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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

Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut of Ministry of Defence looks into progress of relief works in earthquake-hit Tahlay, Monglin

Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut of Ministry of Defence presents cash assistance and relief aid to an earthquake victim.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Accompanied by Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Kyaw Myint and officials, Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut of the Ministry of Defence yesterday afternoon arrived at Tachilek by air.

Together with Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Than Tun Oo, they looked into damage to roads and bridges, houses and buildings in Tahlay and relief works being undertaken by officials. They comforted earthquake-hit victims and presented cash assistance to them.

Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, the commander and officials met families of the earthquake-hit station and inspected damages at the local battalions in Monglin Village and medical treatments being provided to the earthquake-hit people at Tachilek People's Hospital.

After presenting cash assistance to the survivors, Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut instructed officials to carry out relief tasks on a wider scale.

Relief aids such as clothes, food, bags of rice and medicine for earthquake victims being unloaded.

MNA

This morning, Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, accompanied by the commander and senior military officers, looked into damage to houses and buildings in the station. In meeting with families of the quake-hit station, he gave cash assistance to the families.

Afterwards, they viewed relief works of local Tatmadawmen, local authorities and relief teams in Tahlay, loss and damage to houses, religious buildings, schools, departmental buildings, roads and bridges.

After inspecting loss and damage at Basic Education High School, township departmental office, people's hospital, Tahlay Police Station, and participation of local Tatmadawmen, local authorities and rescue teams in relief works, Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut and party cordially met with earthquake-affected departmental personnel and local people and presented cash assistance to them. Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut gave instructions on construction of temporary medical wards for giving emergency treatment to the patients and carrying out relief works on a wider scale.

Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, the commander, Secretary of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Minister for PBANRDA U Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe and Deputy Minister for SWRR U Kyaw Myint at 11 am arrived in Tahlay. They met quake-affected families of the station and presented cash assistance and relief aid to them.

(See page 8)

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 27 March, 2011

Realize objectives of Armed Forces Day

March, 27 (today) is the 66th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, which is of significance in Myanmar. Independence is the lifeblood of a sovereign nation.

Tatmadaw is the strongest national force that ushers the country and the people to the way to national cause. Since its birth with Myanmar's independence struggles, the Tatmadaw has been working very hard in the interests of the nation and the people.

It is the Tatmadaw that has always stood by the nation and the people in times of emergency. It is the Tatmadaw that has always protected and safeguarded independence and sovereignty whenever the Union was in the brink of collapse.

Today is the time when the Tatmadaw is leading the nation and the people to the way to democracy by serving as a major national force. Measures are being taken to achieve the democracy goal aspired by the people after the seven-step road map has been adopted.

With the Hluttaws being convened with representatives elected by the people, a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation is taking form.

In doing so, all the national people are exhorted to realize the objectives of the 66th anniversary of Armed Forces Day in cooperation with Tatmadaw members.

Progress of Panlon Sub-Township inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw on 23 March inspected the site chosen for construction of the school in Panlon Sub-Township of Kunlong District and donated corrugated iron sheets to Shwegyindu Basic Education Primary School.

At the station hospital, the commander comforted the patients and presented foodstuff and cash assistance to them. Later, he visited the hospital.

The commander inspected the sites chosen for construction of sub-township level departmental offices.

The commander inspected the undertaking of earthen works along Hopan-Manmeinhon-Panlon Road and tarmacking works.

MNA

Relief aids supplied to earthquake victims

YANGON, 26 March— Relief and Resettlement Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided emergency items such as temporary relief tents, tarpaulins, blankets, Mamee instant noodle sachets, rice, dried fishes, fish cans, men's and women's wear, towels and utensils to the victims who have been in distress due to earthquake centering near Loimwe of Shan State (East). The relief items were supplied by military aircraft yesterday and today. Arrangements are being made to provide further relief items for the victims.—*MNA*

People's Desire

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

Only when capabilities of human resources and nationalistic spirit with financial and technological strengths are flourishing in the nation, will peaceful, modern and developed Union exist forever

YANGON, 26 March—The Special Refresher Course No. 18 for Faculty Members concluded at Yadana Theinga Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township this morning.

On behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Deputy Minister for Education U Aung Myo Min, in his address, said that time has come for the entire nationals to harmoniously strive for ensuring emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and gaining development momentum of the nation to keep abreast of other nations through collaboration of uplifting education standard and knowledge of the people, forging genuine Union Spirit and advancement of international standard technology and science.

Concerted efforts are to be made for industrializing the nation by gearing up the agricultural sector. While placing emphasis on turning out technical human resources, the government is encouragement to operating the State-owned industries and establishment of industrial regions and industrial zones for development of private-owned industries.

It is necessary to improve industrial science and technology and strength of national economy with flourishing of nationalistic spirit, patriotic spirit and Union Spirit. Only when capabilities of human resources and nationalistic spirit with financial and technological strengths are flourishing in the nation, will the peaceful, modern and developed Union be existence forever.

Strenuous efforts are to be made for developing the national and the people through own strength and for ensuring perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the nation and perpetual existence of the Union by uplifting nationalistic spirit and national capability.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that all the personnel are to actively discharge State duty with the concept to serve the interest of the State for its development, not to perform just a dutiful activity.

Faculty members in the higher education sector are to constantly uplift their proficiency to be able to turn out qualified new generation human resources and perform academic and research tasks successfully.

In conclusion, the deputy minister urged the trainees to strive for meeting the goal of higher education sector in implementing the national education promotion long-term plan to be able to contribute to the building of a new nation; to make utmost efforts in discharging the education duty of higher education sector as a national duty for enhancement of education standard of new generation youth who will shoulder the duty of the future State; and to work in concert with Union Spirit for undertaking regional development tasks by accelerating the subject-wise academic task and industrial and technological research works.

***Deputy Minister for Education U Aung Myo Min presents award to an outstanding trainee.*—MNA**

Later, the deputy minister awarded outstanding trainees and hostels and presented completion certificates to the trainees through trainee leaders.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Soe Oo and U Win Aung, Supreme Court Justice U Khin Myint and officials.—*MNA*

***Managing Director U Wai Lwin of TMW Enterprise Ltd speaking at the dinner to mark Sony Days 2011 held at Traders Hotel on 24 March.*—MNA**

Afghan children play in a damaged vehicle in front of the Darlamine palace which was destroyed during the civil war in 1990 in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, on 26 March, 2011.—XINHUA

NATO airstrike kills civilians in Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 March—NATO says that an airstrike on two vehicles initially believed to be carrying Taleban fighters in southern Afghanistan has accidentally killed an unspecified number of civilians.

The international alliance says it is investigating the strike, which occurred on Friday in the Naw Zad District of Helmand Province.

It says that the airstrike followed intelligence suggesting a Taleban leader and his associates were in the vehicles.

NATO said on Saturday that coalition troops later found bodies of civilians in the wreckage.

NATO has not released the number of dead.

A UN report has said that at least 2,777 civilians were killed in Afghanistan in 2010, with most of the deaths blamed on the militancy.

Xinhua

NATO probes civilian casualties in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 March—The NATO said on Saturday that it has launched an investigation to probe an air raid attack that left Afghan civilians dead and injured in Afghanistan's Helmand Province, some 555 km south of the capital city Kabul.

"During an International Security Assistance Force operation to kill or capture a senior Taleban commander, Afghan civilians were accidentally killed and wounded in Now Zad District, Helmand Province yesterday,"the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement released here Saturday.

Without giving the exact number of civilian fatalities, the statement said that ISAF Joint Command is launching a joint incident assessment team to investigate the incident.

"The incident occurred when the security force called in an airstrike on two vehicles believed to be carrying the Taleban leader and his associates based on intelligence reporting,"said the statement.

"The civilians were discovered in the vehicles following the airstrike during a battle damage assessment,"it added.

However, spokesman for Helmand's provincial administration Daud Ahmadi told *Xinhua* that the local government has not received any reports of civilian casualties in Now Zad District so far.—*Xinhua*

Iraqi fire fighters extinguish a fire following a car bomb explosion in Kirkuk, 180 miles (290 kilometres) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 16 March, 2011. A car bombing in a northern Iraqi city rife with ethnic tensions has killed and wounded scores of people.

INTERNET

NATO soldier killed in militant attack in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 March—A soldier with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed Saturday in a militant attack in Afghanistan's restive southern region, the militant alliance said in a statement. "An International Security Assistance Force service member died following an militant attack in southern Afghanistan today." the statement said.

However, the brief statement did not reveal the nationality of the victim, saying "It's the ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities." Troops mainly from the US, Britain, Canada and Australia have been stationed in the southern Afghan region within the framework of ISAF to fight Taleban militants.—*Xinhua*

An Afghan victim of a suicide attack, which occurred on Afghan army recruitment center is seen on the ground at the scene of suicide attack in Kunduz, north of Kabul, Afghanistan recently.

INTERNET

German parliament approves sending more troops to Afghanistan

BERLIN, 26 March—German parliament on Friday approved the government's bill to send 300 airforce crew to Afghanistan to ease the pressure of its NATO allies in Libya. The Bundestag, the lower house of German parliament, has endorsed the bill with a large majority of 407-113. There were 32 abstentions.

Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle described this action as "a rational policy of solidarity." He said Germany will not join in the military actions against Libya, but Germany will not put its allies in danger and will reduce their burden.

The 300 airforce crew will serve on NATO airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft to watch the airspace of Afghanistan, however, the timetable for starting this mission is still not clear.

