

Matapitu upatthanam, to serve thy parents; this is the way to auspiciousness.

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Established 1914

Volume XV, Number 321

10th Waning of Tabodwe 1369 ME

Sunday, 2 March, 2008

Senior General Than Shwe sends Peasants Day Message

Peasants urged to make efforts to improve agriculture sector, realize State's seven-step Road Map

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—The following is the translation of the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the Peasants Day (2008).

Esteemed peasantry,

Today is the Peasants Day (2 March) designated to honour Myanmar peasantry. On this auspicious occasion, I wish you the entire peasants physical and spiritual well-being and a success in your farming.

Now, the State Peace Development Council is putting the economic objectives into action for national economic growth in pursuit of the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In the process, the government is laying down and realizing necessary plans for development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well according to the nation's geographical features, climate and human resources.

For supply of irrigation water, the major requirement for improving the agricultural sector, the State's largest production sector, the government so far has constructed 187 dams, 21 sluice gates, 305 river water pumping stations, 7,578 underground water

tapping stations and 658 rural dams and lakes the length and breadth of the nation, spending huge funds of the State.

In addition, it is taking measures for scaling up sown acreage such as reclaiming fallow lands, vacant lands and low-lying areas through various means, reclaiming highlands, and rendering various forms of assistance for multiple-and mixed-cropping patterns.

So, it is required to transform into mechanized farming to be able to fully utilize the growing number of arable lands. In order to achieve this target, the State and private sectors have placed emphasis on boosting production of farm machinery and implements.

The government is working hard to reclaim more and more virgin lands, boost per acre yields of crops and cultivation capacity, supply sufficient irrigation water, provide agricultural methods and high-yield strains of crops, and transform conventional farming into mechanized farming. So, I would like to exhort you peasants to work hard for improving your socio-

economic life and helping achieve the State's objectives in the agriculture sector.

Now, the State Peace and Development Council is implementing the State's seven-step Road Map in its drive for building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

It is very heartening to note that the representatives of the peasants participated actively in the discussions at the National Convention held for emergence of an enduring State Constitution in accordance with the seven-step Road Map, till the successful completion of the National Convention.

In conclusion, I would like to urge you peasants to make continued efforts hand in hand with the people to improve the agriculture sector, the State's main economic sector, and realize the State's seven-step Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline.

MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo addresses opening of 9th General Assembly of Myanmar Red Cross Society

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March — The opening ceremony of the 9th General Assembly of the Myanmar Red Cross Society was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Health, here, this morning, with an address by Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

It was also attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of the committee, the director-general of the SPDC Office and departmental heads, Mr Pierre-Andre Conod and members of International Committee of the Red Cross, Ms Birdget Gardner and members of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, President of Myanmar Red Cross Society and members of central committee, heads of State/Division Red Cross Society and delegates to the general assembly from the State/Division/ District/Township RCSs and guests.

In his speech, Chairman of NHC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo said that the combined efforts of the all national strengths and resources are of great importance in striving for
(See page 7)



NHC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo greets the guests at opening ceremony of 9th General Assembly of Myanmar Red Cross Society. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 2 March, 2008

Utilize water and land resources effectively for boosting agricultural production

The 2nd of March 2008 (today) is the Peasants Day of the Union of Myanmar. The government is diligently taking measures with agriculture as the base for economic growth of the nation.

Irrigation water is the fundamental requirement in the agriculture sector. So, the government has built dams, sluice gates, river water pumping stations and underground water tapping stations wherever necessary throughout the nation.

In its bid to boost production of crops, the government is distributing high-yield strains of crops, reclaiming vacant lands, applying multiple- and mixed-cropping patterns, and providing inorganic fertilizers and agricultural methods.

The irrigation facilities the government has constructed across the nation benefit more than seven million acres of farmlands. The irrigated sown acreage is on the increase, thus contributing towards 18 per cent of the total sown acreage of the nation. Due to supply of sufficient irrigation water, paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil crops and kitchen crops are being grown extensively, and the crop surpluses are exported.

Actually, the steps government is now taking in this regard are intended for food sufficiency of the nation with a population of more than 55 million and in future.

Moreover, it is striving for transforming the nation from conventional farming into mechanized farming.

So, farmers on their part have to apply multiple cropping and mixed-cropping patterns on a wider scale with effective use of the government's assistance and rich water and land resources to achieve the goal.

Mine blasts kill one, injure three in Yebyu, Ye Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March — Seven KNU terrorist insurgents with small arms opened fire on Ma Khin Wai of Pynmatoe Village who was going to the garden near the village in Taninthayi at 8 pm on 24 February.

She was injured in her left arm and right breast. She succumbed to the injuries on the way to Taninthayi Hospital on 25 February.

U San Win of Hnankye Village in Yebyu Township stepped on a mine planted by terrorists in Hein Sel Creek, three miles east of Ye-Dawei Road on 26 February. He lost his right foot and was also wounded in his left one. He is undergoing treatment at the Kalein Aung Township People's Hospital.

Similarly, a mine planted by insurgents exploded in the forest, three miles east of Yindain Village in Ye Township on 26 February. Due to the mine blast, U Daung was killed on the spot and other two, U Hla Win and U Hoke Swan of the same village were wounded. They are receiving treatment at the Ye Township Hospital.

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

State/Division/Township DACs hold work coordination meeting



Minister Col Thein Nyunt addresses the meeting of DACs.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March — A work coordination meeting for upgrading of urban and rural areas development tasks of State/Division/Township Development Affairs Committees in 2007-2008 fiscal year was held at the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, here, yesterday.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended the meeting and made a speech.

Next, the directors of State/Division DACs, Director-General U Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department and officials submitted reports on work done and Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe made

supplementary report.

Arrangements are being made for upgrading and building of 2,374 miles and 5.05 furlongs of roads in rural and urban areas in 2007-2008 fiscal year and so far, a total of 2,262 miles and 1.08 furlongs have been built. In 1988, there were 5,936 miles and 2 furlongs of roads in rural and urban areas and a total of 37,905 miles and 0.05 furlong of roads have been built until the end of 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Out of 1757 water and drinking water supply tasks for urban and rural areas, a total of 1,714 tasks have been completed. In Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions, drinking water supply tasks have been carried out since 2000-2001 and there are 12130 tasks completed until February this year.—MNA

Prizes presented for Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2008



YANGON, 1 March—The second day of the Qualify Round of Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2008, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd, was held at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) here, yesterday evening.

Present were General-Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik, departmental officials and guests.

In the prize presentation ceremony, PR manager U Ye Tint of

International Beverages Trading Co Ltd awarded to the Putting Challenge winner Kyaw Min. Joint Secretary of MGF U Ray Htet Doe presented the prizes to Longest Drive winner Kyaw Min Than and Nearest to the Pin winner Aung Naing Htoo.

Executives of MGF U Chan Han and U Ko Ko Lay presented the prizes to the players who were from fifth to tenth positions. General-Secretary of MGF U Aung Kyi presented the prizes to the first to fourth winners.

Next, General-Secretary of MOC Director-General U Thaung Htaik presented first prize to Thet Maung Maung who stood first firing 139 net total strokes in handicap event, second prize to Win Sein with 140 and third prize to Naing Ye Lin with 140.

Design and Development Director U Tint Oo of International

Beverages Trading Co Ltd presented first prize to Thet Zaw Htwe who stood first in scratch event, second prize to Kyaw Hlaing, third prize to Min Thura Aung, fourth prize to Myat Min Tun and fifth prize to Naing Ye Lin. He gave a souvenir to Chairman of Tournament Organizing Committee U Aung Myat. The five winners

advanced into final round.

International Beverages Trading Co Ltd was the main sponsor of the tournament and co-sponsors were Srixon, Alpine (Purified Drinking Water) and Dusit Inya Lake Resort Yangon. Han Event Management carried out the tournament.

MNA



Director U Tint Oo of International Beverages Trading Co Ltd presents first prize to Thet Zaw Htwe in scratch event. — MNA

Russian election chief shrugs off Western criticism

MOSCOW, 29 Feb — Russia’s election boss on Thursday shrugged off Western criticism about the fairness of Sunday’s presidential election, saying it was part of an international campaign directed against Russia.

The only Western observer mission to monitor the 2 March election has said it fears the election will not be fair because the campaign is slanted in favour of President Vladimir Putin’s chosen successor, Dmitry Medvedev.

Andreas Gross, who is leading an observer mission from the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly, told

Reuters on Wednesday that its findings would be tough and would criticize a lack of choice.

“This (criticism) is part of an international policy, part of activities directed against the Russian Federation,” Russian media quoted Central Election Commission Chairman Vladimir Churov as telling a meeting of young Russian voters.

“Some international observers come to Russia with ready-made conclusions and opinions which have nothing in common with reality.”

MNA/Reuters



Flags reading ‘Russia, Forward!’, decorate a bridge across the Moskva River, as the Kremlin is seen in the background, in Moscow, on 29 Feb, 2008. Russians vote in a presidential election on 2 March, 2008.

INTERNET

Pakistani policemen stand next to the wreckage of vehicle after a roadside bomb blast in Lakki Marwat, a town bordering the North Waziristan tribal district on 29 Feb.

INTERNET

Thai Democrat leader appointed as oppsn bloc head

BANGKOK, 1 March — Thailand’s Democrat Party Chairman Abhisit Vejjajiva was officially named the opposition leader of Thailand’s House of Representatives in a royal command on Friday.

The Democrat, commanding 164 MPs (member of Parliament) in the 480-seat Lower House, is the only political party in the opposition bloc. The coalition government, led by the People Power Party, comprises six political parties.

The Democrats turned out in full force on Friday to attend a solemn ceremony to receive the royal command and congratulate their party leader for his new job. —MNA/Xinhua

US incarcerates more than any other nation

WASHINGTON, 1 March — The United States incarcerates more people than any other country in the world and for the first time in the nation’s history, more than one in every 100 American adults is confined in a prison or jail, according to a report released on Thursday.

