Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

Volume XV, Number 322 | 11th Waning of Tabodwe 1369 ME | Monday, 3 March, 2008

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Bulgarian President

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2008.—*MNA*

Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates Bulgarian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Sergei Stanishev, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2008. — *MNA*

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

Draft constitution formulated by all national people in accord with fundamental principles and detailed basic principles

Prime Minister meets officials, local people in Dawei

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the deputy ministers and departmental heads, inspected construction works in Dawei, Taninthayi Division yesterday morning.

At the briefing hall of Dawei Airport, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and officials reported to the Prime Minister on progress of Dawei Airport development tasks including background history of the airport, progress of construction of the new 12000 by 200 feet runway. Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo made supplementary reports.

After hearing reports, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions and inspected the runway.

Next, the Prime Minister met with district and township level departmental officials from Dawei

(See page 7)

More than 170,000 acres of rubber have been grown against the target of over 200,000 acres. As the national economy still depends on agriculture, the government is placing emphasis on boosting agricultural production.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects construction of the new runway of Dawei Airport.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 3 March, 2008

Make endeavours for mechanized farming

Myanmar is an agro-based country and its major economy is related to agricultural produce. Therefore the government is implementing the plans for boosting production of the agriculture sector.

In the message sent by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the Peasants Day (2008), he exhorted peasants to work hard for improving their socio-economic life and helping achieve the State's objectives in the agriculture sector as 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.

For supply of irrigation water, the major requirement for improving the agriculture sector, the government has built dams, river water pumping stations and underground water tapping stations nationwide. As a result, cultivation capacity has increased.

Moreover, the government provides necessary assistance for reclaimation of fallow lands, vacant lands and low-lying areas and highlands and cultivation acreage has increased.

In the country there are over 20 million hectares of cultivation acreage. Among them, over 8 million hectares are cultivation of paddy acreage. There is not only food sufficiency but also surplus of food as the country produces over 14.7 million tons of rice.

Nowadays, arrangements are being made to transform conventional farming into mechanized one. Myanma agricultural factories and workshops produce tractors, power tillers and other farm implemmments.

Production targets in the agriculture sector will fully be achieved with the utilization of farm equipment, high-yield strains of crops and modern cultivation techniques.

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**

Commander inspects kitchen crops plantations, 50-acre summer paddy field

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin visited a 6-acre kitchen crops plantation of peasants U Hla Htay and U Than Zaw of Thabyay Chaung village, Shwemyo village/tract in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township this morning.

The kitchen crops plantation produces tomatoes, cauliflower, radish, onion, aubergine, potato and cabbage. The commander inspected thriving potato, onion and radish plantations.

Upon arrival at a 50-acre summer paddy plantation in Shaukkon village-tract of Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township, the commander observed regional paddy strains, samples of seeds and fertilizers. Next, he viewed progress in ploughing for growing summer paddy and scattering of seeds at an 8-acre field of peasants U Hsan Win and U Soe Naing and gave necessary instructions.

Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District has targeted to grow 31,000 acres of summer paddy and 44.83 per cent of them has been covered so far and measures are being taken for meeting the set target.

On arrival at Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township physic nut plants nursery, the commander together with departmental officials participated in the growing of physic nut plants. There are 10,000 physic nut grafts, 25,000 physic nut seeds and 35,000 physic nut saplings in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon physic nut plants nursery.—*MNA*

Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Bulgarian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ivailo Kalfin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2008. — *MNA*

***Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin observes vegetables in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township.*—MNA**

Apple Cosmetic Production Co Ltd holds prize presentation ceremony

***Managing Director Daw Li Li of Apple Cosmetic Production Company presents prize to a sales agent.*—MNA**

YANGON, 2 March —The third prize presentation ceremony of Apple Cosmetic Production Co Ltd was held in conjunction with the sixth prize giving ceremony of Topsyne Medicated Cream at Dolphin Restaurant in Myay Padetha Kyun, Bahan Township this morning.

First, Director U Khin Nyunt of Apple Cosmetic Production Co Ltd gave an account of newly-produced lipsticks of the company. Managing Director Daw Li Li expressed gratitude to sale representatives and agents from upper Myanmar and explained foreign visit programme.

Next, the movie stars and journalists presented prizes to wholesale and retail Apple cosmetics shops and customers, and announced the lucky draw winners.

Apple Cosmetic Production Co Ltd produces various kinds of cosmetics including Apple Hair Coat Ginseng, Apple Medicated Cream, Topsyne Medicated Cream and Golden Facial Cleanser. Those who wish to buy the cosmetics products wholesale and retail may contact No 592 (B), Thanthuma Road, Ward 5, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Ph: 951 570112 and 566925, and No C, between 33 and 32 Streets, 77 Street, Chan Aye Thazan Township, Mandalay Ph: 02 89609 and 89627. The list of lucky draw winners will be announced soon.

MNA

US uses indigenous leaders to attack Bolivian Govt

Bolivian President Evo Morales

LIMA, 1 March — Bolivian President Evo Morales on Friday accused the US Embassy in his country of using Bolivia's indigenous leaders and some non-governmental organizations to attack his government.

Addressing a rally attended by thousands of his supporters, Morales said the United States did that because a new Bolivian Constitution, due to be put into referendums in May, would refuse the US demand to establish a military base in Bolivia, according to reports reaching here from Bolivia's administrative capital La Paz. At the rally, Morales signed a law to officially set 4 May as the date to hold two referendums on the new constitution fiercely criticized by his opponents.

The new Constitution drawn up by a pro-Morales constitutional assembly in December would expand presidential power and redistribute the country's wealth to the poor natives in mountainous areas.

Although opposed by some rich provinces, the new charter won support from poor farmers, miners and the cooperatives.

Morales said his policies and the Constitution have angered some former indigenous leaders, who own huge wealth and worry the Constitution would harm their interests, so they join with the US Embassy to attack Bolivia's current government. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Seventeen-year-old maiko, or an apprentice geisha, Tomoyuki, performs a traditional Japanese dance as she participates in a spring tourism campaign for Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital, at Kyoto House in Tokyo on 29 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

An election poster showing Russian President Vladimir Putin and presidential candidate Dmitry Medvedev is seen next to tower of the Kremlin in Moscow on 1 March, 2008. — INTERNET

British soldier killed in rocket attack in Iraq

LONDON, 2 March — British Defence Ministry said on Saturday a British airman was killed in a rocket attack in southern Iraq.

The soldier, who was attached to 903 Expeditionary Air Wing of Royal Air Force, was killed in the attack on Contingency Operating Base at an airport outside Basra, the ministry said.

The death brought the number of the British soldiers killed in Iraq since 2003 to 175. There were currently around 5,000 British troops in Iraq.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Gunmen kidnap 11 people northeast Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 2 March — Unknown gunmen kidnapped 11 people on Saturday who were travelling near a town in the volatile Diyala Province, a provincial police source said.

The abduction occurred when unknown gunmen intercepted a mini-van carrying passengers near the town of al-Edheim, some 100 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The mini-van was heading to the city of Kirkuk, some 250 kilometres north of Baghdad, when the gunmen abducted it with the passengers to unknown location in the Himrin mountainous area, he said. Diyala Province, which stretches from the eastern edges of Baghdad to the Iranian border in the east, is a hotbed for sectarian violence and a major stronghold for al-Qaeda network.

MNA/Xinhua

Man arrested for helping Commons protesters

LONDON, 1 March — A worker at the Houses of Parliament has been arrested on suspicion of helping protesters to stage a rooftop protest at Westminster to demonstrate against Heathrow's expansion, police said on Friday.

The 26-year-old, who has worked for at least one MP and one peer, was held at his Westminster home and questioned at a central London police station.

He was arrested for aiding and abetting a criminal offence of trespass under the Serious Organized Crime and Police Act 2005, Scotland Yard said. He has not been named.

Three men and two women from the "Plane Stupid" group spent around two hours on the Commons roof on Wednesday after hanging banners down the side of the building.

MNA/Reuters

32 Palestinians killed in northeast Gaza operations

GAZA, 2 March — Thirty-two Palestinians were killed and 100 wounded on Saturday in an Israeli Army large-scale ground operation on northern Gaza Strip, Mo'aweya Hassanein, chief of emergency and ambulance services in the Ministry of Health, told reporters.

Earlier the death toll was reported as 27 and 60 were wounded.

The latest casualties included five Palestinians, said Hassanein, adding that among the 32 Palestinians killed, there are three children, who were killed in air and ground strikes carried out by rockets and shells.

Among the 100 injured, 20 are in serious conditions, he said.

Hassanein warned of a humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip, where has been plagued with shortage of fuel and medical aids, amid an ongoing Israeli military operation. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Palestinians extinguish a fire after an Israeli missile strike on a house in Gaza on 1 March, 2008. —INTERNET

Demonstraters carry a banner in Vienna, on 1 March, 2008, during a protest against Turkish military action in northern Iraq.—INTERNET

Obama has small lead in Texas, close in Ohio

HOUSTON, 1 March — Barack Obama holds a slight lead on Hillary Clinton in Texas and has almost pulled even in Ohio before contests that could decide their US Democratic presidential battle, according to a *Reuters*/C-SPAN/Houston Chronicle poll released on Friday.

