon Pagoda road on 4 April. Old students and faculty members were invited to attend the ceremony without fails.

Over 7,800 acres of poppy plantations destroyed this year

YANGON, 12 March—A total of 993.1 acres (401.88 hectares) of poppy plantations grown in Hsewhi, Tanyang, Namhkam and Kukkai Townships of Shan State (North), Hsinhseng, Kunhein and Kekhi Townships of Shan State (South), Kengtung, Mongkha, Monghsat, Mongpyin and Metmong Townships of Shan State (East) and Waingmaw, Tanai, Phakant and Putao Townships of Kachin State were destroyed from 21 to 27 February.

Similarly, a total of 591.19 acres (239.24 hectares) of poppy fields in Hsenwi, Tanyang, Mongyai, Manton, Namhkam and Kukkai Townships of Shan State (North), Pinlaung, Hsinhseng and Monai Township of Shan State (South), Mongton, Monghsat and Mongkhauk Townships of Shan State (East), Waingmaw, Tanai, Phakant and Putao Townships of Kachin State were destroyed from 28 February to 6 March. The total poppy plantations destroyed this year poppy cultivation season are 7892.86 acres.

MAAS holds educative talks

YANGON, 12 March—Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science of the Ministry of Education organized the educative talks No. 2/2009 at Arts Hall of Yangon University on 11 March afternoon, with an introductory speech by President of the academy U Than Oo.

Secretary of the academy Dr Myo Than Tin introduced retired ambassadors U Hla Maung (Economics) to those present. Next, Member of the academy U Hla Maung (Economics) gave the talks on world monetary affairs and economic crises.—MNA

President of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science U Than Oo speaking at educative talks No. 2/2009.—MNA

Ahtetpaunglaung-Nancho-Paunglaung 230 KV Power Grid under construction

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected foundation of No. 1 tower and installation of tower No. 19 of Ahtetpaunglaung-Nancho-Paunglaung 230KV Power Grid yesterday.

The minister arrived at Shwemyo main power station where officials reported on construction of Ahtetpaunglaung-Nancho-Paunglaung, Kyunchaung, Shweymin-Thayagon and Shwemyo Main power station 230 KV Power Grid Projects, construction of power lines and distribution of power. Managing Director Dr San Oo gave a supplementary report.

The minister gave instructions on early completion of the projects.—MNA

Over 7,800 acres of poppy plantations destroyed this year
Regional development tasks inspected

NAV PYI TAW, 12 March—Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Zaw Min on 13 February inspected summer paddy fields, and the tarmacking of Hpa-an-Gyaing road section between mile post Nos 22/0 and 22/1 in Hpa-an Township, and the watermelon farm near Daweidan Village.

Upon arrival at Thamoot village, responsible personnel of Dawei-Myeik railroad construction project briefed the commander on the chosen places for axis of Boachtan-Thamoot railroad section and Myeik railway station.

After hearing the reports, the commander fulfilled the requirements.

Development tasks ongoing in Kayin State

NAV PYI TAW, 12 March—Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Zaw Min on 13 February inspected summer paddy fields, and the tarmacking of Hpa-an-Gyaing road section between mile post Nos 22/0 and 22/1 in Hpa-an Township, and the watermelon farm near Daweidan Village.

On 17 February, he inspected Dali Bridge on near Daweidan Village, and the crop plantation of Ministry of Industry-1, Thuzar Shop of the Htokawkoe nursery, Win Hlaing, and Joint Township Tel: (538320).

Seinle Shwe Pyi Journal in circulation

YANGON, 12 March—Volume VI, No 6 Seinle Shwepy Journal came out today.

It carries local and foreign news including the preliminary discussion for the upcoming 2010 election, good prices for cuttlefish from Taninthayi Costal Region at Chinese market, commercial cultivation of paddy field near Thanbayar Village. He had a meeting with service personnel and townsmen at the office of the township and viewed Kya-in-Seikkyi-Kyarkha detour road.

