Staff urged to expedite work momentum, complete projects as scheduled

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — A work coordination meeting of the Ministry of Industry-2 took place at the ministry here this afternoon. At the meeting, Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein reviewed the implementation of the nine objectives of the ministry and urged the staff to expedite the work momentum, complete the projects as scheduled and seek innovative ways and means.

Next, departmental heads, general managers of factories and principals of technical training schools reported on their respective functions. Later, the managing directors and deputy ministers gave supplementary reports and the minister left necessary instructions.

MNA

Shwegyin Hydropower Project designed for regional greening and development

Madauk of Shwegyin region gets an average annual rainfall of 144 inches. In the rainy season, the Sittoung River and the Shwegyin Creek are in flood, and so not only small boats but also motorboats may be seen drive in the low-lying areas along the waterways on such a flooding season. However, just after the rainy season, the flooding is no more, and the current of the river and the creek become slow.

Being divided by the Sittoung River, Shwegyin and Madauk were in no position to deal with each other much previously. The State Peace and Development Council constructed Sittoung Bridge (Shwegyin-Madauk), which was inaugurated on 12 February 2003. (See page 11)

The three-gate spillway of Shwegyin Hydropower Project is under construction.

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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Four objectives
Traditional Myanmar medicine
to seek international recognition

Traditional Myanmar medicine has improved gradually due to potent herbal plants that grow well in the fertile soil, medicinal products and animal products, and the climate pattern of the nation.

The paper reading session on traditional Myanmar medicine is organized with the aim of improving traditional Myanmar medicine, a national legacy, with which health care has been provided to the people throughout the nation’s history, applying the findings of international level paper reading sessions; expediting research on traditional medicine; turning out a growing number of traditional medicine practitioners; and producing potent traditional medicines and therapies that can cure major diseases.

It is required to further improve traditional medicine by recording the findings of the paper reading sessions.

Today, many countries are trying to revive and spread their traditional medicines at the international level, so traditional medical science and traditional medicines are winning the reliance and trust of the people increasingly.

In such a time, traditional Myanmar medicine practitioners have to work hard in harmony in order to improve traditional medical science, and traditional medicines till they have sought international recognition.

Therefore, traditional medicine practitioners are under a duty to effectively apply the findings of the paper reading sessions to enable traditional Myanmar medicine to be well-known at the international level.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be bolstered whenever flat-tered
* Do not be frightened whenever intimidat ed
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeared

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung receives Cambodian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung received Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Chhong Toeun. — MNA

Cash donated to funds of Myanmar Accountancy Council

YANGON, 14 March—A ceremony to donate cash to the funds of Myanmar Accountancy Council was held at the training school (Yangon) of the Auditor-General’s Office on 3 March.

Cash donated to the funds of Myanmar Accountancy Council

Members of MAC and Certified Public Accountants U Win Thin and U Than Tin, K 500,000 and U Hla Tun and Group Ltd., K 500,000 were awarded certificates and prizes.

Dr Tin Shwe’s literary awards winners announced

YANGON, 13 March—Under the supervision of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association (MWJA), literary awards in memory of writer Doctor Tin Shwe have been presented starting from books published since 2001. Three books selected from books published in 2007 will be awarded for the seventh time. Doctor Tin Shwe founded Tin Shwe publishing house and served as a CEC member of MWJA till he passed away.

The books selected by Doctor Tin Shwe Literary awards selection committee were “Three generations of Myan mar Women Artists” written by writer Khin Mya Zin, “Biography of OG U Soe Myint” by writer Dr Kyaw Myint (X-ray), and “Shwedagon Mystique” by writer Na Thungi. Tin Shwe publishing house will send the invitations to the winners and those winners may contact Ph (01-6819558 and 09-5117683).

In addition, the prizes presentation ceremony will be announced.—— MNA
Two Gaza rockets hit Israel: military

JERUSALEM, 14 March—Two rockets fired from the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip slammed into open fields in southern Israel overnight, without causing any casualties or damage, the Israeli military said on Saturday.

“The two Qassam-type devices were fired from the northern Gaza Strip and landed in the western Negev,” a military spokesman said, referring to the crude, homemade rockets used by Palestinian armed groups.

Gaza militants have fired more than 160 rockets and mortar rounds on Israel since the end of a massive Israeli offensive at the turn of the year aimed at halting the projectiles, shaking the ceasefires that ended the fighting.

Israel has in turn launched several air strikes at suspected militants, weapons caches, and smuggling tunnels along the Gaza-Egypt border.

On Thursday Hamas said “resistance movements” had nothing to do with the recent rocket fire and vowed to combat such activities, saying they came at a “bad time.”

Egypt has been struggling since the war ended in January to mediate a more lasting ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and a prisoner exchange to return an Israeli soldier seized by Gaza militants in June 2006. —INTERNET

Iraqi leaders cite security problems

BAGHDAD, 14 March—Iraq’s top leadership called Friday for a review of government security measures after a pair of suicide attacks killed about 60 people this week in the Baghdad area.

The capability of Iraq’s army and police to maintain security has taken on new urgency now that President Barack Obama has announced plans to remove all US combat troops from Iraq by September 2010 and end the US mission here by the end of the following year.

A statement on the Web site of Iraq’s presidency said the national president and the two vice presidents, said the attacks “represent a grave deterioration in the security situation” after weeks of relative calm.

The statement said the council, which has representatives of the Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish communities, would ask Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to summon top security officials after he returns from a visit to Australia to discuss how the attacks were carried out and measures to prevent more in the future.

Last Sunday a suicide attacker wearing an explosives vest killed 30 people near the Baghdad police academy.

US shoots down Iranian drone flying over Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 March—An American fighter jet took down an Iranian drone over Iraq last month, US military sources told Wired.com.

The US has long accused Teheran of supplying militant groups in Iraq with weapons and training, Wired reported. While the flow of Iranian weapons into Iraq has slowed, Shiite militias have fired Iranian rockets at US troops and Sunni militias reportedly used Iranian bombs to destroy US military vehicles.

Iran has supplied the terrorist group Hezbollah with several models of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Iran’s deputy defence minister claimed in February that the country’s latest UAVs can fly as far as 600 miles. If true, the Iranian drones could fly over any US military installation in the Middle East, including Iraq, Wired reported. Multi-National Corps would not confirm or deny the previously unreported incident to Wired.com. —INTERNET

Turkey launches air strike against PKK in northern Iraq

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Gurak made the remarks at a weekly press conference at the headquarters of the General Staff, state-run news agency Anatolian reported on Friday.

