

Thai Prime Minister to pay goodwill visit to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 11 March — At the invitation of General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Mr Samak Sundaravej, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, will pay a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar in the near future. — MNA

Yangon Division Sub-Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution meets

YANGON, 10 March — Yangon Division Sub-Commission for Holding Referendum for the Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held work coordination meeting (1/2008) at the General Administration Department, on Saya San Road, Bahan Township here this afternoon.

U Thaung Nyunt and U Myat Thu, members of the Commission for Holding Referendum for the Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, chaired the meeting. U Thaung

Nyunt gave an opening speech.

The chairman of Yangon Division Sub-Commission explained the referendum law and rules for the approval of the draft constitution. The secretary of YDSC reported on the formation of District and Township Sub-Commissions.

Later, the participants of the meeting discussed general matters and U Thaung Nyunt gave concluding remarks.

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



Yangon Division Sub-Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution holds coordination meeting 1/2008. — MNA

**I
N
S
I
D
E**

Let's approve State Constitution (draft) to shape prosperous future (1)

Now, the entire national brethren are working hard together, while exerting the fine traditions of national solidarity to build a peaceful and prosperous democratic nation in accordance with the State's seven-step Road Map.

PAGE 7

KHAING MYO NYILAR AUNG

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 11 March, 2008

Work hard for boosting export of marine products

Fish and prawn are in abundance in rivers, creeks, tributaries, lakes and along the coast of Myanmar. The nation is now engaged in freshwater fish and prawn farming and coastal and deep-sea fishery on a commercial scale.

Marine products such as fish, prawn, crab and eel are distributed at home for local consumption, and the surpluses are exported through regular trade and border trade. The products are also exported by cargo ships through Myeik port and through the cold storage of Muse 105th Mile Trade Zone.

Crabs and eels caught along the Rakhine coast and fish and prawn from Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions are transported to Muse 105th Mile Trade Zone all-year round. About 50 species of fish are transported daily to the Myanmar-China border.

Myanmar's marine products go mostly to Japan and China. Continued efforts are to be made to export quality products in accordance with the demands in the markets. In particular, special attention is to be paid to keeping fish and prawn fresh and application of advanced methods in exporting marine products.

Now, drift nets are common in catching some species of fish that are in high demand in foreign markets such as pomfret fish, tassel fish and hilsa fish in the deep-sea fishery. So, it is required to take systematic approaches to be able to avert depletion of fish species and net only large ones.

In the process, emphasis is to be put on boosting production of value-added products and extensive raising of freshwater and sea water fish and prawn in order that Myanmar's marine products will gain a foothold in the international market.

122 fires broke out in February

YANGON, 10 March—A total of 122 fires broke out in the whole nation in February 2008. 105 fires broke out due to negligence, 12 due to short-circuit and five due to arson.

The fires destroyed 2380 homes, four factories/workshops and 10 warehouses leaving 6,349 people homeless, 13 people dead and 12 injured with 105 animals dead.

86.07 percent of fires broke out due to negligence. Most of fires broke out in Mandalay Division followed by Yangon Division and Shan State.

Most property was lost in Mandalay Division, followed by Taninthayi Division and Yangon Division.

In Mandalay Division, 27 fires broke out and most were due to negligence.

The Fire Services Department is taking fire preventive measures for the people. — MNA

People's Desire

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

Commander and Minister meet MFR officials and staff in Shan State (North)



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun meeting with employees under MRF of Shan State(North) in Lashio.— F & R

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun attended the meeting with the officials and staff of the MFR in Shan State (North) at the City Hall in Lashio on 8 March.

They looked into the MEB and State Manager's Office, State/District/Township Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance

and Revenue in Lashio and fulfilled the need after hearing reports of officials concerned.

On 7 March, the minister inspected the Myanma Economic Bank in Nawngkhio, Kyaukme, Hsipaw and Myanma Small Loans Department (Branch) in Hsipaw.

After hearing reports on services of Banks by Managing Director U Myat Maw and officials, the minister gave necessary instructions.

MNA

MPMEEA members leave for Malaysia

YANGON, 10 March — CEC members Dr Myo Thant and U Khin Maung Win, Dr Su Hla Han, Daw Kaing Zar Thant, Dr San Lwin and U Aung Zaw Win led by Vice-President U Zaw Min Win of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs' Association Dr Win Si Thu left here for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia by air yesterday to attend Asia Health Care 2008 Conference & Business Meeting to be held from today to 12 March.

MNA

Weiza Magazine comes out

YANGON, 10 March — The Weiza Magazine No 7 of April edited by Maung Pan Hmawe and Maung Twe Chon is in circulation.

It carries articles that will widen the scope of knowledge on and promote the practices on Samatha Vipassana. It also covers Eisitan Maha Muni Buddha Image steps of Vipassana of Sayadaw U Gawsita, Panipatti and health aspects of Pyay Wai Ponlayama Sayadaw and other range of knowledgable items.

The magazine embraces the works of eminent writers such as Thar Ga Doe, Chit Oo Nyo, Hein Latt, Hla Moe (Education), Myaylat Myat Thu, Sanzarni Bo, Maung Khine Khant, Dr Thin Thin, Khin Saw Tint, Kaung Thaw, Yan Aung Hein and Dhamma Cariya U Aung Kyaw Moe,

It is available at Taw Win Myo Ma Bookshop, Yangon Ph: 245284. — MNA

Cover of Weiza Magazine.

Clintons push a Hillary/Obama ticket

WASHINGTON, 10 March — Hillary and Bill Clinton are again teaming up on Barack Obama — this time saying the first-term US lawmaker, whom they have derided as inexperienced, would be a strong running mate on a Democratic presidential ticket headed by the former first lady.

In hailing Obama as a possible vice president, the Clintons are reaching out to him and, perhaps more importantly, to his backers, whose support she would need to defeat Republican presidential candidate John McCain in the November election.

“The Clintons are in a difficult position,” said

Dennis Goldford, a political science professor at Drake University in Iowa, who has tracked the presidential race.

“If she wins the Democratic presidential nomination, she would need Obama’s supporters. But she needs to be careful. If this talk of him on the ticket is seen as a cynical manoeuvre, it could

backfire and hurt her,” Goldford said.

Obama leads Clinton, a fellow Democratic senator, in a bruising race for their party’s presidential nomination, but neither is likely to reach the 2,025 delegates needed to become the nominee in the remaining state by state contests.

MNA/Reuters

Helicopters save 775 Russians trapped on ice drift

Moscow, 10 March — Russian helicopters rescued 775 fishermen stranded on ice sheets drifting into the Pacific Ocean on Sunday.

The men had walked a few kilometres across the ice pack surrounding the remote island of Sakhalin

in Russia’s far-east to fish over the ocean, news agencies quoting local emergency services reported. Ice fishing is a popular hobby in Russia. Groups of men head out over frozen lakes, rivers and seas during the long winters carrying their

fishing lines, a drill to bore through the ice and a stool.

Vodka is often taken to ward off the cold and to toast success.

The ice fishermen drill a hole in the ice, dangle their fishing line through it and then sit and wait.

During the spring thaw fishermen are often trapped on chunks of ice floating out to sea or fall into rivers through the thinning ice.

MNA/Reuters

Hamas, Islamic Jihad to discuss ceasefire in Egypt

GAZA, 10 March — Palestinian factions Hamas and Islamic Jihad (Holy War) will visit Egypt next week to continue the talks on ceasefire deal with Israel under Egyptian mediation, an Islamic Jihad leader said on Saturday. Khaled al-Batsh told reporters that a delegation from his movement visited Al-Arish city in Sinai last week as part of preparations for the talks which will focus on the calmness, internal Palestinian dialogue, lifting the siege and reopening crossings into Gaza Strip. Israel imposed a strict blockade on the Gaza Strip since last June when Hamas took over the territory from President Mahmoud Abbas’ forces. In addition to the siege, Israel stepped up military operations in the Hamas-ruled coastal Strip.

Al-Batsh said there have been talks on ceasefire “but the Islamic Jihad can accept it only when the occupation stops its crimes and becomes ready to give the Palestinians their rights”. —MNA/Xinhua



Performance artists wear plastic bags to raise people’s awareness of the “white pollution” in Hanzhou, capital of eastern China’s Zhejiang Province, on 9 March, 2008. —INTERNET



People visit the repaired Wuhou Temple in Hanzhong of northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, on 9 March, 2008. The temple was established in 263 AD, owning some 90 steles spanning dynasties and 34 human statues. —XINHUA

Action would be taken anti-Govt movements in Thailand

BANGKOK, 9 March — Thailand’s Foreign Minister Noppadon Pattama said Saturday the government would take drastic action against movements by activist groups because their actions would tarnish the country’s image in the eyes of the international community.

Noppadon was quoted by the state-run *Thai News Agency* as saying that he

was concerned about the government’s attempts to improve the country’s image after the activist group, the People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD), had renewed its activities during the past two weeks.

The PAD’s movements could send wrong signals to foreign countries that Thailand’s political stability was still not secure, and this could deter

foreigners from investing in the country, he said.

