

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

Government plans to gain better learning opportunities in various regions

Prime Minister attends opening of four-storey main building of Myeik University

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — As a gesture of hailing the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony took place to open the four-storey main building of Myeik University of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) under the Ministry of Education in Myeik, Taninthayi Division, this morning. Prime Minister General Thein Sein attended the opening ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the Government's Office and departmental heads, military personnel, members of Taninthayi Division PDC, officials from division/district/township departments, teachers of university, colleges and basic education high schools in Myeik, students, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, wellwishers, local residents and guests.

First of all, students of Myeik University formally opened the four-storey main building by cutting the ribbon.

The Prime Minister planted a Gangaw tree to mark of the opening the building.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and deputy ministers grew Gangaw and star trees.

Then, the Prime Minister and members had documentary photos taken together with officials

concerned and students in front of the main building.

The Prime Minister unveiled the signboard of the four-storey building and sprinkled scented water on it.

In his opening speech on the occasion, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said it is an auspicious
(See page 7)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects Computer Training Centre and Language Lab of Myeik University. — MNA

The whole Taninthayi Division including Myeik region has a good prospect to develop significantly as it is a coastal region blessed with rich marine resources.

Towards national goal through a meaningful vote

Stability of the State, community peace, economic growth of the State and the people, and high education standard of the nation lie in the centre of the drive for building a democratic nation the people have been longing for. Now, the Tatmadaw and the people have worked hard in concert to lay down these foundations. Internal and external destructive elements were found disrupting the National Convention before the draft came to existence. Surely, they will also hinder the processes to approve it. So, the entire national people are to remain constantly vigilant against all forms of disruption.

PAGES 8+9

CHIN GYAR (MAUBIN)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 4 March, 2008

Infrastructures for better socio-economic life of the people

Taninthayi Division with long coastline is blessed with marine, forest and mineral resources. The division is also engaged in livestock breeding and agriculture on commercial scale.

In the past, due to poor transport and lack of peace and stability the division was unable to effectively tap natural resources. Nowadays, as the government has been able to bring peace and stability, security and restore law and order up to border regions local people in Taninthayi Division are now enjoying the fruits of peace and development.

Thanks to the emergence of the Dawei-Myeik-Taninthayi-Kawthoung Union highway along with large and small bridges local people are now able to travel from one place to another comfortably.

In the meantime, access from Putao, the northernmost part of the nation to Kawthoung, the southernmost part of the nation is now possible.

With better transport in the region coupled with peace and stability and rich natural resources the socio-economic life of local people has improved. At the same time, the government is building infrastructures in education and health sectors for the emergence of human resources.

At present, relentless efforts are being made for the emergence of a new democratic nation as aspired by the entire national people.

The government is building a large number of infrastructures in economic, education and health sectors to bring about equitable development the length and breadth of the nation. At such a time, the entire national people are to try their utmost for the improvement of socio-economic life of the people making better use of rich natural resources.

Myanmar government officials and Korean Ambassador to Myanmar pose for photo at orientation session for e-Government training program in the Republic of Korea in Yangon on 3 March, 2008. Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) invited 15 Myanmar officials to participate in two-week e-Government training program in the Republic of Korea from 5 to 21 March, 2008. — H



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

USDA Secretary-General meets faculty members of Myaungmya Education College



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo meeting with principal, faculty members and students of Myaungmya Education College. — A & I

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo met the principal, faculty members and students of the Myaungmya Education College, Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawaddy Division at the

Pyinyathiri hall of the college, here on 24 February.

The secretary-general gave instructions on related to the funds for the faculty members and students set up by the USDA.

MNA

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

NAY PYI TAW, 3 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 fourth day this morning.

Military band company representing Nay Pyi Taw Command, military band representing Northern

Command, military band representing Coastal Region Command, the military band representing No 101 LID, the military band representing No 88 LID, military band representing Western Command, military band company-3 representing Eastern Command and military band representing No 77 LID participated in the competition. — MNA

Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship and Library Book Award presented

YANGON, 4 March — A ceremony to award Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship and Library Book Award was held at Pyithaya Hall of Pakokku Town in Magway Division on 1 March.

First, Member of Panel of Patrons of Supervisory Committee for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Funds Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Aung Nyein made a speech on the occasion.

A prize was presented to Dr Thaw Kaung who won life-long literary award. Prizes were presented to Than Aung (Anyarmay), Aung Tha Hsan (Thandwe) and Myaylatt Min Lwin who won in selected poems, Thein Than Win (Mahlaing) and Kyunsinmyay Saw Khet in novel, Thein Zaw in selected poems, Maung Maung Nyunt (Man Tekkatho) in treatise, and Maung Yin Hlaing

(Pyinmamyang) and Ni Nyein (Anyar Tekkatho) in research literature.

Next, Vice-President of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Tin Kha (Tekkotho Tin Kha) presented scholarships to Ma Su Oo Htet (Second Year in Theatrical) and Maung Min Myat (First Year in Music) from University of Culture, and Myanmar outstanding awards to Ma Ohn Mar Myint (Shwebo Degree College), Maung Lwin Maw Oo (Mohnyin Degree College), Ma Kein The (Kalay University) and Ma Thurein Wint Wint Han (Dagon University).

Afterwards, Deputy Director-General U Ye Lwin Aung of No 2 Basic Education Department gave

away scholarships of Pakokku U Ohn Pe to winners in Myanmar. Next, Principal U Htay Aung of Pakokku Education College handed prizes to winners in Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geography, History, Economics and Optional Myanmar.

Pakokku Library Book Awards went to Dr Toe Hla and Maung Soe Htaik (Thonse). On behalf of the winners, Dr Thaw Kaung (U Thaw Kaung) expressed thanks on the occasion.

As a gesture hailing the ceremony, the PPE will keep open book stalls and Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise will show films as well as prize winning writers will give talks.

MNA

Chavez warns of “war” if Colombia strikes Venezuela

CARACAS, 3 March— President Hugo Chavez warned Colombia on Saturday it would be a “cause for war” if its forces struck inside Venezuelan territory as they did in Ecuador killing a top Colombian rebel commander there. “Don’t be

thinking that you can do that here ... because it would be extremely serious and would be a causa belli, a cause for war, (if there is) a military incursion in Venezuelan territory. There’s no excuse,” Chavez said in his most belligerent comments to

date in a diplomatic dispute with Bogota.

Colombia’s military said troops killed Raul Reyes, a leader of Marxist FARC rebels, during an attack on a jungle camp in Ecuador in a severe blow to Latin America’s oldest guerilla insurgency. The operation included air-strikes and fighting with rebels across the border.

Chavez has been at odds with US-backed Colombian President Alvaro Uribe over the Venezuelan’s mediation with the FARC, or the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, over the release of hostages held by the rebels.

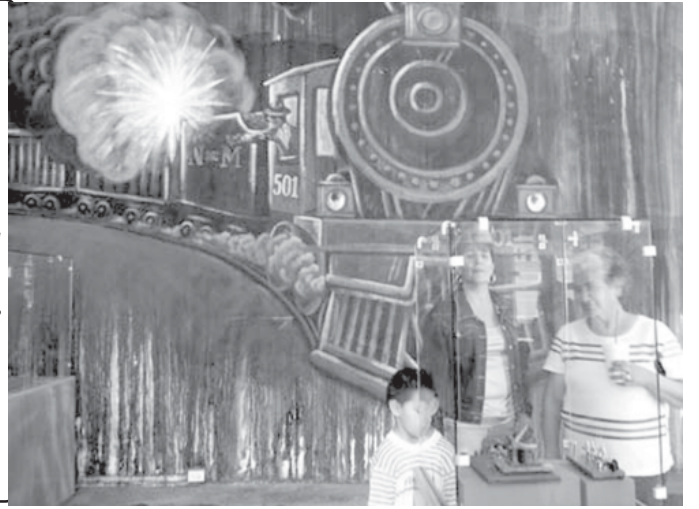
MNA/Reuters



Venezuela President Hugo Chavez.

Locals visit the railway museum in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, 2 March, 2008. The railway museum in Mexico City has been opened to the public since 2006, introducing the history of railway development in Mexico since 1907.

XINHUA



Iran says will not renegotiate 1975 Iraq border pact

TEHERAN, 3 March— Iran said on Sunday it would not renegotiate a 1975 border treaty with Iraq after the Iraqi President caused a political stir in December by saying the treaty was void, a statement he later retracted. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini said Iran would not

renegotiate the 1975 Algiers border agreement on the day Mahmoud Ahmadinejad began the first visit by an Iranian President to Iraq. A row over the border and control of the Shatt al-Arab waterway, known as Arvand Rud in Iran, was a factor leading to the Iran-Iraq 1980-88 war that left about a million dead. Iraq

said it wanted to discuss the row during Ahmadinejad’s visit. “They (Iraqi officials) came to Teheran. We had good and constructive talks within the frame-work of the 1975 treaty about some issues, including border disputes and other issues regarding the river,” Hosseini told a weekly news conference.

MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Confidence in the air for Democrat Obama

SAN ANTONIO (Texas), 3 March— After 11 straight wins in the race to become the Democratic White House nominee, Barack Obama has reason to feel good and it is showing in his demeanor on the campaign trail. There is a subtle air of confidence about the Illinois senator, even as he is quick to remind voters that he is not yet his party’s nominee and that he lost to rival Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire in January despite

expectations of a sizable victory.

“It’s a tight race,” Obama told reporters on Friday when asked how he felt about this week’s crucial primary elections. “The Clintons are formidable.”

Clinton must score significant victories on Tuesday, when primaries are held in delegate-rich Texas and Ohio, as well as Vermont and Rhode Island, to keep her presidential hopes alive. Obama’s solid per-

formance in last week’s televised debate and his interaction with crowds at rallies in Texas and Ohio illustrate a growing conviction that he is on a winning path.

MNA/Reuters

Thailand holds senatorial election

BANGKOK, 3 March — Senatorial election in Thailand kicked off Sunday morning around 76 provinces nationwide.

Each province will have one elected senator, together with 74 appointed

others to fill the 150-seat Senate (or Upper House).

About 500 candidates around the country, over 30 of them in the capital Bangkok, have registered to run in the senatorial election. The unofficial results of Sunday’s election is expected to come out late in the evening.

The 74 appointees, who have been selected by an appointed seven-member panel under the Election Commission (EC) and endorsed by the EC earlier this month, and the 76 electees will form the first Senate under the new 2007 Constitution, which was drafted by a junta-appointed committee and passed a national referendum last August after a military coup ousted the former

although the Japan-based US forces have imposed a curfew after a series of crimes.

Wesley Taft, an Airman Second Class of

Kadena Air Base, was suspected of trespassing into a construction association’s office in Okinawa City after breaking the building’s appearance glass with a 1.8-metre-long iron stick at about 6:40 am, Japanese media reported.

He was drunken when being arrested and admitted what he was accused of, police said.

MNA/Xinhua

Disguised police rob 140,000 computers in Brazil

BRASILIA, 3 March— A group of 14 men and four women, dressed in police uniform, robbed 140,000 pieces of computers and 2,000 other products in a factory in the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo, local authorities confirmed on Saturday.

The raid happened at nights of Friday and Saturday in the city of Jundiai. The fake police subdued a guard of the factory together with his wife and his daughter, and then forced the guard to lead them into the factory.

In the factory, they forced about 80 people who were working at that moment to load all they can find onto three trucks also with police symbols.

The case is still under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua



A Palestinian youth throws a stone towards Israeli troops in the West Bank city of Hebron, 2 March, 2008.—INTERNET

S Korea, US launch massive joint military drills

SEOUL, 3 March— South Korea and the United States on Sunday launched a six-day massive joint military exercise across South Korea despite Pyongyang’s strong opposition.

A great portion of the 650,000-strong South Korean troops and about 18,000 US troops, including 12,000 stationed in South Korea and 6,000 others reinforced from the US mainland and Pacific bases, will participate in the “Key Resolve” exercise scheduled from Sunday to Friday, South Korea’s *Yonhap* news agency quoted military sources as saying.

The “Key Resolve” exercise will replace the RSOI drills and is designed to provide training for the South Korean-US Combined Forces Command in the various aspects of reception, staging, onward movement, and integration of forces from bases outside of South Korea, the S Korean-US Combined Forces Command (CFC) said in a news release early last month.

North Korea denounces US-South military drills

SEOUL, 3 March—North Korea’s military denounced annual US-South Korean military exercises beginning on Sunday, saying it was a sign Washington was not about to give up its hostile policy, and vowed to strike back. Decades of the joint drills have produced no major incident but Communist North Korea routinely uses the occasion to air some of its harshest criticism of the United States.

The exercises take place days after an unprecedented concert of the New York Philharmonic in Pyongyang aimed at warming ties between foes of more than 60 years.

“All facts clearly prove once again that the US does not have any idea of dropping its hostile policy toward the DPRK at all,” the North’s Korean People’s Army said in a statement carried by official *KCNA* news agency.— *Xinhua*

Brazilian police seize radioactive material

RIO DE JANEIRO, 3 March— Brazil’s Federal Police on Friday seized 600 kilometres of thorium, a highly radioactive mineral, in the state of Amapa in the Amazon rainforest region.

The rare mineral was found in a house in the Serra do Navio Region, 200 kilometres away from the state’s capital city of Macapa.

The thorium bears a high percentage of thorium, as well as uranium, substances whose monopoly is controlled by the Brazilian Government.

The mineral can be used in the manufacturing of nuclear weapons.

The police will investigate the case, and the suspects may be charged with environmental crime,

and with the storage and commercialization of toxic materials.

In July 2004, an apprehension made by the Federal Police led to the exposure of a scheme to smuggle thorium and uranium produced in mines in northern Brazil. — *Xinhua*

Medvedev wins Russian presidential election

MOSCOW, 3 March— Dmitry Medvedev, First Deputy Prime Minister of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s Cabinet, has won the country’s fifth presidential election by a landslide, official figures released on Monday showed.

Medvedev secured his overwhelming victory by gaining 70.03 per cent of the vote, with 90 per cent of the ballots counted, Central Election Commission (CEC) figures indicated.

A candidate must obtain more than 50 per cent of the vote to win an outright victory. Otherwise, a run-off will be held between the top two front runners in the race.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov ranked second with 17.91 per cent of vote; Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy won 9.49 per cent of the vote and Democratic Party leader Andrei Bogdanov,

1.27 per cent, CEC figures showed. At a Press conference held hours after the polling,

Medvedev said he would continue Putin’s set policies.

“As for the course that

I would like to pursue, it is the path chosen eight years ago,” Medvedev said at his election headquarters early Monday.

“I outlined the main positions and priorities of this development in my speeches at various venues and forums. My positions can be characterized differently, but I think it will be a direct continuation of the Putin’s policy course,” said the youngest ever Russian president-elect. — *Xinhua*



Dmitry Medvedev.—XINHUA

Russia urges Israel, Palestinians to stop fighting

MOSCOW, 3 March — Russia called on Israel and the Palestinian territories to end the latest wave of violence to give a chance to peace talks.

At least 68 Palestinians have been killed in four days of intense Israeli airstrikes and raids in the tiny Hamas-controlled Gaza strip, home to 1.5

million people straddling Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean.

Israel said it was responding to cross-border rockets which killed an Israeli man in the border town of Sderot on Wednesday and wounded three others in the major southern city of Ashkelon.

“Moscow once again

voices its categorical condemnation of the rocket attacks on Israeli territory,” Russia’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement. “They must stop immediately.”

Moscow also said it could not accept that “shells and bombs are falling on the heads of peaceful (Palestinian) women and children, under the pretext of fighting these acts of terror”.

“Given the tough blockade of the Gaza Strip, the permanent humanitarian catastrophe, such acts by Israel only give extra arguments to those not willing that Israel and a future Palestinian state should live in peace and harmony,” the statement said.

— *Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Canadian soldier killed by roadside bomb in S Afghanistan

OTTAWA, 2 March— A Canadian soldier was killed by a roadside bomb on Sunday during a patrol in Afghanistan’s Kandahar province, Canadian Defence Ministry said.

The soldier was hit when an improvised ex-

plosive device went off as he was travelling in a convoy through the region of Mushan, 45 km west of Kandahar City, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said in a statement.

He was airlifted to a hospital but died upon

arrival.

Canada has 2,500 soldiers deployed in southern Afghanistan. Since 2002 when Canadian troops first entered the country, 79 soldiers have died there.

— *Xinhua*

A man drives his mono-wheel-motorcycle, also known as unicycle on the road.

XINHUA



Armenian President declares state of emergency

MOSCOW, 3 March — Armenian President Robert Kocharian on Saturday introduced a state of emergency in the country’s capital of Yerevan, Russian news agencies reported.

The state of emergency will remain in effect for 20 days while the police have started cracking down on street protests.

Opposition supporters have been rallying in Yerevan to protest the 19 February presidential election, which Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan won with 52.8 per cent of the vote. The opposition led by Ter-Petrosyan, who got 21.5 per cent of the vote, claimed the vote was rigged and demanded a repeat vote.

In the afternoon, protesters smashed windows of the Mayor’s Office and confronted with the police, *ITAR-TASS* reported. — *Xinhua*

EU says global trade talks face big risk of failure

MASERU (Lesotho), 3 March—A six-year push for a global trade deal faces a strong risk of collapse, Europe's trade chief said on Friday, turning up the pressure on negotiators ahead of a meeting expected in the coming weeks.

"I now fear that Doha is facing a high risk of failure — the first failure ever for a multilateral trade round," EU Trade Commissioner Peter

Mandelson said in a speech to trade ministers from some of the world's poorest countries meeting in Lesotho. "We are faced with a final window for this deal."

The World Trade Organization's Doha Round was launched in late 2001 to give the global economy a boost and help poor nations fight poverty by lowering barriers to their exports.

But the negotiations

have lurched from crisis to crisis as rich and poor countries argue about who should do what.