The contests on Tuesday are crucial for Clinton, a New York Senator and former first lady fighting to halt Obama's streak of 11 consecutive victories in their battle for the Democratic nomination for the 4 November presidential election.

Obama, an Illinois senator, has a 6-point edge on Clinton in Texas, 48 per cent to 42 per cent. He trails Clinton 44 per cent to 42 per cent in Ohio — well within the poll's margin of error of 3.8 percentage points.

In the Republican race, front-runner John McCain holds commanding leads over his last major rival, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee. McCain, an Arizona Senator, has built an unassailable advantage in delegates who will pick the nominee at the Republican Party convention in September.

The poll, conducted by Zogby International, found McCain with big double-digit margins over Huckabee in Texas and Ohio.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq war to cost at least $3 trillion

WASHINGTON, 1 March — The Iraq war will cost Americans between three trillion and five trillion US dollars, including military spending, broader economic costs and decades of benefits and medical care for combat veterans, a Nobel prize-winning economist said.

In a testimony at the Congress Thursday, Joseph Stiglitz, a professor at Columbia University, gave his latest estimate of the war's economic impact, the Cox News service reported Friday.

The upper end of the estimate is nearly double what Stiglitz had projected just two years ago.

He attributed the dramatic increase to the continuing intensityof the war, which will be five years old by next month, and the likelihood that operations there would continue for at least another year.

The war's gravest toll has been paid in blood.

Fighting in Iraq has so far taken the lives of 3,973 US troops and left nearly 29,300 wounded.

MNA/Xinhua

A view of the ruins of Sechin Bajo, that was built 5,500 years ago, after it was discovered in Casma, Peru, in this Feb 2008 file photo.—INTERNET

Spanish riot police clash with anti-fascists, who were trying to stop a rally of right wing supporters, in central Madrid on 29 Feb, 2008. 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.— INTERNET

Bombs targeting police kill over 40 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 1 March — A suicide bomber blew himself up among mourners at a police funeral, killing at least 38 people in northwest Pakistan on Friday, intelligence officials said.

The attack in Swat District came days after the military said it had cleared most areas in the mountainous region of Islamist militants, who it had been battling there for months, aside from a few pockets of resistance.

"The blast occurred after people had offered prayers and pall bearers were carrying the coffin for a police salute," said Deputy Superintendent Karamat Shah. He was among more than 500 mourners at the funeral for a senior colleague in Swat District.

The policeman being buried was one of three policemen killed earlier on Friday when their van struck a roadside bomb in another region of North West Frontier Province, where Taleban and al-Qaeda fighters are active.

Mohammad Khan, the senior doctor at the hospital in Saidu Sharif in Swat, said 34 bodies had been received and more than 50 people were being treated for wounds after the attack.

MNA/Reuters

Six killed in clashes in western Congo province

KINSHASA, 2 March — At least six people were killed and another nine wounded on Friday in violence between separatists and police sent to impose order in Congo's western Bas-Congo Province, hospital staff said.

Clashes between members of the ethnic-based political and religious movement Bundu dia Kongo (BDK) and security forces broke out overnight in the town of Luozi, 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of Congo's capital Kinshasa.Residents of the town's BDK neighbourhoods fled as police shot at militants manning improvised barricades, witnesses said. Violence raged into Friday afternoon. "We're now up to nine patients with gunshot wounds and six dead," the director of medicine at Luozi hospital, Matthieu Nbalulu, told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

Prince Harry flown back from Afghan frontline

LONDON, 1 March — Britain's Prince Harry flew out of Afghanistan on Friday after news leaked that he had been fighting on the frontline for 10 weeks, defence sources said. The 23-year-old grandson of Queen Elizabeth and third in line to the throne left Afghanistan prematurely amid fears for his security and for those soldiers fighting alongside him.

He was sent to Afghanistan in December. But for security reasons and in agreement with the Ministry of Defence, the British media did not report the deployment.

That agreement collapsed after websites in Australia, Germany and the United States leaked the news on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore, Brazil expand economic links

SINGAPORE, 2 March — Economic ties between Singapore and Brazil are increasing, with bilateral trade having expanded by an average of 29 per cent since 2004 to reach 2.3 billion US dollars last year, said Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister Lim Hng Kiang Friday.

Speaking at a seminar themed "Brazil: The next leap" organized by the Singapore Business Federation, Lim pointed out "There is thus tremendous potential for further expansion".

Total trade with Brazil, Singapore's second largest trading partner in Latin America, nevertheless constituted only 0.4 per cent of the city-state's total trade, he added.

Investments have also been growing with Singapore now the second largest Asian investor in Brazil after Japan. Foreign direct investment (FDI) from Singapore totalled 171.1 million US dollars between 2001 to 2005.

To expand trade and investment links between the two countries, the Singapore Business Federation and the Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo (FIESP) signed a Memorandum of Under-standing here Friday.

"This MoU will involve identifying and pursuing business co-operation as well as sharing of information and experiences to further drive business collaborations," said the minister.

MNA/Xinhua

Commuters pass an advertisement for the Chinese Internet search engine, Baidu.com in Shanghai. China's top Internet search engine Baidu, already targeted by international music firms over alleged copyright infringement, now faces a local piracy suit, state Press said on Friday.—XINHUA

One of the swimming pools seen at the Marival Resort & Suites in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico recently.—INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Philippine electronics investment up 87% in 2007

MANILA, 1 March — The Philippines received 1.4 billion US dollars investment for its electronic industry in 2007, growing more than 87 per cent year-on-year, the *Business World* reported on Friday.

Quoting data released by the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc (SEIPI), the report said it was first time since 2000 for the country's electronics industry to receive investment over one billion US dollars.

Electronic industry, the Philippines' top export sector in recent years, raked in 32 billion US dollars in 2007, accounting for 65 per cent of total Philippine exports of the year. SEIPI said major contributors of the investment came from the United States, Japan, and Europe.

The report said as the investing environment in the Philippines matures, international electronics companies have started to shift their Asian investments to the Philippines.

MNA/Xinhua

Toyota's Indonesia unit to produce, export diesel SUV

JAKARTA, 2 March — The Japanese top auto maker, Toyota Motor Corp, plans to assemble diesel sports utility vehicle Fortuner in its Indonesian plant and considers overseas sales, an executive said Saturday.

Local subsidiary PT Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indonesia (TMMI) has already produced and exported hundreds of petrol Fortuners to countries in the Middle East.

The diesel version will first be delivered to neighbouring Philippines.

"At the initial stage, the export will comprise 5,000 units, completely built up," TMMI quality control division head Asfrisca Dwinugraha was quoted by leading news website Detikcom as saying.

The TMMI plant has a production capacity of 100,000 units a year and produces nearly 7,500 Fortuners and seven-seat Innova vans per month for domestic and export sales.

MNA/Xinhua

WTO panel rules against US in shrimp cases

GENEVA, 2 March — US measures targeting cheap imports of shrimp from India and Thailand are illegal, the World Trade Organization (WTO) ruled on Friday, in the latest setback to Washington's efforts to tackle unfairly priced imports.

A WTO dispute settlement panel said a requirement by the United States on India and Thailand to post bonds to cover full anti-dumping duties on imports of shrimp violated international trade rules.

The panel, confirming preliminary rulings from October, also backed a Thai complaint against a controversial US method of calculating anti-dumping duties, known as zeroing, which has come increasingly under attack at the WTO.

The panel found the application of the bond to cover the full duties was inconsistent with anti-dumping rules, as was the US use of zeroing to calculate anti-dumping margins. "We therefore recommend that the United States bring its measures into conformity with its obligations under the Anti-Dumping Agreement," it said in reports on the cases.— *MNA/Reuters*

Long's Drug Store customers use the Hewlett Packard photo kiosk in Walnut Creek, Calif, on 27 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET

China home-grown 3G tech trial successful

BEIJING, 2 March — And there's one more item that's looks set for commercial use in time for the Olympics and that's China's third generation telecom technology. The country's home grown 3G standard TD-SDMA received a boost Friday when network trials went off without a hitch.

China's Third Generation Mobile Telephony Association has been testing their system with the home-grown technology at a large scale among more than ten major cities around the country. Meanwhile, several CCTV reporters also tried out some video calls in Beijing. And they have found out the connection is good and steady.

Industry insiders say this marks the last test before the commercial promotion to end-users.

Xinhua

Bangladeshi shipbuilders get orders to build 44 ships

DHAKA, 1 March — The Bangladesh shipbuilders has got orders of 590 million US dollars to build 44 ships in the current fiscal year (July 2007-June 2008).

Sakhawat Hossain, managing director of southeastern port City Chittagong-based Western Marine Shipyard Ltd told *Xinhua* Friday by telephone that the two shipbuilders have received orders of 590 million US dollar in the current fiscal year (July 2007-June 2008) for building 44 ships.

Last year they got orders of only 120 million US dollars.