As the third largest foreign forces stationed in Afghanistan, this is the sixth time that German parliament approved to increase troops there, making the total number reach about 5,300. However, Germany still wants to start withdrawing its troops from the country at the end of this year.—*Xinhua*

IED blast kills two civilians in Afghanistan' Zabul Province

KABUL, 26 March—Two civilians were killed Friday when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) went off near their motorbike in Afghanistan's Zabul Province, some 340 km south of capital city of Kabul, Interior Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

"The incident occurred yesterday at 5:20 pm local time in Shamulzay District of Zabul Province," the statement said. However, the statement did not blame any particular group for initiating the blast, saying "The leadership of interior ministry strongly condemns the militant's un-Islamic and inhuman action and expresses its deepest condolences to the families of victims,."

Taleban militants fighting Afghan and NATO-led troops based in Afghanistan have been largely relying on roadside bombings and suicide attacks, but the lethal weapons often harm civilians.

Taleban have yet to make comments. A total of 2,777 civilians have been killed in Taleban-linked militant and conflicts in Afghanistan in 2010, a UN report released early this month said.

Xinhua

Iraqi Army soldiers are seen at the site of a suicide attack in Kanan, east of the provincial capital of Baqouba, 35 miles (60 kilometres) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq recently.

INTERNET

Illinois anti-radiation drugs not enough, official says

CHICAGO, 26 March—The US state of Illinois does not have enough potassium iodide, an anti-radiation drug, on hand for the residents living within 10 miles of a nuclear power plant, if a nuclear reactor were to melt down in the state, an Illinois emergency management official said here on Friday.

Joseph Klinger, the assistant director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, made the remarks at a nuclear safety forum in Chicago on Friday.

Klinger said that Illinois has the largest number of nuclear reactors and the largest amount of radioactive waste — nearly 8, 000 metric tons — in the US and on average, 150,000 people live within 10 miles of a nuclear reactor in Illinois.

However, the state doesn't participate in a federal programme to supply pills containing potassium iodide, which could help reduce the risk of cancer in the event of a radiation release and the Illinois Emergency Management agency does not have a stockpile of pills on hand to distribute.

Xinhua

A heavy sandstorm is seen sweeping across Kuwait on 25 March, 2011. An unexpected sandstorm that swept Kuwait on Friday forced the oil-rich Gulf emirate to suspend its oil exploration and exports, state-owned Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation said.—XINHUA

People wait for bus in Fukushima City, Japan, on 25 March, 2011. The city has been witnessing a change of people's life since the nuclear crisis broke out at the the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant after the earthquake.

XINHUA

6.4-magnitude quake hits near east coast of Honshu, Japan

TOKYO, 26 March—An earthquake mesuring 6.4 on the Richter scale jolted near the east coast of Honshu, Japan at 11:36:24 GMT on Friday, the US Geolo-gical Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 39.20 km, was initially determined to be at 38.7633 degrees north latitude and 141.9418 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

More aftershocks rattle Christchurch

WELLINGTON, 26 March—The New Zealand South Island city of Christchurch was rattled by four aftershocks on Saturday afternoon, three of them in the space of 20 minutes.

A magnitude 3.7 quake was detected at 3:50 pm, and was centred 10 km east of Christchurch at a depth of five km, the New Zealand Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences reported.

Two other quakes, registering 3.1, hit at 3:29 pm and 3:32 pm.

A fourth quake, recorded at 5:29 pm, was the strongest, measuring 3.8 magnitude, located 20 km east of the city at a depth of nine km.

A magnitude 4.3 aftershock was also felt in Christchurch early on Saturday. The quake, at 2:11 a m, was centred 10 km north of the city, at a depth of 11 km.

Xinhua

Radioactive iodine 1,250 times over limit in sea off Japan's plant

TOKYO, 26 March—The operator of the Fukushima No1 nuclear power plant in north-eastern Japan has detected radioactive iodine 1,250.8 times above legal limit in sea near the plant, local media reported on Saturday.

The readings were taken at a discharge outlet of the utility, according to the Tokyo Electric Power Co.

The Japanese authorities have been stepping up efforts to fix the nuclear power plant crippled by devastating 11 March earthquake and tsunami.

Xinhua

Facility not under control, crisis escalates

BEIJING, 26 March— In Japan, two weeks after a powerful earthquake and tsunami triggered a crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, the facility is still not under control.

The Japanese government WARNED on Friday of a suspected breach at Unit 3 reactor. The development suggests radioactive contamination may be worse than first thought, with tainted groundwater the most likely consequence.

The escalation in the Fukushima nuclear power plant crisis came as the official death toll from the quake and tsunami passed the grim milestone of 10,000.

Japanese nuclear officials say the possible breach in Unit 3 reactor might be a crack or a hole in the steel chamber of the reactor core or in the spent fuel pool.

Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency says suspicions of the breach were raised when two workers suffered skin burns. The workers had waded into water 10 thousand times more radioactive than levels normally found in water in or around a reactor. Water with equally high radiation levels was also found in the Unit 1 reactor building.

Japan's Prime Minister, Naoto Kan sought to reassure the nation the government is doing what it can.

Naoto Kan, Japan's Prime Minister, said, "We must remain vigilant. We are trying to prevent a deterioration of the situation and we are still not in a position where we can be optimistic. We must treat every development with utmost care."

Making his first public statement on the crisis in a week, the Prime Minister said the situation at the Fukushima plant is "nowhere near the point" of being resolved.—*Xinhua*

A pump truck with a 62-meter boom manufactured by Sany Heavy Industry Co, Ltd arrived at the port of Osaka, Japan, on 24 March , 2011. On 19 March, the Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO), which owns the Fukushima power plant, asked the Chinese embassy in Japan and Sany for the pump truck.

XINHUA

Japan Self Defence Force members in protective clothing prepare to transfer to another hospital workers who were exposed to radiation at Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, at a hospital in Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan on 25 March, 2011. About 300 engineers have been working around the clock to stabilise the six-reactor Fukushima complex since an earthquake and tsunami struck two weeks ago.

INTERNET

Death toll rises to 10,151 from great quake-tsunami in Japan

TOKYO, 26 March—The National Police Agency said on Saturday that the catastrophic earthquake and ensuing tsunami have left 10,151 people dead and 17,053 others unaccounted for in Japan by 10:00 am local time (0100 GMT).

A 9.0-magnitude earthquake hit the Pacific coastal areas of northeastern and eastern Japan on 11 March, triggering enormous tsunami.

Heavy casualties and extensive damage have been caused by the twin disasters.

Xinhua

Health

Pensioners uses an exercise machine at the opening of the first pensioners' playground in Hyde Park in London in May 2010.Life expectancy in Britain and elsewhere in Europe is rising despite an obesity epidemic, a study and spanning 40 years has shown.
INTERNET

Health Tip: Signs that you might have pneumonia

Pneumonia's symptoms may appear to mimic those of other respiratory infections. But pneumonia can kill, and its warning signs shouldn't be dismissed.

The US National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute mentions these possible warning signs of pneumonia:

* A high fever.
* Chills that cause you to shake.
* Worsening bouts of coughing up phlegm.
* Shortness of breath from performing everyday activities.
* Having chest pain when breathing or coughing.
* Suddenly feeling worse after you appeared to get over the flu or a cold.

Internet

A worker demonstrates machinery to fill vials with individual doses of tuberculosis vaccine at a plant in Rockville, Maryland, in 2009. The United States last year saw a sizable drop in the number of tuberculosis cases, but missed its goal of eradicating the disease by 2010, US health officials said Thursday.—INTERNET

Dark chocolate may harbour benefits for the heart

ATLANTA, 26 March—If you can handle the fat and calories, there may be a health benefit to enjoying dark chocolate on occasion.

New research suggests that the cocoa ingredient may lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels while preventing diabetes and improving the health of blood vessels.

The research relied on mostly sugar-free dark chocolate, not the kind of chocolate normally found on the candy shelves.

Participants who ate the chocolate, which contained cocoa rich in substances known as polyphenolic flavonoids, did better in several areas, including blood pressure. Levels of bad cholesterol went down in those younger than 50, and levels of good cholesterol went up.

The findings, which came from an analysis of data from 21 high-quality studies that included a total of 2,575 participants, were scheduled for presentation Wednesday at an American Heart Association conference in Atlanta.

"The research looks at the benefits of cocoa and used a very specifically prepared cocoa," said Lona Sandon, assistant professor of clinical nutrition at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre at Dallas.

"Cocoa is an ingredient of chocolate. How the cocoa is processed makes a difference in whether or not the chocolate drink or bar it is contained in will have health benefits."

Internet

Business

Resource giant BHP has said that US$7.4 billion would be pumped into continuing production growth in the company's Western Australia iron ore operations to boost capacity to more than 220 million tonnes a year.—INTERNET

BHP Billiton to invest $10 billion in Australia

MELBOURNE, 26 March—BHP Billiton Ltd will invest almost $10 billion on expanding iron ore and coal mining operations in Australia, the world's biggest miner announced Friday.

The Melbourne-based Anglo-Australian giant will spend $6.6 billion on expanding its iron ore operations in Western Australia State, $2.5 billion on expanding three metallurgical coal projects in Queensland State and $400 million on an energy coal project in New South Wales State, it said in statements to the Australian Securities Exchange.

BHP Billiton said the company and its partners would spend $7.4 billion on developing the Jimblebar iron ore mine and improving rail and port facilities in the Pilbara Region of Western Australia. The mine will start producing in 2014 and lift the company's iron ore production in the region to more than 246 million tons (220 million metric tons) a year.

The company also approved spending $2.5 billion on three coking coal projects in the Bowen Basin in central Queensland that will add 5.5 million tons (4.9 million metric tons) of annual production capacity.

BHP Billiton metallurgical coal president Hubie van Dalsen said the company had a deep pipeline of expansion projects to develop its large reserves of metallurgical coal.

Internet

France's monthly jobless rate dips in February

PARIS, 26 March—French jobless rate declined slightly in February from a month earlier, government data showed Thursday.

According to the Labour Ministry, the number of job seekers across the country was down 0.1 percent to 2.7 million in February, or 2,100 less people registered as jobless in the mainland as compared with January.