The report by the Pew Centre on the States said the American penal

system held more than 2.3 million adults at the start of the year.

The far more populous nation of China ranked second with 1.5 million behind bars, with Russia a distant third with 890,000 inmates.

“Beyond the sheer number of inmates, America also is the global leader in the rate at which it incarcerates its citizenry,

outpacing nations like South Africa and Iran,” according to the report.

Tough sentencing laws, record numbers of drug offenders and high crime rates have contributed to the United States having the largest prison population and the highest rate of incarceration in the world, criminal justice experts say.

MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

One killed, six hurt in blast in S Philippines

MANILA, 1 March — One person was killed and six others wounded when an improvised explosive device went off near a city hall in southern Philippines, police said on Thursday.

The blast took place at 10:45 pm local time (1445 GMT) Wednesday night on the culmination of 69th foundation anniversary of the

southern city of General Santos, “Tuna Capital” of the archipelago.

Chief Superintendent Felizardo Serapio, police chief for Central Mindanao, told reporters it was possible that the lone fatality identified as Glenn Octaviano, 27, was carrying the bomb when it went off some 50 metres away from mostly young party-goers celebrating

the anniversary.

It seemed that the suspected bomber ran out of time while trying to penetrate the tight security cordon in the area, said another police officer.

The explosion failed to disrupt the revelry as most of the people there did not even know there was an explosion because the music was so loud.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers kill Iraqi civilian in N-E of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 1 March — American soldiers killed an Iraqi citizen when he approached their patrol in a town in the volatile province of Diyala on Wednesday, the US military said on Thursday. The incident took place in the town of Maqdadiyah, some 100 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, when a man wearing a bulky jacket with his hands in his pockets approached the troops, the military said in a statement.

The troops issued a warning for the man to stop before they shot him, the statement said. “A search of the man was conducted, but no weapon was found. Coalition forces were not injured during the incident,” it said. The incident is under investigation, it added. — MNA/Xinhua

Hillary Clinton raises \$35m in February

WASHINGTON, 1 March — US Democratic presidential hopeful Senator Hillary Clinton of New York raised 35 million US dollars in February, her campaign said Thursday.

In a conference call, Clinton campaign chairman Terry McAuliffe

also said that the former first lady also added 200,000 new donors to the campaign’s rolls.

That marks a significant recovery and her best fundraising period in the presidential campaign.

In January, Clinton raised only 14 million dollars, in comparison to

rival Senator Barack Obama of Illinois’ 36 million US dollars.

Meanwhile, Obama spokesman Bill Burton said he would not disclose his campaign’s fundraising total in February, but it should be more than that of the Clinton’s.

MNA/Xinhua

China strongly opposes US dual probe into steel pipes

BEIJING, 29 Feb—China strongly opposed the U.S. decision to launch dual trade investigations into its steel tubes, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said late on Friday.

The US Department of Commerce decided on 20 Feb to initiate anti-subsidy and anti-dumping probe

into imports of circular welded austenitic stainless pressure pipes from China.

This is first dual probe the US launched against Chinese imports this year, lifting the total to nine since November 2006.

The use of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures violated US rules and the tradition of

not adopting anti-subsidy measures against non-market economies, the MOC spokesman said in a statement.

“The move is unwise and wrong as it will not help to develop mutually beneficial, harmonious and healthy Sino-US trade relations and will even complicate the normal bilateral trade relations,” the statement said.

“The ruling has greatly hurt the interests and feelings of Chinese industry and we hope the US will soon correct the mistake to avoid negative influence.”

China reserved its legal rights as a World Trade Organization (WTO) member, the spokesman added.

Xinhua

Top online travel agent says profit up 66% in 2007

BEIJING, 1 March — Ctrip.com International Ltd, a Chinese online travel operator, has posted a net profit of 398 million yuan (55 million US dollars) in 2007, up 66 percent over a year earlier.

In the fourth quarter, net profit of the Nasdaq-listed firm more than doubled to 135 million yuan.

For full year 2007, business revenue rose more than 50 percent to 1.3 billion yuan, 53 percent of which came from hotel reservation service. It contributed 677

million yuan, Ctrip said.

Business revenue of air ticket booking reached 503 million yuan, accounting for 39 percent of the total, up 72 percent from 2006.

Diluted earnings per share were 5.84 yuan in 2007. The firm expected its net revenue to grow 35 percent in 2008.—Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

EU fines Microsoft record 899 million euros

BRUSSELS, 29 Feb—The European Commission fined Microsoft a record 899 million euros (1.35 billion US dollars) on Wednesday for defying sanctions imposed on the software giant for antitrust violations, far exceeding the original penalty.

The Commission, executive arm of the European Union, has now fined Microsoft 1.68 billion euros for its original

violation and for failing to comply with sanctions, more than any other firm. It said no other company had ever ignored sanctions.

“Microsoft was the first company in 50 years of EU competition policy that the Commission has had to fine for failure to comply with an antitrust decision,” Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes said in a statement.



Ministry of Commerce (MOC) of China. — XINHUA

Gold advances to record price as dollar weakens

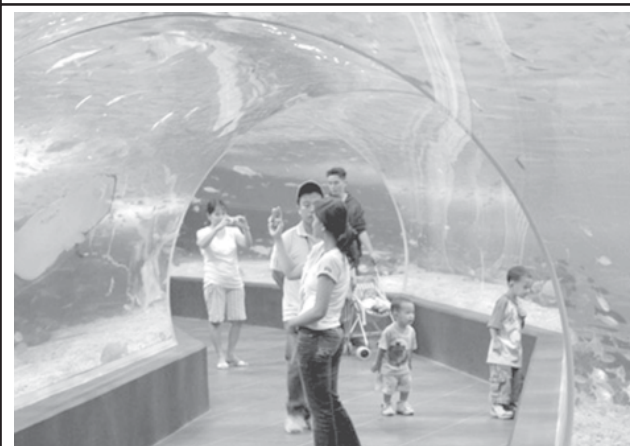
CHICAGO, 29 Feb — Gold futures in Chicago and New York rose to a record on speculation that lower US interest-rates will weaken the dollar and spur inflation, while boosting the metal's appeal as an alternative investment.

The US Dollar Index, which tracks the currency against six major counterparts, sank to the lowest since its start in 1973. The euro was little changed after earlier touching 1.5239 dollars, the highest ever. The US currency dropped below 104 yen, to its lowest level since March 2005.

The US economy expanded less than forecast in the fourth quarter as gross domestic product rose at a 0.6

percent annualized rate. The feeble GDP figures reinforced sentiment that the Fed will have to lower interest rates in mid-March despite higher inflation.

Gold futures for April delivery climbed 7.50 dollars to 975 dollars an ounce on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange. The price reached the record 978.5 dollars an ounce in electronic trading overnight.—Xinhua



People visit the Ocean Park after it is partly opened to the public in Manila, capital of the Philippines. The park opened on 1 March.

XINHUA

Journalists visit a scene in Passenger Terminal 3 at the Beijing Capital International Airport, on 29 Jan, 2008. More than 10 scenes, most of which bear strong characteristics of classical Beijing imperial architectures, have been constructed inside Terminal 3.

XINHUA



Malaysian police detain nine for work permit scam

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 Feb — Malaysian police have detained nine people, including seven Indonesians, believed to be involved in selling work permits to illegals in the Klang valley, local media reported on Thursday.

They also seized 16 passports, mainly Indonesian, three MyKad (identity card), 32 work

permit passes, three forged work permit passes and an Immigration Department letterhead in a house in Petaling Jaya, central Selangor state, the *New Straits Times* reported.

“We believe they sell the passes for 2,000 ringgit (625 US dollars) to 3,000 ringgit (938 US dollars) each,” Petaling Jaya police

chief Arjunaidi Mohamed said. The success came after police, while on their rounds, spotted a car parked by the roadside on 14 February. On checking, they found some documents on the seat.

They arrested a couple, both Malaysian, who were in the car.

MNA/Xinhua

Afghan Govt rejects claim of US intelligence chief

KABUL, 29 Feb — Afghanistan Defence Ministry on Thursday described the claim of US National Intelligence Director Michael McConnell as baseless and rejected.

McConnell, according to media reports, told the

Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday that President Hamid Karzai Government controls just 30 per cent of his country while Taliban's grab covers 10 per cent of the post-Taliban nation.

He also claimed that

the remaining 60 per cent of Afghan territory are at the control of local warlords and tribal chieftains.

More than 360 districts in the country's 34 provinces are in the control of government and local officials have been appointed by government are running their business as usual," a statement of Defence Ministry released Thursday said.

It also added that recent survey conducted by US military in relatively troubled southeastern region confirmed government's control over 83 per cent of the region.

Xinhua



He Qilun, of Southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, debuted the weird-looking thing, which he claims could fly like a helicopter Tuesday afternoon.
XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Twenty arrested in drug raid in Toronto

OTTAWA, 29 Feb — Canadian police arrested over 20 people for allegedly selling drug in the streets of Toronto, a police spokesman said on Thursday. The raids took place during the last two weeks in the downtown area along the busy Yonge Street, Supt. Hugh Ferguson said at a Press conference.

The suspects were allegedly to be selling crack cocaine in public. The investigation followed complaints by business owners and downtown residents, who said they were constantly being approached by the suspects. — Xinhua

Ten killed in missile attack in Pakistan's tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 29 Feb — Ten people were killed in a missile attack in northwestern Pakistan's tribal area, Pakistan's Dawn TV reported Thursday.

A missile hit a house in South Waziristan agency on the Afghan border and killed ten people, the TV quoted local official as saying.