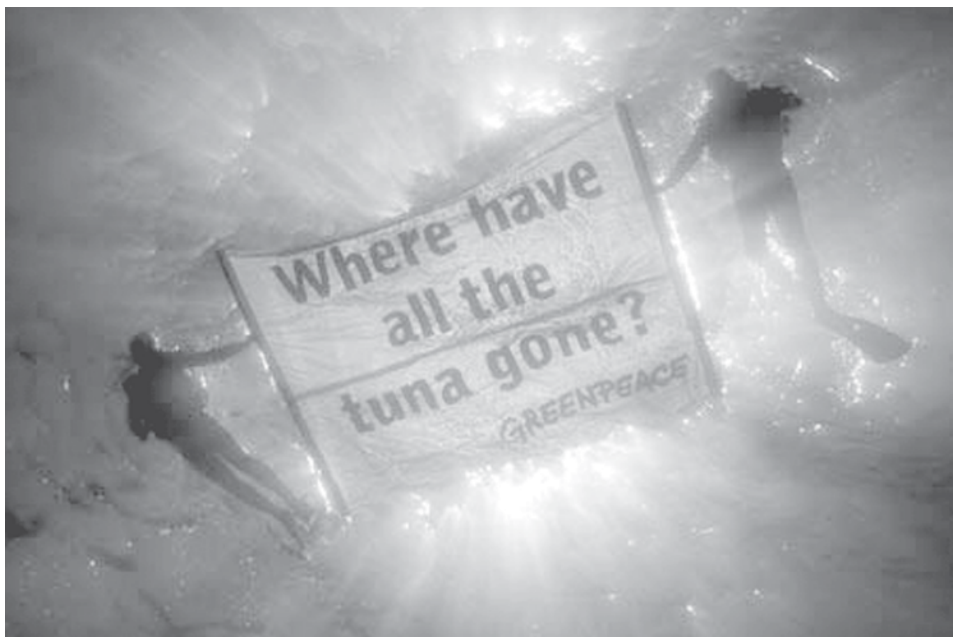
"We are expanding our industry whenever new orders come. Since we have the foundation, we can do it whenever we receive new orders," Hossain said.

He said his industry got orders of 190 million US dollars to build 18 ships and the rest orders went to the Ananda Shipbuilders Ltd, the largest in the country, for making 26 ships.

They received orders from Singapore and several countries in Europe, including Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany.

Xinhua

Shanghai switches on its landscape lights on Friday night after a lapse of more than four weeks. By the end of January, the city decided to switch off all landscape lighting and asked major companies and shops to turn off large advertising signs to conserve electricity and help combat the snow disaster that hit many parts of China.—XINHUA



Greenpeace divers hold a large underwater banner in Menorca, Spain in this handout photo dated 28 May, 2006.— XINHUA

25 Taleban insurgents killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 March — Twenty five Taleban insurgents including a key commander of the outfit were killed in clash with Afghan police in Afghanistan's southern Helmand Province, a statement of the Afghan Interior Ministry said Thursday.

"Taleban insurgents opened fire on police patrol in Marja District on Wednesday, injuring one police constable. Policemen encountered, resultantly leaving 25 rebels including Mullah Naqibullah dead," the statement added.

According to the statement, Mullah Naqibullah, who escaped twice from government jails, was an important military figure of Taleban and had organized several subversive activities in the past.—*Xinhua*

Indian pilot, Filipino instructor killed in air crash

MANILA, 2 March — A private plane crashed during a training flight in Plaridel town in Bulacan City north of the Philippine capital Manila Saturday, killing a Filipino instructor and an Indian student pilot, said both military and civilian officials.

Air Force chief Lieutenant General Pedrito Cadungog quoted reports from the Air Transportation Office as saying the ill-fated Cessna 150 plane was performing a "touch and go lesson" when the incident occurred.

This is the second accident involving flying training lessons for Indian students at the Plaridel airfield. Three others died last July when two planes collided with each other.

This is also the second air accident which took place in the Philippines in a week. A tourist plane got out of control when it landed in a Manila Airport last Sunday, injuring at least two passengers.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

At least two killed in Germany by "Emma" storm

BERLIN, 2 March — At least two people were killed in Germany by a storm named Emma that slammed into Europe on Saturday, local media reported.

A man was killed while he was driving near the western town of Wissen as a tree toppled by the storm fell on his car.

In southern city of Oberpfaffenhofen, a 72-year-old man was hit by a car and died after he was thrown to the other side of the road by a wind gust while he was riding a motorbike.

A train conductor was injured when a high-speed train, the Inter City Express, struck a tree that fell in the storm. No passengers were injured.

With heavy rains and wind speed of up to 190 kilometres per hour, Emma has caused massive delays in airports and railway stations in Germany and across Europe.

Xinhua

Norwegian musher Kjjetil Backen drives his team down 4th Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska, on 1 March, 2008, with Nancy Livingston in his sled during the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race . A record field of 96 mushers are running the 1,100 mile sled dog race to Nome.
XINHUA

Australian police seizes heroin worth $100,000

CANBERRA, 1 March — Australian police said on Friday they had seized heroin with a potential street value of about 100,000 Australian dollars (94,000 US dollars) and arrested a number of people in an operation in Sydney's west and south-west.

The New South Wales police said in a statement that police officers conducted a controlled operation in west Sydney on Thursday morning, where they arrested a 34-year-old man and seized 14 grammes of heroin.

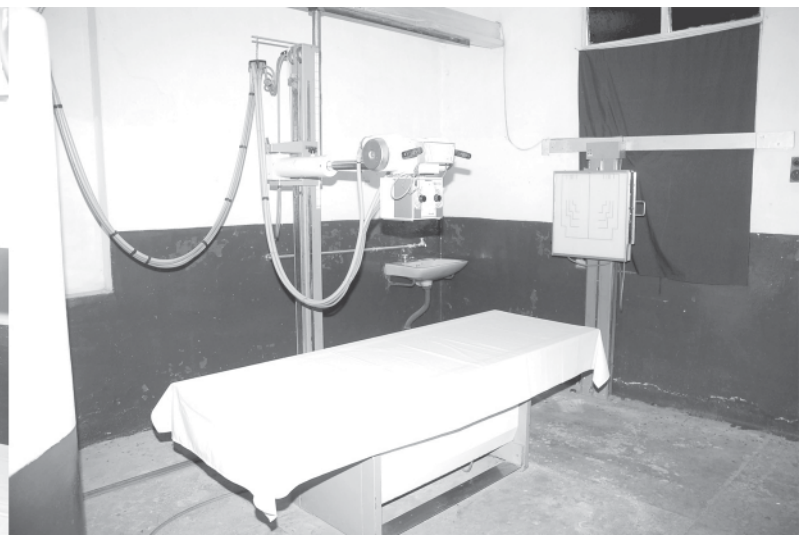
A 34-year-old woman was arrested just moments later in another operation nearby and 4000 dollars (3760 US dollars) cash was seized. The man and woman were taken to Cabramatta Police Station for questioning.—*Xinhua*

Draft constitution formulated by …

(from page 1)

District, Dawei, Launglon, Yebyu, Thayetchaung Townships, social organization members and townselders.

At the meeting, Chairman of Dawei District PDC U Soe Min gave accounts of area and population of the district, food sufficiency in the region, cultivation of 27,743 acres of oil palm, 67,264 acres of rubber, 15,208 acres of pepper and 7,356 acres of physic nut plants, production of marine products, progress of transport, education and health and requirements for regional development.



***Prime Minister General Thein Sein looks into General Hospital (200-bed) in Dawei Township.*— MNA**

***Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents uniforms for Red Cross Society members.*— MNA**

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo explained conditions for food sufficiency in the region, arrangements for cultivation of oil palm, rubber and pepper and plans for progress of transport.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein explained his purpose to visit Taninthayi Division. He said Taninthayi Division is a coastal region blessed with land, water, mineral and forest resources.

He said we can get fish, prawn and other marine resourses from the sea and fish and prawn breeding can be undertaken widely. At one time, Dawei region was famous for mineral deposits.

He said it is a fertile region for cultivation of rubber, pepper and oil palm. However, natural resources could not fully be utilized because of lack of stability and peace and security in the region and poor transport, he said.

He quoted the Head of State saying that Taninthayi Division is rich in natural resources for both nation and its people. If local people work hard, the division will become one on which the State relies. Therefore he provided necessary assistance to the region.

He said the government made efforts for ensuring peace and tranquillity in the region, security and prevalence of law and order. Administrative power existed in the border areas due to the government's endeavours. Now peace has been restored in almost all regions, he said.

He said priority was given to better transport, the basic necessity for development. In 1998 over 100-mile Ye-Dawei Railroad was opened. Moreover, 400-mile Dawei-Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Road was upgraded to the Union Highway. Along the road, Winwa, Palauk, Palaw, Kywegu-Kyaukphya, Pathaung, Taninthayi and Laynyamandaing Bridges were built. Now the people can witness the long Dawei-Myeik-Kawthoung Road.

Everyone can witness the road built through the various hills and creeks from the north Putao to the south Kawthoung. In addition, for smooth air transport Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung airports have been upgraded and extended and the new Bokpyin Airport has been built. With the smooth transport, the economic and social standards of the region has also made progress.

At the same time, encouragement has been given to grow oil palm, rubber and pepper suitable to the soil condition of the region on a commercial scale. Taninthayi Division has been targeted to become a oil bowl by being assigned duties to grow 500,000 acres of oil palm. And now the private entrepreneurs have cultivated nearly 200,000 acres of oil palm.