"After the good results recorded in January, the slowing number of job seekers in the second consecutive month is encouraging," Labour Minister Xavier Bertrand said in a statement.

Xinhua

Global auto output may fall 30 percent due to quake

DETROIT, 26 March—A shortage of auto parts stemming from Japan's earthquake may cut global vehicle output by 30 percent within six weeks in a worst-case scenario, research firm IHS Automotive said on Thursday.

This translates to a drop of as many as 100,000 vehicles per day, IHS analyst Michael Robinet said, adding there could be more North American plant shutdowns in the meantime.

"We're already feeling the impact in Japan," Robinet said in an interview. "North America, Europe, China: those three areas for sure will feel some impact."

Last week, General Motors Co (GM.N) idled its pick-up truck plant in Shreveport, Louisiana. Toyota Motor Co (7203.T) is likely to idle its own pickup truck plant south of San Antonio.—*Reuters*

A visitor looks at Toyota Motor's vehicles at the company's showroom in Tokyo on 8 Feb, 2011.
INTERNET

Cranes active on a building site operate near Berlin's landmark TV tower, 2010. Germany's Ifo indicator of business confidence in Europe's top economy fell in March for the first time since May.
INTERNET

Superbug infections up in S California

LOS ANGELES, 26 March—Medical authorities in Southern California say an antibiotic-resistant superbug once thought to be rare is spreading through healthcare facilities there.

Los Angeles County reported about 350 cases of carbapenem-resistant Klebsiella pneumoniae between June and December 2010, ABC News reported on Friday.

"These patients tend to be elderly, they are commonly on ventilators and they often stay at the facility for an extended period of time," said Dr Dawn Terashita, medical epidemiologist and lead author of the study from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. CRKP and other superbugs such as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus are proving resistant to typical antibiotics.

"We develop new drugs to defeat the infections, and germs change to get around those drugs and this is one of those cases," Dr Richard Besser, *ABC News* chief health and medical editor, said.

"It's like an arms race and in many ways the germs are winning," he said.

While not new to California, CRKP is a newer infection than MRSA, Dr Arjun Srinivasan of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said.

"But in terms of mortality and morbidity, it's very, very serious," Srinivasan said. "These infections are more difficult to treat than MRSA."

Internet

Shorter doctor hours don't hurt patient

LONDON, 26 March—A review of 72 US and British studies found reducing doctor working hours does not seem to have hurt patient safety, researchers say.

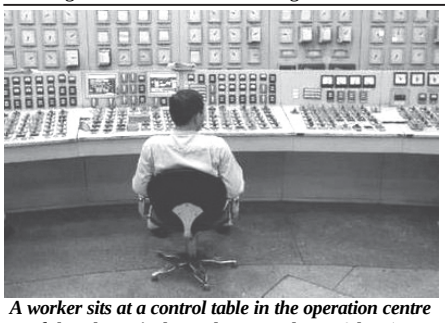
Researchers at University College Hospital, London, and colleagues say in the past 20 years there have been efforts to lower the number of hours US and European doctors-in-training — Denmark requires the maximum number of hours worked in a hospital at 37, while the United States requires no more than 80 hours a week. In 2009, the European Working Time Directive restricted trainee doctors in Europe work no more than 48 hours a week.

The study, published in the *British Medical* Journal, found the US reduction in hospital working hours for new doctors to less than 80 a week did not seem to hurt patient safety, but studies on the impact of limiting trainee doctors in Europe to 48 hours a week were of poor quality and had conflicting results.

More high-quality studies are needed to evaluate the impact of restricting working hours are needed, the researchers say.

Internet

A Ford Motor assembly worker adds a product sticker to the window of the new 2012 Ford Focus vehicles on the final production line at Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne, Michigan on 17 March, 2011.—INTERNET



A worker sits at a control table in the operation centre of the Pha Lai Thermal Power Plant, 70 km (43 miles) northeast of Hanoi, on 24 March, 2011. The coal-fired plant's first generator began operations in 1983 and now, the plant's six generators provide about 8 percent of Vietnam's energy needs.—INTERNET

FDA gives smokeless tobacco product a pass

WASHINGTON, 26 March—An executive at Star Scientific said the firm was surprised its smokeless tobacco lozenges were not subject to FDA regulation.

"We were very surprised. We obviously believed that these were smokeless tobacco products under the act," Troy Machir, the firm's vice president for communications and investor relations, told *the Los Angeles Times*.

The firm had asked the Food and Drug Administration if it could market Ariva-BDL and Stonewall-BDL as "modified risk" products under the 2009 tobacco law. But the FDA in a confidential ruling said the products were not covered by the law at all.

Matt Myers at the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids said the decision "creates unnecessary uncertainty and the potential for widespread abuse" among makers of smokeless tobacco products.

Some fear other producers of smokeless tobacco products will apply for exemptions under the new law.

Spokesmen for RJ Reynolds and Philip Morris USA, both of which make smokeless tobacco products, declined to comment, *the Times* said.—*Internet*

Killing suspect has 'dark streak'

SWINDON, 26 March — An English homicide suspect's estranged sister says he has always had a "dark disturbing side." In an interview with *The Sun*, Sarah Halliwell called charges that her brother, Chris Halliwell, 47, killed a young woman and buried her body "no great shock." "He has always had a dark, disturbing streak," she said. "It came to the surface when he was a little boy and may have again."

Halliwell, a cab driver, was arrested Thursday in Swindon and allegedly told police where they could find the body of Sian O'Callaghan, 22. She disappeared early last Saturday after leaving a Swindon club.—*Internet*

Love main source of regret in US

CHICAGO, 26 March—Love is the chief source of regret for Americans, followed by family relations, education and career, a survey found.

The findings come from a phone survey asking adults to describe one thing they regretted in detail, *the Chicago Tribune* reported on Wednesday.

The study, to be published in the *journal Social Psychological and Personality Science*, found the sexes to be divided on love and work regrets.

Women were found to have more regrets about romance than men, at 44 percent versus 19 percent, while men had more work-oriented regrets than women — 34 percent compared to 27 percent.

Individuals who were not currently in a relationship were most likely to have romance regrets, the survey by researchers at Northwestern University and the University of Illinois found.

Individuals with low levels of education were likely to regret their lack of education while Americans with high levels of education had the most career-related regrets, they said.—*Internet*

US Postal Service to cut 7,500 jobs, close offices

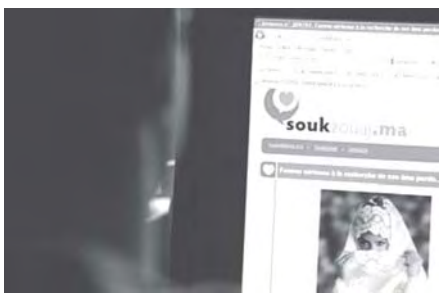
WASHINGTON, 26 March— The US Postal Service said on Thursday it would cut 7,500 jobs and close seven district offices and 2,000 post offices as it handles less mail and faces greater staff costs and competition from FedEx and United Parcel Service.

"It's critical that we adjust our work force to match America's changing communications trends as mail volumes continue to decline," Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said in a statement.

In November, the Postal Service reported a net loss of 8.5 billion US dollars for fiscal year 2010, its fourth consecutive year of losses.

Joanne Veto, a spokeswoman for the Postal Service, said, "We know that we cannot look the same 10 years from now. The mail volume isn't there. We have to adjust to keep up with the mail and customer needs." She said the Postal Service would close 2,000 post offices around the United States over the next 12 months, while eliminating the 7,500 jobs. As of the end of January, the agency employed 583,000 people.—*MNA/Reuters*

A Moroccan looks at an Internet page of a marriage dating site on 24 March in Rabat. Marriage in Morocco has an increasingly changing face these days as young men and women in search of lifetime partners head for the souk, in this case a "cyber" marriage souk.—INTERNET



China's mobile phone users top 878.83 mln in February

BEIJING, 26 March—More and more Chinese are disconnecting fixed-line telephones and turning to mobile phones for communication, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) on Friday.

China's mobile phone operators added 19.83 million new subscribers in the first two months of this year, bringing the number of the country's cell phone users to 878.83 million, MIIT said in a statement on its website.

Fixed-line telecommunication companies, however, lost 918,000 fixed-line telephone users in the January-February period, partly because these subscribers pay a fixed monthly fee of around 18 yuan (2.74 US dollars) even if they make no phone calls.

China reported 1.17 billion telephone users at the end of February, compared to its population of 1.34 billion.

China's third-generation (3G) mobile phone service subscribers expanded to 55.99 million by the end of February, according to MIIT.

The entire telecommunication industry generated 170.33 billion yuan (25.97 billion US dollars) in business revenue in January-February, up 14 percent year on year.

Of every 100 Chinese people, 64.4 were using mobile phones in 2010, compared to 56.3 users in 2009.

Xinhua

Christian Hopley, a senior technologist, holds blood samples at the South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI) laboratory at Brewelskloof Hospital in Worcester, S Africa, where new TB vaccine trials are taking place. INTERNET

In this 22 March, 2011 photo, the company logo for Oracle Corp headquarters is shown in Redwood City, Calif. Oracle Corp is scheduled to report its fiscal third quarter results 24 March, after the market close. INTERNET

Iceland's economy hits bottom

STOCKHOLM, 26 March—The Icelandic Confederation of Labour Friday predicted that Iceland's economy has hit rock bottom and a slow economic recovery will begin, according to a report reaching here from Reykjavik. The new economic forecast for 2011-2013 by the confederation said that the situation of employment market will continue to be difficult but should slowly recover.

"Iceland will see an unemployment rate of 5.2 percent at the end of 2013,"said the *Iceland Review* report. The exchange rate of the Icelandic krona will remain weak, according to the forecast.