“The government won’t allow these bullying people to stay above the law and it also won’t allow anyone from slowing down the democratic system from making headway,” Noppadon said, noting that some leading members of the PAD were also members of the House of Representatives attached to a major political party.

He urged the unnamed party to disclose its political stance.

Noppadon said the activists could still hold rally, which is allowed by the constitution, but they cannot threaten or use force against the government or otherwise violate the law.

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US soldier killed in bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 March — An American soldier was killed and another injured by an explosion in the volatile province of Diyala in northeast of Baghdad, the US military said on Saturday.

A soldier assigned to Multi-National Division - North died due to fatal wounds from an explosion

occurred during operations in the province on Friday, a military statement said.

The military gave no further details about the incident but said the name of the deceased was being withheld pending family

notification.

The latest death brings the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq to about 3,975 since the outbreak of US-led invasion in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures. — MNA/Xinhua

Drugs found in drinking water for at least 41 mln Americans

LOS ANGELES, 9 March — A probe has found that drinking water for at least 41 million Americans contains a vast array of pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones.

Drugs have been detected in the drinking water supplies of 24 major metropolitan areas — from Southern California to Northern New Jersey, from Detroit to Louisville, Kentucky, according to the

probe made public on Sunday.

“The presence of so many prescription drugs — and over-the-counter medicines like acetaminophen and ibuprofen — in so much of our drinking water is heightening worries among scientists of long-term consequences to human health,” said the probe conducted by the *Associated Press*.

But the probe said the concentrations of these pharmaceuticals are tiny,

measured in quantities of parts per billion or trillion, far below the levels of a medical dose. Also, utilities insist their water is safe. Water providers rarely disclose results of pharmaceutical screenings, unless pressed, the probe found. For example, the head of a group representing major California suppliers said the public “doesn’t know how to interpret the information” and might be unduly alarmed. —Internet

Egypt satisfy with AL resolution on Lebanon

CAIRO, 10 March — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit on Saturday expressed his country’s satisfaction with the latest Arab League (AL) resolution on Lebanon.

Abul Gheit made the remarks during his meeting with Mohamed Shatah, political adviser to the Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Seniora, Egyptian

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossam Zaki told reporters.

The latest AL resolution adopted at the AL foreign ministerial meeting held on Wednesday underlined the need to elect a Lebanese president on the set date after a long-awaited parliamentary session to elect president was

postponed, for the 15th time, to 11 March.

It also stressed the necessity to put the Lebanese-Syrian ties on the right track. Seniora has said that he is willing to visit Damascus and participate in the upcoming Arab summit scheduled for 29-30 March “if all circumstances were convenient”.

Invitations to Arab summit are usually addressed to heads of states. But in the case of Lebanon, which has been without a president since former president Emile Lahoud ended his term on 24 November, 2007, things can be different.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan’s major parties agree on coalition govt

ISLAMABAD, 10 March — Pakistani’s two leading political leaders said Sunday that they had agreed to form a coalition government with the Prime Minister from the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP).

“We undertake to form a coalition together for Pakistan, as the people of Pakistan had given mandate to the democratic forces on 18 February,” said Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) at the news conference after his meeting with PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari at the scenic town of Murree in eastern Pakistan.

“We have fruitful meeting today, we are at the verge of making history, it was the desire of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto,” Zardari, former PM Benazir Bhutto’s widower, told a joint news conference with Sharif.

In a joint declaration at the end of their talks, Sharif and Zardari agreed to reappoint the Supreme Court justices, especially Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, who were ousted by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on 3 November, 2007 when he imposed the state of emergency.

MNA/Xinhua

Police in south China arrest 14 would-be stowaways to HK

GUANGZHOU, 9 March — Police in the southern province of Guangdong on Friday apprehended 14 men attempting to have themselves smuggled into Hong Kong, local authorities said.

The stowaways, all natives of Guangdong, were arrested in two vans en route to a port in Zhongshan City, according to the local police.

The men, all migrant workers, had planned to work in the construction sector in Hong Kong after they heard that they might earn 300 Hong Kong dollars (about 38 US dollars) a day. In China, they might earn about 50 yuan (Seven US dollars) a day.

The men said that their trafficking fees were all initially paid by the “snakeheads”, or human smugglers, who would deduct 100 to 200 Hong Kong dollars from their daily pay after they entered Hong Kong.

Two drivers were arrested at the scene but the whereabouts of the “snakeheads” were unknown.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia’s Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi holds hands with his deputy Najib Razak (L) after a news conference in Kuala Lumpur on 9 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Obama rules out possibility to be Clinton’s V-P

WASHINGTON, 9 March —Democratic presidential forerunner Barack Obama dismissed the speculation that he could run as the vice presidential candidate for his rival, Hillary Rodham Clinton, according to a TV report released on Saturday.

“You won’t see me as a vice presidential candidate — you know, I’m running for president,” the Illinois Senator said in an interview with CBS. “We have won twice as many states as Senator

Clinton, and have a higher popular vote, and I think we can maintain our delegate count.”

After winning three primaries on 4 March and regaining her momentum, the New York Senator and former first lady suggested that she was open to the idea of sharing the ticket with Obama, meaning accepting Obama as her vice presidential candidate. Former President Bill Clinton echoed his wife on Saturday in a campaign rally in Mississippi whose

primary is set on Tuesday, saying a joint ticket pairing the two would be “almost unstoppable”.

“I know that she has always been open to it, because she believes that if you can unite the energy and the new people that he’s brought in and the people in these vast swaths of small town and rural America that she’s carried overwhelmingly, if had those two things together she thinks it’d be hard to beat,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese singer Li Yuchun performs at her solo concert held at the Shanghai Grand Stage on 9 March, 2008, ahead of her 24th birthday on Monday.

INTERNET

Malaysian BN fails to retain two-thirds majority

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 March — Malaysia’s ruling coalition Barisan Nasional (BN) won in the 12th general election held on Saturday, but failed to retain the two-thirds majority in the Lower House of the Parliament, said the country’s Election Commission (EC) on Sunday.

It is the first time that the BN failed to control the two-thirds majority in the Parliament, the biggest

setback it suffered since it administered the country for 50 years.

The Lower House of the 12th Parliament has a total of 222 seats. According to the results of the 219 seats unveiled by the EC so far, the BN won only 137 parliamentary seats, far less than the two-thirds line of 148 seats.

While, the opposition parties already have seized an unprecedented 82

parliamentary seats.

Also, the BN failed to secure a simple majorities in the state legislative assemblies in four states of Penang, Kedah, Selangor and Perak and lost its control of the state governments of these four states.

Meanwhile, the BN failed in taking back the state of Kelantan from the Islamic Party of Malaysia.

MNA/Xinhua



Egyptian boy confirmed with bird flu, 47th case

CAIRO, 9 March — An eight-year-old boy in Fayoum Province has contracted the bird flu virus after coming into contact with infected birds — the 47th case among humans in Egypt since 2006, the Health Ministry said on Saturday.

The boy, Abdel Hamid el-Sayed Youssef, was taken to a local hospital with a high temperature, difficulty breathing and a pulmonary inflammation, spokesman Abdel Rahman Shahine said in a statement.

He moved to a Cairo hospital on Friday and is being treated with Tamiflu, the standard treatment for humans, it said.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq keen to coop with Turkey in energy sector

ANKARA, 10 March — Visiting Iraqi Minister of Oil Husayn al-Shahristani said on Saturday that Iraq desired to improve its cooperation with Turkey in the energy sector.

Shahristani, who arrived in Turkey for a series of talks, made the remarks in the Turkish capital of Ankara after his official talks with Turkish

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Hilmi Guler.

He said that Iraq wants to provide gas to Turkey and considers Turkey as a transit country as well.

Guler, for his part, said that during his talks with Shahristani, they discussed projects aiming to bring Iraqi oil and natural gas to Turkey in an effort to

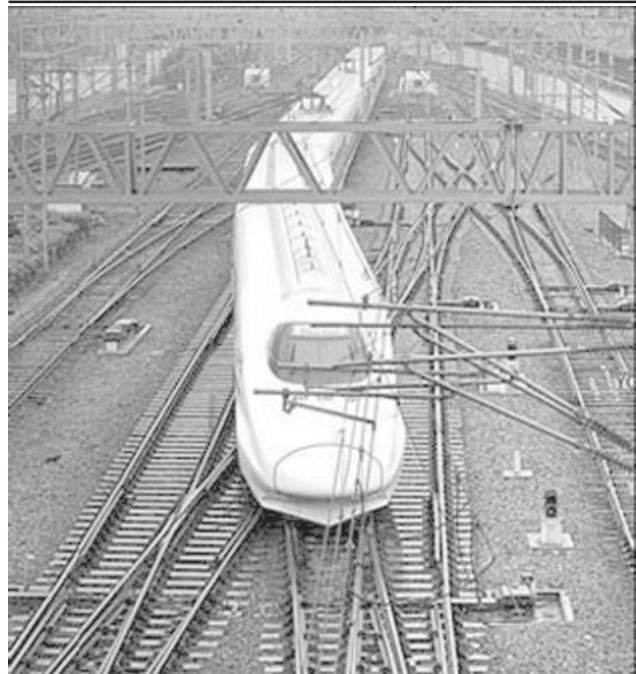
diversify energy resources.