Similarly, more than 170,000 acres of rubber have been grown against the target of over 200,000 acres. As the national economy still depends on agriculture, the government is placing emphasis on boosting agricultural production. Moreover, encouragement is being given to improve the agriculture sector in respective states and divisions, to grow new crop items and to ensure regional sufficiency in food. For the extension of water supply tasks, 208 dam projects, 305 river water pumping projects and 1023 underground water tapping projects have been undertaken. As a result, irrigated acreage has reached 5 million, up from 1.4 million in 1988. The sown acreage of crops has also increased by 162 per cent. Paddy cultivation acreage has also increased from 12 million to 20 million and 1500 million baskets of paddy can be produced not only for self-sufficiency but also for surplus. Encouragement has been given to boost rice production in respective states and divisions. As Taninthayi Division has become self-sufficient in rice, districts and townships concerned are to make more effort for rice production.

As the division is able to improve its agricultural,

(See page 10)

In coming May, the National Referendum will be held, and the constitution will be approved in accord with the wishes of the majority of people.

***Technological University (Dawei) in Dawei.*— MNA**

What are your ulterior motives?

Si Thu Aung

"Foreign radio stations have been airing much fabricated news expressing such words as national reconciliation, participation of all and tripartite discussions lately."

"Those foreign broadcasting stations are skillful enough in the airing of fabricated news. But all their beautiful expressions are just rhetoric. What is important is that the people should clearly know the hidden meaning of their expressions. Based on prevailing situations and their ulterior motives it is necessary for the people to be able to define their words."

"To the best of my knowledge, some western nations in collusion with expatriates taking refuge in the border of the other country, remnant insurgents, the NLD members in the nation and other destructive groups are creating such fabrications. Although the power and its allies invaded Iraq by force without the consent of the UN Security Council no one dared say what they did. They did not say anything because they were beneficiaries of the power."

"There were serious matters following the declaration made by Mr Gambari on behalf of Daw Suu Kyi. "It is my duty" are some words stated in Daw Suu Kyi's declaration. She means that it was her duty to seriously consider the wishes and interest of national races. As no duty of national races was vested to her various national race groups opposed her declaration. Last November, the NLD issued a statement to the effect that it was inviting comments with regard to the declaration if there was any confusion. At the same time, they raised the issue of National Reconciliation. They also issued a long statement that was dubbed the Union Day Declaration. The statement carried the word "the Union with complete self-determination". Although the NLD frequently expressed the word "National Reconciliation" they vehemently opposed the matters on holding of the Referendum and the election and challenged the government to prepare for the worst. Their expressions are not a good sign for the nation."

"The activities of the NLD can pose a grave threat to the nation. It can take time to explain their acts. Their expressions include participation of all and tripartite discussion. As a matter of fact, all had already participated in the National Convention which was reconvened in 2004. And altogether eight delegate groups representing the entire national races from all walks of life had already held discussions."

"The NLD made accusations that the National Convention was attended by only hand-picked delegates of the government."

"Of some delegate groups to the National Convention some were those who have been selected while the other delegate groups are those who have not been selected. Those who have not been selected are representatives-elect, persons from political parties, other invited delegates and representatives of national race peace groups. Those who have been selected are the ones who are qualified in education, codes of conduct, social status and occupation and are free from party politics. They are from different backgrounds, different regions and different races. They represent the silent majority of the people who in the past were exploited by politicians in successive eras as political victims."

"**Do only crook politicians have the right to take part in the drawing of the State constitution? And don't the majority of the people have any right to take part in it? The delegates to the National Convention are people from various strata such as peasants, businessmen, service personnel, intellectuals and technocrats and those who are highly regarded for their experiences in international affairs**. Are they unable to shape the bright future of the nation? **The groups representing all the national races referred by the NLD are the ones who had already taken part in the process of the National Convention. Different national races are included in national race delegate groups and other delegate groups. And they are also included in peace groups, political parties and the representatives-elect delegate groups**. Ordinary people, politicians, those who had returned to the legal fold, intellectuals and intelligentsia are included in the delegates of national races. Another matter is the participation of the NLD. The NLD had already participated in the National Convention. No one forcibly summoned the NLD to attend the meeting. They attended the meeting of their own volition. And they walked out of the meeting of their own accord in 1995. At that time, there were differences among the NLD members in which some members were expelled from the party as they wanted to continue to attend the National Convention. Those who were expelled have been accepted to attend the meeting as independent representatives. The National Convention was reconvened in 2004. When the National Convention was to resume the government sent the invitations to the NLD but they did not attend it. Now they said they were not included in the Convention. What is their motive?"

(See page 9)

The groups representing all the national races referred by the NLD are the ones who had already taken part in the process of the National Convention. Different national races are included in national race delegate groups and other delegate groups. And they are also included in peace groups, political parties and the representatives-elect delegate group.

What are your ulterior motives?

Si Thu Aung

(from page 8)

"In my view who are the rest of the national race groups who did not attend the National Convention? They are very few ethnic groups under various names and a handful of terrorist organizations. All of us know that who provides all these organizations with money and other assistance. These illegal organizations said they are the genuine delegates of national races and they want to be placed on the political stage. Who gives the mandate to those organizations? Everyone knows that they can't live in their own country and have thus fled to the border areas and formed organizations. They use the terms, genuine Union and self-determination frequently and put national "reconciliation" in the fore. One major point is that it was an attempt to secure the support of ethnic forces to assist NLD which is weakening in the discussions between authorities concerned and Daw Suu Kyi. These methods were applied in Myanmar politics long ago. In the 1958 Pha-Sa-Pa-La (AFPFL) split, 'clean' group took the votes of Ya-Ta-Nya MPs with an incentive that a permission to form Rakhine State would be given. The group won with eight more votes. However, you have known what happened due to the consequences of this act. After the 1960 election, Pa-Hta-Sa (Union) government came to power. The groups were broken into U, Bo and Thakin ones. While the political forces from mainland were in disunity, national race political groups demanded for not only states but also genuine Union and the genuine federal principle. Regarding the federal principle, the State Advisory Board stated in its report that it was impossible to put the proposed Union pattern in practice. The board members could not support the principle as they found that there were signs threatening disintegration of the Union. Despite this, there were demands insisting the scheme. If the government did not meet their demands, they would secede from the Union and join the SEATO, according to the illegal documents. It is obvious in history that the situation posed danger to the State. Think about what will happen if a tripartite meeting is held as called for after organizing the organizations attacking the government through political or military ways and minions under the influence of foreign countries inviting them onto the political stage".

"I also think about it. **The west bloc suggested who should be in the team that drew the constitution. Anti-American groups such as Shiite militants of Al Sadr and Sunny militants that make contact with Al Qaeda were not included in drawing a constitution in Iraq. Were Talebans invited to draw a constitution in Afghanistan? But in our country they said all the groups should be included in drawing the constitution."**

"Of course. I think those from our country should take lesson from these events. They should not concentrate on their own interest for a short-term. They should place emphasis on long-term interest of the country. There are over 100 national races in our country. If the government allows them to secede from the country, there will be incidents like Kosovo. You can imagine how dangerous it is.

"That has been their habit since the ancient times. They said it was White men's burden to teach the Black and the Yellow to be polite when they occupied the regions around the world. There are prospects of divide and rule and divide and conquer policy behind their steps. Look at the issue of secession of Kosovo in the current international news. Serbia from former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia said Kosovo State is a sovereign one, recognized by the UN itself under its official resolution. However, it was their bloc that has supported the Albanians to secede from Kosovo. When Serbian government and the Albanians discussed the issue, the Serbian government offered to establish a special region like Hong Kong of China as one country-two systems. But the Albanians wanted secession. Behind them, there were those who supported the Albanians. 'Don't give up. We'll recognize your secession. Don't worry about it.' Finally the Albanians seceded from Kosovo. Now Serbs in Kosovo attempted to secede from Kosovo. In Belgrade, the Serbian capital, there was a demonstration of about 200,000 Serbs. Angry Serbs set fire to the US Embassy. These events showed that one shall pay for his own misdeed."

"They have instigated the Serbs to secede from Kosovo. They can dominate the break-away region. Look at Kosovo. Who rules Kosovo after the war in 1998? It is Western countries under the name of the UN, isn't it? Though Kosovo became independent there exist NATO forces and administrative machinery citing security reasons. No one can foretell when they will pull out."

"There is no difference in East Timor. A referendum was held to secede from Indonesia. Relying on the West, East Timor seceded from Indonesia. Recently, the rebels raided the President's House. The president was seriously wounded. The so-called multi-national security forces continue to occupy the country. They are envious of East Timor because they have learned that there are oil and natural gas deposits offshore East Timor."

"Of course. I think those from our country should take lesson from these events. They should not concentrate on their own interest for a short-term. **They should place emphasis on long-term interest of the country. There are over 100 national races in our country. If the government allows them to secede from the country, there will be incidents like Kosovo. You can imagine how dangerous it is. The government made peace with national race armed groups that fought against the government for 40-50 years. Peace has been restored not very long ago. All should know that peace shall not be destroyed.** Although they say national "reconciliation", in practice the situation to break up the Union will arise as in the 1960s. I want them to know that it is very dangerous for the country."

Translation: TS+NY

(Myanma Alin+Kyemon: 2-3-08)

Draft constitution formulated by …

(from page 7)

marine and mineral sectors, the economy of the local people as well as per capita income will increase. The State on its part will provide necessary assistance. Infrastructures are being built for the improvement of education and health sectors of the division in order to nurture educated people and human resources.