The inflation is expected to remain moderate between 2.2 and 3. 0 percent and fluctuate slightly around the Central Bank target inflation, the report said. After a two-year recession, Iceland's GDP growth is expected to be at 2.5 percent this year and 2 percent in 2012 and 2013.

Meanwhile, Iceland is still the highest in unemployment among Nordic countries standing at 8.5 percent, compared with 8 percent in Finland, 7.9 percent in Denmark and only 3.3 percent in Norway.

Iceland was severely affected by the 2008 financial crisis which caused the collapses of the country's financial system and the whole economy.—*Internet*

Rio de Janeiro reports over 10,000 dengue fever cases in 2011

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 March—The number of dengue fever cases in Rio de Janeiro city this year has already surpassed 10,000, local health authorities said on Friday. According to the city's Health Secretariat, in less than three months, the number of confirmed dengue fever cases in Rio reached 10,158, exceeding the figures registered in the entire years of 2009 (2,723) and 2010 (3,120).

In Rio de Janeiro State, the number of confirmed dengue fever cases reached 20,150, and the death toll rose to 18.

This week, the first two cases of type-4 dengue fever in Rio de Janeiro state were confirmed in the city of Niteroi. The type-4 dengue fever is not more dangerous than the other types, but as the disease had not been registered in the region before, the local population has no immunity to it.

As there are four different types of dengue fever, a person can develop the disease several times.

Xinhua

More than half of US adults use Facebook

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 March—More than half of US adults use online social networking service Facebook, according to an upcoming study.

A report by Edison Research and Arbitron Inc. to be released on 5 April includes the finding that 51 percent of US residents age 12 or older have profiles set up at Facebook. Facebook terms of service require people to be at least 13 years old to be members of the online community, which boasts more than a half-billion users.

The Facebook homepage is seen on a computer screen in 2007. More than half of US adults use online social networking service Facebook, according to an upcoming study.—INTERNET

"We have been tracking the growth of Facebook since 2008, and have watched it go from eight percent usage just three years ago, to 51 percent today," New Jersey-based Edison said in a release.

The market tracking firms based the findings on a January survey of 2,020 people. Study findings presented in a webcast will include the popularity of accessing social networks using mobile phones, according to Edison.—*Internet*

China's economy for kids to double within 5 years

BEIJING, 26 March—The market for children's products in China will double within the next five years, a report released at a kids expo in east China's Zhejiang Province has estimated.

The market demand in China for children's products exceeded 1 trillion yuan (152 billion US dollars) in 2010 and that figure is expected to hit 2 trillion yuan by 2015, according to the report.

The report attributes the fast growth of the sector to the country's large population, robust consumption and increased attention to child health and eduction in recent years.

It is estimated that China has a population of about 200 million children under the age of 12, the report said.

A Chinese family will spend an average of 5,000 yuan (758 dollars) per child each year, according to a survey by the Hangzhou Associa-tion of Industries on Children.

This money goes to a variety of companies providing child-oriented products and services such as baby formula, clothing, toys, education and entertainment. According to a report by the China E-commerce Research Centre, online purchases of baby formula from overseas companies reached 2.4 billion yuan in 2010, ranking second only to cosmetics. Education is another area that has attracted domestic and overseas investors.

Twelve Chinese educational institutions have won financial support from overseas venture capita-lists, with investm-ents totaling 100 million dollars so far.

Internet

Second mudslide hits California Highway 1

SAN LUIS OBISPO, 26 March—A second mudslide in a week closed a section of California's historic and scenic Highway 1, and authorities say they are unsure when it will reopen.

Residents and visitors were trapped between Thursday's slide — just south of Limekiln State Park, 20 miles north of the San Luis Obispo-Monterey county line — north to last week's slide in Big Sur, *The (San Luis Obispo) Tribune* reported.

Last week's mudslide collapsed a section of the highway, and even pedestrians and bicyclists are forbidden to cross the slide area.—*Internet*

Lawa, a young pileated gibbon (Hylobates pileatus), rests in the arms of her mother Iba in the zoo in Zurich, Switzerland on 25 March, 2011. Lawa was born on 23 March.—INTERNET

Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut of Ministry of Defence, Commander Brig-Gen Than Tun Oo, Minister U Maung Maung Swe and officials give words of encouragement to earthquake victims.

MNA

Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut of Ministry of Defence…

(from page 1)

At Tahlay (Okkyin) Relief Camp, they comforted the earthquake-hit people. Minister U Maung Maung Swe gave instructions on disseminating knowledge about earthquake to the people for taking preventive measures.

They presented cash assistance, relief aids, medicines, foodstuff and bags of rice to the victims.

They viewed loss and damages at roads, bridges and houses in Tahlay. After cordially meeting with the victims and staff, they presented cash assistance and relief aid to them.

They looked into health care services being provided by health staff to the patients at the relief camps in Tahlay and participation of Tatmadawmen, members of social organizations and relief teams in relief works in Tahlay and earthquake-hit villages. They left instructions on matters related to the relief works.

At the relief camp in Monglin Village, they cordially met with local people and provided cash assistance, relief aid, medicines and foodstuff to them.

At another relief camp in Tahlay, Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, the commander, Minister U Maung Maung Swe and the deputy ministers presented cash assistance, relief aids, clothes, foodstuffs, bags of rice and medicines to the victims.

At 2.30 pm, Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, the commander and the deputy ministers attended the meeting between Secretary of the NDPCC Minister for SWRR U Maung Maung Swe and Shan State level departmental officials at the hall of Tahlay Station.

The commander reported on progress of rehabilitation works in the earthquake-hit area and officials on progress of their respective sectors.

Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut gave instructions on works.

On 25 and 26 March, Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, members of social organizations and local people under the supervision of the commander of Kengtung Station loaded relief aid, foodstuff, clothes, household goods and personal goods onto vehicles. The goods arrived in Kengtung by Tatmadaw aircraft from Yangon. They all participated in transport of relief aids to the earthquake-hit victims in time.—*MNA*

***Secretary of NDPCC Minister for SWRR U Maung Maung Swe presents cash assistance and relief aid to a quake-victim.*—MNA**

***Members of Defence Services Medical Corps and health staff giving medical treatment to an injured victim.*—MNA**

***Local Tatmadawmen carrying out relief works in Tahlay.*—MNA**

A & I Minister calls for agricultural development

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo met director-general and deputy directors-general of the Irrigation Department and directors from head office, regions and states at the assembly hall of the ministry here on 24 march.

In meeting with them, the minister said that the ministry has been engaging in construction of dams and reservoirs to see bountiful water resource; that it is important to ensure adequate water supply that does not harm environment and ecosystem; that construction of irrigation facilities aims not only for agriculture purpose also for generating electricity, potable water supply, industries and public recreation; and that officials concerned are to cooperate with experts from related departments to take preparedness measure to get over natural disasters resulting from climate change. He called for the officials to give priority to agricultural development and human resource development in cooperation with enterprises and departments of the ministry.

MNA

***Minister for Agriculture & Irrigation U Htay Oo meets director-general, deputy directors-general and directors of Irrigation Department.*—MNA**

Commander looks into progress of North and East Districts in Yangon Region

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March— Chairman of Yangon Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Than on 24 March attended the second cash donation ceremony for all-round renovation of Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon).

The commander and officials accepted the cash donations from wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them. Next, the commander looked into all-round renovation tasks.

Today, the commander attended the ceremony to open Amaiywa library in Kongale Village in Yangon North District and donated TV, video player, radio and publications to the library.

The commander inspected construction of extended building at Affiliated Basic Education High School in the village.

At Hsinphon River Water Pumping Project in Hlegu Township, the commander heard reports on supply of water to summer paddy fields presented by officials. He viewed supply of water along the main canal and maintenance of water pumps.

At Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate construction project in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, the commander inspected construction of the sluice gate and concreting works.

In Dagon Myothit (South) Township, the commander looked into health care services provided by specialists team to the local people at Five Nikaya Monastery and presented optical glasses to the eye patients.

MNA

Concrete roads opened in Pathein to hail Armed Forces Day

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March— Chairman of Ayeyawady Region Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Win on 23 March attended the ceremony to inaugurate concrete Zayhaung Street in Ward 4 of Pathein in commemoration of the 66th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

Officials formally opened the road and the commander walked on it.

The commander also attended the opening of Khatta concrete road.

Later, the commander looked into thriving seasonal crops plantations at the local battalion in Pathein.

MNA

Mercantile cadet course No (3) concludes

YANGON, 26 March— No (3) intake of mercantile cadet diploma course at Myanmar Mercantile Marine College under the Ministry of Transport concluded this morning, attended by Minister for Transport U Thein Swe.

The minister awarded outstanding cadets (mercantile and engineering) and spoke on the occasion. The No (3) intake of the diploma course turned out 131 mercantile cadets and 147 mercantile engineer cadets, raising the number of degree holders from the college to 4126 in total.—*MNA*

***Minister for Transport U Thein Swe presents award to Thiha Saw Thaik at Mercantile Engineer Cadet Course.*—MNA**

***Minister U Thein Swe addresses concluding of No. 3 Intake of Mercantile Cadet Diploma Course.*—MNA**

Industrial village…

(from page 16)

Chairman of Village Peace and Development Council U Naing Aung Toe said, "Our village has over 50 metal-work workshops. From the end of Second World War to date, our village has been engaging in producing metal works."

U Myint Htay, one of village entrepreneurs, explained, "Thabyu Village creates job opportunity for the local people. Surrounding villages rely on Thabyu Village in production of metal works."

I visited a workshop that is manufacturing large bell-mouthed pans and kitchen-used pans. Although the large bell-mouthed pans were made of cast iron in the past, the raw materials are being substituted with light metals in production.

I observed process of casting a large bell-mouthed pan at the workshop. Workers cast the melted metal into the mould for the pan made of sand. After that, a worker finished the product on a lathe.