Next year's change of administration in Washington could push back the negotiations by several more years or cause them to collapse, trade officials have said. The WTO is expected to summon top trade officials to Geneva in March or April as it searches for a breakthrough. —MNA/Reuters



Visitors stand in front of an under-construction 300,000-tonne oil tanker (R) and an under-construction offshore drilling platform at a shipyard in northeast China's city of Dalian, in Feb 2008. —INTERNET

Policy bank to gradually go commercial



A China Development Bank office in Shanghai.

XINHUA

BEIJING, 3 March — The China Development Bank (CDB) will mainly serve medium- and long-term national development strategies even after it is transformed into a commercial bank, a senior executive said on Sunday.

The CDB cannot turn into a commercial bank immediately since it does not accept individual deposits now, but it will start doing so in the future, said Liu Keguo, vice governor of the bank.

The CDB is one of the

three policy lenders in the country.

The CDB at the end of last year received the first 5 billion US dollars of the planned 20-billion-dollar re-capitalization from Central Huijin, an investment arm incorporated into China Investment Corp (CIC). Liu said the capital injection will not affect the CDB's credit rating since it has the best asset quality among domestic banks.

It has a non-performing loan ratio below 1 percent — much lower than that of major commercial banks.

The CDB will retain its long-term credit business and the right to issue financial bonds in the interbank market.

Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

British gas bosses ordered to "give back profits"

LONDON, 3 March—The heads of Britain's biggest gas and electricity companies are being ordered by the government to hand over part of their multibillion pound profits, or face a new windfall tax.

Charities, including Help the Aged, have expressed their concern at the rising fuel bills, according to *The Sunday Telegraph*.

It is reported that the chief executives of the utility giants have been summoned to Downing Street and given a

dress-down over the soaring sums being made from millions of customers.

Unless they agree to subsidize a new nationwide "fuel poverty" scheme aimed at the 4.5-million-poorest-households, a levy will be put on their profits, the paper said.

The fuel poverty programme is to be unveiled by Alistair Darling, the Chancellor, as part of the Budget on 12 March.

The government has moved to curtail what is

increasingly seen as "excessive profiteering" by the utilities industry, with customers having to pay soaring household gas and electricity bills.

This came only weeks after the major energy providers raised prices by as much as 15 per cent.

The biggest utility, Centrica, recently announced a 571 million-British-pound (about 1,136.29 US million dollars) profit from its residential energy business British Gas, which serves 16 million customers. —MNA/Xinhua

Bangladeshi manpower export increases sharply in 2007

DHAKA, 3 March — Manpower export figure was doubled in Bangladesh in 2007 compare with 2006, according to leading newspaper *The Daily Star* on Sunday.

The number of workers cleared to work overseas in 2007 was 832,000, up from 381,000 in 2006, the newspaper quoted a statistics released by Foreign Ministry as saying.

A total of 159,000 workers have already left home for working abroad in the first two months of this year, compare to 78,000 in the same period of last year.

The ministry's Press release also said that over 20,200 workers have already gone for work in Saudi Arabia alone and the flow continues.

At present, over five million Bangladesh expatriate workers are working abroad, mainly in oil-rich Gulf countries and Southeast Asia.

As a key source of economic stability for the country, the workers sent home a record 6.56 billion US dollars in 2007.

MNA/Xinhua

UAE bans import of ruminant livestock from S Africa

ABU DHABI, 3 March—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) decided on Sunday to ban import of all living ruminant livestock and their derivatives from South Africa's Mpumalanga Province over reported cases of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) there, the official *Emirates News Agency* reported.

A ministerial resolution to that effect was issued by the UAE Minister of Environment and Water Rashid Ahmed bin Fahad.

The UAE took the move after it received a report from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on the outbreak of RVF in the South African province, the resolution said.

"The move aims to prevent any infiltration of epidemic and communicable diseases into the country in order to protect health, well-being and the safety of both man and animal," the resolution said.

The resolution instructed the ministry's Animal Wealth Department to coordinate with other competent authorities to put the ban in place. —MNA/Xinhua



A Turkish riot police officer struggles with a pro-Kurdish demonstrator, top right, wearing a brown jacket, as a plainclothes police officer, centre wearing a light brown jacket, tries to detain another demonstrator in downtown Istanbul, Turkey, on 2 March, 2008, during a protest against Turkey's cross-border ground incursion into northern Iraq. —INTERNET

Clinton faces Kenya cattle fine over Obama photo

NAIROBI, 2 March — Kenyan elders may impose a fine on US presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton, payable in livestock, after a photo of her rival Barack Obama in robes dragged their people into the race for the White House.

The picture, which appeared on a US website, showed the Illinois Senator in a white headdress and traditional Somali attire during a 2006 visit to Wajir in Kenya's remote northeast. Obama has battled a whispering campaign by fringe

elements who wrongly say he is Muslim and his aides accused Clinton's campaign of "the most shameful, offensive fearmongering" after the photograph was published.

Wajir elders resolved to file an official complaint with the US Embassy in Nairobi, dropping earlier plans to hold a protest after Friday prayers.

They said they would also convene a traditional Somali court to investigate the matter.

It can impose fines that are payable in cattle, goats or camels.

"We will go ahead with

this case whether Senator Clinton or Democratic party leaders turn up or not," said Mohamed Ibrahim, a member of the clan that hosted Obama during his trip. "But this whole thing can be avoided if only an apology is made."

The late father of the Democratic frontrunner was from western Kenya. Clinton's campaign denies authorizing the release of the controversial photo but says that, with 700 staffers, it could not be certain someone had not sent it out unofficially.

MNA/Reuters



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

Ukraine Customs seizes near 50 kilos of cocaine

KIEV, 3 March — The Ukrainian Customs has seized 46.7 kilos of cocaine in southern port city of Odessa, a custom official said on Saturday.

"The drugs were smuggled from Costa Rica to Moldova via Ukraine. They are worth about one million US dollars," Valely Khoroshkovsky, head of Ukraine's state Customs service, told a news conference in Kiev.

He said the drugs hidden inside cans were covered by bananas.

MNA/Xinhua



Dancers in traditional costumes take part in Carnaval por la Vida, or Carnival for Life, in Managua City, Nicaragua, on 1 March, 2008.

INTERNET

Senior East Timor rebel soldier surrenders

DILI, 3 March —A senior East Timorese rebel soldier accused of being involved in attacks on the tiny country's President and Prime Minister last month surrendered on Sunday, a military official said.

Rebel soldiers attacked the home of President Jose Ramos-Horta on 11 February, seriously wounding him during a gunfight. Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao, who escaped unhurt in a separate attack the same morning, ordered the country's military and police forces to form a joint command to arrest followers of rebel leader Alfredo Reinado, who was killed in the attacks. Amaro da Costa, also known as Susar, surrendered to the joint command in Turiscai, 120 kilometres (75 miles) south of the capital Dili, Filomeno Paixao, head of the joint command, told a news conference on Sunday. —MNA/Reuters

Models show new mobile handsets. Disney launched a mobile phone service in Japan on Saturday in cooperation with Softbank Corp, entering the tough Japanese cellular phone market following its withdrawal from the the United States.—INTERNET



Police arrest 200 in Chinese illegal mining crackdown

TAIYUAN, 2 March—More than 200 illegal miners have been arrested in a work safety campaign in Linfen, a coal-rich city in north China's Shanxi Province, after a deadly blast that killed 105 in December.

The city government started a thorough inspection at the end of last year of 5,400 illegal mining pits that had been closed but resumed production since 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

15 killed, 20 missing in Peruvian ferryboat accident

LIMA, 2 March—At least 15 people died and 20 more were missing after a ferryboat carrying them capsized on Friday in Peru's Amazon region, news reports said.

The boat turned over in the Tapiche River soon after it started its trip to the town of Santa Elena in Requena Province shortly before midnight.

Six people survived. Police rescue teams, aided by a helicopter, were searching for the missing.

MNA/Xinhua

Yellow fever deaths rise to 19 in Brazil

BRASILIA, 2 March—The Brazilian authorities confirmed two more deaths caused by yellow fever on Thursday, which brought to 19 the number of mortal cases of the tropical disease, local Press reported Friday.

The two new victims, a 65-year-old woman and a 44-year-old man, were registered respectively in the states of Goias and Mato Grosso do Sul. Both were infected by the virus in January.

MNA/Xinhua

Eleven killed in crime wave in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, 2 March—At least 11 people were killed on Friday in the city of Rio de Janeiro in three incidents of violence, police said on Friday.

Six suspects died in a police chase in the northern part of the city. According to the police, the chase began when two vans carrying armed suspects were spotted in the Vila Isabel District on Thursday evening, shortly before midnight.

The suspects were members of a drug-trafficking gang that also stole cars. One of the vans escaped while policemen chased the other with 15 police vehicles.

MNA/Xinhua

Government plans to gain better...

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occasion to open the four-storey main building of Myeik University as a gesture hailing the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day which reflects the milestones and oneness of the Tatmadaw and the people in their endeavours for safeguarding independence and sovereignty.

The emergence of the building with over 70 modern lecture rooms, the library and e-learning centres is a good prospect for the region to enjoy educational opportunities.