On 21 February, he visited the integrated farm of U Tun Ne near Shwedaw Village and inspected the progress in constructing the basic education primary school of Phokatar village, and the edible oil crop plantation of U Tun Khin near Kawi-taukeya village in Hpa-an Township.

On 27 February, he inspected Bawthabyu BEFS, and free health care services given to villagers of Shwegun model village at Shwegun Station Hospital and presented free eyeglasses to the elderly eye patients.

Brig-Gen Zaw Min provided cash assistance for the patients of Shwegun Station Hospital, and inspected the rubber farm of U Aung at mile post No. 53 on Kamamaung-Papun road section, Myaingyigyu quarry, and the rubber farm of U Chit Aye at mile post No 46.

UMFCCI Vice-President meets foreign guests

YANGON, 12 March—Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, and Joint Secretary (1) Dr Maung Maung Lay and party met Vulnerable Anlysis Coordinator Mr Naoki Minamiguchi of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific at the office on 9 March.

At the centre of the cordial meeting were programmes to hold workshops and educative talks for development of Myanmar’s agriculture sector.

A Chinese delegation led by Deputy Director-General Mr Li Rong of Yunnan Province Trade Department of the People’s Republic of China together with Chinese Economic & Commercial Counsellor called on Vice-President U Win Aung, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and party at the same venue in the afternoon.

The meeting focused on boosting bilateral trade and investment, and reached an agreement under which Myanmar will stage exhibitions at China (Kuming) ASEAN Stone Expo and The 4th China Yunnan International Pu’er Tea Expo to be held in April and July in Kuming, Yunnan Province.
Nav Pyi Taw, 12 March—The Ministry of Finance and Revenue held its work coordination meeting at the meeting hall, here this morning, with an address by Minister for F&R Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, managing directors, directors-general, general managers, directors of the enterprises and departments, managers at state and division levels, departmental officials at state and division levels and officials concerned.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun made a speech on the occasion. Next, departmental heads briefed the minister on accomplishment of the tasks to meet the set targets and future plans for new financial year. After hearing the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions and the meeting came to a close.—MNA

Alpha Health & Care Ltd holds press conference

Yangon, 12 March—Alpha Health & Care Ltd (Myanmar), a branch office of Alpha Group International Ltd (New Zealand), held a press conference on natural traditional medicines distributed by Alpha Health & Care Ltd (Myanmar), Prof Gao Yihuai, International Ltd (New Zealand), holds a press conference on natural traditional medicines, and held a press conference on natural traditional medicines. Held at the meeting hall, here this morning, with an address by Dr Khin Zaw, Myanmar branch Director of Alpha Health & Care Ltd (Myanmar), held its work coordination meeting. Held at the meeting hall, here this morning, with an address by Minister Col Hla Thein Sve, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, managing directors, directors-general, general managers, directors of the enterprises and departments, managers at state and division levels, departmental officials at state and division levels and officials concerned.

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Press conference on natural traditional medicine distributed by Alpha Health & Care Ltd (Myanmar).—MNA

Shwe Naing-ngaung Journal in circulation

Yangon, 12 March—Volume VII, No 21 Shwe Naing-ngaung Journal comes out today. It features articles of Myanmar political affairs and Myanmar Tatmadaw, friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and India, Kayah State’s golden future, directives for the Tatmadaw and Today’s Tatmadaw, festival of Mansettaya Pagoda and travel features and others.

The journal is available at Serpay Bookshop on Merchant Street in Kyauktada Township, Pan Shwe Pyi book shop on Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township, News and Periodicals Enterprise bookshop and manuscripts can be sent to No. 8, 2nd floor Panchan Tower at the corner of Dhammaizei and Bargaya streets in Myaynigone, Sangyoung Township (Tel: 538302).—MNA

Marijuana, opium, stimulant tablets seized in Kayin State, Shan State (East)

Yangon, 12 March—Local authorities seized 3,674 kilos of marijuana from Kyi Lwin of Kanasapin Village in Thandaw Township, Kayin State and 613 kilos of marijuana from U Maung of Naungnun Village, Kyaykyi Township, at 4.30 am on 5 March. Action was taken against them at Zayakyi Police Station.