The official said those who were killed are foreigners. But there are no further details available about the attack. — Xinhua

Malaysian police find 123 bombs in S Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 Feb — Malaysian marine police recovered 123 bombs in the waters near Tampoi in Malaysia's southern state of Johor over the past days, local media reported on Thursday.

The bombs included three cluster bombs and Malaysian police and naval mobilized divers and boats to find these bombs.

The bombs have been detonated at a shooting range by the police bomb squad in Johor. — Xinhua

Militant rocket attack kills five civilians in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 Feb — A rocket fired by Taliban insurgents in militancy-hit Helmand Province of southern Afghanistan have killed five civilians, a Press release of US-led coalition forces said Wednesday. "An insurgent rocket landed near a group of civilians in Helmand Province killing five and wounding one on 25 February," it said.

The multi-national Coalition forces, with majority a 16,000-strong US troops, and deployed in Afghanistan for fighting militants and ensuring security.—Xinhua

Israel arrests 12 Palestinians in West Bank

RAMALLAH, 29 Feb — Israeli forces on Thursday arrested 12 Palestinians in West Bank cities during overnight raids, Palestinian security sources said.

According to the security sources, the detentions took place in the towns of Jenin, Nablus and Ramallah.

Israeli sources, meanwhile, confirmed the news, saying the Army arrested 12 Palestinians who were wanted by Israel because they were involved in planning or participating in attacks against Israeli targets.

The sources added that the detainees were taken by the Israeli Army for interrogation in Israeli detentions facilities.

The detentions took place as Israel intensified

airstrikes in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, killing 18 Palestinians so far. Also on Thursday morning, two other members of Fatah military wing were killed in Nablus during clashes with the Israeli soldiers. —Xinhua

US House speaker asks for probe of Bush aides

WASHINGTON, 29 Feb — US House of the Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi asked the Justice Department Thursday to open a grand jury investigation of two aides to President George W Bush on the grounds of contempt of Congress.

In a letter to Attorney General Michael Mukasey, Pelosi, a

Democrat from California, asked the Justice Department to find whether Josh Bolten, the White House chief of staff, and Harriet Miers, Bush's former counsel, should be prosecuted for contempt of Congress.

House Democrats have been involved in a battle for testimony with the two over the firing of

nine federal prosecutors in 2006.

"There is no authority by which persons may wholly ignore a subpoena and fail to appear as directed because a President unilaterally instructs them to do so," Pelosi said in the letter.

"Your Press spokesman has stated that you will act promptly to review this matter and reach a final decision. We will appreciate your acting with appropriate dispatch on this important matter," she said, referring to Mukasey. — Xinhua

Police recover data stolen from Petrobras

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 Feb — Brazil's Federal Police said on Thursday that they recovered the equipment stolen from Rio's port in January, containing information on state-owned Petrobras' recent oil and gas discoveries in the Santos Basin.

However, the authorities discarded the industrial espionage theory presented when the theft was announced.

The agents arrested four suspects, who worked as security guards at the port. With them, the police apprehended four laptops, two hard disks and the other two computer data storage compartments taken from the docks.

The thieves were

arrested in the north zone of Rio's capital city and in the municipality of Sao Goncalo, in the metropolitan region. The gang

had been performing small thefts in the docks since September last year.

Xinhua



Turkish military convoy is on their way back to Turkey after their departure from northern Iraq, on 29 Feb, 2008. Turkey's military General Staff said on Friday that its troops had returned to bases in Turkey after a major ground offensive against Kurdish PKK rebels in northern Iraq.—XINHUA



Demonstrators run along a street during violent protests in the port city of Douala on 25 Feb, 2008. At least four people were killed in Cameroon’s economic capital Douala on Monday when protesters angry over the high cost of living barricaded streets in the port city, looted shops and clashed with riot police.—INTERNET

3 killed in Chilean plane crash

SANTIAGO, 1 March — Three people died and three others were injured on Thursday after a small aircraft crashed in southern Chile, a day after another one crashed in a sports field killing 11 people in Chile’s capital of Santiago.

The aircraft crashed in the Rilinahue sector, near Ranco Lake, some 950 kilometres south of Santiago.

“Something apparently exploded inside the aircraft and that made it crash,” the Mayor of the southern Lago Ranco locality Santiago Rosas told journalists.

MNA/Xinhua

Bush, Obama trade barbs on economy, foreign policy

WASHINGTON, 1 March — US President George W Bush and Democratic presidential front-runner Barack Obama traded punches Thursday on economy and foreign policy.

During a news conference at the White House, Bush said while he is “concerned about the economy”, and there is “no question we’re in a slowdown”, he does not think “we’re headed to a recession”.

Obama, a Senator from Illinois, responded with comments aimed at Bush.

“We are not standing on the brink of recession because of forces beyond our control,” he told a town hall forum in Austin, Texas.

“This was not an inevitable part of the business cycle. It was a failure of leadership in Washington—a Washington where George W Bush hands out billions of tax cuts to the wealthiest few for eight long years,” Obama said.

At the news conference, Bush also harshly criticized Obama for being open to meetings with US foes without preconditions, saying it would send the wrong message to foreign dictators and dissidents in those countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Police tear gas anti-racist rioters in Madrid

MADRID, 1 March — Spanish police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at anti-fascist protesters in central Madrid on Friday night as they tried to stop a right-wing rally near an immigrant area of the city.

Anti-fascists threw rocks behind burning barricades in narrow cobbled streets and at least one car was set alight. Some of hundreds of far-right activists, separated from left-wing protesters by lines of riot police, gave Nazi salutes.

According to a Reuters witness more than 1,000 anti-fascists gathered to protest the far-right meeting in Tirso de Molina, a few hundred metres from Madrid’s main square, after local authorities sanctioned the rally.

The violence comes just over a week before Spaniards vote in a general election where immigration has become a major issue for the first time.

Posters had been pasted on walls in the area earlier in the week

warning of a racist demonstration. Protesters, joined immigrants, blocked roads leading down into Lavapiés, an area with a large African and Chinese populations.

Demonstrators chanted “You shall not pass,” and “Brother Carlos, we will not forget you”, referring to 16-year-old Carlos Javier Palomino, an anti-racist protester who was stabbed and killed during a confrontation with rival groups last November.

MNA/Reuters

Energy cooperation between CNOOC, Iran is pure

BEIJING, 1 March — Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said here Thursday that China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC)’s deal with Iran to develop the country’s North Pars gas field is a business act between enterprises.

His comments came after Iran’s Oil Ministry said Wednesday that it would sign a contract with CNOOC to develop Iran’s North Pars gas field, adding that normal trade and economic cooperation between Iran and other relevant countries should not be undermined. On Iran’s nuclear issue, Liu said, “China holds that the current existing nuclear proliferation mechanism should be maintained and every country has the right to develop nuclear technology peacefully.”

“We hope that Iran can actively respond to the requests and concerns of the international community and create favourable conditions for the resumption of talks,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Train crush kills 15 in western India

AHMEDABAD (India), 29 Feb — A speeding train mowed down 15 people, including two children, at an unguarded railway crossing in the western Indian state of Gujarat, police said on Thursday.

The victims, mostly labourers and their families, were crossing the tracks on Wednesday night when they failed to spot the rushing train.

“We found bodies of 15 people, including two children and two women,” a police officer said.

Dozens die every year at India’s estimated 18,000 unguarded railway crossings. India has one of the world’s biggest rail networks.

To reduce accidents, thousands of railway porters are being hired to guard crossings.

MNA/Reuters



Deadly toxin found in Las Vegas motel room

LOS ANGELES, 29 Feb — Traces of deadly toxin ricin were found in a motel room in Las Vegas, about 416 km northeast of Los Angeles, authorities said Friday.

The man who occupied the room recently had developed breathing problems and remained in critical condition at a hospital, according to Las Vegas police.

The deadly substance was found in several vials of powder in a plastic bag Thursday, police said.

But there was no evidence to link the incident with terrorist activities and no indication of any spread of the substance beyond the place where it was found, police said.

“There is no information to lead us to believe that this is the result of any terrorist activity or related to any possible terrorist activity,” police Deputy Chief Kathy Suey said.

“We don’t have any reason to believe any of it left the property,” she said.

Xinhua

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo...

(from page 1)

development of the Union of the Myanmar so as to keep abreast of other countries. In making such efforts, the harmonious development of the social sector together with the stability of the State and strengthened national economy are also of vital importance.

The government is thus taking into consideration the requirements such as uplift of the national patriotic spirit, safeguarding of the cultural heritage and national character, uplift of health, fitness and education standards, and consolidating the national strengths in developing the morals and morality of the people. In making such efforts, Myanmar Red Cross Society with noble traditions stands in the forefront of all volunteer humanitarian organizations in the country.

In undertaking the activities with the aim of primary health care of the people, Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) is working under the direction of the Ministry of Health while keeping in line with the National Health Policy. It can be put on record that MRCS has also been working closely for over 70 years with other related government ministries, UN agencies, and social organizations in carrying out disaster preparedness and response activities within the framework of the existing laws of the country.

One can easily see that humanitarian achievements of Myanmar Red Cross Society met international standards and are also in harmony with the geographical, historical, and the cultural aspects of Myanmar. MRCS is undertaking the primary health care, health promotion activities for social development of the people together with the national duties for peaceful development of the country in a concerted manner.

The government has encouraged MRCS and provided means for cooperation with other national



NHC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo views documentary photos displayed at 9th General Assembly of MRCS. — MNA

forces in making efforts for development of the country. Therefore MRCS should cooperate with national social organizations such as USDA, MAAF, MMCWA, MWO and auxiliary fire brigade.