The government is striving for the balanced development of all the re-



Prime Minister General Thein Sein unveils stone inscription of the main building of Myeik University. — MNA

significantly as it is a coastal region blessed with rich marine resources. In retrospect, when the nation fell under subjugation, Taninthayi region had to experience colonialism first. It was found that the colonialists exploited the rich natural resources of Taninthayi for many years.

ment, taking the past lesson, is undertaking regional development projects in order to develop the whole Taninthayi region rapidly by designating Dawei and Myeik as special development regions.

As Taninthayi region shares borders with neigh-

Kawthoung to the south of the country to Mon State, Kayin State, Bago Division and Yangon Division through river-crossing bridges and railroads. In addition, Kawthoung, Bokpyin, Myeik and Dawei airports have been upgraded for the landing of even big airplanes. Likewise, ocean-going vessels can enter Kawthoung and Myeik, thus contributing to the development of border trade and normal trade.

Taninthayi Division has seen progress in cultivation of oil palm of private sector, ecotourism, fish and prawn breeding, sea fish-catching, pearl culture, exploration of forest, marine and offshore petroleum.

As such a time like this, education and health

infrastructures are being built across the nation. Looking at the international community, rapid changes, information and communication technology have been spread to the whole world. As they can influence all the sectors such as politics, economy, education, health and national security and defence, each and every nation is giving priority to education promotion programmes.

He said the government has laid down plans to provide better learning opportunities and higher learning in various regions and it is creating a constant learning education system that one can learn advanced science and technology of the world.

He said at this time in-

tellecuals and intelligent-sia have to be produced sufficiently in the country so that a modern developed nation can be built with the strength of highly-qualified human resources.

He said high qualification of the national races plays an important role in successful realization of transitional process for emergence of a perpetual peace and consolidated Union.

He said the government encountered hindrance, instigation, persuasion and sabotage and other ways and means and overcame them. He said it is very important for all the people to judge right and wrong with their own knowledge for national interest.

(see page 10)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets students learning at Language Lab at Myeik University. — MNA

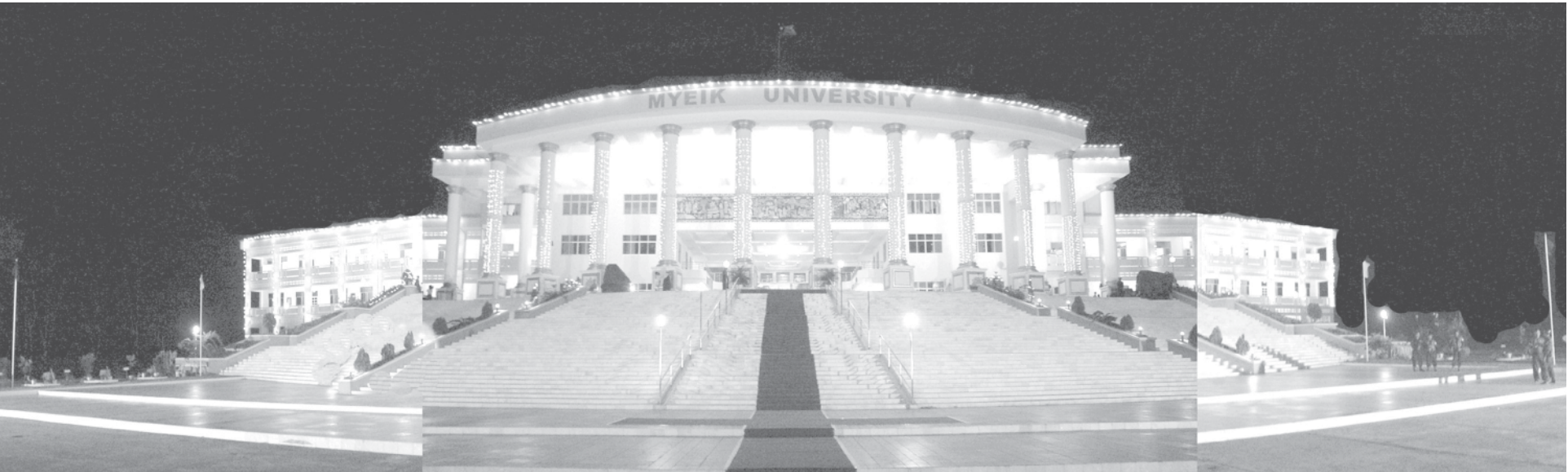
gions of the Union. And like other regions, Myeik has enjoyed its fruits of development. The whole Taninthayi Division including Myeik region has a good prospect to develop

After independence had been regained, the region was underdeveloped as there was a lack of peace and stability due to racism and various ideologies.

Today, the govern-

bouring countries, the government is encouraging the improvement of trade and transport including air and marine transport. So in the transport sector, one can travel from

Kawthoung, Bokpyin, Myeik and Dawei airports have been upgraded for the landing of even big airplanes. Likewise, ocean-going vessels can enter Kawthoung and Myeik, thus contributing to the development of border trade and normal trade.



Illuminated main building of Myeik University at night. — MNA

Towards national goal through a meaningful vote

Chin Gyar (Maubin)

The State Peace and Development Council issued the Announcement No 1/2008 and the Announcement No 2/2008 on 9 February 2008. According to the two announcements, it was learnt that in line with the fourth step of the seven-step Road Map, the approval of the State Constitution Draft will be sought in a National Referendum to be held in May 2008, and in accordance with the forthcoming State Constitution, the multi-party democracy general election will be held in 2010 as it is most appropriate to transform the administration of Tatmadaw into democratic administration of the people. The duty of the people has become clear as the timetable for the emergence of a new peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation was made public.

Moreover, the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution on 19 February 2008 signed the approval of the State Constitution Draft written in accord with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.

The National Convention started in 1993. Despite a spate of obstacles and difficulties, it was successfully concluded in 2007.

All the delegates to the National Convention firmly believed that only when there was a constitution capable of serving the interest of the State and the people would the building of a new peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation be possible. Only then, will the people be able to enjoy the fruitful results of national development. This being so, the National Convention was successfully concluded despite a series of disruptions of the internal and external destructive elements and foreign media.

peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation be possible. Only then, will the people be able to enjoy the fruitful results of national development. This being so, the National Convention was successfully concluded despite a series of disruptions of the internal and external destructive elements and foreign media.

In the course of the National Convention, the presentations of the delegates were aired by MRTV, Myawady TV and issued by the dailies continuously. As a result, we had studied those presentations thoroughly. And the people had a chance to assess the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution, the lifeblood of the nation. Besides, we were able to read the assessments of columnists and study those of Columnist Soe Mya Kyaw in the dailies as well as in the form of books.

The majority of the people had already read the book on fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution published by Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information.

Soon after the successful holding of the National Convention the staff of Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information made a field trip right down to villages and clarified matters on fundamental principles and detailed basic principles to be included in the drawing of the State

Constitution. **It is heartening to read and assess fundamental principles and detailed basic principles to be included in the State Constitution that can guarantee the perpetuation of the Union. But the internal and external destructive elements had turned a blind eye to presentations of the delegates broadcast by MRTV, Myawady TV and issued by the dailies. Instead, they reproached and found faults on the presentations. Seeing and realizing this, I wondered whether they are Myanmar citizens or not.**

Without studying the essence of the National Convention one can easily be deceived by destructive elements within and without the country and party politicians.

The State Constitution is the lifeblood of the nation. Rhajadhamma Sangaha treatise compiled by Yaw Atwinwun U Bo Hlaing in Konbaung Era was like the first Constitution of Myanmar. This was followed by 1947 Constitution and 1974 Constitution. The forthcoming State Constitution is superior to the previous Constitutions as over 1,000 delegates of eight delegate groups from all walks of life, accounting for 60 per cent of delegates of national races including those who had returned to the legal fold, have participated in the drawing of the State Constitution.

The forthcoming State Constitution has paved the way for the emergence of the Union System since the nation is home to over 100 national races. Under the forthcoming Constitution, there will be seven regions, seven states, Wa self-administered division, Dhanu, Pa-O, Palaung, Kokang and Naga self-administered zones. Federal principle problems occurred in 1962, for the right to secede from the Union was included in Section-201, Chapter-10 of the 1947 Constitution. The new Constitution was drawn based on lessons from the past.

Therefore, detailed basic principles to be included in the State Constitution covered principle that no part of the territory of the Union namely regions, states, and self-administered areas etc. shall ever secede from the Union.

In the forthcoming Constitution there will be the Pyidaungsu Hluttaws, the Pyithu Hluttaws, the Ahmyotha Hluttaw, seven Region Hluttaw, seven State Hluttaw, one self-administered division leading body and five self-administered zone leading bodies that share legislative power.

(See page 9)

All the delegates to the National Convention firmly believed that only when there was a constitution capable of serving the interest of the State and the people would the building of a new peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation be possible. Only then, will the people be able to enjoy the fruitful results of national development. This being so, the National Convention was successfully concluded despite a series of disruptions of the internal and external destructive elements and foreign media.