Similarly, Kengtung Special Anti-Drug Squad seized 563.38 gm of opium from Daw Nan Oon during its inspection of the tri-cycle vehicle driven Aung Thu en-route from Pannaw Village to Mongpyin at Mongpyin Check Point in Shan State (East) at 11.55 am on 6 March. After questioning her, the authority also seized 1,300 kilos of opium from Nandar Sana, son of Daw Nan Oon, at her home on Panyang Street in lower Zaydan Ward in Mongpying. Local authorities are investigating the case to arrest the related drug traffickers.

Tachilek Special Anti-Drug Squad discovered 2 million stimulant tablets bearing WY letters and seized over K1 million from the truck with No Plate 1 Kha/6012 driven by Sai Yi on the en-route from Kengtung to Tachilek at 11.30 am on 7 March. The stimulant tablets were hidden in the extra fuel tank of the truck. Truck conductor Sai Hti Shan managed to escape. Truck owner Sai Yi was arrested and put under investigation. The local authorities are investigating the case to arrest those involved in the drug trafficking.

Kengtung Special Anti-drug Squad searched Shwemyawdaw passenger bus driven by Saw Win Aung en-route from Kengtung to Tachilek at Naungman Check Point in Shan State (East) at 12.30 pm on 7 March and seized 4.3 kilos of opium hidden in four bamboo boxes. The driver and the bus conductor were arrested and put under investigation. The local authorities are investigating the case to arrest those involved in the drug trafficking.

MNA

Compensation handed over to 12 Myanmar seafarers

Yangon, 12 March—Myanmar Overseas Seafarers Association presented compensation to 12 Myanmar seafarers who were free from Somali pirates, at its office on 37th Street in Kyauktada Township yesterday.

Vice-Chairman of the association U Win Ngwe gave a speech and Country Representative U Huy Aung explained efforts for securing the compensation. Treasurer U Ye Aung of the association presented compensation.

On behalf of the seafarers, U Kyaw Soe and Joint Secretary U Min Zaw spoke words of thanks. While discharging duties onboard MV Bright Ruby, 12 Myanmar seafarers were seized by Somali pirates from 10 September to 16 October 2008.—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

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MNA

Treasurer U Ye Aung of MOSA hands over compensation to a seafarer.—MNA
Wulon species tea farm in Tangyan, Shan State (North), generates job opportunities

(From page 16) Shan State is well-known for tea which is of two kinds—pickled tea and green tea. Myanmarese enjoy pickled tea to the accompaniment of several kinds of roasted fritters. They still preserve a tradition of serving guests pickled tea salad at social occasions, weddings, and at home.

Green tea is made by adding some tea into the boiling water. According to medical experts, green tea is good for our health.

Shan State has been growing tea on a large scale for generations. Referring to the tea-growing regions, it is known as Zayan tea, Shwephi tea and Namsang tea.

Farmers have relied on domestic species of tea for long, and but failed to apply advanced agricultural methods, thus seeing a fall in per acre yield. Now, the trial cultivation of Wulon tea species with high-yield and quality has proved successful in Shan State (North).

On our tour of Tangyan on 1 March morning, we were amazed by the vast stretch of farm of tea grown row after row in a well-organized way on the slopes of the mout

Tea is grown in rows in a 500-acre farm.

He added that his company was trying Wulon species tea in Tangyan Township; that it launched groundwork in 2005 to grow tea; that it put 500 acres under tea in 2008; and that it would increase the sown acreage to 1000 acres by 2009, and 2000 acres by the year 2010.

He said that Wulon high-yield tea species was imported from China; that it was of two kinds—ordinary species and high-yield species; the interval between one tea sapling and another was one and a half feet, and between a row of tea saplings and another five feet; that they put natural fertilizers, and groundnut husks in the farms; the plants could be harvested when they were at the age of three years at the rate of twice a month; that the harvesting season was from March to November; that on average, per acre yield of green leaves was about 1700 viss; that due to the assistance rendered by local administrative bodies and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the reproduction of tea plants was successful and that saved about one-third of the foreign exchange spent on import of tea species; and that they had a plan to distribute tea grafts to interested companies.