In conclusion, it had to be pointed out that MRCS should take part in the efforts to achieve the national goal of emergence of a well disciplined democratic nation by implementing the seven-step Road Map. MRCS should make a sustained effort to develop the capacity of the Red Cross volunteers, in the light of the technological advancements, so as to meet the international standards. The MRCS Central Council

members and Executives Committee members, being leaders and in charge of a valuable national asset, should be convinced of their important and noble role, and strive to make unstained effort for the benefit of their people and country.

Next, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted those present and viewed the documentary photos on development of the MRCS, community-based health care, disaster management, education, map of 19 warehouses of the MRCS, financial development, organizational setup of the society, community development plan of the MRCS displayed at the general assembly. — MNA



Commanders Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min open Kyangin-Okshippin railroad section. — MNA

Kyangin-Okshippin Railroad...

(from page 16)

sections—111-mile Kyangin-Thayet railroad section, 100-mile Thayet-Pwintbyu railroad section and 111-mile Pwintbyu-Pakokku railroad section.

The 38-mile Kyangin-Okshippin section of Kyangin-Thayet railroad section was opened today. Construction of the railroad section started on 1 August 2006 and 120 small and big bridges and six stations were built. On completion of the railroad projects, local people can go to four divisions and

Chin State and progress will be made in social, economic, health and education sectors. He quoted the Head of State as saying that transport plays a major role in regional development. The railroad that contributes towards the smooth transport will emerge soon.

He said before 1988 there were 1,976.35 miles of railroads. Myanmar Railways built another 1,210.51 miles of railroads including the present one. Therefore, there are altogether 3,186.86 miles of

railroads.

He said Pyawbwe-Phayangahsu, Katha-Bhamo and Okshippin-Pakokku Railroads are under construction.

Next, a local thanked the government for construction of the railroads.

The two commanders and the minister formally opened the Kyangin-Okshippin Railroad.

The commanders and the minister had the photos taken together with MR personnel and local people. They sprinkled scented water on the special train bound for Kyangin.

The commanders and

9th General Assembly of MRCS takes place

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—The 9th General Assembly of Myanmar Red Cross Society was held at the Ministry of Health here today, attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe, directors-general and officials of departments under the ministry, members of MRCS central council, the president and executives of MRCS, commanders of State & Division Red Cross Societies and delegates to the general assembly.

In his speech, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint said that more activities of Red Cross Society are to be carried out than ever before and efforts are to be made for the further development in the future. The aid and support of experts as well

the minister presented gifts to the passengers.

On completion of Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad Project, the people can directly travel from Ayeyawady Division to Magway Division, Sagaing Division and Kachin State.—MNA

as intellectuals and technicians play an important role in achieving improvement in the activities of MRCS.

He urged the newly-elected members of the central council of MRCS to actively take part in the activities.

Next, the minister read out the names of ten central council members assigned duties by the State.

Afterwards, the minister donated K 3 million to Red Cross Society Parade company through the president of

MRCS.

Later, the second session of the general assembly continued. Dr Tha Hla Shwe, President of the MRCS gave a speech on the occasion, followed by reading out of documents of the 8th general assembly, submitting of reports to the 9th general assembly, electing of members for the MRCS central council and the passing of resolutions of the 9th general assembly and it concluded in the afternoon.—MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint presents cash donation to MRCS President Dr Tha Hla Shwe. — MNA

New constitution for perpetuation and progress of the Union of Myanmar

U Myo Myint (Law)

All the people of an independent nation have the right to freely serve their families, their relatives, their nation, their people and their own. And they also have the right to freely shape the future of their nation and their people as well as their own future. The UN Charter has already granted the right to people of every independent nation to create their destiny in accord with the wishes of the majority of the people. The international laws and the codes of conduct of civilized societies have also recognized such noble tradition of self-determination.

At present, the government and the people are making concerted efforts for the emergence of a peaceful modern developed and democratic nation. The task has been regarded as the national goal, the resolution of the people and the duty bestowed by history. The national goal is not bound with any greed and hatred.

Myanmar was under colonial rule for over 100 years. During that period the nation lagged behind in various sectors and was in abject poverty. When the independence was regained the nation was subject to internal insurgency. The multicoloured insurgency in which the people had to live a life of constant fear reigned for over 40 years. Since 1989, altogether 17 national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold and from that time onwards peace and tranquillity has prevailed throughout the nation.

With prevalence of peace and tranquillity the government is making all-out efforts for development of human resources making better use of own rich natural resources while building a large number of dams and reservoirs, roads and bridges, schools, colleges, universities, institutes, hospitals, dispensaries and hydel power stations for national development and establishing industrial zones for industrial development.

Actually, democracy means that the people themselves or the representatives of the people can

freely decide the affairs of the people in line with the wishes of the majority. Internal armed conflicts that put the people into great trouble and misery are not democracy. Democracy of those who are so conceited that they only deserve power most is not democracy either. And an export democracy that is sugar-coated one designed to enslave other nations is a fake democracy.

The snare democracy designed to incite riots and civil commotion using a beautiful word “democracy” till they come to power is, in fact, also a sham democracy or power-craving democracy filled with anarchic character.

According to world leaders, legal experts and learned persons, unity, perseverance and discipline are indispensable for people who want their country to be wealthy and prosperous.

BBC, VOA and RFA foreign broadcasting stations air fabrications of internal and external destructive elements including expatriates who rely on some big nations and their lackeys daily. It is obvious that they are hand in glove with the saboteurs.

Myanmar writers have compiled a variety of articles about colonialists who forcibly occupied other countries and exploited their natural resources for hundreds of years and about neo-colonialists who exploited other countries by means of installing their puppet government instead of waging a war to occupy those countries. Their ploys were to encroach upon and exploit other countries behind the scenes. The international news stands witness that a big nation has waged war against some nations and occupied them without sound reasons. Having occupied those nations she exploited their natural resources at will. Resorting to a combined method of colonialists and neo-colonialists the big nation did not pull its troops out of those nations although it took up to five or six years.

Every nation wishes to be wealthy and prosperous. At the same time, they wish their people to be rich and affluent. Hence, they are making

strenuous efforts to fulfil their wishes. In fulfilling one’s wishes one should strive out of honesty and perseverance. It is not fair and proper that one is fulfilling one’s wishes by means of encroaching upon other nations forcibly and exploiting their rich resources. This is totally contrary to culture of a civilized society. Therefore, many countries that are free from the yoke of colonialists including Myanmar have to make efforts out of honesty based on their own resources for national development.

Myanmars are building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline flourishing democratic nation. Amid various sanctions and obstacles, the State has been able to build more than 200 dams and reservoirs, roads and bridges and opened universities, colleges and hospitals in all the big cities enlisting the strength of the national people. It has also ensured internal peace and stability. Moreover, the education sector is producing human resources in order to catch up with the international community in advanced modern technologies.

The seven-step Road Map has been adopted to practise democracy systematically. The State constitution (draft) has been written as the third step and referendum will be held in May as the fourth step. In addition, multi-party democracy general election is due to be held in 2010 in accord with the new constitution.

The draft constitution was written in accordance with fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted by over 1000 National Convention delegates from all strata. But, internal and external destructive elements, neo-colonialists and conservatives came to criticize and made slanderous accusations against the government. The constitution they want is not the one that is written in conformity with the Myanmar’s history, background, culture and character. Their attempt is to enable their puppet to come to power sidelining the constitution and if it is for power, they will put the country into the hands of aliens.

Here, let me present some points on the US constitution. The British, French and Europeans colonized and settled down in the North America. Those who made colonies oppressing the local Red Indians established the United States on 4 July 1776 after rising against the rule of the British government from England. At the time, American Flag featured only 13 white stars as the country was formed with 13 colonies (states). But the number reached 50 after more colonies had been made in the aggressive wars.

(See page 9)

The seven-step Road Map has been adopted to practise democracy systematically. The State constitution (draft) has been written as the third step and referendum will be held in May as the fourth step. In addition, multi-party democracy general election is due to be held in 2010 in accord with the new constitution.

New constitution for perpetuation and progress of the Union of Myanmar

U Myo Myint (Law)

(from page 8)

Americans held a constitution drafting conference in 1787, eleven years after they had declared their independence in 1776. Sixty representatives from 12 states were present then. At first, the constitution did not include fundamental rights of the citizens as there were those who argued in the Chapter fundamental rights of the citizens that the rights should not be entrusted to the local Red Indians and Negroes who had to serve as slaves losing their rights. (The provisions were inscribed only later.) Sixteen representatives opposed the constitution giving no signatures of theirs, and more than 30 signed in it. Some representatives, although they were in disagreement, signed in the constitution as they wanted to see the emergence of the constitution.

The fundamental principles and detailed basic principles included in the Myanmar constitution were approved by all the over 000 representatives. All the 54 members of the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution have approved the constitution. It will seek approval of the majority of the people on the day of holding the national referendum. Then the constitution will be approved. In the world's nations, constitutions are usually approved by authorities, party organizations or parliaments. They are hardly approved by public votes. Approving the constitution indispensable for the State and the people through referendum is like the way Romans did in the direct democracy era about 2600 years ago. It can be said that a new record has been set as our constitution includes about 50 fundamental principles in the Chapter Fundamental Rights and Duties of the Citizens.

At the central level are three legislative bodies namely the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Some of the representatives to those hluttaws will be national race representatives representing the national race concerned. Among the representatives to the hluttaws of seven Regions and seven States will be those of various national races. Region/State chief ministers and governing bodies will be entrusted with executive power. Self-administered division and self-administered zones are also shared with executive and legislative powers. Every national race, whose population constitutes at least 0.1 per cent of the nation's population has the right to elect an MP from among its people.

While the National Convention was in session, all the adopted principles were inserted in the newspapers and aired on radio and TV, and as soon as the National Convention was completed successfully, the principles were compiled into a book and published for public knowledge.

The snare democracy designed to incite riots and civil commotion using a beautiful word “democracy” till they come to power is, in fact, also a sham democracy or power-craving democracy filled with anarchic character.