However, Gurak gave no casualties of the PKK during the air strikes in Zap-Avasin regions in northern Iraq. —INTERNET

Iraqis gather at the site of a car bomb in the northern oil rich city of Kirkuk on 11 March. Extremists are losing in Iraq despite two bloody attacks in Baghdad this week, and local forces will cope with security after US troops withdraw, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said Thursday.—INTERNET

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Wen worries about safety of Chinese assets in US

BEIJING, 14 March — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Friday he is “a little bit worried” about the safety of Chinese assets in the United States, urging the US Government to ensure the security of those assets. “We lent such huge fund to the United States and of course we’re concerned about the security of our assets and, to speak truthfully, I am a little bit worried,” said Wen at a Press conference after the close of the annual Parliament session.

China has invested its huge foreign exchange reserves in low-risk but low-yield assets, such as US Government bonds, to play it safe. “China is indeed the largest creditor of the United States, which is the world’s biggest economy. We are extremely interested in developments in the US economy,” said Wen, adding that he is expecting the effect of the measures taken by the US Administration of President Barack Obama to counter the international financial crisis. Meanwhile, Wen said the country’s foreign reserves will be mainly used in overseas investment and trade, as the reserves are actually the liabilities of the Central Bank instead of fiscal fund.

Smithfield Foods posts 3Q loss of $103.1 million

MILWAUKEE, 14 March — Smithfield Foods Inc reported a third-quarter loss Thursday that was less than analysts predicted and said its performance would improve as it focuses on the packaged meats business, where it can make more money. Shares soared 34 percent for the Smithfield, Va.-based company, the nation’s largest hog producer and pork processor, as executives offered brighter predictions for the business, which has been struggling along with others in the meat industry.

President and Chief Executive C Larry Pope told investors on a conference call that the company was able to charge higher prices for its products like ham, pork and bacon, while costs were declining. “The future is going to be better than the past, and I feel comfortable with that statement,” he said.

Switzerland breaks with tradition on tax evasion

GENEVA, 14 March—Switzerland’s days as a safe haven for the world’s tax evaders are numbered. Under pressure from the United States and other troubled economies, the Swiss government announced Friday that it will cooperate in international tax investigations, breaking with a long-standing tradition of protecting wealthy foreigners accused of hiding billions of dollars. Austria and Luxembourg also said they would help.

“Against the background of the financial crisis, international cooperation has grown stronger particularly against tax crimes,” Swiss President Hans-Rudolf Merz said.

But he insisted that the secrecy of Swiss banks would remain intact except when other countries provide compelling evidence of tax evasion.

Nicaragua blasts US’s decision to hold back aid

MANAGUA, 14 March—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega is accusing the US of “taking bread from the poor by holding back aid.” The US said this week it will continue delaying some $564 million in development aid because of an election dispute in the Central American nation. Ortega’s leftist Sandinistas won a majority of mayorships in the November vote. He defends the election as fair, but the opposition argues that it was fraudulent.

The president said Friday that his government “will not negotiate the mayorships” his party won.

OPEC could cut production on weekend

VIENNA, 14 March—OPEC oil ministers are expected to cut production by up to half a million barrels, or do nothing, at two meetings. If oil is too pricey, as was the case less than a year ago, they boost production. And if they are happy, they keep to the status quo.

But desperate times call for more finessed decisions.

Bomb blast at Nepali Congress office

KATHMANDU, 14 March — Some unknown group detonated a pressure cooker bomb at Banka District office in western Nepal of the main opposition party Nepali Congress Party on Saturday morning, the Ujyaalo FM reported.

Meanwhile, Jantantri Tarai Mukti Morcha has claimed responsibility for the blast, some 365 kilometres west of Kathmandu, Avenues TV reported.
Netherlands sees sharpest fall in exports in 19 years

BRUSSELS, 14 March — Dutch foreign trade was hit hard in the global economic crisis with exports tumbling 21 percent in January from a year earlier, the biggest drop since the records were kept in 1990, the Dutch central statistics bureau (CBS) said on Friday.

The value of goods exports fell to 24.4 billion euros (31.5 billion US dollars), the CBS said. The volume of exports fell 14 percent, according to figures corrected for working days. Imports also plummeted 22 percent to 21.6 billion euros, while the volume of imports decreased 14 percent.

The steep decline in exports was anticipated as earlier figures already showed a dramatic reduction in manufacturing output and increasing pessimism among manufacturers about the amount of orders received from abroad, the CBS said. —Xinhua

US trade deficit drops to lowest level in six years

WASHINGTON, 14 March — The US trade deficit fell by 9.7 percent in January to 36 billion US dollars, the lowest level since October 2002, the Commerce Department said on Friday.

This marked a record sixth straight month that the trade deficit shrank. Analyst had been expecting the trade imbalance to narrow to 38 billion dollars.

US exports of goods and services dropped by 5.7 percent in January to 124.9 billion dollars, the lowest level since September 2006.

Overseas demand for a wide variety of US-made products from farms goods to autos to civilian aircraft all decreased as other economies in the world have been hit by the global financial crisis. Imports declined by an even bigger 6.7 percent to 160.9 billion dollars, the lowest level since March 2005, showing that the domestic demand in the United States has been badly restrained by the deepening economic recession.

The drop in imports was led by a 25.2 percent plunge in imported crude oil, which fell to 11.9 billion dollars in January, the lowest level since February 2005. —Xinhua

Over 200 children fall ill after drinking poisonous water in Colombia

BOGOTA, 14 March — At least 261 children fell ill on Friday after drinking poisonous water in central Colombia’s city of Villavicencio, news reports said.

Earlier Friday, an aqueduct was attacked with explosives disrupting water supply to parts of the city, and local authorities had to use tank-trucks to supply water to some 300,000 inhabitants.

Rescue workers said the children had drunk water from a ravine and from the vehicles sent to the children had drunk water from a ravine and from the vehicles sent

Ford Motor completes new assembly line in Vietnam

HANOI, 14 March — Ford Motor announced its completion of a ten-million-US-dollar assembly line in the northern Hai Duong Province of Vietnam, the Youth reported Friday.

The assembly line with a capacity of 700 vehicles a year will be used to manufacture the Mondeo model for the domestic market and the United States car maker. This showed confidence of Ford Motor as foreign investor in the mid and long-term growth prospects for doing business in Vietnam despite the current economic downturn, said David Alden, president of Ford ASEAN.

The line has increased Ford’s investment in Vietnam to 110 million US dollars, making it the country’s largest auto investor.—Xinhua

4.3 magnitude earthquake hits New Zealand North Island

WELLINGTON, 14 March — An earthquake measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale struck the city of Gisborne, 60 km south-east of New Zealand’s eastern North Island on Friday night.