For the tea farms, he said that they had 60 permanent staff and up to 250 daily-wage earners, and had over 300 employees at that time; that the number of employees would increase to over 1000 when the project hit 2000 acres of tea farms; and that the majority of the employees were from nearby villages.

Regarding the staff welfare services, he said that they presented employees assistance at the same rates as that in the region; and they paid bonuses of cash and clothes on significant holidays based on their performances.

Tangyan Township has a tea factory. In the past, the township was behind other regions in development due to lack of stability. Now, it has left far behind such undesirable conditions, and it grows such poppy-substitute trees as rubber, tea, physic nut and maccadamia with the encouragement of the government and under the leadership of Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut. As a result, local people enjoy significant job opportunities with higher living standards.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 6-3-2009
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SUPA BHUM VOY NO (129)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SUPA BHUM VOY NO (129) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.3.2009 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
MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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Teen kills 15 in Germany before taking own life

WINNENDEN, 12 March—A 17-year-old wielding a Beretta 9 mm pistol burst into classrooms at his former high school Wednesday and gunned down students—some of whom died with their pencils still in hand in a rampage that ended with 15 dead before he took his own life, authorities said.

There was no immediate indication of motive, but the gunman’s victims were primarily female: eight of nine students killed were girls, and all three teachers were women. Three men were killed later as the suspect, identified by police as Tim K., fled.

“I heard two shots and then screaming,” said a 15-year-old student who gave her name only as Betty. “At first I thought it was a joke, but then someone called ‘Run, run!’ and I saw students jumping out of the windows and took off running.”

The gunman — dressed in all black — took students in the first classroom completely by surprise, evidenced by the morbid scene that awaited the first officers to arrive, said regional police director Ralf Michelfelder.

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Gas leak postpones space shuttle Discovery launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, 12 March—NASA postponed the launch of space shuttle Discovery just hours before it was to head to the international space station Wednesday because of a hydrogen gas leak that could have been catastrophic at liftoff.

The leak was in a different part of the system that already has caused a vexing one-month delay. Shuttle managers put off the launch until Monday but left open the possibility that the repair work might allow for an attempt Sunday.

The latest delay means Discovery’s two-week flight must be shortened and some spacewalks cut out of the mission. That’s because Discovery needs to be gone from the space station before a Russian Soyuz rocket blasts off March 26 with a fresh station crew.—INTERNET

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Major oil slick off Australia coast beaches, birds

SYDNEY, 12 March—A major oil clean-up was underway off Australia’s northeast coast on Thursday to limit the damage to beaches and marine life after a ship lost 30 tons of fuel when its hull was pierced by a container washed overboard.

Marine experts are still searching for 31 containers of ammonium nitrate, used for making fertiliser and explosives, which were lost from The Pacific Adventurer off Moreton Bay near the city of Brisbane on Wednesday.

If the containers, which have 620 tons of ammonium nitrate, leak it could cause major algae blooms which would choke marine life in Moreton Bay, say marine scientists. Maritime Safety Queensland said the missing containers may never be recovered.—MNA/Reuters

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Drive with care

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CARNATION VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CARNATION VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.3.2009 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
MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS PREMIER SPECTRUM

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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Nine paintings stolen from Egypt’s museum palace

CAIRO, 12 March—Nine paintings in a museum palace of Egypt’s 19th century ruler Mohamed Ali have been stolen from the old palace in the northern suburb of Cairo, local media reported on Wednesday. The Culture Ministry said the paintings, which depict Ali and his family, were likely removed early Tuesday from the frames in the museum palace of Shubra el-Kheima. Police have launched investigations into the stealing, said the ministry. On Tuesday, Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouq Hosni and Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities Zahi Hawwas visited the stealing spot in the palace.—INTERNET

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Full moon begins to set as the space shuttle Discovery sits on Kennedy Space Center’s Launch Pad 39-A before sunrise on 11 March, 2009 in Cape Canaveral, Fla. —INTERNET

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Models perform at a fashion show during a VIP reception of Fashion Shanghai 2009, held in east China’s Shanghai, on 10 March, 2009. —INTERNET

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File photo shows animal rescue personnel cleaning an oil-soaked penguin after being caught-up in oil spill in Australia. —INTERNET

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Drive with care
Lack of vitamin D linked to teen health problems

**Dallas, 12 March** — New research in teenagers links low levels of vitamin D to high blood pressure and high blood sugar, which can lead to ominous early health problems.