He said such projects would be carried out by Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) and Turkish Petroleum International Company Ltd (TPIC), adding that details of the new pipelines would be determined together with Iraqi officials.

MNA/Xinhua



A child shows her work for auction during a commonweal auction in Hangzhou City, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 9 March, 2008.—XINHUA



A bullet train leaves the northern Shanghai Railway Station. Minister of Railways Liu Zhijun has encouraged overseas and domestic private investors to get a share in the railways' as the country accelerates the construction and reconstruction of its railway network. —INTERNET

Akzo Nobel starts building \$385m China plant

HANGZHOU, 10 March — Akzo Nobel, the world's leading paint and chemical provider, has formed a new enterprise to create its largest China production base in the eastern Zhejiang Province, a group spokesman said on Friday.

The new chemical enterprise, Akzo Nobel Chemicals (Ningbo) Co, Ltd was set up on Thursday in the chemical industrial zone of Ningbo City's Zhenhai District.

The enterprise's main products, chelates and ethenamine, are expected to start being manufactured in 2009 and 2010, respectively, with an initial investment of 250 million euros (385 million US dollars), said Robert Margevich, Akzo Nobel Functional Chemicals BV, president.

He promised the Dutch-based company would use cutting-edge technologies and observe the strictest health, safety and environmental standards at the new plant.

Deputy Consul General Leo Linscheer of the Netherlands Consulate General in Shanghai said Akzo Nobel had set up more than 20 factories and workshops since it entered the Chinese market in the 1980s.

The further economic cooperation would deepen the friendship between the two nations.

MNA/Xinhua

Private entities urged to invest in railways

BEIJING, 10 March—Minister of Railways Liu Zhijun has encouraged overseas and domestic private investors to get a share in the railways' as the country accelerates the construction and reconstruction of its railway network.

"We welcome overseas and domestic private investors to get part ownership of the railway lines, except the trunk rails," Liu said on the sidelines of the annual National People's Congress (NPC) session.

This is a major step in investment reform and will get the government "ample capital" to realize its plan to expand the railway network from the present 70,000.

Internet

Medvedev to decide on oil tycoon's pardon

MOSCOW, 10 March—Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that it would be up to his successor Dmitry Medvedev to decide whether to pardon convicted criminals, including jailed oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

A Kremlin source told Reuters the existing procedure for a presidential pardon requires

anyone who wants to be pardoned to first admit their guilt and file a request.

Khodorkovsky says he is innocent.

Putin was asked at a joint Press conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel whether Khodorkovsky would be pardoned.

"If we suppose that the procedure required by law is observed, then the question of pardoning is in the competence of the head of state, the president of the Russian Federation," Putin said.

Khodorkovsky was arrested in 2003 in what was widely regarded as a Kremlin campaign to punish the tycoon for his political ambitions.

The arrest was widely criticised in the West and a number of politicians have called for his release.

MNA/Reuters

ECONOMIC NEWS

WTO trade talks face crucial two weeks

GENEVA, 10 March — Trade negotiators are entering a critical period in their efforts to wrap up a new world trade agreement by the end of the year.

At stake is a pact to boost trade and growth in a world economy buffeted by financial crisis, as markets open for businesses from food to finance in rich and poor countries.

But optimism at the start of the year that a deal could be done soon has faded, as the talks have bogged down in technical details and recriminations among rich and poor countries about who should show the greatest ambition in lowering barriers.

Meetings this week on central agriculture and industrial goods will determine whether World

Trade Organization (WTO) mediators can issue revised texts distilling the progress.

Those negotiating texts, and a set of talks this week on the services sector, are intended to pave the way for a meeting

of trade ministers who would agree the outlines of a deal.

"The next two weeks will be crunch," said a senior diplomat from an export-oriented developing country.

MNA/Reuters



Wild swans are seen in lake Flachsee in Unterlunkhofen, Canton Aargau, Switzerland on 9 March, 2008. The authorities of Canton Aargau have given permission to hunters to shoot the swans because of overpopulation in the region.—INTERNET



A dragon-shaped kite flies over the Beiling Park in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 9 March, 2008.—XINHUA

NATO soldier killed in Afghan roadside bombing

KABUL, 10 March — One soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed and another one was injured by roadside bombing in eastern Afghan province of Paktia Province on Saturday, said an ISAF statement.

“An ISAF routine patrol hit an improvised explosive device in Waza Khwa district of Paktia province,” the statement said.

Two ISAF soldiers

were wounded and one of the two soldiers died of wounds sustained from the explosion, it added.

In accordance with ISAF policy, ISAF does not release the casualty's nationality prior to the relevant national authority doing so.

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.—Xinhua

China's pol advisers speak on major development issues

BEIJING, 9 March — Following three days of study and discussion on the government work report from Premier Wen Jiabao, China's political advisers gathered at the Great Hall of the People on Saturday morning to voice their opinions on major development issues of the country.

Fourteen members of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's

Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), currently in its first annual full session here, are scheduled to speak at the session's second plenary meeting, which just started.

CPPCC sources said that their speeches would involve such topics as the macroeconomic regulation and lessons to be drawn from the snow havoc that swept southern China earlier this year.

Xinhua

Castro's autobiography published in Chinese

BEIJING, 10 March — A leading Chinese think tank published recently the Chinese edition of Fidel Castro's autobiography.

The Castro autobiography, based on the 100-hour interviews of Castro and Ignacio Ramonet, a Spanish journalist and writer who is Editor-in-Chief of *Le Monde Diplomatique*, goes with a new preface written by Castro particularly for Chinese readers.

The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) Institute of Latin American Studies translated and compile the autobiography from its original Spanish edition.

As in the Spanish, English and French

editions published previously, the Chinese edition has its major content on Castro's historical records, his revolutionary career, the Cuban missile crisis, the geopolitics in Latin America, Cuba's foreign relations with major powers such as the United States and the Soviet Union as well as China, and a today's Cuba.

Suffering from health problems, Castro in last month handed over his reign over Cuba to his long-time comrade and younger brother Raul Castro.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Peruvian police seizes 1.5 tons of cocaine

LIMA, 10 March — Peru's police seized 1.5 tons of cocaine and arrested four suspected drug traffickers Friday in northwestern part of the country, police authority said on Saturday.

Police said they carried out the anti-drug operation in the coast off Caleta Cherrepe, in Lambayeque Province.

The four suspects are Ecuadoreans and they tried to ship the drugs to the United States and Europe.

In addition, police also confiscated two vehicles, some guns and telecommunication equipment.

Xinhua

A statue of Ancient Roman Emperor Augustus.—XINHUA



Hamas claims responsibility for Jerusalem attack

GAZA, 9 March — Palestinian Islamic Hamas movement claimed responsibility for a shooting attack in Israel that killed eight students and injured many others in a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem, a senior Hamas official said on Friday. “The Hamas movement

announces its full responsibility for the Jerusalem operation,” the official was quoted by Western media as saying.

Gunmen infiltrated into the religious school named Mercaz Harav Yeshiva and opened fire indiscriminately at nightfall Thursday.

On Thursday evening, an organization calling itself “Galilee Freedom Battalions — the Martyrs of Imad Mughniyeh” claimed responsibility for the attack, according to Hizbollah's Al-Manar television.

Israeli security forces across Israel were on the highest level of alert on Friday, setting up road blocks and tightening restrictions on Palestinian travel in and from the West Bank for 36 hours.

Xinhua



Germany's Formula One driver Timo Glock drives the double-championship winning Toyota TRD Rally Team's S2000 Corolla at the Werribee Rally Proving ground in Melbourne, on 10 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Let's approve State Constitution (draft) to shape prosperous future (1)

Khaing Myo Nyilar Aung

The National Convention attended by more than 1000 representatives of various national races, the people from all walks of life from the four corners of the nation and from various fields was successfully over on 3 September 2007. At the National Convention, the representatives unanimously adopted the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles for 15 chapter headings to be included in the State Constitution of the Union of Myanmar.

The State Peace and Development Council on 18 October 2007 formed the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution under Announcement No 2/2007 to draft a constitution based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted at the National Convention. The 54-member commission is composed of national race legal experts, well-experienced persons, experts, and those who are knowledgeable about the administrative, economic, political and social fields.

On 3 December 2007, the commission launched the process of drafting the constitution. After the process was completed, commission members signed the draft at the plenary session on 19 February 2008.

The State Peace and Development Council issued Announcement No 1/2008 on 9 February 2008, saying that the draft of the State Constitution will be approved through a referendum in May 2008.

In addition, through Announcement No 2/2008 dated 9 February 2008, the State Peace and Development Council announced that in 2010, multi-party democracy general elections will be held in accordance with the State Constitution approved through the referendum.

The announcements and programmes depict that the Union of Myanmar is working step by step for transition to democracy.

The State Peace and Development Council issued the Referendum Law for the Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008) through Declaration 1/2008 on 26 February 2008. It is constituted with 12 chapters—(1) Title and Definition, (2) Convening the Referendum, (3) Formation of the Commission and Sub-commissions, (4) Duties and Powers of the Commission for Holding Referendum and Sub-commissions, (5) Preparing

Voting Rolls, (6) Voting, (7) Postponing and Dissolving of Voting, (8) Counting of Votes, (9) Declaring Votes, (10) Prohibition and Penalty, (11) Obtaining Financial and Staff Assistance, (12) Miscellaneous.