In spite of such work done for public information, those with negative views about the constitution are criticizing that the constitution was not announced in a frank way and it lacked transparency.

Approval of the drafted State Constitution will be sought through a referendum coming May. Despite the announcement that multi-party democracy general elections will be held in accordance with the new State constitution in 2010, some elements remain making the accusation of lack of a time frame.

Today, the US and its allies are interfering and intervening in the internal affairs of and invading some other countries, thereby violating the UN Charter. Not only that, they are also trying to overthrow the democratically-elected governments and installing puppet governments in these countries through a plan that they name Colour Revolution. In addition, they are exploiting and unfairly taking natural resources of many countries in Asia, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Latin America, while destabilizing these countries.

The US government brutally suppressed the armed revolts of southern states that were trying to secede from the country. In that way, it prevented itself from collapse. In like manner, Britain suppressed the secession movements of Northern Ireland and Scotland to ensure non-disintegration of UK or the United Kingdom.

Certain militarily-strong countries have broken up some other countries and unions through the wedge-driving tactic. Now, they are encouraging the secession of Chechnya from Russia. So far, Georgia has collapsed into three parts, and Yugoslavia, six parts. They are also aiding and abetting secessionists of Kosovo state in Serbia. In Africa, many countries have come under the threat of secession. They abetted Kurds to revolt against the Iraqi government.

The US-led SEATO was behind the federal movements that took place in 1961-62. The military bloc conspired plans to help some states to secede from the Union of Myanmar, establish independent nations, and then join SEATO for the US to extend its military

domination over Southeast Asia. Fortunately, the Myanmar national (patriotic) group sensitive to possible collapse of the Union managed to handle the issue.

Till today, they are expressing their support for some members of Sawbwa (chieftain) lineage and national race armed groups and driving a wedge to help them secede from the Union. In some of the principles adopted by the National Convention and in the principles of the Chapter “The State” say, “no part of the territory of the Union shall ever secede from the Union”, “the State never starts aggression against any nation”, and “no foreign troops are permitted to be deployed within the borders of the Union”. These principles ensure perpetual existence of the Union of Myanmar and reflect the nation's independent and active foreign policy in dealing with the international community in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. It is very unscrupulous of the West Bloc, expatriates and internal axe-handles to criticize and speak ill of the State Constitution (draft).

Political parties attended the National Convention. After attending the National Convention for nearly three years, NLD turned its back to it. In 2004, the party said that it would attend the NC again, but then it changed its mind. The decisions were merely its choices. The government has shown its benevolent attitude. However, the West Bloc, renegades and national axe-handle traitors are suggesting to hold talks with NLD and saying that without the participation of NLD, the National Convention and the drafting of the State Constitution will not be successful. But it is nothing if compared with the voices of unanimous support of the entire people for the National Convention at the mass rallies.

Translation: TS+ST+MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 1-3-2008

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Sagaing-Kyaukmyaung road...

(from page 16)

At the briefing hall of the project (Mandalay bank), Deputy Superintending Engineer U Htay Myint presented a report on finishing touches of the project to Lt-Gen Ye Myint who gave necessary instructions.

After inspecting the bridge construction project, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Mile Post 1/3 where they heard a report presented by Assistant Director of Sagaing District Forest Department U In Hoke on growing of gold mohur trees, rain trees, neem trees and other shade trees along the district-to-district road and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at the briefing hall of the Development Affairs Department between Mile Post 16 and Mile Post 17, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party heard a report

presented by the Chairman of Sagaing District PDC on construction of road. Next, Commander Brig-Gen Myint Soe gave a supplementary report to Lt-Gen Ye Myint who attended to the needs.

At the briefing hall of the Tatywa River Water Pumping Project, they heard reports presented by the Head of Sagaing Division Water Resources Utilization Department and the Chairman of Shwebo District PDC on water supply for agriculture and construction of the Tatywa-Sheinmaka-Kyaukmyaung-Khayan-Satkon road and the commander gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended physic nut plants growing ceremony of Hsedaw village in Wutlet Township, Shwebo District and planted physic nut grafts and seedlings.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also inspected progress of construction of Shwebo Township road section from mile post No 46/6 to 61/5 and water supply of Zawkana dam and attended the physic nut plants growing ceremony of Shwebo Township held at Kyauknganwasat.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with deaprtmental personnel, townselders and members of social organizations at Yangyi Aung hall in the township. After hearing reports on progress of development of the region and agriculture and livestock breeding matters presented by officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended to the needs and urged them to carry out the five rural development tasks with combined effort.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint went to Yoke Pyo traditional medicine factory at Monywa Industrial Zone (Shwebo branch) and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition continues

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—The 16th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition to mark the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day continued at the parade ground here for the second day today, attended by Chairman of Organizing Committee for the 63rd Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, members of the Organizing Committee, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, members of the Panel of Judges for the Military Band Competition, officers and other ranks of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air).

Military band company-1 representing North-West Command, military band company-1 representing Nay Pyi Taw Command, military band company-1 representing South-East Command, the military band representing No 66 LID, military band company-2 representing Triangle Region Command, military band company-2 representing Eastern Command, the military band representing Southern Command and military band company-1 representing Western Command participated in the competition.—MNA

UMFCCI to hold 17th AGM in Nay Pyi Taw

YANGON, 1 March—The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will hold its 17th annual general meeting in Nay Pyi Taw city hall at 1.30 pm on 16 March. Members of UMFCCI, representatives of State and Division CCIs, the border trade merchants association and other business associations are invited to attend the meeting. Those wishing to accompany the officials of UMFCCI from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw are to dial Ph-214344.—MNA

Cash donated for renovation to Maha Teza Muni Pagoda in Hlinethaya Tsp

YANGON, 1 March — A ceremony to donate cash for renovation to Maha Teza Muni Pagoda on Bawgawadi hill in Ngwe Pinle Fisheries Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township was held at the pagoda this morning.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence and wellwishers donated robes and offertories to Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Yaynanchaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadaja Bhaddanta Tejaniya and members of Sangha.

Next, Lt-Gen Tin



Lt-Gen Tin Aye of Ministry of Defence accepts cash donation from a wellwisher. — MNA

Aye and officials accepted K 212,280,800 donated by 101 wellwishers.

Chairman of Committee for All-round Renovation to Maha Teza Muni Pagoda Col Myint Aung (Retd) expressed thanks for the donation of the wellwishers. And the congregation shared merits gained.

The height of the pagoda is 81 feet and all-round renovation tasks are being carried out.

MNA



101 Hair Tonic introduced

YANGON, 1 March — The ceremony to introduce 101 Hair Tonic, 101 Proof Shampoo, 101 Nourishing Shampoo and 101 E Acne Getway cosmetics for hair was held at the Grand Ball Room of Parkroyal Hotel here, today.

U Asi Family Company Ltd is a sole agent of 101 Hair Tonic in Myanmar.

Hair technician of the company Ko Swe Aung Khine extended greetings on the occasion. Miss Zhang Li from the People's Republic of China explained the 101 Hair Tonic.

The 101 Hair Tonic has been produced since 1974 and it is used in over 100 countries.

Interested persons may contact No 115, 20th Street, Latha Township (Ph 01-251230), No 15 Thabyaynyo street, Sangyong Township (Ph 01-518088), No 55 Kyaukmyaungzay Street, Tamway Township (Ph 01-554391) Yangon Division and No Ma/10,7(E) 65th street Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division (Ph 02-62253).

Hair Technician Ko Swe Aung Khine extends greetings at 101 Hair Tonic introduction ceremony. — MNA

MNA



Art of Egypt : A woman looks at an Egyptian painted wall on display as part of the exhibition "Isis and the Feathered Serpent", in the National Museum of Anthropology and History in Mexico City.

INTERNET



Indian chefs uses giant ladles as they prepare a huge version of the popular South Asian 'Biryani' dish in New Delhi. Sixty Indian chefs have cooked a rice dish weighing 13-tonne (28,600 pounds) in a bid to enter the Guinness Book of World Records.

INTERNET

Images of the Day



Women rush around with armfuls of bridal gowns shortly after the beginning of the "Running of the Brides" sale of bridal gowns at Filene's Basement in New York on 29 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET



Next to a 'Nana', rear left, a pending sculpture by French artist Niki de Saint Phalle, the Euro 2008 countdown clock displays the last 100 days prior to the kick off of the European Soccer Championships at the main station in Zurich, Switzerland, on 28 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

South Africa launches state diamond trader

JOHANNESBURG, 1 March—South Africa launched the State Diamond Trader (SDT) here on Friday, allowing previously disadvantaged South Africans access to the diamond industry.

"South Africa is the third largest diamond producer in the world ... we have not been able to make rough diamonds available in sufficient amounts to our local cutters and polishers especially the small ones," Sandile Nogsina, director general of the

Department of Minerals and Energy, said at the launch. The SDT would purchase 10 per cent of South Africa's total diamond production to supply the local market. Its main purpose is to grow the South African diamond industry.

In terms of value, South Africa's annual production of diamonds amounts to around 1.4 billion US dollars. This would mean the SDT would spend about 140 million US dollars to procure the precious stones.

"The Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa Ltd (IDC) played a critical role in the establishment of the State Diamond Trader by injecting a substantial investment in it," the SDT said in a statement.

Promoting the appeal of beneficiary, the initiative will be expanded to other minerals further down the line.

The government will also launch the South African Diamonds and Precious Metals Regulator (SADPMR) on Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists find evidence of "rain-making" bacteria

WASHINGTON, 1 March — A team of scientists from the United States and France have found evidence that rain-making bacteria are widely distributed in the atmosphere.

These biological particles could factor heavily into the precipitation cycle, affecting climate, agricultural productivity and even global warming. The new findings are published in the journal *Science* on Friday.