Entrepreneur U Maung Aye explained, "Workshops in our village are making large bell-mouthed pans, kitchen-used pans, kettles, motors, propellers of motorboats, and metal pulleys of power lines. Some entrepreneurs of our village extended their works not only in the village but also in industrial zones of Hlegu, Myaungdaga, Thakayta, North Okkalapa and Shwepyitha."

I had the opportunity to observe process of manufacturing metal works at the workshop.

At Thabyu Jetty before departure for Yangon, I waited to ascend onto the motorboat because workers loaded finished metal works on the boat and unloaded raw materials from it.

Meanwhile, Village Chairman U Naing Aung Toe said, "If a bridge can be built across Bago River, we can manufacture a large number of products spending least production expense. If our dreams come true, the local people will have easy access to both Yangon and Bago regions, so all the people of Thabyu Village are expect to emerge a Bago River Bridge."

*****

Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin: 25-3-2011

Workers producing finished kettles.Industrial village in Kawa Township.

"Thabyu Village can be called the industrial village." U Naing Aung Toe, Chairman of Village PDC.

Science

Sun eruption creates spectacular plasma tentacle

WASHINGTON, 26 March— A NASA spacecraft watching the sun has caught a dazzling view of a solar eruption that launched a vast tendril of magnetic plasma into space.

NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory recorded the sun tentacle, which scientists call a solar prominence, on 19 March as it erupted into space with a rounded, twisting motion.

The eruption occurred over five hours as SDO watched the sun in the ultraviolet range of the light spectrum, SDO mission scientists said in a statement.

The solar observatory watched as the prominence twisted up from the sun and expanded, then became unstable.

Ultimately, the sun filament lost cohesion and its particles streamed away from the sun.

"Prominences are elongated clouds of plasma that hover above the sun's surface, tethered by magnetic forces," SDO mission scientists explained.

The sun is currently in the midst of an active phase of its 11-year solar weather cycle and has kicked up a series of powerful eruptions and flares in recent months.

The SDO spacecraft and other space observatories are keeping a close watch on the sun to monitor is solar weather activity.

Earlier this month, the sun unleashed its second X-class solar flare of the year that was aimed at Earth.

X-class solar flares are the strongest types of solar flares.

The weakest types of solar flares are Class C sun storms, with Class M flares registering as medium strength, but still powerful, NASA scientists have said.

Strong solar flares, when aimed at Earth, can potentially disrupt satellites and power grids, as well as pose a hazard to astronauts on spacecraft.

They can also spark dazzling shows of the northern lights, or aurora borealis.—*Internet*

Archaeologists discover saber-toothed vegetarian

WASHINGTON, 26 March—Surprised scientists have discovered the remains of a saber-toothed vegetarian. The leaf-crunching animal — about the size of a large dog — lived 260 million years ago in what is now Brazil, researchers report in Friday's edition of the journal *Science*. Its upper canine teeth were nearly 5 inches long.

The enormous canines were likely used by the plant-eating animals to fight each other or protect against predators, said research leader Juan Carlos Cisneros of the University of Piaui in northeastern Brazil. For example, they might have fought for territory, resources or females, like the modern musk deer, which also have a pair of large, tusklike teeth, he said via email.

"These situations are extremely important for the survival of an individual and the success of a species," he said. Discovering animals like this "shows us how nature is extremely creative in providing solutions for several life tasks."

In addition to its saber shaped fangs, the newly discovered animal named Tiarajudens eccentricus (tee-AH-ruh-HOO-denz ek-SIN-trik-us) had rows of teeth on the roof of its mouth for chewing, the researchers said. The lower jaw was incomplete, but they expect it would have had similar rows of teeth.

***This undated handout image provided by the journal Science shows the skull of Tiarajudens eccentricus.*—INTERNET**

Tiarajudens was part of a group of animals known as anomodonts, sometimes called "mammal-like reptiles" and a major plant eater of their time.

The discovery provides novel insights into early tooth differences in these ancient animals and the evolution of plant eating and its complex social interactions, commented Joerg Froebisch of Humboldt University in Berlin, who was not part of Cisneros' research team.—*Internet*

Technology

Futuremark announces PCMark 7

NEW YORK, 26 March—Futuremark, the developer responsible for some of the most widely used benchmarking applications, has announced that the latest version of its full-system benchmarking software, PCMark 7, designed specifically for use with Windows 7, will be released soon.

Like previous versions of the software, PCMark 7 will include a number of different suites that measure the capabilities of a PC under a variety of different scenarios.

These tests will utilize more than 20 workloads to analyze performance in key areas such as storage, computation, photo and video manipulation, Web browsing, and gaming. (The gaming test will measure performance in three different versions of DirectX, depending on which your video card supports.)

"Hardware innovations like solid state drives (SSDs), and new form factors such as netbooks and tablets are greatly increasing the range of PC performance available to businesses and home users," Jani Joki, FutureMark's director of PC products and services, said in a statement.

"With so much choice available, PCMark 7 is an essential and easy to use tool to test and compare PC performance accurately and reliably across a wide range of usage scenarios."

The most recent new version of PCMark, PCMark Vantage (for use with Windows Vista), was released in 2007. Futuremark released an updated version of its video-benchmarking software, 3DMark 11, late last year.

Futuremark has not yet announced pricing or an official release date for PCMark 7.

Internet

***In this 22 March, 2011 photo, a customer looks at a Research In Motion Blackberry Torch using a AT&T carrier, at a Best Buy in Mountain View, Calif. Research In Motion Ltd releases quarterly financial results on 24 March, after the market close.*—INTERNET**

***Bill Nguyen's previous startup was online music site Lala, which was purchased by the maker of iPhones, iPads, iPods, and Macintosh computers in December 2009.* INTERNET**

RIM to allow Android Apps on PlayBook

NEW YORK, 26 March—Research In Motion announced on Thursday that users of its PlayBook tablet will be able to run Android and Java applications.

The capability will address one criticism often lodged against the PlayBook: an expected lack of applications.

The PlayBook, which becomes available on 19 April, will have two optional "app players" that will provide run-time environments for BlackBerry Java apps and Android 2.3 apps. The players will let users download BlackBerry Java Apps and Android Apps from BlackBerry App World. The applications won't work automatically in the PlayBook app players, however. Developers will need to "quickly and easily" port their apps to run on the tablet OS, RIM said. They will also have to repackage, code sign and submit their apps to the App World for approval.

The app players will run in a "secure sandbox" on the PlayBook, RIM said. Typically software makers use sandboxing techniques to prevent hackers from gaining access to other parts of the device. Data is protected because a bug in one programme doesn't give the hacker access to other programmes or data on the phone.

RIM also said it plans to make it easier for developers to build PlayBook apps by releasing a native SDK (software development kit) for the PlayBook enabling C/C++ application development on the BlackBerry Tablet OS. —*Internet*

India cancels 14 more 'fake' pilot licences

***India's aviation regulator said Friday it had cancelled the licences of 14 more commercial pilots caught forging their qualifications in a spreading scandal that has rocked passenger confidence.—*INTERNET**

NEW DELHI, 26 March— India's aviation regulator said Friday it had cancelled the licences of 14 more commercial pilots caught forging their qualifications in a spreading scandal that has rocked passenger confidence.

Cases of pilots exaggerating their flying time while training and other irregularities have emerged since a captain who made several bad landings was found to have submitted faked paperwork to gain her licence. At least six pilots, including from the Air India, Indigo and SpiceJet airlines, have already been arrested as authorities check thousands of licences. "We have cancelled the licences of 14 pilots who were flying passenger planes. All of them had submitted fake training records," Directorate General of Civil Aviation chief EK Bharat Bhusan said.

Internet

***Artists perform during the celebration of traditional festival "Chunshe", or the Spring Folk Fair on Taiping Bridge in Jushui County of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 24 March, 2011. Local residents follow a tradition of "stepping on bridge" during the folk fair, which attracts tens of thousands people to join every year.—*XINHUA**

Arabian students show the Chinese calligraphy works of their names in Chinese written by a Chinese calligrapher at the University of Dubai, in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, on 23 March, 2011.
XINHUA

Study finds wind speeds rose over world's oceans

WASHINGTON, 26 March—During the last quarter-century, average wind speeds have increased over the world's oceans, as have wave heights, generating rougher seas, researchers reported in a study published online Thursday.

Since faster winds cause more evaporation, the increase could lead to more water vapor in the air, compounding any increase from global warming and providing added moisture for rain. Generally, that means a higher chance for rainfall.

Researchers led by Ian Young of Swinburne University of Technology in Australia report in the journal *Science* that over a 23-year period, average wind speed over the oceans rose by 0.25 percent per year. The proportion of increase in wave height was less than for wind speed, the researchers noted, while the increase for extreme winds was more than for average winds. The researchers said the higher winds aren't necessarily the result of global warming.

But Eugene S Takle, director of the climate science programme at Iowa State University, and not part of Young's research team, noted that evaporation rises with higher wind speeds, so the result would be more moisture in the air even without global warming.

And the warming shown in many studies would also increase evaporation.

Just two years ago, Takle and colleagues published a study of wind speeds over land showing a decrease, rather than the increase Young's team found in its measurements from satellites and buoys. Young studied satellite records from 1985 to 2010, though records for 1990-91 were not available because of satellite problems.

"I don't think these results provide a clear contradiction to our findings of declining wind speeds over land, since measurements are made in different environments," said Takle.

He noted that the day-to-night changes in temperature are different over land than over water and the boundary layer — the portion of the atmosphere that most closely interacts with the surface — is generally thicker over land than water.

Internet

East meets West in Asia-focused Edinburgh festival

LONDON, 26 March — The 2011 edition of the Edinburgh International Festival will be a celebration of "vibrant and diverse" Asian culture, from traditional Indian music to a Chinese adaptation of Shakespeare, organizers said Wednesday. The festival, one of several that take place in the Scottish capital each summer and which together form the biggest cultural event in the world, will present three weeks of music, dance, theatre, and opera from 12 August.