New Zealand’s Institute of Geological and Nuclear Science (GNS) reported the quake, which occurred at 11:15 pm Friday local time (10:15 GMT Friday), at a focal depth of 30 km, and was felt in Mahia and Gisborne.

No causalities or damages were reported. —Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency
**US health system to be burdened by aging baby boomers**

Los Angeles, 14 March—More aging boomers are suffering from health problems, putting a heavy burden on the US health system, a new study available here on Friday showed. Aging baby boomers, who are being hospitalized for heart attacks now than people their age were a generation ago, may swamp cardiac care wards across the nation, according to the study by researchers at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC). Baby boomers are not in good shape, even when compared with their counterparts 10 or 20 years ago, warned the study that was presented Thursday to the ongoing American Heart Association conference in Palm Harbor, Florida. The first baby boomers will begin turning 65 in a year-and-a-half, making the aging of this group an important public health issue,” said Hylan Shoob, lead author of the study.

The 80 million baby boomers born between 1946 and 1964 now constitute a third of the US population, raising fears about a backlash against foreigners in Darfur following an arrest warrant issued against the country’s president for war crimes there.

**Italy reports release of aid workers in Sudan**

Khartoum, 14 March—The Italian foreign ministry said Friday that three foreign aid workers being held hostage in Darfur had been released but representatives for their aid organization could not confirm that they had been freed.

Representatives for Doctors Without Borders where the hostages worked said they have not been in touch with them since reports surfaced of their release late Friday. Conflicting reports about the fate of the hostages added to the mystery of the kidnapping, which has raised fears about a backlash against foreigners in Darfur following an arrest warrant issued against the country’s president for war crimes there.

**Library card leads Sheboygan cops to alleged thief**

Sheboygan police say they were able to track down a theft suspect because he left behind his library card, which he apparently used to try to unlock a tavern door. Thirty-four-year-old Christopher G Leinhardt was charged Friday with misdemeanor counts of theft and property damage.

Prosecutors said a bartender called police in early-morning hours last month after finding the bar’s lights on, a cooler open and a window screen slashed in the basement.

The criminal complaint said the bartender also found Leinhardt’s library card on the floor by a door. More than four cases of beer were missing.

A telephone listing for Leinhardt couldn’t be found Saturday evening. Online court records didn’t list a defence attorney.

**Would-be burglar stuck in Atlanta store**

A would-be burglar is in jail after he climbed through a hole in the roof of an Atlanta liquor store and then couldn’t get back out. Police and the owner of Azar’s Package Store found 29-year-old Adam Hardeman early Tuesday hiding in a store restroom with playing cards, lighters and a bottle of gin in his pocket.

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**Ariz serial shooting suspect guilty of six murders**

Phoenix, 14 March—A former janitor was convicted Friday of murdering six people and attacking 19 others in dozens of random night-time shootings of pedestrains, bicyclists and animals that terrorized this desert city over a 14-month period in 2005 and 2006.

The convictions conclude the first phase of the six-month trial of Dale Shawn Hausner, the main suspect in metro-politan Phoenix’s Serial Shooter attacks.

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US trader pleads guilty for arms sales to Iran

NEW YORK, 14 March—A former director at a Singapore aircraft supply company pleaded guilty on Friday to exporting US military technology including aircraft components to Iran over the last decade, prosecutors said.

Laura Wang-Woodford, 64, a US citizen who was a director at the Singapore-based Monarch Aviation Pte, pleaded guilty in Brooklyn federal court to conspiring to violate a US trade embargo by exporting aircraft components to Iran without a US Government license. Her husband, Brian Woodford, was charged in 2003 for his suspected role in the scheme but remains a fugitive.

Both were accused of exporting controlled US aircraft parts from the United States to Singapore and Malaysia and then re-exporting those items to companies in Tehran without obtaining approval from US authorities. The aircraft parts exported include aircraft shields, shears, “o” rings, switch assemblies and parts for Chinook military helicopters, prosecutors said.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia named second best travel destination in Asia

JAKARTA, 14 March—Indonesia was ranked second in Go Asia’s The Best Travel Destination in Asia after Thailand while Malaysia was placed as the third best, the Jakarta Post reported quoting the Indonesia Foreign Ministry as saying on Friday.

Go Asia, a German tourism institution, invited travel agents from all over the world to participate in the voting process on Wednesday in Berlin. The body also gave awards for Asia’s best tourism organizations or tourism boards, airlines and tour operators.

Go Asia initiative was started in 2003 to enhance marketing in German-speaking regions. Saptapati Nirwanda, Indonesian Culture and Tourism Ministry’s director general of marketing, said Friday that the award was a proof that tourism, which contributed 7.5 billion US dollars to the country’s income in 2008, was able to survive in the global economy slowdown.

“We have to keep working hard to turn this economic slowdown as a chance to boost our tourism,” he said. Saptapati added that the number of German tourists visiting Indonesia had increased by 22.6 per cent in 2008 compared to the previous year.

MNA/Reuters

No more survivors in Canada chopper crash, 17 dead

OTTAWA, 14 March—There are no more survivors from a helicopter that crashed in the North Atlantic off the coast of the Canadian province of Newfoundland, officials said on Friday, confirming that 17 people died in the accident. One person was rescued after the accident. One person was rescued after the crash, the pilot had reported mechanical trouble before the crash. “At approximately 1930 Newfoundland Time (2200 GMT) we’ll be handing the case over to the Transportation Safety Board,” McGuire said. The passengers and crew were wearing suits designed to help them survive for up to a day, but McGuire said they had been in the water longer than that.

MNA/Reuters

Russia grounds bulk of its “MiG-29” fleet due to defects

MOSCOW, 14 March—Russian Air Force has grounded almost 30 per cent of its mainstay MiG-29 fighter fleet due to structural defects and the move could have ramifications for the Indian Air Force which also has a sizable number of these fighters.

“About 90 aircraft out of 200 tested after the crash of MiG-29 fighter last December have been grounded,” Interfax reported quoting a Russian Air Force spokesman Colonel Vladimir Dirk. “More aircraft could be grounded on completion of the aircraft probe which followed two crashes last year,” the spokesman said.

The Russian Air Force has a fleet of about 300 MiG-29 fighters, which are its prime air superiority platform.

The probe was ordered after a MiG-29 crashed in December in Khabarovsk region due to disintegration of its fin during a training sortie killing its pilot.

Initial reports have identified corrosion as the cause for the disintegration of the fin of the fighter it could take another two months to pin-point the reason for corrosion, Interfax said.