A total of 40553 schools have been opened, the number of students has increased from 5.2 million to 7.8 million. Likewise, universities have been upgraded and as a result, there are now 156 universities and colleges, up from 32. From 1998 to date, over 1.36 million students have been graduated.

In Taninthayi Division, the number of basic education schools has reached 1137, up from 962 and two art and science universities, two technological universities, two computer universities and one education college have been opened.

The State is also opening and upgrading hospitals and dispensaries with the objective of ensuring full life expectancy of the all citizens. And there are now 839 hospitals and 16 medical universities across the country. In Taninthayi Division alone, there are two 200-bed hospitals, one 100-bed hospital, three 50-bed hospitals, two 25-bed hospitals and eighteen 16-bed hospitals. Above-mentioned infrastructures have been built by the State itself for the national development.

The State is striving for the equitable development all states and divisions of the country. In striving for the development of the State in various aspects, it is not possible for the government alone to take the responsibility and the co-operation of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw is needed.

While the government is steadfastly striving for discharging duties of the State, all the national people are to join hands with the government in the tasks. In building the discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the seven-step Road Map is being realized step by step, and so far the implementation task has reached the fourth step.

In coming May, the National Referendum will be held, and the constitution will be approved in accord with the wishes of the most people. In the year of 2010, the multi-party democracy election will be held in line with the approved constitution. Emergence of the Constitution for the new nation is the duty of all citizens of the country. The draft constitution was formulated by all the national people in accord with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that the National Convention has adopted. The national people residing in States and Divisions are to vote for the draft constitution that is essential for the new nation. Today's people are not those in 1988, and they have a wide scope of knowledge, realizing constructive and destructive acts.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister said that the future of the State depends upon the decisions of the people who have the patriotic spirit or the Union Spirit.

The Prime Minister presented uniforms, exercise books and stationery to members of Dawei District Union Solidarity and Development Association, Dawei District Women's Affairs Organization, Dawei District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Red Cross Society and War Veterans Organization, and cordially conversed with those present.

At Dawei University, the Prime Minister inspected progress in construction of the main building. At the briefing hall, Managing Director U Than Shwe of Ever Green Fine Arts Co Ltd reported on construction of the main building and Pro-Rector U Kyaw Kyaw Htay on academic matters.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt gave supplementary reports on construction of the main building and academic matters.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister instructed the faculty members to grow flowery plants and shade trees on the campus of the university, to constantly pursue higher education for uplift of self sufficiency, to turn out the students to become intellectuals on whom the State can rely, to train the students to become those who abide by rules and regulations of the State and to equip the pupils with Union spirit.

Later, the Prime Minister viewed progress in construction of the main building.

At Dawei General Hospital (200-bed), the Prime Minister met the medical superintendent and officials.

In his instructions, the Prime Minister urged them to disseminate health knowledge to the people, to provide effective health care services to the people and go right down to the grassroots level to give medical treatments to the rural people.

The Prime Minister visited the rooms and departments of the hospital. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and specialists conducted the Prime Minister round the hospital.

The Prime Minister presented cash assistance to the funds of the hospital to Medical Superintendent U Tun Nay Aung.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Technological University (Dawei) and viewed construction of the road to the university and progress of the three-storey main building.

At the briefing hall, Managing Director U Maung Aye of Kyaw Tha Construction Group Co Ltd reported on progress in construction of the three-storey main building.

Principal of the Technological University (Dawei) Dr Nan Ni Ni Myint and Principal of University of Computer Studies (Dawei) Dr Thi Thi Soe submitted the reports on strength of faculty members and staff of respective universities and academic matters.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe, the commander and Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave supplementary reports.

After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General Thein Sein instructed officials to building the Technological University (Dawei) meeting the set standards, grow flowery plants and shade trees for greening the university and to strive for uplift of the prestige of the university.

MNA

***Eye specialists giving treatment to patients.*— MNA**

Free medical treatment for…

(from page 16)

Medical Superintendent of Loilem Hospital Dr Daw Khin Nwe Yi expressed thanks on behalf of the Ministry of Health. Head of Administration Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe presented K 1.5 million donated by the MWAF to be spent on free medical treatment services through Executive of Shan State USDA Daw Nan Sai Nwan.

The free medical treatment team led by Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe comprises eye specialists Dr Nila Thein, Dr Sandar Myint, Dr Aye Myat Oo, Dr Nan Ei Shwe Zin, Dr Tin Aye Khine, Dr Aye Moe Htet, Dr Aung Nay Oo, Dr Char Wai Lwin, Dr Aye Moe Latt, Dr Yin Kyi Oo and five nurses. The team together with eye specialist Dr Saw Thwin Mon Thein of Loilem General Hospital carried out free medical treatment services from 26 February to 1 March. The team provided free medical treatment to 3146 eye patients at Loilem District and nearby towns and put on power glasses to 700 eye patients.

Local authorities, social organizations and townelders gave necessary assistance to the free medical team. Managing Director of Myanma Pharmaceuticals Industries U Than Shwe and Daw Khin Win family and (Mother Trading Co Ltd took in charge of medicines and expenditures for the free medical treatment team.

MNA

Images of the Day

Physics lab completes world's largest jigsaw puzzle

GENEVA, 2 March — A 100-ton wheel, the last piece of an ambitious experiment that scientists hope will help unlock the secrets of the universe, was successfully lowered into an underground cavern on Friday.

It is the final major element in the ATLAS particle detector, the largest of four detectors being hooked up to the world's most powerful particle accelerator which the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) hopes to start up around the middle of 2008.

"This last piece completes this gigantic puzzle," CERN said in a statement.—*MNA/Reuters*

***Mexico's Lorena Ochoa kisses the trophy after winning the HSBC Women's Champions golf tournment in Singapore on 2 March, 2008.—*INTERNET**

***An Indonesian zoo keeper feeds two-month-old African lion cub Bima at Safari Zoo in Gianyar, Bali, Indonesia, on 2 March , 2008. Bima is one of three lion cubs which were newly born at the zoo.—*INTERNET**

Models of China's ethnic groups present their traditional costumes during the 7th Doha Culture Festival in Doha, Qatar, on 1 March , 2008.

XINHUA

Study casts doubt on water on Mars surface

WASHINGTON, 2 March — It made a big splash when scientists announced in 2006 that images from a NASA spacecraft indicated water apparently had flowed on the surface of Mars in the past decade but new research casts doubt on that finding.

Other scientists on Friday said new images and computer simulations strongly indicate that a landslide of sand and gravel is a more likely explanation for the bright deposits in gullies previously touted as evidence of recent water flow.

"We started off not thinking that we were going to debunk anything. I absolutely thought it was going to be liquid," Jon Pelletier, a professor of geosciences at the University of Arizons who led the new study, said in a telephones interview.

MNA/Reuters

A boy watches lion fish at Manila Ocean Park, the country's first state of the art oceanarium, which opened this week in Manila on 1 March, 2008.

INTERNET

NASA confirmed the US space shuttle Endeavour will launch on 11 March for a 16-day mission, according to media reports on Sunday.

-XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT

TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE

THE CARTOON NETWORK, INC., a company organized under the laws of U.S.A. and having its principal office at 1050 Technology Drive, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30318, United States of America is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademark:-

C.I.A (CAMBALA INVESTIGATION AGENCY)

Reg. Nos. 4/6520/2007 for Int'l Class 09 & 4/6521/2007 for Int'l Class 41

Used in respect of:-

Scientific, nautical, surveying, photographic, cinematographic, optical, weighing, measuring, signaling, checking (supervision), life-saving and teaching apparatus and instruments; apparatus and instruments for conducting, switching, transforming, accumulating, regulating or controlling electricity; apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound or images; magnetic data carriers, recording discs; automatic vending machines and mechanisms for coin-operated apparatus; cash registers, calculating machines, data processing equipment and computers; series of pre-recorded video cassettes featuring cartoons; series of pre-recorded audio cassettes and compact discs featuring soundtracks, music of cartoon theme songs and other sound recordings, apparatus for recording, producing and projecting sound and visual images, motion pictures, photographic slides, eyeglasses, sunglasses, anti- glare glasses, frames and cases therefore; Downloadable ring tones, graphics and music via a global computer network and wireless devices; cellular telephone accessories, namely cellular telephone cases and cellular telephone face plates; downloadable television programs provided via video-on-demand; radios, rulers, calculators, computer software and computer peripheral apparatus, computer game joysticks, life jackets, protective helmets and clothing, snorkel tubes, swim masks, swim goggles, cameras, film, batteries, flashlights and magical lanterns, electronic games (computer game cartridges, computer game cassettes, computer game discs, computer game programs, computer game software, video game cartridges, video game discs, video game joysticks, video game interactive remote control units, video game interactive hand held remote controls for playing electronic games, video game software, video game tape cassettes), magnets, magnetic boards, mouse pads and decorative refrigerator magnets (International Class 09.)

Education; providing of training; entertainment; sporting and cultural activities; provision of television, broadband, wireless and online entertainment information services; provision of television, broadband, wireless and online computer games; provision of television, broadband, wireless and online entertainment multimedia programs; production, distribution, projecting and rental of television programs, videos, motion picture films, pre-recorded audio and video tapes, cassettes, discs, records, cds, dvds and all other types of carriers; production and arrangement of radio and television programs; information relating to entertainment or education provided via television, broadband, wireless and online; providing television, broadband, wireless and online electronic publications (not downloadable); providing an online website of entertainment news and information, products, multimedia programs and reference materials (International Class 41.)