The same day, the State Peace and Development Council formed the Commission for Holding the Referendum comprising 45 persons in accordance with section 5 (a) of Chapter 3 of the Referendum Law for the Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008 under the Announcement No 2/2008.

Every independent and sovereign country draws and exercises a constitution. The countries under the rule of colonialists, Fascists and Feudalist emperors do not practise a constitution. If there is a constitution in those countries, the laws, administrative patterns and judicial systems are practised to the liking of the colonizers.

Myanmar, which regained independence in 1948, started the process of drawing a constitution in 1947. It was compiled in the colonial days. The constitution-drawing process was under the coercion of some Feudalist Sawbwas (chieftain). Major-General Aung San was assassinated before the draft was approved. It was drafted in haste in order to regain independence in time. The process of drawing the constitution was completed, however the constitution stipulated some principles on the rights to secede from the Union. Due to various reasons, the draft of the 1947 constitution was not in a position to be explained to the public, nor was it approved by the people due to the hope of regaining independence soon.

The 1974 constitution was approved by the majority of the people at the referendum. The people staged protests, saying that they no longer favoured the Socialism and Socialist policies stipulated in the constitution, and so, the constitution was defunct in 1988. Anyhow, it is fair to say that the 1974 constitution came into force with the wishes and support of the people.

In 1988, the Tatmadaw had to save the Union that was under the threat of collapse due to the unscrupulous activities of the leftists (various forms of Communists), rightists (various groups relying on the West), aboveground groups (power-craving groups, political

opportunists, and various opportunists waiting for opportune times to rob public property), underground groups (various armed insurgent groups committing robberies, killing the people, torching villages, and engaging in illegal drug business), and external elements (many colonialist countries seeking ways and means to occupy and colonize Myanmar, as soon as opportune). The colonialists were dreaming the hopes of keeping Myanmar in their control, stationing their military bases in the Myanmar soils, and exploiting the rich natural resources of Myanmar. However, their dreams did not come true due to the Tatmadaw government. Since 1988, they have been resorting to various means, such as media (propaganda) weapon, economic sanctions, and strategies to devastate Myanmar. And they have been attacking the Tatmadaw with fine traditions and patriotic Myanmar people strongly equipped with Union Spirit.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council (Tatmadaw government) thus had to take all necessary measures with tenacity from 1988 to 1997 to restore peace and stability throughout the country, to defend the country from alien invasion, and to ensure perpetuation of community peace, prevalence of law and order, and secure and smooth transport. Furthermore, it started the building of infrastructures for national development. It held peace talks with various national race armed groups in order that they would return to the legal fold and join hands with the government and the people in the tasks for progress of the Union.

In 1997, peace and stability was restored across the country, so the Tatmadaw government reconstituted the State Law and Order Restoration Council as the State Peace and Development Council with the aim of expediting the national development tasks. Then, it dedicated itself to plans for internal peace, and progress of the whole Union especially of border areas and rural areas.

After peace and stability had been restored, the Tatmadaw government laid down strategies and tactics for transition to a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Now, the entire national brethren are working hard together, while exerting the fine traditions of national solidarity to build a peaceful and prosperous democratic nation in accordance with the State's seven-step Road Map.

Now is the most opportune time for the people to achieve the goal. If the people fail to embrace the unique opportunity resulting from being trapped in alien instigation or their lack of reasoning power, they will have to wait long to gain a similar opportunity.

Therefore, I would like to say that it is time the entire people wholeheartedly welcomed the referendum in order not to lose the brighter future.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 10-3-2008

Now is the most opportune time for the people to achieve the goal. If the people fail to embrace the unique opportunity resulting from being trapped in alien instigation or their lack of reasoning power, they will have to wait long to gain a similar opportunity.

Spoke Authoritative Team meets Special Adviser...

(from page 16)

At the meeting, Mr Gambari expressed thanks for the permission to come to Myanmar, for arrangements during his trip and hospitality. Moreover, he also expressed thanks for holding talks with him and persons who should be met during his trip. He also said he expects that Myanmar always opens her door to hold talks between UN and Myanmar. During the trip, he was able to discuss openly and exchange views at the meetings, he said. He believes that the two sides have the same desire to see the country become a peaceful and developed democratic nation. He believes that he will get a chance to come to the country again for cooperation of the two sides.

Afterwards, Leader of the Spoke Authoritative Team of the SPDC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained matters related to the trip of Mr Gambari.

The clarification of Leader of the Spoke Authoritative Team of the SPDC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan is as follows : —

To come to Myanmar, Your Excellency made two-tiresome journeys spending a lot of hours from New York to Singapore and from Singapore to Yangon. In addition, Your Excellency might be very tired after spending five days with very tight schedule. We deeply appreciate your earnest efforts spending your valuable time. Recognizing the role of UNSG’s good offices and showing our willingness to cooperate, we comply with as much as possible in your every trip. Regarding your suggestions we complied with, to the most possible extent, constructively in your previous trips so also in this trip. This trip was originally scheduled for 4 days. At your request, it has been rescheduled for 5 days. We also arranged to our utmost, for you to meet with the persons and organizations you requested.

So during this trip, Your Excellency have met with those who should be met such as the Spoke Authoritative Team, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for National Planning & Economic Development and party, diplomats, officials of UN agencies and ICRC, the Referendum Commission members, Union Solidarity and Development Association, NLD CEC members, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi twice, National Unity Party, Pa-O National Organization, etc. You may have understood the prevailing situation of Myanmar, the wishes of the majority of the people, the stances and views of political parties including national race political parties, we believe.

Hence, you may have known that the efforts of the Government today are meant for the realization of the wishes and desires of the majority of Myanmar people comprehensively. Though we are exerting efforts for realization of the wishes of the majority, we do not ignore the wishes of the minority at all. In accordance with the essence of democracy, we provide opportunities for the minority to participate in the national political process.

As Your Excellency has known, the national referendum will be held in May to approve the draft Constitution as the 4th step of the Road Map. At the referendum, those supporting and opposing the Government will have the right to vote freely. Moreover, after the draft Constitution is approved, those in favour of the Constitution or those against it can have equal right to form political parties, launch campaign and enter election in accordance with the laws concerned. When candidates are elected by the people’s vote in the election, which will be the 5th step of the Road Map, they will become Hluttaw members and they can discuss, coordinate and make decisions on political, economic and social affairs of the nation as the 6th and

7th steps of Road Map. It shows that our national political process guarantees all-inclusiveness. It can clearly be seen that we keep the door open for “Win-Win” situation. Speaking frankly, the way we are marching is the best and the most suitable one for the nation and the people. It ensures stability as well as smooth transition to democracy. Hence, Your Excellency is believed to render a cooperative hand for the entire Myanmar people to march on the right path towards the desired goal.

With the cooperation and assistance of Your Excellency, our democratization process as desired by the UN, international community, the entire Myanmar people as well as supporters and those opposing the Government, will certainly meet success. Then, the entire people can participate extensively with democratic practices.

At the meeting on 7th March, we frankly and comprehensively discussed our stance and views. And Your Excellency also discussed frankly and comprehensively. The constructive suggestions of Your Excellency are also appreciated. As the international community is welcoming and supporting the role of UNSG’s good offices, our country is also recognizing and cooperating with it.

In conclusion, our discussion in friendly and frank manner will produce good results in Myanmar’s political development, we believe. The entire Myanmar people wish Your Excellency a good and successful trip back home. We are anticipating to learn Your Excellency’s constructive reporting when you arrive back home. Thank you.

After the meeting, participants of the meeting enjoyed tea party and the meeting ended at 3:50 pm.

Mr Gambari also met with ambassadors, charge d affaires ai and responsible persons at 9 am and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at noon at Seinle Kantha State Guest House. He left here this evening by air. — MNA

Myanmar Brewery Ltd launches Myanmar New Year programmes

YANGON, 10 March—The Myanmar Brewery Co Ltd presented its special programmes for forthcoming Myanmar New Year to journalists and made cash donations to social organizations at a ceremony held in conjunction with the blood donation of its staff at Women Development Organization (Wingaba) in Bahan Township, here, at 10 am today.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the company Lt-Col Ne Win (Retd), General Manager Mr Peter Ong, officials, mediamen, representatives of social organizations, staff and guests.

Mr Peter Ong delivered an opening speech and explained the programmes.

The chairman, the general manager and officials presented K 3,000,000 to National Blood Department of Yangon General Hospital and K 1,000,000 each to Women Development Organization (Wingaba), Aung Zabu Youths Development Centre, school for the disabled children, Christian school for the blind, Psychiatric Hospital, New Life Foundation, Yadanatheri monastic education school, Mandalay school for the deaf and

MOC Chairman’s Cup hockey tourney kicks off



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers address at opening of MOC Chairman’s Cup hockey tourney. — MHF

YANGON, 10 March—The opening ceremony of Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman’ Cup Men’s Hockey Tournament for 2008, organized by Myanmar Hockey Federation, was held at the hockey pitch on Theinbyu Road yesterday afternoon.