Indian Air Force has 54 MiG-29 comprising three squadrons and all of these aircrafts are being upgraded with the help of the original manufacturers and some other countries to extend their life by another 15-20 years.—MNA/PTI

Netherlands to send commandos to Afghanistan

BRUSSELS, 14 March—The Netherlands is to send 76 commandos and marines to the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan in April, Radio Netherlands reported.

The Dutch Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry told the parliament in a letter on Friday that the troops were needed to gather intelligence and to arrest Taliban leaders.

Since the end of 2007, there have been no Dutch commandos or marines in Afghanistan.

However, the letter said, as elections in the country approach, their presence is now urgently required.

The arrival of the 76 soldiers, together with reinforcements for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), will bring the total number of Dutch troops in Afghanistan to almost 2,000, Radio Netherlands said.

Internet

An elephant plays with a block of ice containing fruit during Thailand’s National Elephant Day at Ayuthaya Elephant Palace & Royal Krun, 80 km (50 miles) north of Bangkok on 13 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Citizens watch solar halo in Shenzhen, on 14 March, 2009. The scene of solar halo appeared in Shenzhen, Zhuhai and other cities of Guangdong province, south China on Saturday.—INTERNET

A former laborer attached balloons to the symbol of a heart on a billboard in Amritsar on Valentine’s Day, but with a much lower price tag this year as the global economic crisis hit Cupid in the pocket.—INTERNET

An Indian labourer attaches balloons to form the symbol of a heart on a billboard in Amritsar. Love was in the air on Saint Valentine’s Day, but with a much lower price tag this year as the global economic crisis hit Cupid in the pocket.—INTERNET

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Second (Nay Pyi Taw) Inter-Ministry Men’s Basketball Tournament commences

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint speaking at opening ceremony of the Second (Nay Pyi Taw) Inter-Ministry Men’s Basketball Tournament.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 March—The Second (Nay Pyi Taw) Inter-Ministry Men’s Basketball Tournament 2009 was opened at the basketball ground, here, at 4 p.m. yesterday.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address and formally opened the tournament.

The players of the basketball teams recited sports oaths.

After the opening ceremony, the first day match followed. The Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs team beat the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs team.

Also present on the occasion were the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the Ministry of Sports, responsible persons of the Myanmar Basketball Federation and ministries concerned, guests, staff families and basketball fans.

A total of 17 basketball teams are taking part in the tournament. The fixtures were drawn for holding four matches a day up to 25 March.—MNA

Importance of prevalence of law and order and the Union spirit stressed

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 March—Chief Justice U Aung Toe met judicial officers of the Supreme Court (Mandalay) and Division, District and Township judges at the Supreme Court (Mandalay) yesterday.

At the meeting, Chief Justice U Aung Toe said the government is now making efforts for national development in order to keep abreast of the nations of the world. Judicial staff need to keep track of internal and international affairs as they decide legal cases every day, he said.

Regarding the judicial affairs, he said it is vital to decide a case in accord with the law. He spoke of the need for them to judge the cases after studying them very carefully. The cases are different from one another. Therefore, the judges are to examine the evidences and to make a decision using their reasoning power and citations from the law, he added.

Now the government is building an enduring administrative machinery and so service personnel should try to win trust of the people and they are to discharge duties conscientiously and to stay away from taking bribes, he said. The Chief Justice said they need to explain the government’s endeavours for national development to the people.

He stressed the importance of prevalence of law and order and the Union spirit and speedy completion of judicial process in accord with the law.

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

Progress of Kya-in-Seikkyi inspected

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 March—Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Zaw Min, on 28 February, looked into sanitation work of departmental staff near the surroundings of Barme mountain in Hpa-an and the skill demonstration of Hpa-an Fire Brigade in Pyiartungsu Thiri Stadium and presented cash assistance to them. He also visited Myoma market.

The Chairman looked into summer paddy fields near Thanpaya village in Kya-in-Seikkyi and construction of Dalit bridge on Chaung-hakha-Thanpaya-Kya-in-seikkyi on 2 March.

The Chairman also observed tasks for construction of Kya-in-Seikkyi circular road, and inspected rubber plantations, and condition of village-to-village roads.

The Chairman then proceeded to construction site of Patacreek crossing bridge near Thayettaw village in Kawkareik and inspected construction of bridges on Nabu-Pata-Paingkyon road, road works, construction of new two-story building in Paung BEMS and attended to the needs.

MNA

Holiday trip of Rakhine Association (Yangon) on 27 March

Yangon, 14 March—Rakhine Association (Yangon) will organize a holiday trip on 27 March at 6.30 am with a double decker. The route is from Mawtin Jetty in Yangon to Dedaye.

Those interested may contact U Khin Maung Soe (Ph: 552126) and U Myo Swe (Ph: 09-5001180), U Kyaw Yin (Ph: 09-5126489), U Bo Tin (Ph: 09-8502821), U Zaw Aye Maung (Ph: 09-5140407), U Zaw Win (Ph: 09-5006820), U Tun Naing (Ph: 09-5013887), U Oo Myint Kyaw (Ph: 09-5064653), Dr Mya Hnin Aye (09-5021412) and Daw Hla Hla Yi (Ph: 645510). — MNA
Assistant Supervisor (Township) Course concludes

NAV PYI TAW, 14 March—Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint delivered an address at the concluding ceremony of the Assistant Supervisor (Township) Course No. 1/2009 at the hall of the Ministry, here, yesterday. It was also attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint, departmental heads, officials and 92 trainees.

Afterwards, the minister awarded three outstanding trainees and the managing director presented completion certificates to the trainees.

Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 holds work coordination meeting

NAV PYI TAW, 14 March—A work coordination meeting of the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 was held at the Ministry, here on 12 March, with an address by Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Myo Myint, the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, officials and factory managers of power stations.

The minister delivered a speech. Officials concerned reported on work done on detailed points of the hydro-power projects, work to be done, arrival of materials and requirements and factory managers on generation of power at full capacity.

Next, the deputy minister and the officials gave supplementary reports. The minister gave instructions on requirements and the meeting ended with the concluding remark by the minister.—MNA

Malaysian Rizman maintains leading position in Myanmar Masters

YANGON, 14 March—The Myanmar Masters 2009 golf tournament, organized by Myanmar PGA and sponsored by Air Bagan and Hotel, Myanmar Treasure Club, Aureum Palace Bank, Pun Hlaing Golf Trading Co Ltd, KBZ and so on, ended yesterday with an address by the minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Myo Myint, the managing director and managing directors of departments and enterprises, officials and factory managers of power stations.