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

Tin Ohnmar Tun
B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK) P.O.Box 109,Ph: 723043
(For. Domnern Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated. 3rd March 2008

Two killed, 14 wounded in chemical factory fire in S Korea

SEOUL, 2 March — Two people were killed and 14 others injured Saturday in a pre-dawn fire in a chemical plant in southeastern South Korea's Gimcheon City, South Korea's *Yonhap* news agency reported. The fire broke out early Saturday morning at the Kolon Industries chemical plant in Gimcheon, 234 kilometres southeast of Seoul. — *MNA/Xinhua*

India backs its Suez Canal through "god's bridge"

NEW DELHI, 1 March — India's Government is sticking to plans to bore a major new shipping lane, officials said on Thursday, despite objections by Hindu groups who say it would destroy a rock and sand ridge built by a god.

Billed as India's Suez Canal, the 560-million-US-dollar Sethus-amudram Ship Canal Project is expected to reduce ship journeys between India's western and eastern coasts by up to 36 hours by creating a channel between the Indian mainland and Sri Lanka.

Ships now endure a long detour around Sri Lanka. India's main opposition party, the Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has been trying to exploit the controversy for political gain ahead of elections due next year, and opponents have asked the Supreme Court to stop the scheme.

The government, which has been unsettled by protests and criticism over the issue, will file its response to the objections on Friday but will not back down.

MNA/Reuters

Man critical in Las Vegas after poison ricin found

LAS VEGAS, 1 March — An unidentified man is in critical condition with suspected ricin poisoning after staying in a Las Vegas hotel room where the potentially deadly substance was found, police said on Friday.

The FBI said the incident was not thought to be terrorism related.

Police said the man, who they did not name, had last occupied the room two weeks ago and was taken to a local hospital on February 14 when he complained of breathing difficulties.

A suspicious sub-stance, which tests have confirmed to be ricin, was found in the sick man's room on Thursday after a relative or friend went to the hotel to collect his possessions, Las Vegas deputy police chief Kathy Suey told a news conference.

No one else has reported symptoms and it was not clear where the ricin came from, or what is was doing in the room at the Extended Stay America Hotel in Las Vegas. —*MNA/Reuters*

Clinton hits Obama with ad questioning experience

HOUSTON, 1 March—US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton questioned rival Barack Obama's experience in handling a national security crisis on Friday as polls showed her losing ground to Obama ahead of Tuesday's contests in Texas and Ohio.

The Clinton campaign released a new television ad for airing in Texas, which along with Ohio are crucial to her chances of reversing a string of losses to Obama. It shows children sleeping peacefully in bed as a narrator says:

"It's 3 am and your children are safe and asleep. But there's a phone in the White House and it's ringing.

Something's happening in the world. Your vote will decide who answers that call."

The Clinton campaign hoped the new ad would convince voters she would be ready to act swiftly and decisively in case of another September 11-type crisis in the United States. Clinton, a New York Senator and former first lady once considered the favourite to win her party's presidential nomination, needs to win Texas and Ohio by wide margins next Tuesday or face the end of her candidacy.

Her struggling campaign got an important morale boost with the news that she had raised 35 million US dollars in campaign contributions in February, which was the most she had taken in in one month by far. Obama was expected to release figures soon showing he had out-raised her in February.

Obama struck back hard at Clinton over the ad in remarks to veterans at a town hall meeting at an American Legion post in Houston. —*MNA/Reuters*

Syria accuses US warship prolongs Lebanon crisis

DAMASCUS, 2 March — Syria accused the United States on Saturday of obstructing a solution to Lebanon's political crisis by deploying a warship off the Lebanese coast.

In the first reaction by the Damascus Government to Washington's announcement on Thursday of the deployment of the USS Cole, Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem said the United States would not be able to impose a solution by force.

"We have been saying that the United States was obstructing the political solution in Lebanon and the existence of this ship affirms this," Moualem told reporters.

"Those Lebanese who are betting on the United States flexing its muscle will be disappointed. Washington cannot impose the solution it wants. The way out has to be based on a Lebanese consensus," Moualem said.Moualem was referring to the pro-Western government and majority in Parliament, which has been locked in a 15-month power struggle with the Hizbollah-led opposition. Syria and Iran support the Shiite movement. A US defence official said the USS Cole, which was attacked by Islamist militants in the Yemeni port of Aden in 2000, would not be visible from the Lebanese coast but would stay "well over the horizon".

They said the deployment was to signal US concern over Lebanon's political crisis, which Washington blames on what it describes as Syrian interference. Syria said achieving political stability in Lebanon was in its national interest.

MNA/Reuters

Britain may tax plastic shopping bags

LONDON, 1 March — Prime Minister Gordon Brown warned retailers on Friday they have to start charging shoppersfor plastic bags or the government will step in to force them. The warning comes a day after Marks & Spencer said it would start charging food shoppers five pence per bag, with the moneygoing to improve parks and play areas.

"I am convinced we need to act — and the time to act is now," Brown wrote in the Daily Mail newspaper. "And I want tomake clear that if government compulsion is needed to make thechange, we will take the necessary steps." "We do not take such steps lightly — but the damage thatsingle-use plastic bags inflict on the environment is such thatstrong action must be taken," he added.

Last year Brown struck a deal with the supermarkets to cutthe environmental impact of plastic bag use by 25 per centthrough reducing their numbers and increasing the content ofrecycled plastic.

But Brown said more needed to be done, which was why hewanted the bags to carry a price to deter usage.

"I have already made clear that over time we should aim toeliminate the single-use plastic bag altogether," he wrote.

MNA/Reuters

Scientists identify new gene tied to ALS

WASHINGTON, 2 March — Researchers have identified a rare gene mutation associated with some cases of amyotro-phic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

These findings, published Friday in the journal Science, may help researchers learn more about the processes that lead to this fatal adult-onset motor neuron disorder.

The first ALS-related gene mutation SOD1 was found in 1993, but it affects only 1 per cent of all ALS patients. Now, after a long dry spell, researchers have finally hit on a second.

It's just as rare as the first, but it seems to be more closely related to aspects of ALS pathology found in all patients.

ALS can slowly destroy the motor neurons used to control muscles. Five per cent of all adult-onset ALS cases are known to have a strong genetic component, affecting multiple family members. But the rest seem to appear spontaneously in people with no prior family history. Scientists know little about what causes these sporadic cases.

Christopher Shaw, a neurologist at King's College London in the United Kingdom, started hunting for other ALS genes by recruiting patients who have the inherited form of the disease but not the SOD1 mutation.

MNA/Xinhua

File photo shows a Belarus woman talking on her mobile in central Minsk. Mobile phone companies are treated better in Belarus than in the European Union, the head of Telekom Austria said in an interview published on Friday.—INTERNET

Hundreds of chickens culled in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 2 March — Hundreds of chickens in Krajan villa, Bringin subdistrict, Semarang District in Indonesia's Central Java Province, were culled due to bird flu (avian influenza) virus spreading in the area. Around 400 chickens were burned and then buried in an attempt to curb bird flu virus, Antara news agency reported on Saturday.

The measure was taken following the death of tens of chickens earlier due to bird flu virus, the report said.

The report quoted head of the Semarang animal husbandry and fishery office Agus Purwoko Djati as saying that a rapid kit test conducted by officers of the Participatory Disease Surveillance Response team had confirmed that the chickens had died of bird flu.— *MNA/Xinhua*

A Sumatran elephant plays with his trainer at the Elephant Training Centre in Minas, Indonesia's Riau Province seen on 29 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Death toll from Madagascar cyclone hits 83

ANTANANARIVO, 2 March — Cyclone Ivan has killed 83 people and left almost 200,000 homeless after tearing through Madagascar last week, officials said on Friday.

Ivan pelted the Indian Ocean island's east coast with winds of more than 125 mph (200 kph) early last week, making it one of the largest cyclones ever to hit Madagascar.

"The latest toll states that 83 deaths are registered all over the country," said Colonel Jean Rakotomalala, head of the National Office for Disaster and Risk Management (BNGRC).

Six cyclones struck Madagascar last year, killing at least a 150 people and destroying homes and crops in the island's worst season on record.

MNA/Reuters

India builds $12.5m force to guard its tigers

NEW DELHI, 1 March — India will spend 12.5 million US dollars to create a special force to guard its last surviving tigers, as numbers dwindle in the face of rampant poaching and destruction of their habitat.

Poorly armed and badly paid guards, mismanagement and corruption undermine the protection of tigers in India. There are thought to be just 1,411 left in India, according to a new survey that cut numbers by half since 2002 census.

The decline is even more alarming considering India had about 40,000 tigers a century ago.

Conservationists say it is unlikely the dwindling population will ever recover, but the government is not giving up just yet.

On Friday, Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram announced a 12.5-million-US-dollar one-off grant, mainly to raise, arm and deploy a special Tiger Protection Force.