Among the spectators were the Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee the Minister for Sports, officials, President of MHF Brig-Gen Myint Soe, Vice-President U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing, executives and guests.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave a speech on the occasion and Vice-President U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing of MHF spoke words of thanks.

Before the ceremony, vocalists entertained the audience. In the events, Yangon Command beat Tatmadaw Hockey Committee 1-0. Tatmadaw (Air Force) defeated Yangon Youths Team 3-0.

On March 11, Triangle Region Command plays against South-East Command and Yangon Command, against Tatmadaw (Navy).—MNA



General Manager Mr Peter Ong explains special programme of Myanmar Brewery Ltd. — MNA

All patriotic people to strive for perpetual existence of Union as well as for its prosperity

Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 14 opens

YANGON, 10 March — Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 14 conducted by Union Solidarity and Development Association was opened at the training school of USDA in Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township today.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo said we all have witnessed that every country has to lay down and implement policies and tasks which can serve the interests of their people in implementing the national objectives of a country.

Similarly, Our Three Main National Causes is the national policy of Myanmar and 12 political, economic and social objectives are the practical ways that can pave the way to achieving the national goal. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people, the country has enjoyed prevalence of community peace and all-round developments.

The USDA was organized with the aim of participating in implementing the development tasks in cooperation with the people, and 24 million of its members have actively been participating in



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo addresses the opening ceremony of Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 14.— MNA

implementing the tasks.

They have taken part in implementing the project for development of 24 Special Regions, border areas development project and the five rural area development tasks.

Members of the association come from all walks of life and they are committed to participate in implementing development tasks in their local regions as much as they can.

Members of the association should be united as well as should be members of quality of the association in their dedication to contribute to welfare of the people. Trainings will improve the quality of every members and can lead to improvement of the efficiency of the association.

All national races have been living together in the country since time immemorial.

Myanmar has stood tall as a Union where all the national races living through thick and thin. So all the patriotic people are to strive for the perpetual existence of the Union as well as for its prosperity.

Now is the time when the country is in the process of implementing the seven-step Road Map while undertaking the tasks for ensuring peace and stability and the development of economic and social sectors. All the people on their part have welcomed and supported the road map. The National Convention, the most fundamental and important step, has also been held with the participation of over 1000

delegates representing the entire people. They adopted fundamental principles and detailed basic principles for the writing of the draft constitution. So, the NC has represented the entire people.

The State has announced that the national referendum would be held in May this year for the approval of the draft constitution and the multi-party general election in 2010. The implementation of the seven-step Road Map is the national duty concerned with the entire people. Therefore, all the association members are to cooperate with the people for the success of the national referendum. Today's issues of the State are the internal affairs of Myanmar that can be coped with the

State and the people alone. Any foreign countries will not know the history and prevailing conditions of Myanmar. So, the country is ready to welcome any encouragement and assistance to help with the construction of a new nation. However, the people will also guard against any outside interference with one-sided view. In conclusion, he urged the members to participate in their respective sectors for the wellbeing of the people, to strive for the good of the people knowing the prevailing conditions of the country, to cooperate

with the people for the approval of the draft constitution essential for the building of a new nation, to cooperate with the people for the success of the seven-step Road Map, to guard against any destructive acts, to cooperate with the people with goodwill for the building of a new nation and to try to enable the association to stand as a national force knowing the importance of the national duty.

A total of 101 trainees from the states and divisions are taking the course that lasts 4 weeks.

MNA

Tour Gold Cup Golf Tournament on 13-15 April

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — To mark Maha Thingyan Festival in Nay Pyi Taw, Tour Gold Cup Golf Tournament will be held at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Resort, Yepyay Tatmadaw Golf Resort and Nay Pyi Taw City Golf Resort from 13 to 15 April.

Tour Gold Cup and a gold medal will be awarded to a winning team after three days and a silver medal to a team which stands second.

After daily events, first, second and third prizes and handsome prizes will be awarded to winning teams daily. Those golf teams wishing to participate in the tournament may enroll at the office of the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor, the committee for holding the tournament said.

MNA

Education Minister visits matric exam centres

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein together with Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and officials visited the matriculation exam centres of Nay Pyi Taw Basic Education High School Nos 1 & 3, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana BEHS Nos 1 & 3 and Nay Pyi Taw Lewe BEHS No 1 this morning and viewed the students taking the matriculation examination.

Likewise, Chairman of Myanmar Examination Board U Ohn Myint and Director-General of No 3

Basic Education Department U Aye Khyu also viewed the students sitting for the matriculation examination at No 2 BEHS Sangyoung Township, No 2 BEHS and No 4 BEHS Ahlon Township, No 2 BEHS Latha and Yangon General Hospital.

The 2008 matriculation examination started at 9 am today at 1334 exam centres across the country and 16 other exam centres of Myanmar embassies in foreign countries totaling 1350 exam. A total of 609307 students are taking the exams, it is learnt.—MNA

Sarkozy’s party facing losses in French local vote

PARIS, 10 March — French President Nicolas Sarkozy’s centre-right UMP party faced big losses after the first round of local elections on Sunday that posed his first electoral test since coming to power last year.

An initial projection by the CSA pollsters showed the opposition Socialists and other left

wing parties heading for 47.5 per cent of the overall vote, with the UMP and other right wing parties heading for just 40 per cent.

“These are naturally not good results,” said Patrick Devedjian, secretary general of the UMP party.

The Socialists looked certain to maintain

control of France’s top two cities, Paris and Lyons. The left also hopes to seize control of France’s third city, Marseille, as well as rightist strongholds like Strasbourg and Toulouse. Final results will come after the second round of the election on 16 May.

MNA/Reuters

Spain Socialists win but short of overall majority

MADRID, 10 March — Spain’s governing Socialist Party won Sunday’s election but fell short of the absolute majority that might have helped them act more quickly to cushion an economic slowdown.

“I will govern for all people, thinking first of those who have nothing,” Prime Minister Jose Luis

Rodriguez Zapatero told thousands of supporters cheering and waving red flags outside the Socialist headquarters.

With 96 per cent of votes counted, the Socialists were projected to win 169 seats in the 350-seat lower house, up five from the previous legislature.

The conservative

Popular Party (PP) won 153 seats, also up five from 2004, when voters turned against them after they rushed to blame the Basque separatists of ETA for election-eve train bombings that turned out to be the work of Islamists.

The night’s big losers were small left-wing parties.

MNA/Reuters



An egg truck in Vientiane. Japanese researchers said on Monday they had paved the way to develop an all-round vaccine to protect people from bird flu and its feared mutations.—INTERNET

Chavez finds Castro happy in retirement

HAVANA, 10 March — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez visited his friend and mentor Fidel Castro on Saturday for the first since the 81-year-old retired as Cuba’s leader and said he found him happy and flowing with ideas.

Chavez spent all morning chatting with Castro during a stopover in Cuba on his way home from a regional summit in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where Latin American presidents defused a tense border dispute between Colombia and Ecuador.

“I found Fidel happy, splendid and full of ideas, full of deep and wise thoughts,” Chavez told Cuban television.

MNA/Reuters

Abbot says Shaolin Temple not to go public

BEIJING, 10 March — The 1,500-year-old Shaolin Temple in central China’s Henan Province will not go public, its Abbot Shi Yongxin said on Saturday.

“The risk of going public is too big, and it is against the Buddhist spirit,” said Shi, also a deputy to the 11th National People’s Congress, the top legislature.

Dubbed “Shaolin

CEO”, Shi Yongxin is a controversial monk who has shaken people’s notions of Shaolin Temple and Buddhism with his business-oriented transformation.

In 1994, he played a leading role in the Chinese religious community to register “Shaolin” and “Shaolin Temple” as trademarks, and set up a company to manage relevant intellectual property rights.

MNA/Xinhua

Over thousand-year-old Vishnu statue found in B’desh

DHAKA, 10 March — Bangladesh Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members recovered a Vishnu statue of 9th century AD in Bangladesh’s northern Gaibandha District, about 210 kilometres northwest of capital Dhaka, on Friday night.

Leading English newspaper *The Daily Star* Sunday quoted sources as saying, the Rab members

recovered the over thousand-year-old stone statue of Vishnu at Chappra village of Gobindaganj sub-district of northern Gaibandha District.

Besides, the Rab members also recovered several artifacts including

ancient terracotta tiles at Shahargachhi village in Gaibandha and Kamarpara village in northwestern Dinajpur District, about 285 kilometres northwest of capital Dhaka.

MNA/Xinhua

Dozens injured in central Greece train derailment

ATHENS, 10 March — A passenger train derailed outside the city of Larisa in central Greece on Saturday injuring dozens of people, the Greek authorities said.

“A total of 28 people were injured and taken to hospital when a train travelling from Athens to Thessaloniki (in northern Greece) derailed about two kilometres from Larisa station,” a police official who declined to be named told *Reuters*.

MNA/Reuters

Six killed in head-on C England car collision

LONDON, 10 March — Six people have been killed in a head-on car collision in the Cotswolds in central England, British police said on Saturday.