This year's international festival is "an exploration and celebration of the vibrant and diverse cultures of Asia and the long-standing influences on the cultural landscape of the West", organizers said in a statement.

One of the highlights will be a ballet adaptation of "The Peony Pavilion", a love story by Chinese playwright Tang Xianzu, performed by the National Ballet of China. The version of the classic Chinese tale brings together Western classical ballet, a symphony orchestra and traditional Chinese instruments.

Other shows include a version of English playwright William Shakespeare's "Hamlet" by a Shanghai opera company, as well as the bard's play "The Tempest" by a Korean theatre company.

Traditional Indian music will be showcased in "The Legendary Music of Rajasthan", which organizers said will include voices and instruments of desert communities.

"European artists, explorers and philosophers have drawn inspiration from the Far East for centuries," said festival director Jonathan Mills.—*Internet*

Photography amateurs take photos of sprouting cherry buds in Yuyuantan park in Beijing, capital of China, on 24 March, 2011. The 23rd Cherry Festival opened here on Thursday, attracting numerous visitors' attention in the fine spring day.
XINHUA

China will overtake US, dominate global trade by 2030

BEIJING, 26 March — Leading accountancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has claimed that China will overtake the US and dominate global trade by 2030. Currently, China''s international trade is worth 2.21 trillion dollars (1.36 trillion pounds), compared to the 2.66 trillion dollars (1.64 trillion pounds) for the US.

China had overtaken Japan to secure its place as the world''s second-biggest economy earlier this year. The *BBC* quoted the PwC report as saying that global trade will undergo "fundamental change" in the coming years as emerging economies like China and India begin to "dominate the top sea and air freight routes".

PwC''s findings are a reflection of the World Bank''s prediction that China''s economy will bypass the US by 2030 if it can sustain its growth. The firm's chief economist Justin Lin has said that China be twice the size of the US economy in 20 years if it continues to grow at an annual rate of eight percent.

The PwC findings have also shown that China is in a dominant position in terms of bilateral trade, and appeared in 17 of the top 25 bilateral trade pairings in 2009.

China is the world''s largest goods producer, with 19.8 percent of all manufactured products coming from the economic heavyweight.

Internet

A woman walks down the steps of a bank decorated to mark Earth Hour in Hong Kong. From Sydney to Seoul, London to Lima, and Dubai to Davis Station in frozen Antarctica, hundreds of millions of people are expected to switch off their lights on Saturday to mark "Earth Hour".—INTERNET

Pilots land alone as controller naps

WASHINGTON, 26 March — Aviation authorities have launched an investigation after two flights had to land at Ronald Reagan Washington Airport without tower guidance because the lone controller on duty was asleep. The pilots aborted their first landing attempt when no one in the tower responded to calls and landed the second time without assistance.

Internet

2.7 tons of cocaine seized in five-nation naval action off Colombia

BOGOTA, 26 March— Authorities from Colombia, France, Honduras, Nicaragua and the United States have seized in international waters 2.7 tons of cocaine, which apparently was destined for North America, official sources to *Xinhua* on Friday.

Captain Carlos Gil, commander of the specific command on the Colombian island of San Andres, said that the cocaine was intercepted in a speedboat, which was detected Thursday by the French frigate Ventose when it moved to 125 nautical miles from the Colombian Island of Albuquerque, in international waters

"This operation started on March 17 and ended yesterday. Naval units of Colombia, United States, France, Honduras and Nicaragua achieved the seizure of 2,700 kg of cocaine," Gil said in a telephone interview with *Xinhua*.—*Xinhua*

Dubai police seize arms shipment

DUBAI, 26 March — Dubai police have intercepted an illegal shipment of 16,000 pistols from Turkey to Yemen, Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, the Dubai Police commander-in-chief, said on Thursday. "We shall not allow any criminal elements to use our territories to carry out any illicit plot that poses threat to peace and security of any country," Tamim said. The weapons were found in a shipping container in Dubai's port.

Six people were arrested for their alleged links to the smuggling of the weapons valued at more than $2 million, Tamim said. "The huge amount of brand-faked hand guns along with additional bullet chambers, manufactured in Turkey, were carefully hidden among wrapped boxes carrying furniture in a container which was temporarily stored in one of Dubai's storehouses," a government statement said.— *Internet*

Dubai police display one of the 16,000 pistols made in Turkey and seized from a shipping container bound for Yemen.— INTERNET

Soccer star gets eight months for drunk brawl

LONDON , 26 March — Former Premier League footballer Kelvin Etuhu was jailed for eight months on yesterday for a drunken street brawl which left a man with a broken jaw. The striker (22), recently released from his Manchester City contract, attacked Owen Fitzpatrick following a dispute in a casino cocktail bar, a court in Warrington heard. The six-foot footballer was caught on camera kicking the victim three times on the ground after he floored him with a punch. The star also pushed his own girlfriend to the ground during the incident in February 2010.— *Internet*

Visitors look around at a classic cars show in Moscow, Russia, on 24 March, 2011. The four-day show kicked off here on Thursday. — XINHUA

Firefox 4 trumps IE9 in first day download contest

BEIJING, 26 March — Mozilla's newly launched Firefox 4 Web browser was downloaded nearly 7 million times worldwide in the first 24 hours, according to media reports.

The number was almost triple the 2.4 million downloads that Microsoft reported in the first 24 hours after the Internet Explorer 9 (IE9) was released.

Nevertheless, the number lagged behind the record-breaking performance of Firefox 3, which was downloaded more than 8 million times in the first day after launch in mid-2008.

Statistics show that Firefox 4 has attracted interest from around the world, with 44 percent downloads in Europe, 26 percent in North America. and 20 percent in Asia.— *Xinhua*

A two-week-old Little Penguin rests against a stuffed animal in an incubator at the Cincinnati Zoo, 27 Jan, 2011, in Cincinnati.—INTERNET

US FDA approves vaccine against shingles for people aged 50 to 59

WASHINGTON, 26 March — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Thursday approved the use of Zostavax, a live attenuated virus vaccine, for the prevention of shingles in individuals 50 to 59 years of age. Zostavax is already approved for use in individuals 60 years of age and older.

In the United States shingles affects approximately 200,000 healthy people between the ages of 50 and 59, per year. It is a disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus, which is a virus in the herpes family and the same virus that causes chickenpox. After an attack of chickenpox, the virus lies dormant in certain nerves in the body. For reasons that are not fully understood, the virus can reappear in the form of shingles, more commonly in people with weakened immune systems and with aging.

"The likelihood of shingles increases with age. The availability of Zostavax to a younger age group provides an additional opportunity to prevent this often painful and debilitating disease" said Karen Midthun, director of FDA's Centre for Biologics Evaluation and Research, in a statement.

Internet

Acrobats perform in the acrobatic edition of pantomime "Nutcracker" in Istanbul, Turkey, on 25 March, 2011. The acrobatic pantomime was staged on Friday evening by members of the Chinese Dalian Acrobatic Troupe.
XINHUA

French chess hit by Russia olympiad 'cheating' scandal

PARIS, 26 March — The French chess federation has suspended three top players for violating sporting ethics at a chess olympiad in Siberia last September. The trio are alleged to have used an elaborate scheme involving text messages and computer software to help beat opponents at Khanty-Mansiysk. Federation head Laurent Verat said it was the first case of its kind.

The players — Sebastien Feller, Cyril Marzolo and captain Arnaud Hauchard — all deny cheating at the tournament. "There have already been suspicions of cheating in chess, even involving strong players in the past, but there has never been proof of cheating," Mr Verat told *AFP* news agency.

According to the French federation, while international grand master Sebastien Feller, 19, was involved in a game, Cyril Marzolo followed developments over the internet and used computer software to establish the best next move. The answer was then sent by means of a coded text message to the third member of the team, Arnaud Hauchard.

The third member would then sit himself at a particular table in the competition hall. Each table represented an agreed square on the chess board. This, according to French media reports, was the most delicate part of the operation. The alleged strategy was discovered by French chess federation Vice President Joanna Pomian, who spotted a text message on the mobile phone of one of the three players while the French team was involved in a game. —*Internet*

The three players deny the allegations and could now face court proceedings.— INTERNET

Visitors gather around a demonstration of humanoid robots Nao at the Innorobo Exhibition in Lyon on 23 March, 2011.

News Album

Copper wire ball weighs in at 922 pounds

A New Hampshire man said he is submitting his 922-pound ball of copper wire for a Guinness World Record. Rick Fortin of New Boston said he started making the ball in 2001 because he gets "bored during the winter" and it measured 3 feet in diametre and weighed in at 922 pounds Thursday, *the New Hampshire Union-Leader, Manchester,* reported Tuesday. "I was quite happy with that number," he said after the weighing. Fortin said he is working on the paperwork to submit the copper ball, which was the only item to survive a fire at his home in 2003, for a Guinness World Record.

Sara Wilcox, public relations and marketing assistant for the Guinness World Records New York City office, said the ball, if accepted, would create a new record category for heaviest ball of copper.

City's cost-saving pay cuts backfire

An Ohio City council attempting to save $54,000 instead ended up paying $75,000 to three women whose work hours and benefits were cut.

The Ashtabula City Council voted two weeks ago to reduce the work week for Systems Analyst Charlene Pfouts and Treasurer Lori Mackey from 40 hours to 20 hours with no benefits and Income Tax Administrator Marge Pavolino's pay was cut by 10 percent, *The Ashtabula Star Beacon* reported Tuesday.

The cuts were designed to save the city $54,000 or more. However, Pfouts, who previously made $58,125 a year, quit rather than take the cuts and Mackey is considering a similar move.