The minister delivered a speech. Officials concerned reported on work done on detailed points of the hydro-power projects, work to be done, arrival of materials and requirements and factory managers on generation of power at full capacity.

Next, the deputy minister and the officials gave supplementary reports. The minister gave instructions on requirements and the meeting ended with the concluding remark by the minister.—MNA

Progress of development undertakings inspected in Seikkyi-khannaungto

YANGON, 14 March—Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Paon 11 March viewed supply of water by YCDC at Sama Duwa Ward 4 of Seikkyi-khannaungto Township and progress in construction of one-storey building at No. 7 Basic Education Primary School.

The vice-mayor handed over 30 desks donated by social organizations for the library in Thakin Ba Thaung Ward, 20 desks for BEPS No. 7 and medicines for Sama Duwa Health Care Branch through the headmistress and the township medical officer. Afterwards, the vice-mayor handed over K 100,000 donated by social organizations for the library in Thakin Ba Thaung Ward, 20 desks for BEPS No. 13 and medicines to the health care branch for the ward through the chairman of Ward Peace and Development Council, the headmistress and the township medical officer.—MNA

Infiniti Showroom & Service Centre opened

YANGON, 14 March—The opening of Infiniti Showroom & Service Centre took place at 167, 38th Street, Kyauktada Township, here, this morning.

Managing Director Daw Yin Yin Lin of Infiniti Co Ltd formally opened the showroom. Marketing Manager Daw Wah Wah replied to the queries of the journalists.

Available at Infiniti Showroom are toners, ink, ribbon cartridges, printer accessories and maintenance.

Customers may contact Infiniti Co Ltd Showroom & Service Center, 167, 38th Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Ph: 0951 389655, 382501, 391744, 398100, 09 503360, 0951 20920, 09500 5122, Fax-951 382501, Email: wwl@mptmail.net.mm and Nay Pyi Taw branch at Pa-72, (Pweyondan), Myoma Market, Nay Pyi Taw (Ph: 067 421422 and 421245).—MNA

Assistant Supervisor (Township) Course concludes

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Infiniti Showroom & Service Centre opened
Upgrading of roads inspected in Mayangon, South Okkalapa, Thakayta

YANGON, 13 March – Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected repairs and maintenance of roads near 8th-Mile Junction in Mayangon Township under taken by the Engineering Department (Road & Bridge) here this morning. Next, he viewed growing of shady trees along both sides of the entrance to Yangon International Airport.

The mayor proceeded to South Okkalapa Township and inspected tarmacking of Pinya (10) Street in Ward 5 and laying of pipelines for supply of drinking water, upgrading of Tagaung (9) Street and building of a sportsground, upgrading of Tagaung (7) Street, building of a sportsground in the compound of No. 25 BEPS, upgrading of Pinya (14) Street and unblocking of ditches for proper drainage, tarmacking of Pinya (13) Street and upgrading of Balika Street in Ward 10 and 37th Street in Ward 13.

Later, the mayor coordinated tasks with townsenders for reconstruction of No. 12 BEPS in 4/South Ward in Thakayta Township.—MNA

Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin views maintenance of Pyu Nyar Road near 8th-Mile Junction in Mayangon Township. YCDC

Meeting of Finance & Revenue Ministry continues

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March — The second day session of the work coordination meeting of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue took place at the ministry here today.

Papers on providing banking services by building a banking network, proposal on cash paying and receiving on line, review of export services at Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank and other finance and revenue affairs were discussed. Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun gave necessary instructions.

Next, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein reported on local and foreign banking services and measures being taken for ensuring firm monetary structure. Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe gave necessary instructions.

Later, the minister stressed the need for research and training and urged officers to train their staff to be able to work efficiently.—MNA

No. 2 BED Director-General visits examination centres

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March – Director-General of No. 2 Basic Education Department U Aye Lin and officials visited examination centres of basic education schools — Basic Education High School Nos 1, 2, 3 and 4 and BEMS Nos 1, 2, 3 and 4 in PyinOoLwin, BEHS Nos 1, 2 and 3 and BEHS of Ohndaw in Sagaing and BEHS No. 7 in Mandalay — on 13 and 14 March.

The director-general and party inspected sitting of the students for the examinations and tasks of the supervisors and assistant supervisors at the examination centres. MNA

Cookery courses on 19 March

YANGON, 14 March — Under the supervision of Myanmar Seafaring Services Association, European cookery courses will be conducted on 19 March.

Those wishing to take the courses may contact the association branches — No. 34, Yamonna Street, Yamonna (2) Ward, Dawbon Township and No. 7, Laydauntkan Road in Thingangyun Township. MNA

One virus particle is enough to cause infectious disease

SCIENCE DAILY, 14 March — Can exposure to a single virus particle lead to infection or disease? Until now, solid proof has been lacking. Experimental research with insect larvae at Wageningen University and Simon Fraser University in Canada has shown that one virus particle is theoretically enough to cause infection and subsequent disease.

A virus population is usually composed of a collection of variants of virus particles. In order to investigate whether virus particles (virions) can cause an infection independently from each other, and therefore individually, the researchers set up an experiment with two ‘marked’ virus variants. They exposed a population of hosts (caterpillars) to both variants.

The experiment showed that exposure to a low dosage of virus particles resulted in a small number host infections (20%). The majority of these hosts (86%) turned out to be infected by a single virus genotype. Internet

Twin nanoparticle shown effective at targeting, killing breast cancer cells

A unique, dumbbell-shaped twin nanoparticle created by Brown University chemists targets a class of breast cancer cells known as Her-2 tumor cells.

SCIENCE DAILY, 14 March — Breast cancer patients face many horrors, including those when fighting the cancer itself. Medications given during chemotherapy can have wicked side effects, including vomiting, dizziness, anemia and hair loss. These side effects occur because medications released into the body target healthy cells as well as tumor cells.

The trick becomes how to deliver cancer-fighting drugs directly to the tumor cells. Brown University chemists think they have an answer: They have created a twin nanoparticle that specifically targets the Her-2-positive tumor cell, a type of malignant cell that affects up to 30 percent of breast cancer patients. Internet
Shwegyin Hydropower Project designed for regional greening and development

As part of the drive, the Ministry of Electric Power No.1 has many medium and large hydropower projects on the go around the nation.

According to the documents, the area of Yeywa Hydropower Project in Mandalay Division gets an average annual rainfall of 33 inches; Kentawng Hydropower Project in Shan State, 53 inches; Nancho Hydropower Project in Nay Pyi Taw, 65 inches; Pyuchaung Hydropower Project in Bago Division, 100 inches; and Shwegyin Hydropower Project, 144 inches.