Five people — three men, a woman and a 15-year-old girl — were pronounced dead at the scene of the accident between Moreton-in-Marsh and Stow-on-the-Wold on Friday night, while a woman died in hospital early on Saturday.

Two children and one adult remain in a critical condition in hospital.—MNA/Reuters

Train crashes into bus in Argentina, killing 18

BUENOS AIRES, 10 March — A train crashed into a bus at a rail crossing in Argentina early on Sunday, killing 18 people and injuring about 45, local media reported.

Several witnesses said the bus driver drove through the crossing’s lowered safety barriers, the *Clarín* newspaper reported on its website, but the bus company said the cause of the accident was not clear.

Some of the victims were returning from holidays on the Atlantic coast.

MNA/Reuters

An Adam Air plane, which skidded off the runway, is seen at Batam Airport on 10 March, 2008. The Indonesian passenger plane, which was carrying 174 people, skidded off the runway in heavy rain during a landing on the island of Batam on Monday, injuring five people, an airline spokesman and a doctor said.

XINHUA





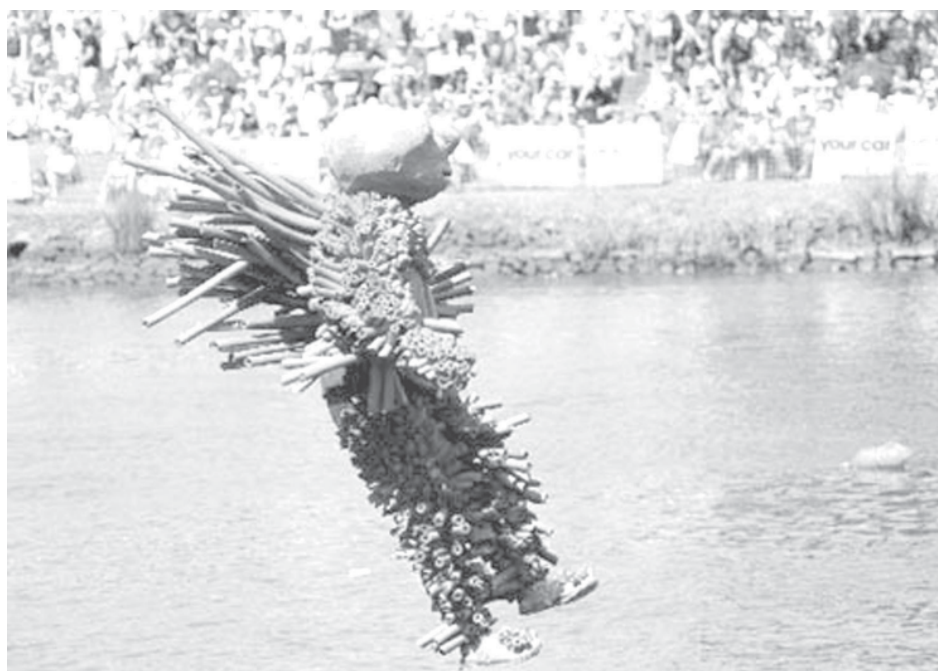
Germany's Babette Peter and goalkeeper Silke Rottenberg (front) are challenged by Sweden's Caroline Seger (L) during their Algarve Cup women's soccer championship third round match in Vila Real Santo Antonio on 10 March, 2008.

INTERNET

Images of the Day

Stormy seas hit coastal sea defences and a lighthouse at Seaford in Sussex in southern England on 10 March, 2008. A storm rushing in from the Atlantic lashed the south west on Monday as high winds and tides brought the risk of coastal flooding.

INTERNET



Birdman competitor. 13 Birdman competitors plunged into the Yarra River in Australia on 9th March — despite the river having almost double the safe level of E coli. It was won for the third year in a row by Carrum Downs amateur pilot Michael Paul. Mr Paul, 38, flew 17 metres, a metre shy of the Moomba record, in a mono-winged creation.—XINHUA



Russians storm the snow fortress celebrating Maslenitsa or Pancake Week in a forest close to the village of Radischevo, some 35 kms (20 miles) north-west of Moscow, Russia, on 9 March, 2008. —INTERNET

Actor Jackie Chan honours late parents

CANBERRA, 10 March — Hong Kong-born action film star Jackie Chan paid tribute to his late parents and his Australian roots on Sunday by funding a new science education centre at the country's top cancer research institution.

Chan and Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd opened the Jackie Chan Science Centre, at the Australian National University, paid for by Chan's donations to cancer research in honour of his parents, who were long-time residents in Canberra.

Chan made an initial donation to cancer research in Australia in 2002 after the death of his mother, Lee Lee Chan, and was back in Canberra for Saturday's funeral for his father Charlie, who died on 26 February, aged 93.

"My father passed away last week. So it is about time I did something for Canberra to remember my parents. I really thank you Australia and Canberra for taking care of my parents for 46 years," Chan told reporters.

Chan's parents settled in Canberra in the early 1970s, where his father took a job as the head chef at the United States Embassy before becoming a successful local restaurant owner. — MNA/Reuters



Movie star Jackie Chan (L) and Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd look at an exhibit after Chan opened The Jackie Chan Science Centre in Canberra on 9 March, 2008.—XINHUA

TRADE MARK CAUTION

PMPI LLC., a company incorporated under the laws of Virginia, U.S.A., having its registered office at Hunton & Williams 951 East Byrd Street, Richmond, VA 23219, U.S.A., is the sole and exclusive owner and proprietor of the following Trade Mark:-

MARLBORO Roof Device
(w/ MARLBORO & red Border)



Reg. No. 701/2000

used in respect of "All goods in Class 25, namely, clothing, including boots, shoes and slippers".

Any unauthorized use, infringement or fraudulent imitation of the said trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
(for Eccles & Lee
Patent Attorneys and
Trademark Attorneys,
Hong Kong)
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 11 March 2008

Swiss mily loses hundreds of guns every year

GENEVA, 10 March—An average of 430 guns belonging to the Swiss military are stolen or lost each year, most of which are weapons stored at home by soldiers, reported Sunday's *Le Matin Dimanche*.

A total of 4,300 assault rifles and pistols have been stolen or lost over the past decade, in addition to 260 weapons recovered later,

Felix Endrich, Swiss Defence Ministry spokesman, was quoted by the French-language newspaper as saying.

According to Endrich, few weapons are stolen or lost during service, averaging about 10 cases over the last three years.

However, crimes linked to stolen military guns are few, said police in Vaud and Geneva. Weapons lost

or stolen during service are handled by the military prosecution service while cases of weapons stolen out of service are dealt with by the Swiss police. In Switzerland, about 270,000 assault rifles and 120,000 pistols are currently stored by active soldiers or reservists at home, according to military statistics.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain makes camera that "sees" under clothes

LONDON, 10 March—A British company has developed a camera that can detect weapons, drugs or explosives hidden under people's clothes from up to 25 metres away in what could be a breakthrough for the security industry.

The T5000 camera, created by a company

called ThruVision, uses what it calls "passive imaging technology" to identify objects by the natural electromagnetic rays—known as Tera-hertz or T-rays—that they emit.

The high-powered camera can detect hidden objects from up to 80 feet away and is effective even

when people are moving. It does not reveal physical body details and the screening is harmless, the company says.

The technology, which has military and civilian applications and could be used in crowded airports, shopping malls or sporting events, will be unveiled at a scientific development exhibition sponsored by Britain's Home Office on 12-13 March.

"Acts of terrorism have shaken the world in recent years and security precautions have been tightened globally," said Clive Beattie, the chief executive of ThruVision.

"The ability to see both metallic and non-metallic items on people out to 25 metres is certainly a key capability that will enhance any comprehensive security system."

MNA/Reuters

European Space Agency launches ATV into space

PARIS, 10 March—The European Space Agency on Sunday launched its first Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV) into space, French media reported.

The ATV blasted into the skies at 1:03 am (0403 GMT) aboard an *Ariane 5* rocket from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.

The launch was initially scheduled for Saturday but was delayed for technical checks.

The ATV is scheduled to separate from the Ariane rocket at 0535 GMT and reignite its propulsion system 30 minutes later. It will remain in a "parking orbit" and then is scheduled to dock with the *International Space Station* (ISS) on 3 April to deliver around eight tons of food, water, fuel and personal items to the ISS crew.

MNA/Xinhua

Ex-Pakistani minister nabbed for human trafficking

ISLAMABAD, 9 March—Pakistani security agencies arrested a state minister from the previous government on charges of smuggling people to Europe and Canada, a senior official said on Saturday.

Mushtaq Victor was picked up on Friday night in the capital Islamabad after a case of human trafficking was registered against him last month, said an official of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

"In all, he sent three women and 16 boys to Germany, Britain, Austria and Canada between 2003-06, passing them off as his wives and sons," Umar Hayat Gondal of the Federal Investigation Unit, a special cell of the FIA, told *Reuters*. Gondal said most of the people he sent abroad were job-seekers and paid him up to 800,000 rupees (12,851 US dollars).

During the investigation, Victor said he was innocent and that his staff might have been mis-using his name.