The City Council approved Monday paying at least $75,000 in severance and unused vacation and sick time for the three women in addition to the city auditor, deputy auditor and clerk of council.

Extra seats but still no room to sit on train

A rail company has tried to tackle the problem of overcrowding on its trains by making its seats so narrow that more than half of passengers cannot fit into them while many are left in pain, an MP said.

Penny Mordaunt, Conservative MP for Portsmouth North, told parliament that commuters travelling on South West Trains between London and Portsmouth had to squeeze into hard seats measuring 43 cm (17 inches) with no arm rests or spaces between them.

"It seems that South West Trains expects its passengers not only not to work while travelling in standard class but not to have elbows either," she said, adding that the cramped conditions had forced some passengers to seek medical attention.

A report commissioned by South West Trains found 59 percent of passengers could not fit into the seats on its class-450 carriages when their elbows were taken into account. "The fact that spaces for people to sit are provided does not mean that people have space to sit down," Mordaunt said.

She said seats on South West Trains were so narrow that when she attempted to squeeze three colleagues into the space allocated by the train provider, one would have been 90 percent in the aisle.

Bride arrested after wedding brawl

Police in Arizona, responding to a report of a brawl at a backyard wedding, said the bride was arrested in her wedding dress after kicking an officer. Lt Hugh White of the Gilbert Police Department said an officer responded to the home Saturday night after a report of people "killing each other" in the backyard and discovered a massive fight involving several people had broken out at a wedding reception, KPHO-TV, Phoenix, reported on Tuesday.

Police said the partygoers ignored the officer and he used pepper spray in an attempt to break up the brawl, *The Arizona Republic, Phoenix,* reported. Other officers arrived and helped halt the fight. The bride, Angela Davito, 28, of Mesa, was arrested after charging a wedding guest and kicking an officer. She was arrested on suspicion of assault and obstructing governmental operation. The Gilbert Fire Department said several people were treated at the scene for pepper spray exposure.

Liu Ye promotes "He-Man" premiere

***Cast members of film "He-Man" pose during the poster launching news conference in Beijing, capital of China.—*XINHUA**

BEIJING, 26 March—Chinese actor Liu Ye, who has portrayed a Forrest Gump-like character in the action-crime film "The Underdog Knight" and its sequel, says he'd like to continue the role as long as he can. The sequel, entitled "He-Man", is slated for release on 1 April. Liu said Wednesday, 23 March , 2011 at the film's premiere in Beijing, "The character has gained my heart, and I'm looking forward to continuing it in following projects." Liu's character, named Lao San, is a retired Marine veteran who lives in his world of innocence and optimism due to a brain injury. He assumes the role of a dedicated vigilante and fights people whom he considers bad. Ding Sheng, the director of the two films, echoed Liu Ye at the premiere, promising that a third installment would come out if Liu has time to act.

"He-Man" features Zhang Zilin, the 2007 Miss World champion, as Lao San's love interest. Actors Vincent Chiao and Yoo Seung-jun are also in the cast.

Xinhua

A model presents a creation at the Han Bo Award contest during the China Fashion Week in Beijing, capital of China, on 25 March, 2011. China Fashion Week 2011-2012 kicked off on Thursday.
XINHUA

"Hawthorn Tree" girl to lead Stanley Kwan's film

BEIJING, 26 March—Zhou Dongyu, the starlet in Zhang Yimou's drama "Under the Hawthorn Tree", has been cast as a lead for Stanley Kwan's upcoming romantic film, "Ta De Guo" ("His Kingdom"), according to the *Guangzhou Daily*.

The newspaper cited Kwan as saying that 19-year-old Zhou is a perfect candidate for the role, Niba, who is supposed to be clean and pure.

Zhou was a high school student when she was chosen to star in Zhang Yimou's "Under the Hawthorn Tree", which was her acting debut.

She rose to stardom soon after the film's release, in September, 2010.

"His Kingdom", an adaptation of Han Han's best-selling novel of the same name, will centre on the love stories of a young man living in a small town.

Director Kwan says singer-actor Juno Mak will play the protagonist, but he is yet to announce the other female lead.

Rumors have it that Kwan is deciding between Kwai Lun-mei and Zhang Yuqi.

Filming will begin in June.—*Xinhua*

Actress Zhou Dongyu.
XINHUA

Kelly Clarkson's fifth album delayed until September

BEIJING, 26 March—US singer Kelly Clarkson has to delay the release of her fifth album until Spetember 2011, according to media reports Thursday.

"I recently found out that my album won't be coming out until September the album has been recorded but I can't release it until then," the original "American Idol" wrote on her official Facebook page. "I realize that is a long time but that's the best time to release it apparently so I'm sorry for the wait but I promise you it sounds great!"

The original "American Idol" revealed last month that the album was influenced by artists including Prince, Radiohead, Tina Turner, Sheryl Crow, Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder. However, she assured country listeners: "There's a little bit of a country vibe/influence on a couple of songs."—*Xinhua*

Kelly Clarkson.
XINHUA

I'm right man for England, says defiant Capello

England's Italian manager Fabio Capello

CARDIFF, 26 March — Fabio Capello has insisted he is the right man to lead England to Euro 2012 despite the furore over his handling of the captaincy ahead of Saturday's qualifier with Wales. Capello, who surprised many onlookers by opting to remain in his job following a hugely disappointing World Cup, has only one year remaining on his contract with The FA and has found shaking off the stigma of such a poor campaign in South Africa increasingly difficult.

The latest self-inflicted wound came when he opted to re-instate John Terry as permanent captain but leaked his decision to the media before telling Rio Ferdinand, who had been handed the armband after Terry was punished for an off-field scandal.

Internet

Ibrahimovic ban reduced to two games

ROME, 26 March — Zlatan Ibrahimovic's ban for violent conduct was on Friday reduced from three games to two but the Sweden forward will still miss next weekend's Milan derby. The AC Milan striker was sent off two weeks ago for striking Bari's Marco Rossi in the ribs, after which he copped the expected and regulation three-game ban. But Milan appealed and the Federal Court of Justice decided to reduce his ban by a game.

AC Milan's Swedish forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic

He has already served one game of his suspension, in which he was sorely missed as Milan lost 1-0 against a Palermo side that had lost their previous five matches. He will still miss the derby on 2 April at the San Siro, in which Milan are the nominal hosts, but will be free to return for the trip to Fiorentina a week later, thus greatly boosting Milan's title hopes.—*Internet*

Magical Messi makes rare US appearance Saturday

Lionel Messi from Argentina

NEW YORK, 26 March — Most of the 80,000 fans in Camp Nou rose to their feet, again astonished by what they had just witnessed. The slow singsong reverberated around the steep, smoke-filled stands of Europe's largest stadium on this November night, getting louder and louder with each chorus. Many raised both arms and repeatedly took deep bows in homage. "Messsss-iiiiii! Messsss-iiiiii!" they chanted over and over.

Lionel Messi ran to the edge of the stands, cupped his left hand to his ear and raised his right quickly a few times, urging the spectators to let him hear the noise. After his teammates mobbed him, he walked back toward the center stripe, and pointed the index fingers of each hand to the sky, in tribute to his grandmother.

Internet

French, Dutch, Italians cruising as Villa sets Spain mark

French midfielder Yoann Gourcuff (R) is congratuled by his teammates next to head coach Laurent Blanc (C) after scoring a goal during the Euro 2012 qualifier football match Luxembourg against France at the Josy Barthel Stadium in Luxembourg.— INTERNET

PARIS, 26 March — France, World Cup finalists Holland and Italy all moved closer to qualification for the 2012 European Championships Friday with away successes — while David Villa's predatory qualities rescued world champions Spain as they beat the Czech Republic. France saw off tiny Luxembourg 2-0 to continue their resurrection under new boss Laurent Blanc after a catastrophic World Cup under predecessor Raymond Domenech - although Blanc admitted that "we weren't great and they were very defensive. Even so, the objective was to get the win."—*Internet*

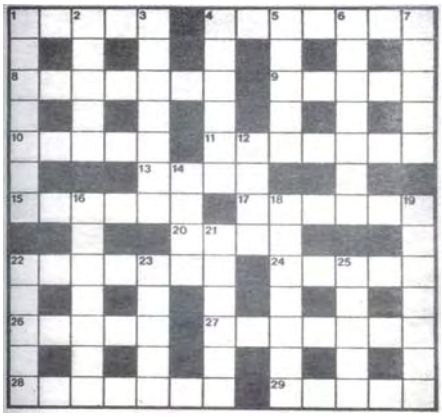
Italy in charge of group after Slovenia victory

LJUBLAJANA, 26 March — Italy took charge of their Euro 2012 qualifying group with a deserved and controlled 1-0 victory over Slovenia here on Friday. Brazilian-born Thiago Motta scored the only goal of the game in just his second appearance for Italy since qualifying to represent the country. And after all the pre-match talk of Italy's lack of quality and Slovenia's superior system in producing talented youngsters, it was the visitors who enjoyed much the better of things.

In truth, Slovenia were a huge disappointment, hardly mustering a shot in anger on goal. Their fans, a handful of which from rival teams Maribor and Olimpia Ljubljana fought amongst themselves before kick-off, seemed to have more fire in their bellies than the players. —*Internet*

Italian team celebrates after scoring a goal during their Euro 2012 qualification football match in Ljubljana. — INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

1 Old gold coin
4 Disagreement
8 Fall ill again
9 French wine
10 Overweight
11 Sympbolic circle
13 Wide ribbon
15 Emphasise
17 Result
20 Large book
22 Contempt
24 Semi-diameters
26 Oily fruit
27 Hand bomb
28 Zinc
29 English river

DOWN

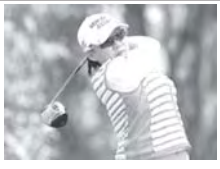
1 Jittery
2 Swelling
3 Put into words
4 Visions
5 Apostle Peter
6 Enclosed territory
7 Ringworm
12 Disapproving grunt
14 Italian wine
16 Breathing space
18 Brew
19 Nuclear missile
21 Wild ass
22 Metallic scum
23 Wide awake
25 Male duck

Estonia beat Uruguay 2-0 in chilly friendly

TALLINN, 26 March — Minnows Estonia beat big name visitors Uruguay 2-0 in a friendly here on Friday, as snow fell and temperatures in the Baltic nation plunged below zero. After a clean sheet for both sides in the first half, Estonian midfielder Konstantin Vassiljev opened the scoring after 61 minutes and just four minutes later striker Vjatseslav Zahovaiko added a second for the hosts.