Towards national goal through a meaningful vote

Chin Gyar (Maubin)

(from page 8)

Whenever the nation was standing on the edge of an abyss, the Tatmadaw shouldered the national duty of safeguarding and defending the nation and sovereignty, as evidenced by the incidents that took place in 1948, 1958, 1962 and 1988. Nonetheless, politicians of certain parties remember the Tatmadaw only when they get into crises, and they are hostile towards the Tatmadaw when they go crazy about power. That is why they are objecting to the point for the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the future State. However, the designated number of Pyithu Hluttaw members is 440 and 330 of which will be elected based on population, and 110 of which will be Tatmadaw members. So, out of the number of MPs, Tatmadaw member representatives are only one third. Amyotha Hluttaw will be formed with 224 Hluttaw representatives, 168 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives elected in equal numbers from each region or state. Only 56 seats are for Tatmadaw member Amyotha Hluttaw representatives. So, the Tatmadaw member representatives will not be in a position to gain the upper hand in the cases to be decided with the majority of votes, and the appointment of Tatmadaw member representatives is to control the possible disputes if necessary in the interests of the nation.

In Myanmar, the population of Bamar is more than that of any other national race. So, other national races may get fewer opportunities if MPs are elected based on population. According to the forthcoming constitution, the electing of Pyithu Hluttaw members will be based on designation of constituencies township-wise, not on the area and population of the region concerned, reflecting no discrimination against or in favour of a particular national race.

Each national race, whose population constitutes more than 0.1 per cent of the nation's population, will be vested with power to exercise legislative power, representing at the region or state concerned.

The Chapter "Citizens, and fundamental rights and duties of citizens" fully bestow democratic rights. **Article (42) says, "Every citizen is under a duty to uphold**

- (a) Non-disintegration of the Union;**
- (b) Non-disintegration of national solidarity;**
- (c) Perpetuation of sovereignty".**

If every citizen upholds and practises this national policy, the Union of Myanmar will exist perpetually and will always be on the map of the world. Regarding neutralization of citizen, there is a noteworthy expression "A national race cannot be extinct even if its people are swallowed up by the

The forthcoming State Constitution is superior to the previous Constitutions as over 1,000 delegates of eight delegate groups from all walks of life, accounting for 60 per cent of delegates of national races including those who had returned to the legal fold, have participated in the drawing of the State Constitution.

earth, but possible if its people are initiated matrimonially by aliens". It is noticed that to adopt the detailed basic principles of the Chapter "Political Parties", the National Convention delegates held discussions thoroughly, taking into consideration the strengths and weaknesses of the multi-party system and one-party system in order to introduce an appropriate multi-party system.

The people can study the State constitution (draft) designed to hand over the power to the people in sharing of the three sovereign powers — legislative, executive and judicial powers. In relation to the legislature, legislative power is delegated to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, Region Hluttaws and State Hluttaws. And the legislative power prescribed by the National Convention is distributed to self-administered areas.

When it comes to the judiciary, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will share the judicial power with the Supreme Court, Region High Courts, State High Courts, the court of the self-administered division, courts of self-administered zones, district and township courts, military courts, and the Constitutional Tribunal.

With respect to the executive power, the nation is a republic, so State's executive power is shared with the Pyidaungsu government, Region governments, State governments. And the executive power prescribed by the State constitution is shared with self-administered areas.

The National Convention delegates representing the entire national races have made earnest efforts with national spirit to bring about a constitution that can serve the interests of the Myanmar society or the Union, taking lessons from the defects and loopholes of the previous constitutions. The Commission for Drafting the State Constitution has drafted the constitution, based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles, considering the task to be a national duty.

Myanmar is going to practise democracy in

the near future. The governing bodies of the State will be formed with those with different opinions and concepts from various organizations. The forthcoming State Constitution is intended to control these persons to serve the interests of the nation and the people without any misconduct when they lead the nation.

Moreover, after the State Constitution is approved in accordance with the wishes of the people, the schemes of certain western powers to colonize Myanmar through modern methods and make the nation a minion, and to help some national persons under alien influence come to power through a shortcut will meet their end.

Stability of the State, community peace, economic growth of the State and the people, and high education standard of the nation lie in the centre of the drive for building a democratic nation the people have been longing for. Now, the Tatmadaw and the people have worked hard in concert to lay down these foundations. Internal and external destructive elements were found disrupting the National Convention before the draft did not come to existence. Surely, they will also hinder the processes to approve it. So, the entire national people are to remain constantly vigilant against all forms of disruption.

In conclusion, I would like to urge each and every citizen to **take part in the process of approving the State Constitution (draft) through a referendum or carry out the fourth of the State's seven-step road map of the State for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation; to cast a vote with national awareness approving the State constitution (draft) through a referendum that can guarantee perpetual existence of the Union, and cast a vote-in-favour to approve the State constitution that is part of the drive for building a new nation with the noblest and worthiest of worldly values.**

Translation: TS+MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 3-3-2008

Government plans to gain better...

(from page 7)

He spoke of the need for all national races to possess nationalistic spirit and Union spirit for safeguarding the nation and to prevent against wrong racism.

He urged the local people to endeavour for stability, peace, regional development and prevalence of law and order in the country.

Next, Pro-rector Dr Than Swe of Myeik University reported on the university.

First year M.Sc student Ma Ei Phyu Myo thanked the government for construction of the university. Chairman of Yuzana Construction Group U Htay Myint handed over related documents to Pro-rector Dr Than Swe.

The Prime Minister accepted K 102 million donated by U Htay Myint (Yuzana Co) for the univer-

sity, K 10 million each for educational fund by U Win Myint and U Kyin Toe.

Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt accepted K five million each for the educational fund of the university by Dr Myat Hlaing and Daw Myat Myat Mon.

U Htay Myint of Yuzana Co presented K 50 million each for research and development fund of Myeik University and University of Computer Studies (Myeik).

The Prime Minister signed in the visitor's book. The Prime Minister and party inspected marine science booth and other booths of fisheries companies in Myeik, computer training centre and language lab.

They also visited the library and observed theses of Ph.D students.



Four-storey Main Building of Myeik University. — MNA

In 1999, Myeik College was opened and it was upgraded to a degree college in 2001 and a university in 2003. Thirteen major subjects are available at the university.

The four-storey reinforced main building, 385 feet long and 281 feet wide, includes 69 lecture halls, a meeting room, a library, three offices, a computer room, one e-learning centre, one language lab, 1,200 capacity assembly hall, and one marine science booth.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win delivers address at special meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport.—MNA



Traffic rules enforcement discussed

YANGON, 3 March — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth transport and Ministry of Rail Transport held its special traffic rules enforcement meeting at the Head Office of Road Transport Administration in Thingangyun Township today. In his address, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win said that tasks are being carried out for designating seven downtown townships in Yangon as traffic accident free zone, and the plan is under way to extend traffic accident free townships. The commander also said arrangements are being made to allot the vacant land as the temporary car park.

Next, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Chairman of Yangon Division Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun briefed them on related matters to the meeting.

Director U Aung Myint of RTAD and Joint Secretary of the Supervisory Committee Police Lt-Col Aung Naing reported on their respective tasks. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the commander.—MNA

USDA CEC Member U Soe Tha inspects regional development tasks in Twantay Township

YANGON, 2 March—CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, yesterday paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw of East Pobbayon Monastery in Kanbe Village, Twantay Township, Yangon Division Bhaddanta Paññasami and presented robes and offertories to members of the Sangha.

After that, the minister met with village elders, members of social organizations and USDAs at Atulazina Hsutaung-

pyae Dhammayon and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the USDA CEC member proceeded to Kyaungthit Pariyatti Sathintak in Twantay and presented provisions to members of the Sangha led by Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Uttamasara.

Next, he met with organizers of Ward and Village USDAs, executives, those from social organizations and departmental personnel at the Twantay Township USDA Office and fulfilled the requirements.

At the Township Planning Office, the minister met those in

charge of the Planning Officers of Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan, Thongwa, Dala, Seikkyi, Kawhmu, Kungyangon and Twantay Townships and gave necessary instructions.—MNA



Minister U Soe Tha meeting with executives and officials of USDA and members of social organizations in Twantay Township. — MNA

Hole-in-one

YANGON, 3 March— U Myo Win scored an ace at hole No 14 at Golf Course No 1 of Monywa Golf Club in Monywa yesterday while striking SRIXON No 4 ball with Honma Wood 7. His partners were Lt-Col Kyaw Min, U Aung Swa, and U Khin Maung Win (Shwe Nwa Textile Factory).—MNA