"The number 1,411 should ring the alarm bell. That is the number of tigers in India," he told Parliament, presenting his budget for 2008/09. "The tiger is under grave threat." — *MNA/Reuters*

A female African lion (Panthera leo) Nala carries her month-old cub Olga, at Bali Safari Park in Gianyar, Bali, Indonesia seen on 1 March, 2008.
INTERNET

ROK's family education spending hits record high

SEOUL, 2 March — South Korean families spend a record high of 12 per cent of their entire expenditures on education-related items and services in 2007, the country's National Statistical Office (NSO) said on Thursday.

South Korean families spent a greater portion of household expenditure on education last year due to rising school tuition fees and private tutoring costs, it said.

According to the NSO, the average expenditure on education in South Korean families rose by 11.8 per cent last year when compared with that in 2006.

Urban households headed by salaried workers earned a monthly average of 3.67 million won, up from 3.44 million in 2006. They spent an average of 2.84 million won per month, the NSO said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

SPORTS

Newcastle United's James Milner, right, has a shot towards goal past Blackburn Rovers' Stephen Warnock during their English Premier League soccer match at St James' Park, Newcastle, England, on 1 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Red Star beat Partizan 4-1 behind closed doors

BELGRADE, 2 March — Serbian champions Red Star Belgrade came from behind to beat 10-man league leaders and city rivals Partizan 4-1 in an action-packed derby played behind closed doors on Saturday.

No fans were present to see Red Star's best performance of the season as they completed a three match crowd ban at the league's restart from a two-month long winter break. Red Star had been punished for a riot during a home match in December when their fans seriously injured a police officer. Three club officials were arrested for negligence but were released pending further investigation.

Ecuador midfielder Alejandro Segundo Castillo scored two goals while Dejan Milovanovic and Nenad Milijas added one each to cut Partizan's advantage to three points after the visitors had taken a third minute lead through Djordje Lazic.

Partizan have 41 points from 18 matches, Red Star have 38 while third-placed Vojvodina are a further four points adrift after a 1-0 defeat at Smederevo in the day's other match. Lazic rifled in a ferocious low shot from 18 metres but Partizan paid dearly for two glaring misses shortly afterwards when Milovanovic curled in a superb free kick and Castillo volleyed Red Star ahead before the interval.

Torrential rain delayed the start of the second half by 10 minutes before Castillo made it 3-1 with a crisp shot from the edge of the penalty box and Milijas blasted home a penalty in the 68th minute. —*MNA/Reuters*

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1 H	A	2 R	M	3 O	N	4 Y	■	5 M	O	6 W	E	7 R
A	■	A	■	C	■	A	■	A	■	H	■	E
8 B	U	I	L	T	■	9 N	E	G	L	E	C	T
I	■	M	■	E	■	K	■	E	■	E	■	I
10 T	H	E	A	T	R	E	■	11 N	Y	L	O	N
■	■	N	■	■	■	E	■	T	■	■	■	U
12 S	A	T	U	13 R	N	■	14 B	A	F	15 F	L	E
A	■	■	■	E	■	16 A	■	■	■	O	■	■
17 U	P	18 S	E	T	■	19 S	A	20 F	F	R	O	21 N
N	■	P	■	R	■	C	■	O	■	E	■	O
22 T	E	R	R	A	C	E	■	23 R	O	I	S	T
E	■	I	■	C	■	N	■	U	■	G	■	E
24 R	I	G	H	T	■	25 D	E	M	A	N	D	S

NAC beat Sparta 3-0 to go third in Netherlands

AMSTERDAM, 2 March — Anthony Lurling struck twice after the break to hand NAC Breda a comfortable 3-0 home victory over Sparta Rotterdam in the Dutch league on Saturday.

Lurling set up Hungarian Csaba Feher after eight minutes to open the scoring and settled the match with his two goals after keeper Jelle ten Rouwelaar had saved a penalty from Charles Dissels three minutes into the second half.

With eight matches remaining, PSV Eindhoven, travelling to Utrecht on Sunday, are top with 59 points.

Ajax, at home to Excelsior Rotterdam on Sunday, are second with 50 points, level with third-placed NAC, while Feyenoord, at home to NEC Nijmegen, slipped to fourth with 48. Youssouf Hersi headed home the winner 12 minutes from time for Twente Enschede, who climbed to seventh with a 1-0 home win over sixth-placed Heerenveen. —*MNA/Reuters*

Natalia Matveeva of Russia, Kikkan Randall of the US, Chandra Crawford of Canada and Evi Sachenbacher Stehle of Germany, from left to right, compete in the women's 1.2 km World Cup cross country free style sprint competition in Lahti, Finland, on 1 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Sheringham to end playing career when season ends

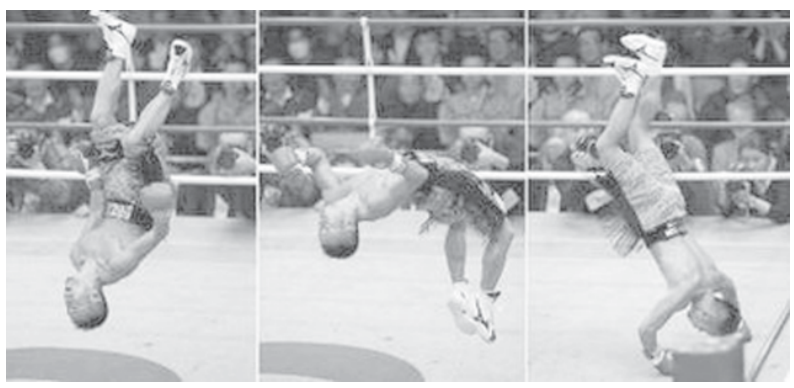
LONDON, 2 March — Former England striker Teddy Sheringham announced on Saturday that he will end his 26-year playing career at the end of the season.

Sheringham turns 42 in April and will hang up his boots with Colchester United, the English Championship (Division 2) team he joined last year.

"After a long and fun filled career I have decided that this season will be my last," Sheringham told the Colchester United Web site (www.cu-fc.premiumtv.co.uk).

"I've had a fantastic time and want to thank all those that have contributed to my career and helped me along the way. I've no immediate thoughts about going into management but football has always been my life and hopefully I will be back at some point in the future."

MNA/Reuters



In the combination picture, Japan's Champion Yutaka Niida reacts after defeating challenger Jose Luis Varela from Venezuela at the World Boxing Association (WBA) minimum weight title bout in Tokyo on 1 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Bayern Munich's Miro Klose (C) scores his team's first goal against Schalke 04 during their first division Bundesliga soccer match in Gelsenkirchen, on 1 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Platini pledges to fight poaching of minors

ROME, 2 March — UEFA President Michel Platini has vowed to combat under-age player transfers after Serie A side Reggina complained about Chelsea's alleged pursuit of one of their juniors.

"I will combat the current system of transfers of young players," the former France and Juventus player told Rai television.

"I think they should sign their first contract with the club that brought them up and educated them. There was a recent case in Italy and I understand Reggina's argument."

Reggina complained to the Italian Soccer Federation (FIGC) last month after 15-year-old defender Vincenzo Camilleri went to London for talks with Premier League Chelsea.

The FIGC subsequently wrote to FIFA and UEFA about the issue.

Platini is among a number of soccer administrators concerned about the growing trend for top clubs to poach youngsters from other countries rather than trying to develop talent closer to home. He has been particularly critical of English clubs.

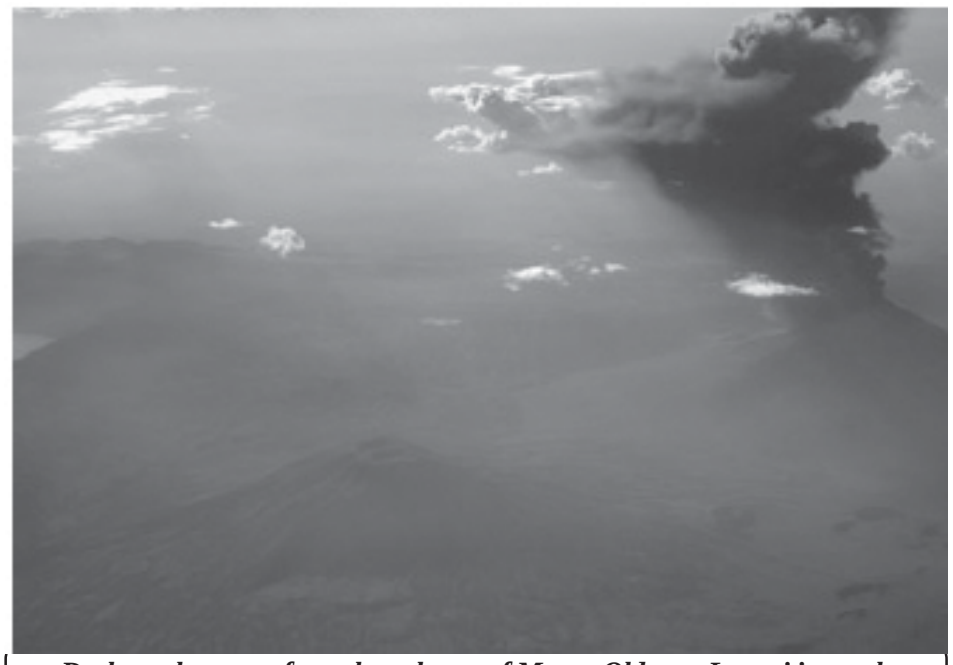
"I'm totally against those who buy under-age lads in another country," added Platini. —*MNA/Reuters*

Birmingham City's Mikael Forssell, right, heads the ball towards the Tottenham Hotspur goal to score the opening goal during their English Premier League soccer match at St Andrews, Birmingham, England, on 1 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Beckham on scoresheet but Galaxy lose

SEOUL, 2 March — David Beckham scored from the penalty spot but his LA Galaxy side were beaten 2-1 in a shootout by FC Seoul after a 1-1 draw in a friendly on Saturday.