The “sunshine” vitamin is needed to keep bones strong, but recent research has linked vitamin D to other possible health benefits.

The teen study confirms results seen in adults, linking low levels with risk factors for heart disease, the researchers said.

France to return to NATO command

**Paris, 12 March** — French President Nicolas Sarkozy said on Wednesday that his country will return to NATO’s military command after a 42-year rift.

In 1966, French President Charles de Gaulle pulled France out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s integrated military command, saying it undermined France’s sovereignty, BBC reported.

“This reapprochement with NATO ensures our national independence,” Sarkozy said. “To distance ourselves would limit our independence and our room for maneuver.”

Flossing monkeys ‘proof’ animals teach tool use

**Tokyo, 12 March** — Thai monkeys have been observed showing their young how to floss — proof pri- mates teach offspring to use tools, a Japanese re- searcher said on Wednesday.

“I was surprised because teaching techniques on using tools properly to a third party are said to be an activity carried out only by humans,” Professor Nobuo Masataka of Kyoto University’s Primate Research In- stitute told AFP.

His research team observed seven female long-tailed macaques and their offspring and monitored how often the mothers cleaned the spaces between their teeth with strands of human hair, in a colony of 250 animals near Bangkok.

The study found that the frequency of teeth-clean- ing roughly doubled and became more elaborate when the infant monkeys were watching, suggesting that the females were deliberately teaching their young how to floss, he said.

New clue on why cancer spread is linked to diet

**Paris, 12 March** — Investigators on Wednesday said there could be a clue to explain why dietary re- striction succeeds or fails in braking the growth of cancer.

Scientists spotted a century ago the link be- tween calorie intake and the progression of certain kinds of tumour.

But how this works at the molecular level has been unclear.

In addition, tumours may remain puzzlingly immune to fasting among some individuals but not among others, which is partly why the practice looked at the impact of food curbs on six types of human cancers that had been grafted onto mice which had been genetically modified to lack im- mune resistance.

The mice were then split into two groups, with one batch able to tuck into a standard rodent diet for two to three weeks.

The others received daily meals that amounted to a 40 percent reduction in calories compared to their counterparts, which led to a fall of between 20 and 30 percent in body weight.

People with these predictors, including fewer than 10 years of education and living in rural areas, are at a greater risk, according to the researchers. In these areas, the chances of improving health are likely to be lower because of economic, geographic or social factors, the researchers said.
Back to Serie A for Mourinho but for how long?

MANCHESTER, 12 March — Jose Mourinho is confident Inter Milan will bounce back from the disappointment of their Champions League exit and go on to claim a fourth consecutive Serie A title. Given that Inter currently stand seven points clear of Juventus at the top of the Italian top flight, few would disagree with that view.

But whether Mourinho sticks around for the defense of the Scudetto is another question altogether. Everything about the former Chelsea manager’s demeanor during his time in Manchester suggested that he would find it hard to resist an attractive offer to return to the Premier League.

Manchester City, Inter Milan’s coach Jose Mourinho leaves the field after losing 2-0 in their UEFA Champions League second round second leg match against Manchester United at Old Trafford, in Manchester, on 11 March. —INTERNET

Arsenal defeat Roma on penalties in Champions League

ROME, 12 March — AS Roma’s Max Tonetto skied his penalty miles over the bar to hand Arsenal a place in the Champions League quarter-finals following a tense match that went to the spot-kick lottery on Wednesday.