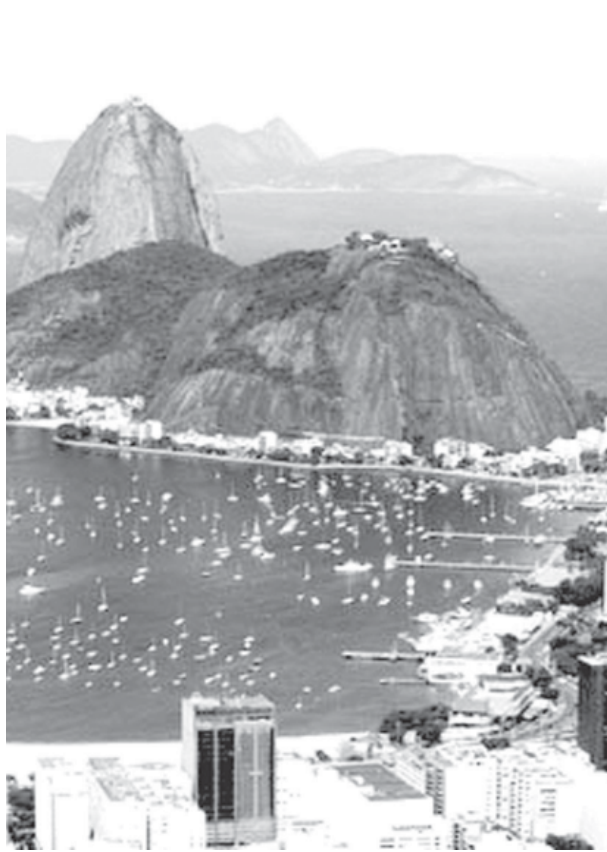


Visitors take pictures of an angel shark using their mobile phone as it passes above them during the public opening of The Manila Ocean Park, the country's first oceanarium, on 1 March, 2008, in Manila, Philippines.—INTERNET

Images of the Day



A handout image obtained on 29 February shows a puppet called 'Dustin the Turkey.' The puppet will represent Ireland in the 2008 Eurovision song contest in May.—INTERNET



A panoramic view of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Rio de Janeiro celebrated on Saturday the 50th anniversary of bossa nova, the unique Brazilian cocktail of jazz and samba that inspired generations of musicians with hits such as "Girl from Ipanema." INTERNET



A girl poses with a cartoon character during the annual Carnival Parade for children in Limassol city, Cyprus, on 2 March, 2008. The parade began on 28 Feb. —XINHUA

Brides wait for their wedding during a mass marriage ceremony in Bavla town, about 35 km (22 miles) west from the western Indian city of Ahmedabad on 3 March, 2008. A total of 55 couples from various cities took wedding vows during the day-long mass marriage ceremony organised by a Hindu voluntary organisation on Monday.—INTERNET



A worker passes a poster of an exhibit for the upcoming CeBIT fair in Hanover on 3 March, 2008. The world's biggest IT fair CeBIT opens its doors to the public on 4 March, and runs through 9 March, 2008.—INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOYNO (TBH-213)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOYNO (TBH-213) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.3.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANG PAKAEW VOYNO (156)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG PAKAEW VOYNO (156) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 3.3.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONG SAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO, LTD

Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

Four French police hurt in shooting in Paris suburb

PARIS, 3 March—Four French police officers were hurt in a shooting in a Parisian suburb on Sunday, the Interior Ministry said.

The police officers had been called to Grigny, south of Paris, after two people vandalized a baker's shop. On arrival they were confronted by about 30 people, of whom several were armed, the ministry said in a statement.

Three police officers were hit in the face by lead shot and treated on site.

A fourth was hospitalized after being wounded in the leg by shot and nails.

About 60 police were injured in clashes in a suburb to the north of Paris last November — violence that reawakened memories of weeks of rioting in 2005 during which youths in poor French suburbs torched thousands of cars.

French police carried out raids in mid-February, arresting more than 30 people they suspected of being involved in November's clashes.

A ministry official told Reuters the policemen attacked in Grigny had called for reinforcements and that none of them had fired on their assailants.

The attackers had quickly disappeared when more police officers had arrived, he added.

MNA/Reuters

Drive with care

Obama, Clinton battle over national security

PROVIDENCE (Rhode Island), 2 March—US presidential candidate Barack Obama accused rival Democrat Hillary Clinton of using the politics of fear on Saturday after her campaign released an ad suggesting that Obama lacked enough security experience to keep America safe.

"There are those who are telling you not to believe. There are those who are trying to feed your fear and your cynicism and your doubts," the first-term Illinois senator told supporters in Providence, Rhode Island.

Obama is seeking to raise doubts about Clinton's judgement, especially around her 2002 Senate vote to authorize the war in Iraq, in response to the television ad. It suggested Obama would not be able to handle a national security crisis.

The jabs over national security come as the

candidates race toward Tuesday's primary votes in Ohio and Texas, big states that are considered must-wins for Clinton.

"We've been talking about change from the start of this campaign," Obama said. "Real change isn't voting for George Bush's war in Iraq and then telling the American people it was actually a

vote for more diplomacy."

The former first lady, speaking in Texas, argued she was the only Democrat who can go toe-to-toe with Republican front-runner John McCain, a former prisoner of war who has been a strong advocate of larger troop numbers in Iraq. "My opponent is now saying that raising national security in this election is

fear-mongering ... This is a wartime election and it matters who we put into the White House," the New York senator said.

"If Senator Obama is unwilling to engage me over national security, how is he going to engage Senator McCain?" Clinton told reporters later in the day.

MNA/Reuters

South Korea tightens up monitor on FMD

SEOUL, 2 March—South Korea will strengthen monitoring of foot-and-mouth disease and beef up quarantine inspections to prevent a possible outbreak in the coming months, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry said on Friday.

"Regular visits to farms and nationwide decontamination procedures are in place in case of emergency," said Kim Chang-seob, head of the

ministry's animal health division.

About 3,000 experts will make regular inspections of farms, while 15,000 personnel will be ready to quarantine the area of any outbreak, the ministry said. According to the ministry, the measures will go into effect on Saturday and will be maintained through May.

It also calls for tightening inspections of travelers and goods at

international air and sea terminals.

There have been no foot-and-mouth cases reported in South Korea since February 2002.

Foot-and-mouth disease is highly contagious, affecting cattle, pigs, deer, goats and sheep. The disease causes blisters on the mouth and feet of livestock and leads to death. It is rarely transmitted to humans.

MNA/Xinhua

Abbas says Israel must stop its offensive

RAMALLAH, 2 March — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called on Israel on Saturday to stop its military offensive on the Gaza Strip, which killed 28 Palestinians in a single day.

Speaking to members of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) in a meeting held in Ramallah, Abbas said that the current Israeli threats and escalation against Gaza "is very dangerous".

He urged Israel to end its offensive immediately and reopen the crossings of Gaza that it closed for more than eight months.

On the other hand, he also called on all militant groups to stop launching rockets at Israel to deny Israel any excuse for aggression.

"This would help in ending the suffering of our people and avoid more disasters," Abbas said.

Palestinian medics and witnesses said that the

Israeli Army carried out a ground operation into an area east of the Jabaliya Town in northern Gaza Strip, killing 28 Palestinians and wounding more than 60 others.

In spite of Israeli ground and airstrikes, several militant groups, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad (Holy War), claimed responsibility for launching dozens of homemade rockets and mortars at Israel.

MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills two, wounds five in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 2 March—Two civilians were killed and five others sustained injuries Saturday as a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in Khost province of eastern Afghanistan, an official at the Press department of Afghan Interior Ministry said.

A remote-controlled bomb planted by militants struck the civilian vehicle in Babrak Tana area of Ali Shir district at around 9:00 a.m. (0430 GMT), killing two persons and wounding five others including a woman, the official told Xinhua but refused to be identified, saying a press release would be issued in this regard.

Taleban insurgent, fighting Afghan Government and foreign troops since fall from power in late 2001, have yet to make comment. Militancy-related violence had left more than 6,000 people dead in 2007 and the Taleban militants have vowed to intensify their attacks this year.—MNA/Xinhua



Pakistani tribesmen gather at the suicide attack site in Zarghon village near the tribal town of Darra Adam Khel.—INTERNET



In this photo released by The Institute of Cetacean Research, Japan Coast Guard official stands guard on a Japanese whaling ship as activists aboard a boat operated by Sea Shepherd approaches in Antarctic waters on 3 March, 2008. — INTERNET

Magically delicious breakfast keeps US teens lean

WASHINGTON, 3 March — Teenagers who regularly eat breakfast tend to weigh less, exercise more and eat a more healthful diet than their breakfast-skipping peers, US researchers said on Monday.

The study involved 2,216 adolescents in the Minneapolis-St Paul area of Minnesota whose eating patterns, weight and other lifestyle issues were tracked for five

years. They were just under 15 years old when they entered the study, which was published in the *journal Pediatrics*.

The more regularly the teens ate breakfast, the lower their body mass index was, according to the study. BMI is a measure of body weight relative to height. Those who always skipped breakfast on average weighed about 5 pounds (2.3 kilos) more than

their peers who ate the meal every day.

“What we found in the study was that kids who eat breakfast frequently, and especially every day, they’re more healthy overall in terms of their lifestyle,” Mark Pereira of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

MNA/Reuters

Three Mars orbiters being moved into position

LOS ANGELES, 3 March — Three satellites from Earth orbiting Mars are getting moved into position to watch the mission of NASA’s latest Mars lander which will descend on the red planet in May, local media reported on Saturday.

The *Phoenix* lander, the first robotic spacecraft in the Mars Scout programme, was launched on 4 August, 2007, and is scheduled to land in the icy northern polar region of Mars on 25 May, 2008.