Victor, 68, was the state minister for religious minorities in the coalition led by the Pakistan Muslim League, the party that backs President Pervez Musharraf. The government's five-year term ended in October.

The pro-Musharraf alliance was defeated in a parliamentary election on 18 February, and the victors have yet to form a new coalition government.

Gondal said his agency was pursuing Victor since 2006 after a tip off from a Norwegian embassy official.

MNA/Reuters

60 newborns, six mothers die in Nepal daily

KATHMANDU, 9 March—As many as 60 newborns and six mothers die every day in Nepal for lack of maternal and neonatal health services, a survey report has stated.

According to Sunday's *The Himalayan Times* daily, every year, around 2,500 mothers and 22,000 newborns die in the country due to shortage of maternal and neonatal health services, the

National Demographic Health Survey said.

According to the survey, 281 out of 100,000 mothers die every year. Thirty-three out of 1,000 newborns also meet the same fate each year.

The government has taken different measures to make maternal health services accessible to the needy.

The National Safe Motherhood Policy has

been formulated and special safe motherhood programmes launched to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity, said the report.

National and international agencies have also launched programmes towards this end. GP Ojha, director-general of the Department of Health Services, was quoted by the daily as saying, "Though we have political commitment, proper laws and enough resources, many mothers based in rural areas are still deprived of health services. This is due to the lack of awareness."

MNA/Xinhua

Nine people missing in Brazilian shipwreck incident

BRASILIA, 10 March—Brazilian authorities confirmed on Sunday that nine people were missing after a boat with 22 people sunk early in the day in Pantanal, centre-west of the country.

According to the local fire department, 12 tourists and 10 members of crew were on the boat which sank at about 0400 local time (GMT 08h00) near Porto Cercado, a point of reference for visitors in Pantanal.

The reason of the accident is still unknown, but some survivors said they have heard a noise and then the boat sunk.

The tourists hired the boat for a fishing expedition, said the local fire department.—MNA/Xinhua

**The best time
to plant a tree
was 20 years
ago. The
second best
time is now.**



A Chinese vendor prepares vegetables at a market in Beijing, on 8 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Russia, Tonga donate to China for snow disaster relief

BEIJING, 9 March—Russia and Tonga recently provided assistance to China for disasters relief in snow stricken areas, sources with the Chinese Foreign Ministry said here Friday.

The Russian Government decided to donate 10 large-scale diesel generators and 16,500 pieces of quilts to the affected regions. Part of the relief materials on Friday afternoon was sent

to Guiyang, capital city of southwest Guizhou Province, one of the worst ice-stricken regions in south China.

The materials would also be transported to Hunan, another worst-hit province.

The government of Tonga decided to donate 25,000 US dollars to China.

Snow and ice storms plagued eastern and southern China since mid-

January, leading to widespread traffic jams, structural collapses, black-outs and crop losses in 19 provincial regions, leaving 129 people dead and causing 151.65 billion yuan (21.3 billion US dollars) of losses. It was the worst snow disaster for the country over the past five decades.

MNA/Xinhua



China's tennis players Shuai Peng, left, and Tiantia Sun laugh as they hold the winners trophies and cheque, after winning the doubles final match at the Bangalore Open 2008 tournament in Bangalore, India, on 9 March, 2008.

INTERNET



An Australian Corroboree Frog sits on a zoo keeper's thumb at Taronga Zoo in Sydney on 10 March, 2008. Australian zoos have joined world zoos in a conservation strategy for The Year of the Frog 2008, to help avert the increase in frog extinctions across the globe. —XINHUA

Hong Kong holds avian flu drill

HONG KONG, 9 March— More than 300 people from government departments, the Hong Kong International Airport and airline held an exercise against avian influenza here Friday as a dead bird was later test positive for the deadly H5N1 strain of virus.

The exercise, coded “Tai Shan”, tested a joint effort by 14 organizations like the Airport Authority Hong Kong, the Department of Health and other related government departments and airlines under the monitoring of observers from the Chinese Mainland and overseas. The five-hour exercise started at about 1:00am Friday and simulated an arriving Cathay Pacific flight carrying 56 passengers and five crew members.

As part of the exercise, the airline reported that a sick passenger was onboard the flight, suspected to be suffering from avian flu symptoms. As the sick passenger was considered to be a possible human case of avian flu, the aircraft was isolated and disinfected, while passengers and crew members were put under quarantine by the Department of Health. —MNA/Xinhua

Chinese ancient statues, artifacts on show in Florence

ROME, 9 March—An array of exquisite statues and artifacts never seen before outside China went on show in Florence on Friday for an exhibition featuring China's artistic flourishing in the first millennium.

More than 200 works are on display in Florence, highlighting the extravagance, luxury and sophistication of the imperial Chinese courts during a period in Europe that saw the fall of the

Roman Empire and the Dark Ages.

The exhibition at Palazzo Strozzi charts a course from the tradition-steeped works of the middle years of the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD) through China's in creasingly cosmopolitan culture up to the refined elegance of the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD).

“The nine centuries represented in the show are a period of strong renewal in Chinese

civilization,” said curator Sabina Rastelli.

“The great attraction for all things foreign put China at the centre of commercial and cultural exchanges with input from different religions and races that made this period unique,” she added.

MNA/Xinhua

Software engineer is top US “mental athlete”

NEW YORK, 10 March—A 31-year-old software engineer recalled the correct order of an entire deck of playing cards in two minutes and 27 seconds on Saturday to take the title of having the best memory in the United States.

Chester Santos of San Francisco beat two other finalists to win the USA Memory Championships in New York that saw dozens of “mental athletes” over age 12 battle through seven rounds of competition in a Manhattan auditorium.

“I’m in a good mood,” Santos told *Reuters* after his win, in which he correctly recalled the 10 of diamonds to qualify for the World Memory Championships scheduled to take place later this year in Bahrain.

He attributed his win to spending a few hours each night after work practicing his memory.

MNA/Reuters

Japanese whaling fleet suffers from fresh attack

TOKYO, 9 March— Japanese whaling fleet in the Antarctic Ocean suffered from anti-whaling activists’ fresh attack on Friday, the Japan Coast Guard said.

The *Nisshin Maru*, a factory ship of the Japanese whaling fleet, fell under attack of bottles containing chemicals at around 12:35 pm Japanese time from activists on the ship of *Steve Irwin* which belongs to the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

There was no report of injuries among the Japanese crew.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura defended Japan’s research-aimed whaling activities and criticized the attack.

The *Nisshin Maru* was just attacked on Monday

by activists aboard the *Steve Irwin* with bottles containing chemicals.

While the Japanese side reported injuries of two crew member and one Coast Guard, anti-whaling activists accused the Japanese side of firing at them.

MNA/Xinhua

Smoking increases risk of hemorrhagic stroke

LOS ANGELES, 10 March— A new study has found that smoking increases the risk of a hemorrhagic stroke for people with high blood pressure. The study examined data on 563,144 people, with an average age 47, who took part in the Asia Pacific Cohort Studies Collaboration.

More than a third of the participants were smokers at the start of the study. During a median of 6.8 years of follow-up, 746 of the 210,961 smokers and 899 of the 352,183 nonsmokers suffered a hemorrhagic stroke, where a blood vessel bursts inside the brain.

Further analysis revealed that for every 10mm/Hg increase in systolic (when the heart beats) blood pressure, smokers faced an 81 per cent increased risk of hemorrhagic stroke, compared with a 66-per-cent increased risk for nonsmokers. This added risk of smoking in people with high blood pressure appeared to be specific to hemorrhagic stroke, as there was no evidence to indicate a similar effect on the risk of ischemic stroke (blocked blood flow to the brain) or coronary heart disease, according to the study.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Premier League reports

LONDON, 10 March — Brief reports of Premier League matches played on Sunday.

Sunderland 0 - Everton 1

Fifth-placed Everton bounced back from their UEFA Cup defeat by Fiorentina to win a scrappy encounter at the Stadium of Light and remain firmly in contention for a Champions League place. Striker Andrew Johnson got the only goal on 55 minutes when he got the final touch to Mikel Arteta's cross.

Tottenham Hotspur 4 — West Ham United 0

Spurs piled on the misery to slumping West Ham who suffered their third successive 4-0 drubbing following defeats by Chelsea and Liverpool.

The contest was as good as over early on at White Hart Lane after Bulgaria striker Dimitar Berbatov twice headed in free kicks from Tom Huddlestone in quick succession.

West Ham lost Luis Boa Morte to a second yellow card a minute before halftime, the Portuguese midfielder sent off for a late challenge on Aaron Lennon. Brazilian defender Gilberto and fellow substitute Darren Bent hit late goals.

Wigan Athletic 0 — Arsenal 0

Leaders Arsenal turned on the style against AC Milan in the Champions league in midweek but found Wigan in no mood to roll over as their title push suffered another blow after a third successive draw.

Wigan keeper Chris Kirkland kept out efforts from Emmanuel Adebayor and Cesc Fabregas while Arsenal keeper Manuel Almunia denied Ecuadorean Luis Antonio Valencia with a smart save.