The research team examined precipitation from global locations and demonstrated that the most active

ice nuclei — a substrate that enhances the formation of ice — are biological in origin. This is important because the formation of ice in clouds is required for snow and most rainfall.

Researchers have found biological ice nuclei in precipitation samples from Antarctica to Louisiana — they're ubiquitous.

Dust and soot particles can serve as ice nuclei, but biological ice nuclei are capable of catalyzing freezing at much warmer temperatures.

The concept of rain-making bacteria isn't

far-fetched. Many ski resorts use a commercially available freeze-dried preparation of ice-nucleating bacteria to make snow when the temperature is just a few degrees below freezing.

What makes this research more complicated is that most known ice-nucleating bacteria are plant pathogens. These pathogens, which are basically germs, can cause freezing injury in plants, resulting in devastating economic effects on agricultural crop yields.

MNA/Xinhua

Kenyan rivals reach power-sharing agreement

NAIROBI, 1 March —The Kenyan Government and the opposition signed an agreement here Thursday to form a coalition government which sees creation of a position of Prime Minister after a month of hard negotiation, the main mediator Kofi Annan said.

“We do have a deal,” he said at a Press conference after the signing ceremony. “Thus our work on the government structure for Kenya has successfully been completed today.”

The PM, who should be an elected Member of Parliament and leader of the biggest party or coalition in Parliament, will supervise and coordinate business in all ministries, the former UN Secretary General said.

Two deputy PM will be recommended by coalition parties and the new Cabinet will reflect the parties’ strength in Parliament. —MNA/Xinhua

New Zealand fugitive captured in US

WELLINGTON, 1 March—Nai Yin Xue, the Auckland fugitive accused of murdering his wife and abandoning his toddler at a Melbourne railway station, has been captured in the United States, New Zealand media reported on Friday.

Xue was captured by police in the town of Chamblee near Atlanta in Georgia at about 8:00 am Friday New Zealand Time (1900 GMT Thursday).

US police said Xue was in custody in Atlanta. He has been charged with being a fugitive and for being wanted in New Zealand.

Police said Chamblee was a small rural area and it was a surprise to find Xue there. —MNA/Xinhua

Australian bikers say wrong night or robbery

SYDNEY, 29 Feb — Two armed thieves picked the wrong night to rob a Sydney club, disturbing a meeting of 50 motorcycle bikers, who tackled and hog-tied one of the thieves until police arrived.

The Southern Cross Cruiser Club was staging its monthly meeting on Wednesday night in the club in Sydney’s west when two men armed with machetes entered the club and ordered patrons to lie on the ground and surrender their money.

But the balaclava-wearing bandits did not realise there were 50 bikers in the next room.

“I was in the middle of giving my meeting and someone ran in and said, “the place is being robbed”, biker club president Jester told local radio on Thursday.

“So we ran around the roller door out the front and as this guy opened the roller door, we crash tackled him in the

**Myanmar Timber, Our Treasure,
Sustainable Forever.**

MYANMAR FURNITURE FAIR-2008



**Myanmar Forest Products and
Timber Merchants’ Association**

**March 3-7, 2008.
Tatmadaw Hall
U Wisara Road, Yangon**

Indonesia builds new Air Force base

JAKARTA, 29 Feb — The Indonesian Air Force is building a new base in East Kalimantan Province which shares land border with Malaysia.

When the military airbase in the town of Tarakan is completed, the

Air Force would station jet fighters there to anticipate possible security disturbances in border areas, a high-ranking officer said on Wednesday.

“We have several types of fighter planes to be stationed alternately in Tarakan airbase when it is fully operational,” Air Force Operations Command Chief Rear Marshal Benyamin Dandel was

quoted by the national Antara news agency as saying. The jet fighters could be Russian-made Sukhoi, US-made F-16s or British-made Hawks, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

An Afghan man stands near his house which was destroyed during a raid in Warsi Fakir Kama district of Nanagahar Province, eastern Afghanistan, on 29 Feb, 2008. According to the villagers Afghan and foreign forces raided the village and detained 6 villagers and destroyed a house and a car in early morning.—INTERNET



Nine injured in US mall explosion

WASHINGTON, 29 Feb — Nine people were injured and one may be unaccounted for after a blast rippled through a shopping mall in the Chicago suburb of Waukegan, Illinois, on Thursday afternoon, police said.

“It appears to be a gas explosion,” Waukegan Police Chief Bill Biang was quoted by the *Chicago Tribune* as saying.

A total of nine people were injured, eight of whom were hospitalized.

Of those, a man and a woman are reportedly in serious condition.

The ninth victim was slightly wounded but declined treatment.

The powerful blast blew out at least three stores, including a cellphone store and a beauty salon.

Most injuries took place in the salon, a forefront

store in the mall.

TV footages showed that the blast collapsed the ceilings above the stores and windows and doors were seriously damaged under the impact of the explosion.

Dan Young, deputy fire chief of the Waukegan Fire Department, said based on accounts from salon patrons, one person may be unaccounted for in the rubble. — MNA/Xinhua

Floods, landslides death toll reaches 45 in Philippines

MANILA, 1 March — The death toll in floods and landslides caused by continuous downpour in eastern Philippines has risen to 45, the country’s disaster relief agency said on Thursday.

The deaths were mostly located in Bicol, Eastern Visayas and parts of

Mindanao, said the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said in a statement.

The number of injured also increased to 31 as the number of persons missing went down from ten to eight, said the disaster relief agency.

Dutch tax office hit by computer fault

BRUSSELS, 29 Feb — All the statements completed and delivered electronically to the Dutch tax office this year cannot be read by the computer system due to a computer glitch, Radio Netherlands reported on Wednesday.

As a result, 730,000 people will have to resubmit their 2007 tax returns, it said.

The tax office has been beset by computer faults recently. Dutch Deputy Finance Minister Jan Kees de Jager has decided to intervene and the IT department of the head tax office is to be reorganized, the report said.

Earlier this month, the tax office was hit by a computer glitch which made it impossible for the clients to identify themselves properly.

MNA/Xinhua



An exhibition illustrating the results of a Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) project on global phone calls, hangs from the ceiling among works of art at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, on 27 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Fish to help clear Chinese lake from algae pollution

NANJING, 29 Feb — The Taihu Fishery Administration has put 100 million whitebait germ cells into east China's Taihu Lake, the country's third largest freshwater body which suffered algae outbreak last year, as one of the measures to clear the lake of algae pollution.

The move earlier this week came after the neighboring Anhui

Province put 1.6 million fish into the fifth largest body of freshwater, or Chaohu Lake, that also faces a threat from algae.

The germ cells come from northern Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, so as to prevent inbreeding, an administration spokesman said.

The school of fish is expected to curb the blue algae pollution as they

mainly feed on plankton, including algae and protozoans.

Blue-green algae, which exists widely in water bodies and is not harmful itself, grows easily in polluted water with a high concentration of nitrogen and phosphorous and a temperature of around 18 degrees Celsius.

MNA/Xinhua

Vitamins no guard against lung cancer



BEIJING, 1 March — If you thought taking vitamin supplements would reduce the risk of lung cancer, think again, for vitamin E supplements can actually raise the risk.

Researchers who studied 77,721 people, aged between 50 and 76, in Washington state over the past decade, said on Friday that people who took high doses of vitamin E, especially smokers, had a small but statistically significant

elevated risk of developing lung cancer.

They tracked the subjects' use of supplemental multi-vitamins, vitamin C, vitamin E and folate to see if it offered protection from lung cancer. But they found that none of the vitamins looked at in the study was tied to a reduced risk.

"If you could find some sort of magic pill — a pill you could take once a day to decrease your risk — that would be ideal. But we obviously, unfortunately, didn't find that in our study," lead researcher Christopher Slatore, of the University of Washington in Seattle, said. The subjects of the study were followed for four years, and 521 developed lung cancer, the vast majority of them smokers or former smokers, Slatore's team reported in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. — Xinhua

Tobacco poses threat to moms in developing world

CHICAGO, 1 March — Pregnant women's exposure to tobacco in developing countries is growing at an alarming rate, US Government researchers said on Thursday.

Women in developing countries and their children are increasingly breathing secondhand

smoke in their homes, they said, and many are beginning to experiment with smoking, raising the risk of cancer, heart disease and other ills not only for themselves but also for their children.

"Pregnant women's tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke threaten to impede or

reverse ongoing efforts to improve maternal and child health in the developing world," said Dr Michele Bloch of the National Cancer Institute's Tobacco Control Research Branch, whose study appears in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

MNA/Reuters

Malta opens Chinese medicine clinic in nat'l hospital

ROME, 29 Feb — Malta's national hospital of Mater Dei opened its first Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) clinic, also the first of its kind in state hospitals in any European countries, reports reaching here from Malta's capital Valletta said Wednesday.

At an opening ceremony, Malta's

Health Minister Louis Deguara and Chinese Ambassador Chai Xi congratulated Mater Dei Hospital over the new clinic. On behalf of the Chinese Government, the Chinese Ambassador donated some medicines and medical equipment to the hospital.

Cao Dianpeng, chief of China's medical team

to Malta, said the event was of great significance as it is the first time a TCM clinic has entered a state hospital in Europe.

The event will definitely promote the spread of the TCM across Europe and open up possibilities for more exchanges between the Western medicine and the TCM.

MNA/Xinhua

Shark attacks increase worldwide

LOS ANGELES, 29 Feb — The number of worldwide shark attacks overall increased from 63 in 2006 to 71 in 2007, continuing a gradual upswing over the past four years, according to figures released by *LiveScience* on Wednesday.

Because the global population of humans is growing fast, so more people go to the beach, said George Burgess, curator of the International Shark Attack File at

the Florida Museum of Natural History.