The three orbiters will watch the landing from above and relay radio data to Earth from the Phoenix as the lander hits the Mars air at an initial speed of 12,750 miles (20,514 kilometres) per hour, the US space agency’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory

(JPL) said.

Longtime Mars planetary scientist Peter Smith at the University of Arizona said the Phoenix lander will use its heat shield, a parachute, and finally a rocket thruster to touch down on the surface of Mars.

Orbiting overhead will be the trio of spacecraft controlled from the JPL in Pasadena, California. Powerful radio transmitters using dish-shaped antennae will relay telemetry from the Phoenix to ground stations on Earth. “We will have diagnostic information from the top of the atmosphere to the ground that will give us insight into the landing sequence,” said JPL Phoenix deputy project manager David Spencer. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan may invest \$1.93b in climate fund

TOKYO, 3 March — Japan is planning to invest up to 1.93 billion US dollars in an international fund aimed at encouraging the use of renewable energy technology in developing countries, the *Nikkei* financial daily said on Sunday.

The fund, to be set up jointly with the United States and Britain, is expected to be the largest ever of its type, with total investment of about 500 billion yen (4.82 billion US dollars), the *Nikkei* said.

By investing in technologies such as wind

and solar power in less developed countries, participating governments hope to encourage private finance to follow suit, the newspaper said without identifying its sources.

The British Government last year announced 800 million pounds in support for the fund over three years, while the United States said this year it would provide two billion US dollars, also over three years, the *Nikkei* said.

Spain and other European nations are considering participating, it said. — MNA/Reuters



A worker checks the Anatomic Symbolic Mapper Engine (ASME), from IBM Healthcare, during preparations ahead of the CeBIT fair in Hanover on 2 March, 2008. According to IBM, the technology allows doctors to click with the computer mouse on a particular part of the avatar “body” to trigger a search of medical records to retrieve relevant information. — INTERNET

High winds kill eight, cut power in central Europe

VIENNA/ PRAGUE, 3 March — Gale-force winds hammered Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic on Saturday, killing at least eight people, snarling transport networks and cutting power lines.

In Germany, trains were delayed by uprooted trees and an intercity express collided with a fallen tree between the cities of Cologne and Koblenz, injuring the driver.

Nearly 130 flights to or from Frankfurt Airport

were either cancelled or diverted, a spokesman said.

Officials said air traffic in Austria and the Czech Republic was also briefly interrupted when the storm, packing winds of between 155 kilometres per hour (96 miles per hour) and 180 kilometres per hour (110 miles per hour) lashed parts of central Europe.

The storms left a mounting death toll across the region.

MNA/Reuters



Face of gold : An Egyptian gold mask is displayed as part of the exhibition “Isis and the Feathered Serpent”, in the National Museum of Anthropology and History in Mexico City.

INTERNET

GSK bird flu vaccine shows broad cross protection

HONG KONG, 3 March — A vaccine designed by GlaxoSmithKline to protect people against the H5N1 bird flu may be effective in warding off a few different sub-types of the virus, the company said on Sunday.

In an Asian clinical trial involving 1,206 adults in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand, the vaccine produced antibodies that not only neutralized the H5N1 virus found in Vietnam, but also the variant now dogging Indonesia.

“The vaccine was made using the Vietnam strain. In principle, there is a very broad antibody reactivity that’s being induced. These are neutralizing antibodies and they do correlate with protection,” Albert Osterhaus, head of virology at the Erasmus Medical Centre in the Netherlands, told *Reuters* when asked for comments about the study.

Osterhaus was not involved in the study, but is familiar with the results and methodology.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Villarreal draw a blank against dogged Osasuna

MADRID, 3 March — Villarreal missed their chance to tighten their grip on a Champions League berth on Sunday when they were held to a 0-0 draw at home by struggling Osasuna.

Manuel Pellegrini's side lacked their usual fluency and bite in attack and were unable to break down a dogged Osasuna defence in a dour affair at the Madrigal.

Despite the draw Villarreal remain in third spot in the table, but are now just three points clear of Atletico Madrid who thumped second-placed Barcelona 4-2 at the Calderon on Saturday.

Real Madrid cashed in on Barcelona's slip-up with a 3-2 win at Recreativo Huelva on Saturday that allowed them to restore their five-point advantage over the Catalans at the top of the table.

MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's Fabio Aurelio, left, scores during their English Premier League soccer match at the JJB Stadium, Bolton, England, on 2 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Blunder helps Napoli hand Inter first defeat

ROME, 3 March — Marcelo Zalayeta capitalized on an early blunder by Inter Milan keeper Julio Cesar as Napoli ended the leaders's unbeaten record in Serie A on Sunday with a 1-0 home win.

Zalayeta chipped into an empty net in the third minute after Cesar, who saved a penalty from the Uruguayan striker in the second half, tapped an intercepted long pass to him instead of hoofing away.

Inter still have a six-point lead over AS Roma, who are on 55 points from 26 games after thrashing Parma 4-0 on Saturday.

Earlier on Sunday Fiorentina beat third-placed Juventus 3-2 to move within a point of the Turin side in the standings.

Fifth-placed AC Milan are four points adrift of the Florence club and the Champions League qualification zone after being held 1-1 by Lazio at the San Siro on Saturday. Napoli continued to dominate after going ahead and Cesar repelled efforts by Marek Hamsik and Paolo Cannavaro before saving Marco Materazzi's blushes before halftime when he palmed the defender's mishit attempted clearance off the line.

The Brazilian keeper was busy again in the second half, pushing away a well-struck Hamsik shot and saving the 75th minute spot-kick, conceded for a foul he had committed on Walter Gargano.

MNA/Reuters

Wenger backs striking pair Boss confident over partnership

LONDON, 3 March — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger insists that Emmanuel Adebayor and Nicklas Bendtner are more than capable of forming a strike-partnership.

The two players had a high-profile on-field bust-up during their Carling Cup semi-final defeat against Tottenham.

The pair insist there is no issue between them and Wenger feels that they do not even need to be friends in order to be successful on the pitch.

"I don't know if they like each other or not - but basically I don't see there is a problem," said Wenger ahead of Tuesday's crucial UEFA Champions League last 16 second leg clash with

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger

Milan. "You don't have to be friends to play well together.

"You have it in every team, but I think they get on quite well. But once the suspicion is in people's heads they look at every single movement to see if there is a problem or not, but I don't think there is a problem.

"I haven't seen any evidence that there is big friction there. There was one incident at Tottenham, but they sorted it out."

Internet



Moyes delays deal talks Toffees boss puts contract negotiations to one side

LONDON, 3 March — David Moyes has put his contract talks on hold while Everton battle it out for a UEFA Champions League place.

The Toffees are thought to be keen to offer the former Preston boss new terms at Goodison Park, although Moyes is yet to meet with chairman Bill Kenwright.

Moyes, whose current deal is due to expire at the end of next season, is keen to resolve his long-term future, but does not want his team's focus distracted at such a crucial stage of

the campaign.

Sunday's 3-1 success over Portsmouth kept Everton in fourth place in the Premier League and three points ahead of rivals Liverpool, who won 3-1 at Bolton. —Internet



David Moyes

Utrecht beat PSV 3-1, Ajax narrow gap at the top

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 3 March — Leaders PSV Eindhoven suffered a 3-1 defeat at Utrecht on Sunday, allowing second-placed Ajax Amsterdam, 4-0 winners against Excelsior Rotterdam, to close the gap to six points in the Dutch league.

Timmy Simons converted a 29th-minute penalty to give PSV the lead but Utrecht equalized through Robin Nelisse six minutes later and Tim Cornelisse put his side ahead on the stroke of halftime.

Gregoor van Dijk sealed the victory for Utrecht from the penalty spot with 14 minutes remaining.

Klaas Jan Huntelaar scored two first-half goals to give Ajax a comfortable halftime lead. Urby Emanuelson added a third 10 minutes after the break before Leonardo scored the fourth with five minutes left.

With seven matches remaining PSV are top with 59 points, followed by Ajax on 53. The rivals will meet each other next week in Eindhoven. NAC Breda are third with 50 points following a 3-0 home win over Sparta Rotterdam on Saturday. —MNA/Reuters

Daei to be Iran national coach, media reports

TEHERAN, 3 March — Iran has appointed former striker Ali Daei as the country's new national coach, Iranian media reported on Sunday, after a long search and last minute confusion about who had been given the job.

Daei is to take over after an attempt to secure Javier Clemente failed when the Spaniard refused to live in Iran and following an unsuccessful bid to woo Artur Jorge of Portugal.

Several Iranian news agencies and state broadcasters reported Daei's appointment, including Fars news agency which earlier on Sunday quoted an official from Iran's Football Federation (FFI) saying another Iranian, Afshin Qotbi, had been picked.

Fars, like others, cited FFI head Ali Kafashian for its report that Daei had been chosen to be the coach.

MNA/Reuters

Everton beat Portsmouth to reclaim fourth spot

LONDON, 3 March — Everton beat Portsmouth 3-1 at Goodison Park on Sunday to move back into fourth place in the Premier League after their Merseyside rivals Liverpool briefly moved into the position earlier in the day.