The area of Shwegyin Hydropower Project gets a long period of high rainfall from 15 April until the end of October. So, projects can be implemented with momentum in the region for about five and a half months in a year.

The region annually faces flooding, landslides and poor condition of roads due to torrential rains. Braving the natural barriers, engineers and workers of No (4) Construction of the Hydropower Implementation Department under the Ministry of Electric Power No.1 are working hard under the supervision of Minister for Electric Power No.1 Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister U Myo Mint and officials to complete the ongoing projects on schedule.

No (4) Construction of the Hydropower Implementation Department under the Ministry of Electric Power No.1 is undertaking Shwegyin Hydropower Project on the Shwegyin Creek near Kyauknaga Village, about six miles northeast of Shwegyin. It was one of the projects implemented in compliance with the guidance given at the four-monthly meeting (2000) by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on generation of 2000 megawatts a year.

The Shwegyin Creek has a catchment area of 343 square miles, and an annual inflow of water of 2,010,000 acre feet. In order to utilize such a huge volume of water, the 3610 feet long and 185 feet high zoned type dam is being constructed. On completion, the project will have still water storage capacity of 510,800 acre feet, maximum water storage capacity of 1,685,000 acre feet, and maximum water surface area of 44 square miles. A 3600 feet long and 40 feet high dyke will be built to be able to maximize the water level of the dam.

The water surplus will be let out through a 135 feet wide spillway at the rate of 134,000 cubic feet per second. And an emergency (supporting) spillway will be constructed in order to protect the dam from damage when inflow of water exceeds the outflow in the rainy season.

In addition, a 1600 feet long diaphragm wall will be built in three months to strengthen the dam and prevent the lower part of the dam from seeping the stored water.

The 295 feet long, 94 feet wide and 70 feet high hydropower plant will be able to produce 75 megawatts.

The project was launched in 2003-2004 fiscal year, and so far, it has been completed by 73.5 per cent.

The government is trying to use all possible water sources throughout the nation to generate hydroelectricity without taking commercial gains into consideration. So, Bago Division will be able to generate 262 million kilowatt hours a year by 2010.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 13-3-2009
Englishwoman in solo Indian Ocean rowing bid

PERTH, 14 March—English open ocean rower Sarah Oaten has launched her bid in Australia to become the first woman—and the youngest person—to row across the Indian Ocean alone.

Watched by a handful of friends as she set off on her journey of more than 3,000 nautical miles west to Mauritius, the 23-year-old made a hasty departure to make the most of a good weather forecast. A keen rower since she was 14, Oaten decided several years ago to row across the Indian Ocean, but originally planned to do it as part of a team.

However, after her father died suddenly after suffering like her dad did,” she told AFP.

The journey is expected to take around 100 days and will test both her physical fitness and psychological strength.

First Superman comic book raises 317,200 dlrs

NEW YORK, 14 March—A rare copy of the first Superman comic book sold for 317,200 dollars at an auction — a super hero sized increase on the original price.

The book is a rare and unrestored first edition across the 300,000-dollar mark. There were 89 bids and Comic Connect, immediately topped the 5,000 kms trip in 100 days.—INTERNET

PR man found guilty of killing California tourist

SAN JUAN, 14 March—A judge in Puerto Rico has found a man guilty of murdering a tourist from California during a 2008 bar fight. Jose Perez Pagan will be sentenced in June.

He was accused of shooting Oakland resident Eddie Maco Campbells after an argument at a bar in the popular tourist area of Isla Verde. The 37-year-old victim was shot in the head, chest and shoulder and died while receiving medical attention. Maco was in Puerto Rico to attend a bachelor party for his sister’s fiancé at the time of the February 2008 shooting. Two of his friends also were injured in the fight, but not by gunfire.

First iPhone 3G to be sold in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 14 March—The Indonesia’s largest cellular operator, PT Telkomsel, is slated to sell the country’s first iPhone 3G mobile handset on March 20 in the capital city of Jakarta.

“iPhone 3G will redefine consumers’ mobile phone ex-perience,” the Jakarta Post daily on Saturday quoted Telkomsel president director Sarwoto Atomsutarno as saying.

According to Sarwoto, iPhone 3G is available in over 70 countries worldwide, while Telkomsel also would invest 1.5 billion US dollars this year to expand its 3G network.

US could join Franco-German EU chopper project

PRAGUE, 14 March—France and Germany are expected to present a proposal to develop a new heavy transport helicopter to the European Defence Agency in coming weeks, and the project could be joined by the United States, the EDA said on Friday. France and Germany agreed last November to an EU call to open up what was conceived as a bilateral project to other EU states. The EU argued this would make it more commercially viable by doubling expected output from 60 to 120 machines.

A chronic shortage of available helicopters has held back efforts by the European Union to become a global security player and hampered operations from Africa to Afghanistan. “I think we are on track with the work — not the EDA, but the two administrations in Berlin and in Paris,” EDA director Alexander Weis told reporters after an EU defence ministers’ meeting in Prague.

Weiss said the aim was for the 32-35 ton helicopter to reach initial operational capability by 2018-2020. — MNA/Reuters

Lights cause injuries at Scottish pub

BUCKIE, 14 March — Workers and customers of a Scottish pub said they suffered sunstroke and other ailments after a manager installed light bulbs from a tanning machine.

Locals said manager Emma McLean at The Pub in The Square in Buckie, Scotland, mistakenly used high-powered ultraviolet tubes when she replaced the blue strip lights behind the bar, The Daily Record reported Friday.

Morgan Smith, a bartender, suffered severe burns to his neck as a result of the bright lights, his sister said. “He was really badly burnt and had sunstroke,” Smith’s sister said. “He was all dizzy and couldn’t see because of the brightness of the lights.”

“He’s never peeled and was in a right state,” she said. Nobody could believe he got sunstroke from standing behind a bar. The lamps are only supposed to be used for a few minutes at a time. If anyone had any idea they were being cooked until staff began to complain of dizziness.”

Residents said some of the injured customers and staff have been making rumblings about legal action against the bar.

“I’ve been told that there are going to be a few claims for compensation,” one local said.

British rowing adventurer Sarah Oaten shows off from her harbour berth to start her marathon voyage across the Indian Ocean heading for Mauritius, in Fremantle, on 14 March. Outen hopes to make the 317,200 dlrs

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British rowing adventurer Sarah Oaten shows off from her harbour berth to start her marathon voyage across the Indian Ocean heading for Mauritius, in Fremantle, on 14 March. Outen hopes to make the 5,000 kms trip in 100 days.—INTERNET

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“iPhone 3G combines three products in one, a mobile phone, widescreen iPod and internet device. It also includes fast 3G networking, GPS mapping and support for enterprise features including Microsoft Exchange.”