Arsenal won the shoot-out 7-6 thanks to Tonetto’s sudden death miss after Eduardo and Mirko Vucinic had seen their earlier efforts saved by goalkeepers Dom and Manuel Almunia respectively. It means all four English teams made it through to the last eight with Italy’s three representatives all bowing out — it is the first time in seven years no Italian team has made it through to the quarters.

The game ended 1-0 to the hosts after 90 minutes, matching the score the Gunners had won by in London two weeks ago. Arsenal’s French midfielder Abou Diaby takes the last penalty for the team during their UEFA Champions League second round second leg football match against AS Roma at the Olympic football stadium in Rome. —INTERNET

Peer cruises, Dokic falls at Indian Wells tennis

INDIAN WELLS, 12 March — Israel’s Shahar Peer, whose exclusion from the WTA Dubai Open unleashed a storm of controversy, has got back in business in the best possible way on Wednesday — with a win.

Peer cruised into the second round of the 4.5 million-dollar BNP Paribas Open with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Ukrainian Kateryna Bondarenko. “I’m a professional tennis player, I want to play,” said Peer, whose period of enforced idleness ended with a first-round loss at the Monterrey Open last week.

Peer said she felt “angry and sad” last month when she was denied a visa to the United Arab Emirates and thus missed the two-million-dollar Dubai Open. “If you put politics to one side, it was bad for me because I was playing very good,” said Peer, who reached the semi-finals at Pattay City and quarter-finals at Auckland earlier this year before winning two singles matches in Israel’s loss to Ukraine in the Fed Cup.

“Ito have two and a half weeks with nothing, it’s hard.” But Peer said she had been buoyed by the outpouring of support she had received from the world, and from the WTA.

In other matches on Wednesday, Australian Open champion Jelena Dokic was bundled out of the first round by US veteran Jill Craybas 6-4, 6-2. Bulgarian Tsvetana Pironkova booked a second-round clash with Safina, beating New Zealand’s Marina Erakovic 6-4, 6-1.

Woods trying to get on track with Masters looming

DORAL, 12 March — Roger Federer, bested by Rafael Nadal in a five-set final at the Australian Open in January, is keen to renew his rivalry with his Spanish foe at the Indian Wells Masters series.

Federer’s appearance in the California desert, where men’s play begins Thursday, marks his first tournament since falling to Nadal in Melbourne, as the 13-time Grand Slam champion nursed a nagging back injury. Now he said he’s rested and ready to bid for a fourth title in the event he won in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

“I love playing matches against him, especially those five-setters, seeing if I can hang with him physically without a problem,” Federer said Wednesday. “He’s the greatest challenger I’ve ever had.” I am really motivated because I don’t know how much better he can play,” Federer added. “I don’t know how much better I can play, but I am right there and he’s playing the tennis of his life.”

Nadal’s victory in the first round marked the Spaniard’s first hardcourt Grand Slam triumph. He also denied Federer a record-equalling 14th Grand Slam crown. But the 27-year-old Swiss, who broke down in tears in the wake of that defeat, said he wasn’t unhappy with his performance there.

Tiger Woods walks to the third hole during a practice round at the CA Championship golf tournament, on 11 March, 2009, in Doral, Fla. —INTERNET

The CA Championship, which starts on Thursday on the Blue Monster with a world-class field of 80 players, will be his first stroke-play tournament since he won the US Open in June, a week before reconstructive surgery on his left knee.

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Woods trying to get on track with Masters looming

DORAL, 12 March — Fans began showing up at Doral on Tuesday morning when it was dark. Several hundred surrounded the first tee when Tiger Woods finally arrived for another practice round at dawn. And then he was gone.

Unlike his short-lived return to competition two weeks ago at the Accenture Match Play Championship, where he was eliminated in the second round, this disappearing act lasted only a few seconds as he walked through a thick strip of fog that stretched across the fairway. Woods is assured of playing four rounds this week.

Arsenal’s French midfielder Abou Diaby takes the last penalty for the team during their UEFA Champions League second round second leg football match against AS Roma at the Olympic football stadium in Rome. —INTERNET
Deepest Sympathy

We would like to convey our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Dr. U Tun Aung Kyaw, Joint Secretary II, Myanmar Academy of Medical Science, (Deputy Director, retired, Trachoma Control Project, Department of Health); National Literary Prize Winner and Senior Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, who passed away suddenly on Wednesday, 11th March 2009. Myanmar Academy of Medical Science.