The former England captain had a hand in the Galaxy's 21st-minute opener, his long through ball pounced on by Alan Gordon, who turned to fire the visitors into the lead. FC Seoul equalized 10 minutes later when Jung Jo-gook converted from the spot. —*MNA/Reuters*



*Dark smoke spews from the volcano of Mount Oldonyo Lengai in north Tanzania in this aerial photo taken on 29 Feb, 2008. Mount Oldonyo Lengai is the only known active natrocarbonatite volcano on earth. —*XINHUA

Guatemala bus plunges off cliff, 37 killed

GUATEMALA CITY, 2 March — A crowded bus plunged off a cliff into a deep ravine in Guatemala on Friday, killing 37 people and injuring 25, emergency workers said.

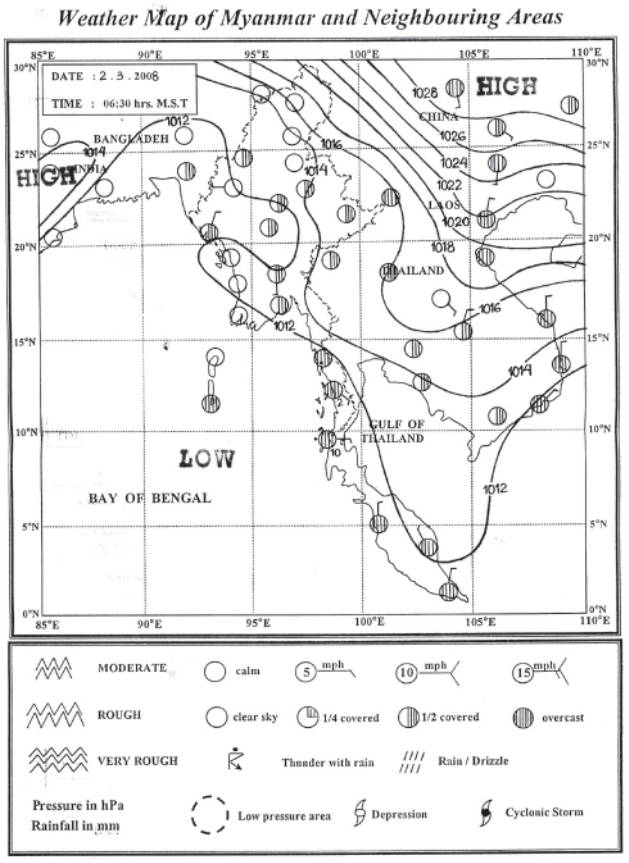
The bus was packed with people travelling to the village of Chiquimulilla in southern Guatemala when it skidded off the edge as it sped around a bend, said Mynor Rodas, a spokesman for the municipal fire department.

"It went straight into the ravine," Mynor said. The injured were taken to nearby hospitals, he said.

In rural Guatemala, peasants often travel long distances on overcrowded, rickety school buses to work as day laborers on agricultural plantations. Fatal accidents are common on the dangerous, badly maintained roads.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 2 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State and Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3ºC) below March average temperatures in Chin State, (3ºC) above March average temperatures in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (39ºC), Aunglan and Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (38ºC) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Kawthong (0.40) inch and Myeik (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 1-3-2008 was 100ºF. Minimum temperature on 2-3-2008 was 68ºF. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 2-3-2008 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 1-3-2008 was (9.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 2-3-2008 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 (5) mph from Southwest at (10:30) hours MST on 1-3-2008.

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 3-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in the central Myanmar and Deltaic areas.

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

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

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

Indonesia beefs up security for terror fugitive

JAKARTA, 2 March — The Indonesian Police and the immigration office have tightened checks on people coming to Batam Island amid speculation that fugitive terrorist Mas Selamat bin Kastari, who escaped from a detention centre in Singapore, may enter via the island, local Press said on Saturday.

National Police Chief General Sutanto has said the police increased security at some of the country's entry spots, especially Batam, with Indonesia and Singapore working together to capture the fugitive.

"It's best for him to surrender," Sutanto was quoted by major newspaper *The Jakarta Post's* website as saying.

Sutanto also asked the public to help the police by giving any information about Kastari's whereabouts.

In Batam, only about 20 kilometres from Singapore, the immigration office said it had deployed more personnel across several harbors with ferry routes to Singapore, including Batam Centre, Harbor Bay, Sekupang Port, Marina City and Nongsa Pura Port.

"We have strengthened our checks on Singaporeans coming to Batam by ferry after Kastari escaped," Tegas Hartawan, Batam Centre Port immigration office chief, told the newspaper.

"We question them in detail to make sure we can catch Kastari." Analysts said they believed Kastari would try to flee to Indonesia.

MNA/Xinhua

TV Myanmar

Monday, 3 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. Song of national races
8:05 am
6. Cute little dancers
8:15 am
7. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Grammar made easy
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Song for uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. Practice in reading
4:45 pm
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ–ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရသစာပေအရေးအသား အထူးပြု) (ရသစာပေအရေးအသား)
5:00 pm
5. တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြု ကေားသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်)
5:10 pm
6. Dance variety
5:20 pm
7. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
5:35 pm
8. Songs and dance of national races
5:40 pm
9. "ချောင်းကမ်းနားကေားကရွာကလေး" (နှဲ့.နှဲ့.စန်း၊ မြင့်မြင့်ခိုင်၊ ထင်ပေါ်၊ သဇင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–မြင့်စိုး ဝ/သရုန်ကုန်)
5:50 pm
10. Musical programme
6:00 pm
11. Evening news
6:30 pm
12. Weather report
6:35 pm
13. အလှရှာမယ်၊ လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်
6:55 pm
14. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
7:00 pm
15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်တယ်---ချစ်တယ်" (အပိုင်း–၄)
8:00 pm
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မေတ္တာမျဉ်းပြိုင်" (အပိုင်း–၈)
20. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Monday, 3 March
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music
-Little rock
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music
-To me you're everything
8:50 am National news
9:00 am Music
-About time
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music
-Atlantis is calling
1:30 pm News/ Slogan
1:40pm Lunch time music
-Let it be me
9:00 pm Spotlight of the stars
-Dolly Parton
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Durg/Women affairs
9:35 pm Vocal gems
-Romeo
9:45pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 392369

11th Waning of Tabodwe 1369 ME

The New Light of Myanmar

Monday, 3 March, 2008

People's Desire

☆ We favour stability.

☆ We favour peace.

☆ We oppose unrest and violence.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Shwebo-Htigyaing road section, regional development tasks in Sagaing Div

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and departmental officials arrived at the briefing hall between mile post No 53/2 on the district-to-district road No 3 and Shwebo-Katha-Kyaukmyaung junction on 29 February. He heard reports on progress of construction of roads and bridges between mile posts 46/6 and 61/5 on the district-to-district road No 3 presented by the chairmen of Shwebo district and township PDC. The commander made a supplementary report on widening of the road to 30 feet.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected building of Linbunkya creek crossing bridge and construction of road at mile post 61/5, and gave necessary instructions.

After hearing reports on progress of construction of bridges between mile posts No 61/5 and 82/0 presented by the chairman of KhinU Township PDC at the briefing hall near Kabut village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed the 100,000 physic nut seeds sowing ceremony at Thinbaung village in the township and presented K 1 million for construction of the village primary school to the officials.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party paid homage to Anyar Thihataw pagoda and donated cash to the board of trustees of the pagoda.

Next, they also attended the 100,000 physic nut grafts growing ceremony at Pazigyi village in Kanbalu Township.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence plants physic nut grafts.—MNA

At the briefing hall near Htandaw village in the township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on progress of construction of bridges between mile posts 82/0 and 114/7 and looked into newly-built Bugwe bridge at mile post 103.

At Khayansutgon briefing hall near the border of Shwebo and Katha districts, the chairman of Katha District PDC reported on work done and axis for building road between mile posts 115 and 118 to Lt-Gen Ye Myint who gave necessary instructions.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with members of social organizations and local people at Mayathein village in Htigyaing Township and gave instructions on regional development and extended cultivation of crops and physic nut plants.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction of Meza creek (Doepin) bridge and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with servicemen and their families and presented gifts to them at the hall of local battalion in Shwebo Township the same morning.

MNA

Free medical treatment for eye patients in Loilem

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — The Union Solidarity and Development Association, the Shan State Peace and Development Council, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Commerce and social organizations held a ceremony to provide free medical treatment to eye patients in Shan State (South) at the meeting hall of Loilem Township yesterday.

(See page 10)

INSIDE

What are your ulterior motives?

"Do only politicians have the right to take part in the drawing of the State constitution? And don't the majority of the people have any right to take part in it? The delegates to the National Convention are people from various strata such as peasants, businessmen, service personnel, intellectuals and technocrats and those who are highly regarded for their experiences in international affairs."

PAGES 8+9

SI THU AUNG