Telkomsel was the first operator in Indonesia to launch 3G services in September 2006, and had the biggest 3G community with more than 9.2 million subscribers in more than 140 cities in the country.
Migraines in Pregnancy boost vascular risks

WASHINGTON, 14 March—Women who have migraines during pregnancy 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, says a US study.

“Good prenatal care is essential. Women with persistent and severe migraines during pregnancy 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 in a Wake Forest news release.

“There also seems to be a relationship between migraines and pre-eclampsia, one of the most common and dangerous complications of pregnancy.” The researchers also found that women 35 years and older were more likely to have migraines during pregnancy.

Women age 40 and older were 2.4 times more likely to have migraines than women younger than 20, and white women were more likely to have them than women of any other race or ethnicity. “Migraines, particularly those associated with an aura or visual changes around the time of the headache, have been previously linked to stroke and heart disease in women,” Bushnell said. “This study further validates the association between the two.”

NASA drops 50,000-pound dummy rocket on Arizona

HOUSTON, 14 March—NASA and the U.S. Air Force managed to drop a 50,000-pound rocket booster on the Arizona desert. Well, it was a sort of a crash test dummy. But the 25-ton heft was real. As hoped, a parachute opened and the booster set down intact. The drop was a test of the next-generation rocket called Ares, designed to get to the space agency, and some astronauts, back to the moon.

“NASA’s new Ares moon rocket is going to have a reusable booster stage that we plan to recover after each mission,” explains James Burnum of Marshall Space Flight Center. “To ‘catch’ the booster before it crashes back to Earth, we need a super-reliable parachute system.” Dropping something so big is not simple. In fact it doesn’t always go well. Last year, a mock-up of NASA’s Orion space shuttle successor twisted, tumbled and fell from thousands of feet up after a parachute failed to inflate properly.

Toxoplasmosis linked to schizophrenia

LEEDS, 14 March—British scientists say toxoplasmosis parasite may trigger the development of schizophrenia and bipolar disorders.

The team from the University of Leeds shows the parasite may play a role in the development of the disorders by affecting the production of dopamine — the chemical that relays messages in the brain controlling aspects of movement, cognition and behavior. Toxoplasmosis, which is transmitted through cat feces — and can be found on unwashed vegetables as well as raw or undercooked infected meat — is relatively common, with 10 percent to 20 percent of the British population and 22 percent of the US population estimated to carry the parasite as cysts. Most people with the parasite are healthy, but for those who are immune-suppressed — and particularly for pregnant women — there are significant health risks that can occasionally be fatal. “Toxoplasmosis changes some of the chemical messages in the brain, and these changes can have an enormous effect on behavior,” study leader Dr Glenn McConkey said in a statement.

Poisoned, wounded Calif condor treated at LA Zoo

LOS ANGELES, 14 March — A California condor captured because it appeared sickly was found to not only be suffering from lead poisoning but also had been shot, animal experts said on Friday. Unable to eat on its own, the condor was under intensive care at the Los Angeles Zoo and its prognosis was guarded, said Susie Kasikel, curator of birds.

X-rays taken at the zoo turned up shotgun pellets embedded in its flesh, she said. Those wounds had healed.

It could not be determined if the pellets were lead or steel, but the poisoning was most likely caused by the bird ingesting spent lead ammunition in carcasses of animals that had been shot by hunters, Kasikel said. Condors are carrion-eaters and such poisoning by lead ammunition has long been recognized as a problem. California requires hunters to use only non-lead ammunition in the condors’ range. It is also illegal to shoot a condor. 

Ovarian changes may link obesity and infertility

NEW YORK, 14 March—Obese women have alterations in the environment around the ovary before they ovulate that appear to play a role in the well-documented association between obesity and reduced fertility, according to a report in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism.

“Characteristics of eggs are influenced by the environment in which they develop within the ovary,” lead author Dr Rebecca Robker, from Adelaide University, Australia, said in a statement. “Our study found that obese women have abnormally high levels of fats and inflammation in the fluid surrounding their eggs, which can impact an egg’s developmental potential.”

The study included 96 women who were attending a private infertility clinic and who were divided, roughly equally, into normal weight, overweight, and obese groups using standard body mass index criteria. The fluid surrounding the ovaries — the follicular fluid — obtained during egg retrieval, was analyzed for hormones, metabolites, gene expression within certain cells.

As body mass index rose, so did follicular fluid levels of insulin, lactate, triglycerides, and C-reactive protein. Levels of sex hormone binding globulin, by contrast, decreased. Small differences in insulin-regulated genes in granulosa cells were also noted between obese and normal weight women.

A police car is parked opposite one of the three stores allegedly selling fake DVDs, CDs in Paris in 2008. Bollywood film studios and producers have joined forces with a former top Mumbai police officer to crack down on film piracy, which is causing huge losses to the industry. — Internet
S Korea bids to host football World Cup

SEOUL, 14 March—South Korea has submitted an official bid to host either the 2018 or 2022 World Cups to football governing body FIFA, according to a Korea Football Association spokesman. “We’ve sent an official bid to FIFA ahead of the Monday deadline,” spokesman Lee Won-Jae of the KFA told AFP.

Earlier this year FIFA invited countries to express interest, by 2 February, in hosting the 2018 or 2022 tournaments and the KFA submitted a preliminary bid. Australia, China, England, Indonesia, Mexico, Qatar and Japan are also among the countries that expressed their interest. The hosts for both tournaments will be chosen in December 2010.

FIFA requires a World Cup host to have about 12 stadiums with more than 40,000 seats each, one of them with 80,000 seats. African countries are precluded from bidding for the 2018 tournament as the next World Cup, in 2010, will be hosted in South Africa.

Trezegeut a ‘spoil brat’, says Juventus boss

ROME, 14 March—Juventus coach Claudio Ranieri blasted French international striker David Trezeguet as a ‘spoil brat’ on Friday after the former Monaco striker hit out after being substituted in Tuesday’s Champions League exit. Trezeguet had complained that he didn’t understand why Ranieri replaced him during the 2-2 draw with Chelsea when Juve were leading 2-1 at the time and still needed to score another goal to progress to the quarter-finals.—Internet

Torres the key as Liverpool seek to rein in United

MANCHESTER, 14 March—Fernando Torres has handed Liverpool a massive boost ahead of Saturday’s must-win clash with Manchester United by predicting that he will be 100 percent fit in time for the lunchtime kick-off.