Liverpool also won 3-1, at relegation-threatened Bolton Wanderers, in Sunday's early kickoff and briefly moved ahead of Everton until David Moyes's men scored an emphatic win over Pompey.

Yakubu Aiyegbeni put Everton ahead after 47 seconds against his former club and scored his second of the game to make it 3-1 nine minutes from time.

He has now scored six goals in his last three games since return-

ing from Nigeria's African Cup of Nations campaign.

Jermain Defoe had pulled Portsmouth level after 38 minutes but Tim Cahill's well-taken 73rd-minute header restored Everton's advantage.

The race for the fourth Champions League spot will take another twist on Wednesday when Liverpool take on West Ham United at Anfield.

Liverpool went ahead at Bolton when Wanderers keeper Jussi Jaaskelainen conceded a bizarre own goal after 12 minutes.

Diving to his right to stop a Steven Gerrard shot that appeared to be going wide, the ball spun off the keeper's body and bounced back into the net. —MNA/Reuters



Ernie Els poses for photos after winning the Honda Classic golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla, on 2 March, 2008, with a score of six-under par.—INTERNET

Six suspects detained from Afghanistan's Zabul

KABUL, 3 March — Six suspected insurgents have been detained during a combined operation of Afghan security forces and the US-led Coalition troops in the country's south province of Zabul, said a Coalition statement issued here on Saturday.

The arrests were made on 29 February when the joint force searched compounds in the Deh Chopan District of Zabul "targeting a Taliban commander with ties to

Taliban support networks and weapons facilitation operations in the area", it said.

The Coalition said the detainees would be questioned on their involvement in Taliban operations as well as other extremist activities.

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

Study shows need to ditch "Katrina" trailers

WASHINGTON, 3 March — Certain brands and sizes of trailers used to house victims of Hurricane Katrina release more formaldehyde than others and officials say they want to check a wider selection of temporary housing.

A report by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention obtained by Reuters did not find a clear enough pattern to state definitively that the products of any one manufacturer were more dangerous than another. But the CDC called for more investigation into the differences it identified. "There are different

brands that are statistically significantly higher than other brands," Dr Michael McGeehin from the CDC's National Centre for Environmental Health said in a telephone interview.

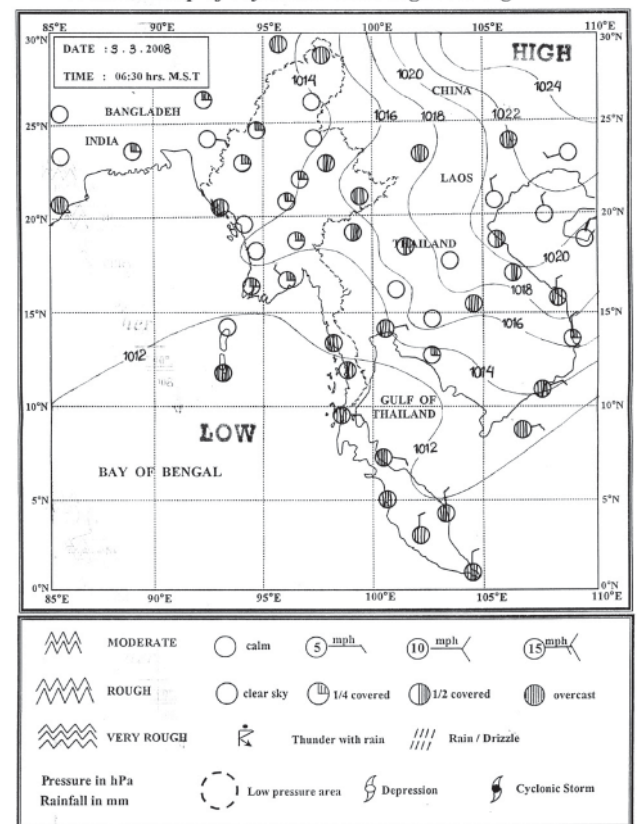
The larger, park model trailers, up to 400 square feet (37 square metres) in size, appeared to have the lowest formaldehyde levels while the smallest mobile homes tended to have the highest, the report shows.

Formaldehyde, a chemical used in the manufacture of building materials, can irritate the skin, eyes, nose and throat. High levels of exposure may cause cancer.

A random sampling of trailers showed some examples of every type and brand had very high levels of formaldehyde, while other examples of every type and brand had very low levels. People have been living in them since hurricanes Katrina and Rita ripped across the Gulf Coast in the late summer of 2005.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 3 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (4°C) below March average temperatures in Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay Division and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana, Chauk and Hpa-an (38°C) each, Aungmye, Tharrawady and Hinthada (37°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 2-3-2008 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 3-3-2008 was 64°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 3-3-2008 was 54%. Total sunshine hours on 2-3-2008 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 3-3-2008 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 2-3-2008.

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 4-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Tanintharyi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, 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 isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 4-3-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-3-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-3-2008: Generally fair weather.



Lyon's Cris, right, challenges Lille's Patrick Kluivert for the ball during their French first league soccer match at the Stade de France in Saint Denis, outside Paris, on 1 March, 2008.—INTERNET



Tuesday, 4 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. ကဗျာပန်းညွှာ

- 8:05 am**
6. Song of yesteryear
- 8:15 am**
7. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့, ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Let's go
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song for uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ—တတိယနှစ် (စီးပွားရေးပညာအထူးပြု) (စီးပွားရေးပညာ)
- 4:45 pm**
4. Dance of National Races
- 5:00 pm**
5. တပ်မတော်နေ့, ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်)

- 5:10 pm**
6. ခံစားနားဆင်တေးဇာတ်ဝင်
- 5:20 pm**
7. Sing and Enjoy
- 5:50 pm**
8. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့, ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 6:00 pm**
9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
11. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ
- 6:50 pm**
12. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညွှန်း
- 7:05 pm**
13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်တယ်—ချစ်တယ်” (အပိုင်း-၅)
- 8:00 pm**
14. News
- 8:05 pm**
15. International news
- 8:10 pm**
16. Weather report
- 8:15 pm**
17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မေတ္တာမျဉ်းဖြိုင်” (အပိုင်း-၉)
- 8:20 pm**
18. The next day's programme



Tuesday, 4 March

Tune in today

- 8:30 am** Brief news
8:35 am Music
-Take your chance
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music
-Obsession
8:50 am National news
9:00 am Music
-Base of love
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music
-I swear
1:30 pm News/ Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music
-Just the way you are
9:00 pm English speaking course
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Weekly sports reel
9:35 pm Listening pleasure
-Always somewhere
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

People's Desire

- ★ We favour stability.
- ★ We favour peace.
- ★ We oppose unrest and violence.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets departmental officials, social organizations, townselders in Htigyaing Township

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and departmental officials attended the physic nut growing ceremony held at Htigyaing model village on 1 March.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party viewed the growing of 23,800 physic grafts on 19 acres and 84,000 seeds on 70 acres by departmental officials and social organizations.

At the meeting hall of Htigyaing Township PDC Office, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with Chairman of the Township PDC and members, division, district and



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects 260-acre sugarcane plantation in Htigyaing Township. — MNA



township level departmental officials, social organizations and townselders.

Chairman of Htigyaing Township PDC U Tint Lwin explained matters on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and regional development tasks. Later, the commander gave a supplementary report.

After fulfilling the needs, Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed officials to make efforts for the development of the region, to grow perennial crops and to cooperate with the local people in implementing regional development tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected Htigyaing township People's Hospital. Deputy

Director-General Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein of Health Department and Acting TMO Dr Daw Kyu Kyu explained facts about the hospital. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions and presented K 500,000 for the Hospital.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Great Wall Foodstuff Co Ltd and the

260-acre sugarcane plantation. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into the land preparation, growing and harvesting of sugarcane and Ethanol plant and No-2 Great Wall sugar mill where they were conducted around by managing director U Tin Maung.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint was conducted

around the construction site of Gasohol Factory by Managing Director U Tin Maung and gave the necessary instructions. The mill can crush 120 tons of sugarcane per day. And it plans to produce 36,000 tons of Ethanol (11,250,000 gallons).

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Global warming may speed up Nile river evaporation



One scenario set out by climatologists is that global warming in Egypt could speed up the Nile river evaporation process.

CAIRO, 3 March— Nahla Abou El-Fotouh of the Strategic Unit at the National Water Research Centre in Cairo said scientific studies have shown conflicting climate change scenarios for the future availability of Nile water as a result of global warming and changes in the earth's hydrological cycle.

Some experts say that there will be water increase with more rainfall from the Ethiopian pla-

teau, and some say there will be a decrease because of water evaporation.

"Some experts say that there will be water increase with more rainfall from the Ethiopian plateau, and some say there will be a decrease because of water evaporation. Until now, no specific research has been developed to determine exactly the impact of climate change on Nile water availability. All (stud-

ies) that have been published so far are only predictions." A 2004 report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said a rise in temperature of just one degree centigrade would lead to large evaporation losses and significantly reduce Nile flows, assuming a 4 percent increase in evaporation per degree centigrade rise in temperature.—Internet