Snow and icy temperatures are nothing unusual in March in Estonia. There was a light snow shower during the match and temperatures had dropped to minus six Celsius by the final whistle. "For those of our players who play in Europe, the climate in Estonia is nothing really extraordinary, but I am not used to such weather," Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said.— *Internet*

Uruguay's Abel Hernandez (C) is challenged by Estonia's Enar Jaager(L) and Taavi Rahn during their friendly football match in Tallinn.— INTERNET



Laird takes Bay Hill lead; Tiger still in picture

ORLANDO, 26 March — Martin Laird loves when he can smash a driver, and that carried him a long way on Friday at Bay Hill. Laird reached three of the par 5s in two shots, converted one of them into an eagle and wound up with a 7-under 65 for a one-shot lead over KJ Choi and Spencer Levin in the Arnold Palmer Invita-tional.

It wasn't just the par 5s. Even without any wind in the afternoon, Laird hit driver on the 384-yard fifth hole to set up a simple pitch and another birdie. He closed his round with a 321-yard tee shot on the ninth and a 12-foot birdie.—*Internet*

Tiger Woods tees off on the ninth hole during the second round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill golf tournament in Orlando, Fla, on Friday.— INTERNET

Jiyai Shin takes Kia Classic lead

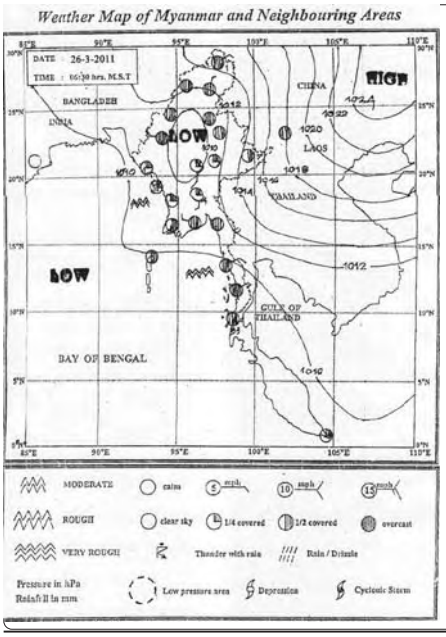
INDUSTRY, 26 March — Second-ranked Jiyai Shin shot a bogey-free 9-under 64, birdieing nine of the first 14 holes, to take a four-stroke lead Friday in the rain-delayed Kia Classic. "I jumped on the birdie bus," Shin said. The South Korean star, an eight-time winner on the LPGA Tour, had a 12-under 134 total on the Industry Hills Golf Club course at Pacific Palms. Seventy-two players, all of the afternoon starters, were unable to finish the round after rain delayed the start three hours.

"I think I'm really lucky to finish," Shin said. "I played very well, so I'll take a good rest.

Internet

Jiyai Shin

SPORTS



WEATHER

Saturday, 26th March, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T.

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in upper Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Regons, Kachin, Shan and Mon States, isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kayah and Kayin States, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below March average temperatures in Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, (5°C) below March average temperature in Eastern Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in upper Sagaing Region and Chin State, about March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (41°C), Nay Pyi Taw (Yezin), Mandalay, Myingyan, Kyaukse, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan and Taungdwingyi (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawthong (1.85) inches, Coco Island (1.22) inches, Ye (0.39) inch and Kengtung (0.27) inch.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 25-3-2011 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 26-3-2011 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 26-3-2011 was (50%). Rainfall on 26-3-2011 was (Nil).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 25-3-2011 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 26-3-2011 was 75°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 26-3-2011 was (70%). Total sunshine hours on 25-3-2011 was (2.7) hours (Approx).

Rainfall on 26-3-2011 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon each. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (5.79) inches at Mingaladon, (6.89) inches at Kaba-Aye and (7.09) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 25-3-2011.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 27th March 2011: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Mon and Kayin States, isolated in upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated rain or thundershowers in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 27-3-2011: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-3-2011: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-3-2011: Partly cloudy.

Nigeria to open Special Olympics camp in May

LAGOS, 26 March—The Special Olympics Nigeria has said athletes to the 2011 Special Olympic World Summer Games in Athens will commence closed camping from 27 May to 19 June .

The venue for the camp had yet to be determined, Folashade Bolumole, the National Director, Special Olympics Nigeria said on Friday. According to the official, the initial arrangement to have a three-phase camp between January and June had to be reviewed because of funding problems. The Special Olympics World Summer Games are scheduled to take place from June 26 to July 5. "We have not allowed the lack of funds to deter our preparations for the Games in spite of this setback our athletes have been training enthusiastically for the Games," she added. Bolumole solicited the financial support of corporate bodies and philanthropists for the team to augment what they had been receiving from their regular donors.

Nigeria will be represented at the Games by a 49-member contingent, she said.—*Xinhua*

Students take part in a robot contest in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, 26 March, 2011. A total of 273 students from 63 middle schools and primary schools in Suzhou attended a robot contest on Saturday. The robots competed in games such as football, basketball and so on.

XINHUA

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
Programme Schedule
(27-3-2011) (Sunday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am~11:00am)MST
Oversea Transmission	- (27-3-11 09:30 am ~ 28-3-11 09:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

* Opening
* News
* Marching towards A Democratic New Nation "Industrial & Electric Power Sector"
* News
* Birthday Present
* News
* Marching towards A Democratic New Nation (Main Programme)

Oversea Transmission

* Opening
* News
* Marching towards A Democratic New Nation "Industrial & Electric Power Sector"
* News
* Shwe San Taw Pagoda (Pyay)
* News
* Marching towards A Democratic New Nation (Main Programme)
* News
* A wonderful trip to Chaung Tha Beach
* News
* Myanmar Traditional Instruments "OBOE"
* News
* Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Chicken Curry with Gourd"
* Music Gallery
* News
* Myanmar As Told By History
* News
* Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace
* Myanmar Movie "As here real son"

Myanmar TV

Sunday, 27 March
View on today

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning News

7:40 am
4. Dhamma Puja Song

7:50 am
5. Nice & Sweet Song

8:05 am
6. Health Programme

8:15 am
7. (38) Phyar Mingalars

8:30 am
8. Myanmar Traditional Culture Performing Arts Competitions

8:40 am
9. International News

8:45 am
10. Musical Programme

11:00 am
1. Martial Song

11:10 am
2. Musical Programme

11:20 am
3. Round Up Of The Week's International News

11:30 am
4. TV Drama Series

12:30 pm
5. Golf Magazine (TV)

12:50 am
6. Myanmar Movies

4:00 pm
1. Martial Song

4:10 pm
2. Dance Of National Races

4:20 pm
3. Musical Programme

4:30 pm
4. Joint Performace by State Orchestra and State Traditional Orchestra

4:45 pm
5. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (History)

5:00 pm
6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:10 pm
7. Sing & Enjoy

6:00 pm
8. Evening News

6:15 pm
9. Weather Report

6:20 pm
10. TV Drama Series

7:30 pm
11. Documentary

8:00 pm
12. News
13. International News
14. Weather Report
15. Teleplay (Policy)
16. TV Drama Series
17. Yinhlaingkhatthan Taythihan (Song Competition)
18. Mytta Pawana By Mingun Sayadaw

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★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Industrial village in Kawa Township

Article & Photos: *Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)*

Workers seen at production of finished works of large bell-mouthed pan and kitchen-used pans.

Recently, I arrived in Thabyu Village of Kawa Township in Bago Region. Thabyu Village in Bago Region is located 25 miles from Yangon. The village is on the main road linking two regions.

The village has over 1110 houses in six wards. Local people are engaged in growing of monsoon paddy on 3000 acres of farmlands in the rainy season and green gram and beans and pulses in the summer.

I visited the new building of Basic Education High School donated by Parami U Tin Hlaing-Daw Ohnma Khin and family. At present, local people can sit for matriculation examination at the school.

In the village, a 315 KV power station is supplying electricity to the local people. In addition, a 200 KV power station is being built for supplying electricity to residences.

(See page 9)

Birthday Gift to mark Armed Forces Day

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—"Birthday Gift", a teleplay to commemorate the 66th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, will be on the air through Myanma Radio and Myanmar TV on 27 March.

Directed by Script/Director Academy Zaw Myint Oo, the cast includes Academy Tun Tun Win, Academy Khin Moh Moh Aye, Naing Lu, Phone Hlyan, Min Htet and Kyaw Khant.

The teleplay will be continued to be broadcast on 27 March (Sunday) after the evening news programmer on MRTV channel, before the evening news on MRTV-4 channel and at 9:30 am on Myanmar International channel.—*MNA*

Koebin gets library

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—As a gesture of hailing the 66th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Pyinnya Alinyaung Library in Koebin Village of Thayet Township was opened on 24 March.

The Chairman of the township PDC spoke on the occasion and the head of the township IPRD discussed measures for durability of the library. Donors contributed K 10,000, a radio, and 500 publications to the library.

The RC type library building, 30 feet in length, 20 feet in width and 13 feet in height, is constructed with a contribution of K 1 million by the government and K 2.2 million by villagers and wellwishers.—*MNA*

The Armed Forces Day special supplement attached to this paper