And nowadays, beachgoers do not just go for a dunk. They hang out in shallow water (home for many sharks) for long periods of time to surf, windsurf, boogie-board, kayak and dive, he said while explaining the cause for the rise in shark attacks.

"There are more people in the water than there ever have been," Burgess told *LiveScience*. "We can pretty much predict that

next year there will be even more attacks. Even if shark populations are declining, which we know they are, even in a local situation if populations have been depleted, there is still a probability of getting an attack." Sharks are disappearing from the world's oceans due to overfishing, says Julia Baum, a researcher at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego, California.

MNA/Xinhua



Sumatran elephants walk along a river during morning practice at the Elephant Training Centre in Minas, Indonesia's Riau Province on 29 Feb, 2008. The Sumatran elephant, the smallest of the Asian elephants, is facing serious pressures arising from illegal logging and rapid forest conversion to palm oil plantations. —INTERNET

Survey says China's children admire parents most

BEIJING, 29 Feb — Chinese parents might feel proud in a way: they have beaten pop celebrities to top their children's "most admired" list, a survey has found.

The survey, conducted by the All-China Women's Federation among 5,030 children from 28 cities all over the country, asked the

respondents to name three persons they admire most. "Parents" were the top choice, followed by "pop stars/artists" and "other relatives".

The survey, released here Wednesday, also found that among the family members, over 80 per cent of children consider their father or mother as the one that influences them most, with 43.1 per cent choosing

mother and 37.6 per cent father.

Fu Guoliang, editor-in-chief of the *People's Education* magazine, recalled a similar survey done a few years ago, where Chinese parents failed to make it into the top three positions as their children invariably chose pop stars as their most adored persons.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Real Madrid accused of approach to 15-year-old Brazilian

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 March — Brazilian club Vasco da Gama have accused Real Madrid of making an offer to 15-year-old player Philippe Coutinho and say they are reporting the matter to world soccer's governing body FIFA.

"Real Madrid went to the player's family and made very tempting but illegal offers," Vasco president Eurico Miranda told reporters.

"We have reported Real Madrid to FIFA and the CBF (Brazilian Football Confederation) for their approach to Philippe Coutinho." —MNA/Reuters

Argentine Mascherano signs new Liverpool deal

LONDON, 1 March — Argentina midfielder Javier Mascherano signed a four-year contract with Liverpool on Friday.

"This is the best moment in my career," he told the Premier League club's website (www.liverpoolfc.tv).

"I am very, very happy and now I can concentrate just on playing football," said the 23-year-old.

He joined Liverpool on loan from fellow Premier League club West Ham United in January 2007 before helping his new team reach the Champions League final in May.

Liverpool spokesman Ian Cotton said: "Javier Mascherano came to Liverpool on a fixed term contract under an agreement disclosed to and approved by both the Football Association and Premier League.

"His contract has now been extended under the provisions of that agreement... We have no further comment to make," he added in an email to Reuters. —MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8					9							
10							11					
12				13		14				15		
						16						
17		18				19		20				21
22								23				
24						25						

- ACROSS
- 1 Musical accord
- 5 Grass cutter
- 8 Constructed
- 9 Disregard
- 10 Playhouse
- 11 Man-made fibre
- 12 Outer planet
- 14 Bemuse
- 17 Disturbed
- 19 Orange-yellow
- 22 Row of houses
- 23 Revel
- 24 Not left
- 25 Asks insistently
- DOWN
- 1 Monastic dress
- 2 Garb
- 3 Group of eight
- 4 North American
- 5 Dark crimson
- 6 Flat rotating disc
- 7 Train
- 12 Stroll
- 13 Draw back
- 15 Alien
- 16 Go up
- 18 Grips (anag.)
- 20 Place of assembly
- 21 Jottings

Colo Colo beat Maracaibo in Libertadores

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 March — Chilean champions Colo Colo shrugged off last week's 3-0 defeat by Atlas to win 3-1 at UA Maracaibo in the Libertadores Cup.

The visitors scored three times in the second half of Thursday night's game to sink the Venezuelans, who had managed to hold defending champions Boca Juniors to a 1-1 draw last week.

Gonzalo Fierro guided the ball past Juan Carlos Henao to open the scoring three minutes into the second half and, as Maracaibo left space at the back, Uruguayan Gustavo Biscayzacu beat the offside trap to extend the lead in the 69th.

Maracaibo's Gregory Lancken chested an own goal past the poorly positioned Henao to put the result beyond doubt with four minutes left. —MNA/Reuters

Ferguson hails goal-happy Ronaldo

MANCHESTER (England), 1 March — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson paid tribute on Friday to winger Cristiano Ronaldo's remarkable goal spree this season.

The Portugal international is the Premier League's leading scorer with 21 goals, four more than his league total for the whole of last season.

"It's superb and I think he has cast all doubts aside about whether he could repeat last season's total," Ferguson told a news conference.

"On a couple of occasions this season he has played as a centre-forward and he has got four goals as a centre-forward out of two games, which is a great strike rate. "But to score those goals (predominantly) as a wide player is phenomenal."

Ronaldo is set to return to the scene of one of his most important goals in a United shirt at Fulham on Saturday. —MNA/Reuters



German WBA flyweight World Champion Susi Kentikian and Sarah Goodson (R) of the Philippines exchange punches during their flyweight WBA and WIBF World Championship boxing match in Hamburg on 29 Feb, 2008. Kentikian won the fight in the 3rd round by technical knock-out.—INTERNET



Morgan Pressel of the US tees off on the 15th hole during the HSBC Women's Champions golf tournament in Singapore on 29 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



Manchester City midfielder Kelvin Etuhu (R) kicks a ball during a soccer clinic at Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok on 29 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Kaka wants to spend rest of career at Milan

MILAN, 1 March — Brazil playmaker Kaka, who this week extended his contract with AC Milan until 2013, wants to spend the rest of his career at the club.

"Last year the Milan Channel asked me if I wanted to stay for life and on that occasion I didn't have the confidence and drive (to commit myself) I have today," FIFA's World Player of the Year told the club's in-house television station on Friday. "Today I can say it. I want to stay Rossonero all of my career. I want to stay here for life."

According to Italian media reports, the 25-year-old will earn nine million euros (13.67 million US dollars) a year net under the terms of his new deal with the European champions. —MNA/Reuters

Govortsova stuns Peer, Davenport cruises

NEW YORK, 1 March — Teenager Olga Govortsova of Belarus upset third-seeded Shahar Peer of Israel 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 at the Memphis Championship on Friday to reach her first WTA final.

The 19-year-old fifth seed shrugged off four double faults to scrape through a tight semi-final in just under two hours and book a place in the title match with fourth-seeded Lindsay Davenport.

Former world number one Davenport, competing in her first WTA event on US soil in two years, hammered New Zealand qualifier Marina Erakovic 6-0, 6-3 in less than an hour.

"It feels great, getting into my first final," Govortsova told reporters. "I am playing really well now and in the third set I wanted to win so badly."

Govortsova beat Peer, then ranked 18th in the world, at Stanford last year to achieve her first victory over a top-20 player. —MNA/Reuters

Kuznetsova to face Dementieva in Dubai final

DUBAI, 1 March — Svetlana Kuznetsova will face Elena Dementieva in an all-Russian final at the Dubai Open on Saturday after the pair won marathon semi-finals.

Second-seed Kuznetsova overcame Serbian fourth seed Jelena Jankovic 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 on Friday, and eighth-seeded Dementieva was also stretched before beating unseeded Italian Francesca Schiavone 5-7, 7-5, 6-2. Both matches took almost three hours. Kuznetsova twice took the lead in the opening set before immediately dropping her own serve. After missing out on a set point at 5-4, she was left to rue her missed opportunity when Jankovic came back strongly to wrap up the first set.

Instead of hanging her head, the Russian responded by jumping to a 3-0 lead in the second. But her advantage was short-lived as Jankovic broke twice to streak 4-3 ahead. —MNA/Reuters

Indonesia joins hunt for Singapore terror fugitive

JAKARTA, 1 March— The Indonesian police raised the alert on its border Thursday after Singapore reported a militant group leader had escaped and possibly headed to Indonesian territories, especially through small islands in Riau.

“Singapore has contacted us and they want us to take measures to prevent the suspect, Slamet Kastari, from escaping to Indonesia,” Riau Islands provincial police chief Brigadier-General Sutarman was quoted by the national Antara news agency as saying.

Sutarman said Singapore police had asked for close coordination with Riau Islands police to recapture the fugitive. “They have also sent out a red notice,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

NZ Mt Everest conqueror's ashes scattered at sea

WELLINGTON, 1 March —New Zealand mountaineering legend Edmund Hillary, who conquered the world's highest mountain, Mt Everest, in 1953, has made his last journey.

The ashes of the man were scattered on Friday from the youth sail training ship, *Spirit of New Zealand*, on Auckland's Hauraki Gulf by his wife and children.

In a private ceremony

the ashes were scattered from a new steel gangway designed and built for the ceremony and named the Hillary Step, the *New Zealand Press Association* reported.

Only about 30 guests were on the ship, including Prime Minister Helen Clark.

Edmund Hillary died on 11 January, aged 88. He was cremated in Auckland after a state funeral on 22 January.

In his book *View From the Summit*, published nearly 10 years ago, Hillary said he wanted to die peacefully and would “like my ashes spread on the beautiful waters of Auckland's Hauraki Gulf to be washed gently ashore maybe on the many pleasant beaches near the place where I was born. Then the full circle of my life will be complete”.

MNA/Xinhua

Vast immigrant smuggling ring smashed in LA

LOS ANGELES, 1 March— US immigration officials said on Thursday they had dismantled a Guatemalan human smuggling ring that brought more than 100 illegal immigrants a week into the Los Angeles area.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said 13 people, including two of the suspected ringleaders, face charges in connection with what officials described as one of the largest human smuggling operations uncovered on the West Coast in recent years.