The difference a fit Torres makes to Rafael Benitez’s side was perfectly illustrated by his stunning display in Tuesday’s 4-0 Champions League demolition of Real Madrid at Anfield.

The match was the Spanish striker’s first in two weeks and he admitted he had played through the pain of an ankle injury which meant his foot was encased in a protective cast as soon as he came off.—Internet

Mickelson leads, Woods falls off pace at Doral

DORAL, 14 March—Phil Mickelson is driving the ball long and straight, chipping it perhaps better than ever, and leading the CA Championship field in putting by a wide margin.

Through two rounds, he leads by two shots. And — get this — Lefty sounds disappointed.

Mickelson shot a 6-under 66 on Friday at Doral, getting to 11 under and taking a two-shot lead over Nick Watney (67), Kenny Perry (64) and Rory McIlroy (66) are tied for third, three shots back.

Nowhere in sight, though, is one Tiger Woods, who struggled with his putter again and shot 70, falling 10 shots behind Mickelson. Not surprisingly, Woods isn’t happy about that.—Internet

Wenger says defenders’ Paradise postponed no problem

LONDON, 14 March—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said Kolo Toure and William Gallas “do not have to go to Paradise together” as long as they work well on the field at the centre of the Gunners’ defence.

Arsenal have only conceded five goals in their last 15 matches but that record has not led to a thaw in relations between the two centre-backs.

Ivory Coast international Toure, who almost quit the north London club after handing in a January transfer request, took over the captaincy at the Emirates from injured midfielder Cesc Fabregas. Gallas was stripped of the captaincy by his fellow Frenchman Wenger after publicly questioning the attitude of his team-mates.

Toure has admitted he doesn’t get on well with Gallas off the pitch but Wenger, speaking ahead of this weekend’s match with Premier League strugglers Blackburn Rovers, said on Friday: “What is important is that when you are professionals, you play together.

“To be professional is to do what it takes for your team to be successful, not more than that — it does not mean that you go to Paradise together.”—Internet

Safina books third-round berth at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 14 March—World number two Dinara Safina led the way into the third round of the 4.5 million-dollar ATP Masters and WTA hard-court tournament as seeded players swung into action.

The Russian top seed, opening her campaign after a first-round bye, beat Bulgarian Tsvetana Pironkova 7-6 (10/8), 6-2 to line up a meeting with 28th-seeded Peng Shuai of China, a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 winner over Olga Govortsova of Belarus.

Safina, 22, was trounced by Serena Williams in the Australian Open final in January, and was unceremoniously ousted in the first round at Dubai in February.
Malaysia’s YTL to revive bullet train project
KLALU, 14 March—Malaysia’s power-to-property conglomerate YTL Corp is planning to revive a project to build a bullet train link between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, a Malaysian newspaper reported on Saturday, citing unidentified sources.
YTL is collaborating with Siemens Malaysia Sdn Bhd, a unit of German electronics firm Siemens, for the project that was shelved last year due to concerns it would be too expensive, the Edge financial weekly said, citing one of the sources.
The newspaper said the project cost was estimated at eight billion to 11 billion ringgit (2.2 billion US dollars-three billion US dollars). YTL did not immediately return a call seeking comment.
The revived project will seek to build the link along the coastline rather than the earlier proposal of building it along the existing track, the newspaper said.—MNA/Reuters

Pianist Chen Jie plays during the performance with Mexico State Symphony Orchestra at the Felipe Villanueva Hall in Toluca, Mexico State of Mexico, on 14 March, 2009.
**Paygyi Dam benefiting 2,000 acres of farmlands in Kanbalu Township**

*Article: Nu Nu Yi & Aye Thanda Thein; Photo: Myanma Alin*

With the aim of achieving success in realization of one of the four economic objectives “Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well”, the government is giving priority to boosting production of the agriculture sector. In doing so, various sizes of dams have been built and are under construction in all regions of the country for agricultural purpose. Paygyi Dam is one of the irrigation facilities built by the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Kanbalu Township of Sagaing Region. The dam was opened on 27 October 2006 and it was one of the irrigation projects implemented in the time of the Tatmadaw Government after 1988. At present, Paygyi Dam is benefiting over 2,000 acres of edible oil crops and beans and pulses plus paddy in Kanbalu Township. Moreover, the dam contributes to prevention of overflow from Paygyi Creek and the left canal of Kindat Dam in the rainy season. The irrigation projects like Paygyi Dam benefit the arid regions by supplying water to monsoon paddy, beans and pulses and edible oil crops as the first cultivation of crops. Likewise, edible oil crops and beans and pulses in addition to summer paddy can be cultivated with the use of irrigation facilities. Paygyi Dam is located on Paygyi Creek that has 34 square miles of watershed area, near Paygyi Village of Kanbalu Township. The earthen embankment is 42 feet high and 9,480 feet long. The dam that stores 9,365 acre-feet of water at the highest level can irrigate 2,000 acres of farmlands for cultivation of 1,000 acres of monsoon paddy and 1,000 acres of sugarcane.

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**Liverpool stun United to keep title race alive**

*London, 14 March—Liverpool breathed new life into the Premier League title race with a stunning 4-1 win against 10-man Manchester United on Saturday. Rafa Benitez’s side came from behind in 10-man Manchester United on Saturday.

Liverpool in front before half-time.

In the 77th minute, Nemanja Vidic was sent off for hauling down Gerrard and Fabio Aurelio scored from the resulting free-kick.

Andrea Dossena completed a memorable day for the Reds when he lobbed in the fourth in the 90th minute, handing United their biggest home defeat since QPR ran riot at Old Trafford on New Years Day 1992.

A rush of blood from Liverpool keeper Jose Reina had gifted United the lead, but Cristiano Ronaldo's first half penalty gave United the lead, but Ronaldo made the lead in the 23rd minute. Carlos Tevez clipped a pass towards Park Ji Sung, who was going away from goal, and Reina rashly charged off his line to send the South Korea winger crashing to the turf. Ronaldo made Reina pay for his misjudgement as the Portugal winger stepped up to lash home the penalty.

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**Traffic Exposure May Trigger Heart Attacks**

Researchers found patients to be more than three times as likely to have been in traffic within an hour of the onset of their heart attack. "Driving or riding in heavy traffic poses an additional risk of eliciting a heart attack in persons already at elevated risk," said Annette Peters, Ph.D., lead author of the study and head of the research unit at the Institute of Epidemiology, Helmholtz Zentrum Munich, Germany.

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**Internet**