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (13.3.2009) (Friday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transmissions</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>(09:00am – 10:00am) MST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>(15:00pm – 22:00pm) MST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>(23:30pm – 07:00am) MST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local Transmission

- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Treasure Trove of Myanma Art and Handicrafts
- Extensive Network of Railroads across the Nation
- Chin Cultural Museum
- Discovering Imaw Bum Area (Part-I)
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Traditional Custom of Kadi National Race
- The Longest Beach Resort in Myanma (Ngwehsuung)
- Oxen Brothers
- Myanmar Natural Resource Spirulina
- Yoke Sone Monastery of Lai Kai Ancient City
- Myanmar Culture and Banana
- Inlay Blacksmith Craftsmanship
- Towards Pondaung Ponnya Yaw Region (Part-I)
- Myanmar Modern Song
- Treasure Trove of Myanma Art and Handicrafts
- Extensive Network of Railroads across the Nation
- Chin Cultural Museum
- Discovering Imaw Bum Area (Part-I)
- Oil Painting Model Demonstration
- The Myanmar Truban Unique
- Poem Garden “Join Hands together”
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

WEATHER

Thursday, 12 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thunder-showers has been isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin and Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, lower Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C to (6°C) above March average temperatures in Chin State, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (40°C), Monywa, Pyinuma, Minbu, Magway, Pakokku, Shweygin and Hpa-an (39°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 11-3-2009 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 12-3-2009 was 69°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 12-3-2009 was 77%. Total sunshine hours on 11-3-2009 was (9.1) hrs approx. Rainfall on 12-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon. Maximum temperature on 13-3-2009 was (77°F) at Myitkyina, Khakaborazi, Kamae, and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (40°C), Monywa, Pyinuma, Minbu, Magway, Pakokku, Shweygin and Hpa-an (39°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.12) inch.

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Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 12th March 2009:

Light rain or thunderstorms are likely to be isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 13-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Filipino children take a bath from free water stations in the poor residents of Tondo in Manila, the Philippines, on 12 March, 2009. A temperature of 33.3 degrees Celsius was recorded at 1:50 pm Wednesday. Relative humidity was registered at 96 percent. So far, the hottest day in Metro Manila was on 6 March at 36 degrees Celsius.—INTERNET
Wulon species tea farm in Tangyan, Shan State (North), generates job opportunities

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

A tea factory under construction near Khoyawng Village-tract, Tangyan Township, Lashio District. (See page 11)

New method for monitoring volcanoes

to make it easier to predict volcano eruptions, and they can also be used to improve today’s climate models.

One of the Chalmers researchers who developed the monitoring equipment is Mattias Johanson, who recently defended his doctoral dissertation in the subject.

The most active volcanoes in the world have special observatories that monitor them in order to be able to sound the alarm and evacuate people in the vicinity if an eruption threatens. These observatories keep track of several parameters, primarily seismic activity. Now 17 observatories have received a new parameter that facilitates their work – the volcanoes’ emissions of sulphur dioxide.

“Increasing gas emissions may indicate that magma is rising inside the volcano,” says Mattias Johanson at the Department of Radio and Space Science at Chalmers. “If this information is added to the other parameters, better risk estimates can be made at the observatories.”

Insight

Open questions, open answers or determination to maintain peace

Stability is necessary for development of a region, and peace absolutely calls for stability.

Spin Battery: Physicist develops battery using new source of energy

SCIENCE DAILY, 12 March—Researchers at the University of Miami and at the Universities of Tokyo and Tohoku, Japan, have been able to prove the existence of a “spin battery,” a battery that is “charged” by applying a large magnetic field to nano-magnets in a device called a magnetic tunnel junction (MTJ).

The new technology is a step towards the creation of computer hard drives with no moving parts, which would be much faster, less expensive and use less energy than current ones. In the future, the new battery could be developed to power cars.