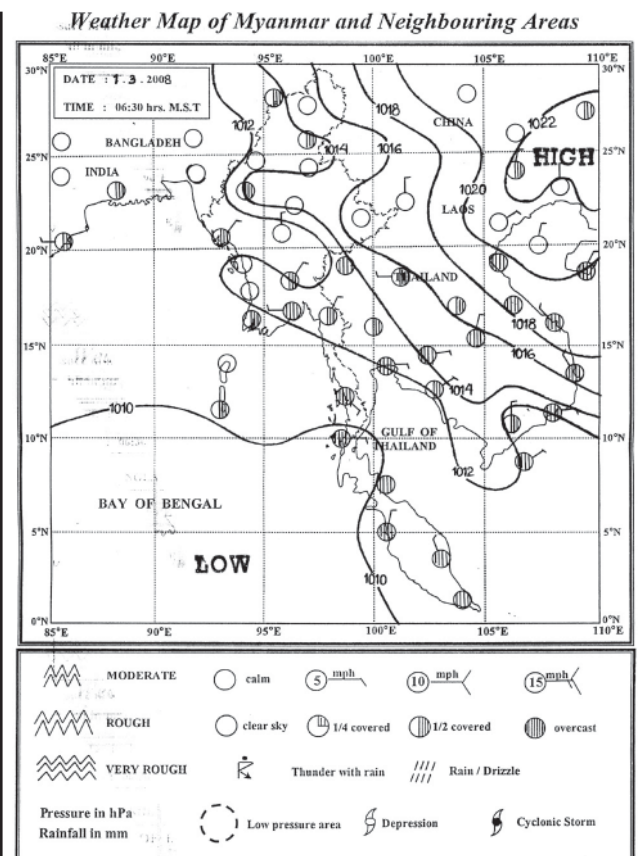
The nearly three-year investigation was sparked by the discovery in May

2005 of two “drop” houses in south Los Angeles where more than 140 illegal immigrants were living.

According to court documents, immigration agents uncovered an organization run by Guatemalan nationals that provided housing and transport to immigrants who had already been smuggled across the US-Mexico border to Phoenix.

The immigrants were taken from Arizona to the Los Angeles area where they were held in drop houses before being loaded onto vehicles and driven to US cities around the nation.

The immigrants, mostly from Central America, paid the organization between 1,200 US dollars and 3,700 US dollars each for the journey. — MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Saturday, 1 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (4°C) above March average temperatures in Ayeyawady Division and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk, Patheingyi and Thabon (38°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Mawlaik (0.36) inch.

Maximum temperature on 29-2-2008 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 1-3-2008 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 1-3-2008 was 87%. Total sunshine hours on 29-2-2008 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 1-3-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 29-2-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 2-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight increase of day temperatures in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 2-3-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-3-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-3-2008: Generally fair weather.



Sunday, 2 March
View on today

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ
- 8:10 am**
6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am**
7. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တစ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Say it in English
- 11:00 am**
1. Martial song
- 11:10 am**
2. Musical programme

- 11:25 am**
3. Round up of the week' international news
- 11:35 am**
4. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင် အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 12:05 pm**
5. Myanmar video feature
- 2:00 pm**
6. “တစ်နေ့သောနေ့သာချိန်” (လူမင်းပန်းဖြူ၊ မျိုးစနစ်ကျော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-နေဝိုင်း)
- 2:10 pm**
7. Sing and enjoy
- 2:20 pm**
8. “ရေမြင့်---ကြာတင့်” (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ငှက်ပျောကြွေ၊ ထင်ပေါ်၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝမ်းပုံ၊ မျိုးမျိုးခိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)
- 2:35 pm**
9. အသွင်သဏ္ဌာန်တောက်သည့် သင်္ဃာတော်ပေါက်တံတား
- 2:45 pm**
10. International news
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English for everyday use
- 4:45 pm**
4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 5:00 pm**
5. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်)
- 5:10 pm**
6. Dance of national races
- 5:25 pm**
7. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm**
8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
10. Musical programme
- 6:50 pm**
11. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည့်တော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 7:05 pm**
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်သူအားမာန်” (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
- 8:00 pm**
13. News
- 8:15 pm**
14. International news
- 8:30 pm**
15. Weather report
- 8:45 pm**
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မာယာတောင်ချောက်” (အပိုင်း-၆)
- 9:00 pm**
17. The next day's programme



Sunday, 2 March
Tune in today

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music
- 8:50 am** -Uptown girl
- 9:00 am** National news
- 9:05 am** Music
- 9:10 am** -This kiss
- 9:15 am** International news
- 9:20 am** Cutural images of Myanmar
- 9:25 am** -Thabeik requisite
- 9:30 am** Music
- 9:35 am** -This time around
- 9:40 am** News/ Slogan
- 9:45 am** Children's delight (story)
- 9:50 am** -The old man & 500 monkeys
- 9:55 am** Songs for children
- 10:00 am** Weekly news review
- 10:05 am** Article
- 10:10 am** Music
- 10:15 am** -Honey
- 10:20 am** News/Slogan
- 10:25 am** PEL

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

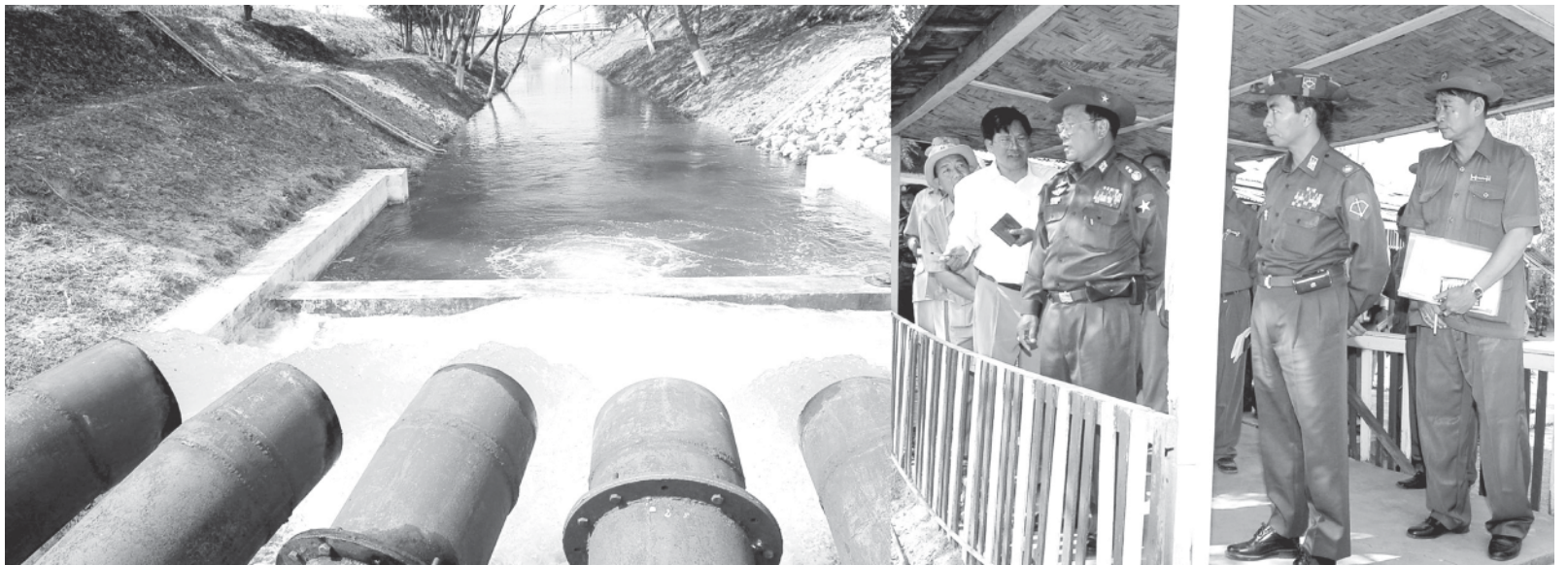
Four social objectives

- * 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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Sagaing-Kyaukmyaung road section, regional development tasks in Sagaing, Shwebo districts

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March — Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe and departmental officials, on 28 February morning inspected Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Construction Project and gave necessary instructions.

(See page 10)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint looks into construction works of Tatywa River Water Pumping Project. — MNA

Kyangin-Okshippin Railroad Section opened in Padaung Tsp, Bago Division

YANGON, 1 March — Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Kyangin-Okshippin Railroad Section was opened at the pandal near Okshippin Station in Padaung Township, Bago Division this morning.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, the deputy ministers, the Vice-Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council and senior military officers, Managing Director of Myanma Railways, departmental officials, members of social organizations, teachers, students, guests and local people.

Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe delivered speeches.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min said the 322-mile Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad is being built by three

(See page 7)



A special train leaves Okshippin for Kyangin Station on Kyangin-Okshippin railroad section. — MNA

**I
N
S
I
D
E** The draft constitution was written in accordance with fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted by over 1000 National Convention delegates from all strata. But, internal and external destructive elements, neo-colonialists and conservatives came to criticize and made slanderous accusations against the government. The constitution they want is not the one that is written in conformity with the Myanmar's history, background, culture and character. Their attempt is to enable their puppet to come to power sidelining the constitution and if it is for power, they will put the country into the hands of aliens.

PAGES 8+9

U MYO MYINT (LAW)

Strong wind warning

(Issued at 10:00 am, on 1st March, 2008)

During the hot dry Season, beginning from now to May, as day temperatures rise markedly all over the country, towering clouds are expected to form and occasional strong winds are likely at times in the afternoon evening over most of the area. Surface wind speeds may reach (35) to (40) mph and it may also be accompanied by isolated heavy rain and hails in some places.