Dutchman Robin van Persie was introduced for the final quarter for his first Arsenal appearance for over two months after injury but the winger was unable to make a difference. — MNA/Reuters

Blatter urges Britain to select English players for 2012

GLENEAGLES (Scotland), 10 March — FIFA president Sepp Blatter has urged the four British associations to select only English players for their joint team at the 2012 London Olympics to avoid "endless problems" in the future.

Expressing a change of heart from his

previous position, Blatter told reporters: "They should choose a solution which will not harm the special privileges they hold and should enter only a team composed of players from England. "This will then not provoke a long and endless discussion on the four British associations."

British teams for all Olympic sports are theoretically made up of athletes from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, countries which have had a privileged position in the world of soccer for more than 60 years.

The four associations have individual seats on FIFA's rule-making International Football Association Board and one guaranteed vice-presidency position on FIFA's Executive Committee.

But the FIFA president said after the annual IFAB board meeting in Scotland that although he originally believed the British team could comprise players from all four countries, he is urging them to only select English players.

Blatter told Reuters: "Looking at the situation of 2012, I have had a discussion with the Scottish FA leadership and they have said they would not play in a combined team. — MNA/Reuters

IOC president wants to see top footballers at Olympics

BERLIN, 10 March — The IOC may try to renegotiate its deal with FIFA over Olympic soccer to get the world's top players competing at future Games, IOC president Jacques Rogge said in an interview published on Sunday.

"My dream is for all the stars of football to be at the Olympics, because in all other sports the best are there," Rogge was quoted as saying by the German Bild am Sonntag newspaper.

"We must see if we can sort that out with FIFA."

Men's soccer at the Olympics is an Under-23 tournament, with qualifying nations allowed to field three over-age players. Accordingly, few of the game's top players take part.

"We have an agreement with FIFA dating back 15 years," Rogge said. "It was decided at the time that only footballers up to the age of 23 would be able to go to the Olympics. It was about protecting the FIFA World Cup."

MNA/Reuters



Bristol Rover's Lewis Haldane (R) vies with West Bromwich's defence during their Quarter Final FA Cup match at Bristol's Memorial stadium, on 9 March. West Brom won 5-1.—INTERNET



Middlesbrough's English midfielder Gary O'Neil (L) tries to block a ball from Cardiff City's Northern Ireland defender Tony Capaldi during their English FA Cup quarter final football match at The Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough, on 9 March. Cardiff won 2-0.—INTERNET

FIFA consider greater punishment for Birmingham's Taylor

GLENEAGLES (Scotland), 10 March — FIFA could impose further sanctions on Birmingham City defender Martin Taylor following his tackle on Eduardo da Silva which broke the Arsenal striker's leg and dislocated his ankle.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter told reporters the tackle "had nothing to do with football" and said the FIFA would be asking the Premier League for its file on the case with the likelihood that FIFA would impose its own, greater punishment on the player.

Taylor was banned for three matches for the tackle at St Andrew's on 23 February which left the Croatian with two broken bones in his leg and a dislocated ankle. He is not expected to play again for at least nine months and will miss the European championships.

Blatter, speaking at the conclusion of the International Football Association Board meeting (IFAB) on Saturday, said: "We are considering a number of options but one we could consider is if a player is out injured for nine months, then the player who has caused him that injured also cannot play again until his victim has recovered."

MNA/Reuters

Sixty injured, match abandoned in Colombia riot

BOGOTA, 10 March — Around sixty people were injured during a riot which forced the Colombian derby between American and Deportivo Cali to be abandoned on Saturday night. Referee Wilmer Roldan called the match off in the 82nd minute as riot police attempted to stop a fight among America fans in the Pascual Guerrero Stadium in the south-western city of Cali.

Tempers also frayed on the pitch when America coach Diego Umana was seen to punch his Cali counterpart Daniel Carreno while America players,

angry at the suspension of the game, chased the referee off the pitch.

A Red Cross official told reporters that the injury count was around 60 as the victims were treated at the edge of the pitch. Deportivo Cali were winning 1-0 at the time.

Trouble broke out when members of the America supporters group, known as the Red Baron, began fighting amongst themselves.

Riot police moved in to quell the fighting while other supporters attempted to break down a fence and invade the pitch.

At the same time, a brawl erupted on the pitch and when referee Roldan called the game off, he was surrounded by America players and forced into the tunnel.

Carreno attempted to hit back at Umana after being punched during the melee but was held back by his players.

Umana said that he did not realize he had hit his rival coach. "Someone was annoying me and I didn't see who it was," he said on the Web sit of el Tiempo newspaper (<http://www.eltiempo.com>).

MNA/Reuters



Russia's Evgeniy Lukyanenko competes in the men's pole vault final at the 12th IAAF World Indoor Athletics Championship in Valencia on 9 March, 2008. Lukyanenko won the final.—INTERNET

Afghan police destroy six heroin labs

KABUL, 10 March — Police in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province have discovered and destroyed six heroin labs over the past week, a Press release of the country's Interior Ministry said here on Saturday.

"These illegal labs were destroyed in Achin district on Wednesday and Thursday respectively," the Press release added.

However, it did not say if any one had been detained in this case but added the Afghan Government would do its best to eradicate illicit drug in society.

According to a latest report of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan increased by 17 per cent in 2007.

With the total area under cultivation at 193,000 hectares and estimated opium production at 8,200 tons, Afghanistan now accounts for 93 per cent of the global illicit market for opiates.

MNA/Xinhua

British woman sets out on North Pole expedition

LONDON, 10 March — British explorer Hannah McKeand set out on Saturday from Canada's Ward Hunt Island in an attempt to become the first woman to reach the North Pole alone and unaided.

McKeand, who in 2006 became the fastest person to ski unsupported to the South Pole, is expected to take 60 days to cover the 478 miles (770

kilometres) from Canada's northern coast to the pole, where temperatures can dip to minus 60 degrees Celsius (minus 76 Fahrenheit).

"She was in remarkable spirits with no hint of nerves or pressure," said McKeand's expedition manager Steve Jones in an e-mail sent to Reuters. "Sang-froid of arctic proportions."

After gaining a degree in Classics at Lampeter University, the 34-year-old McKeand worked for the Watermill Theatre in Newbury in central England for seven years before she got the exploring bug.

She was flown to the expedition's start from Resolute by plane, which touched down on the Ward Hunt ice shelf after it had been unable to land on the designated landing strip.

On her trip McKeand will have to negotiate the frozen Arctic Ocean — the floating ice can crumble and pile up into long ridges as high as a house — by skiing, walking and swimming, when she will have to don a specially designed dry suit.

MNA/Reuters

Thatcher returns home

LONDON, 10 March — Former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher returned home Saturday afternoon after spending Friday night undergoing medical checks in a London hospital.

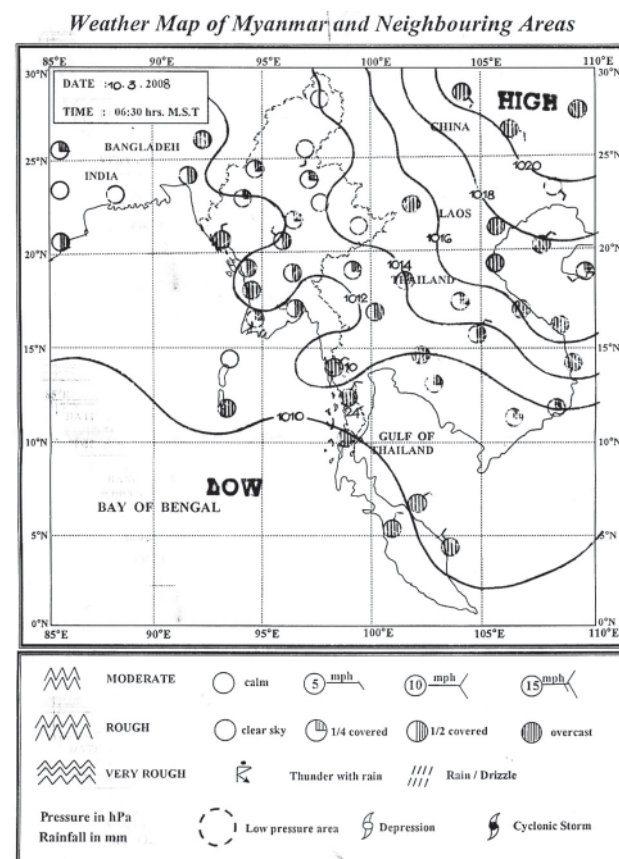
Her spokesman said Thatcher, 82, was taken to St Thomas' Hospital after falling ill at a House of Lords dinner Friday evening.

She had felt "giddy and queasy", but tests revealed "nothing of substance", he said.

Thatcher's daughter, Carol, said the decision to take her mother to the nearby hospital was a wise one given her medical history. "But it is good news today. She is doing well," she said.

The ex-PM retired from public life after a stroke in 2002 and has suffered several smaller strokes subsequently.

Mark Worthington, her private secretary, said Thatcher was sitting up in her living room and chatting with visitors. However, she was not taking any phone calls. "She is going to have a quiet day and we are going to let her get a bit of rest," he said. — MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 10 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30

hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been scattered in Taninthayi Division, isolated in Mon and Kayin States, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (4°C) below March average temperatures in Mandalay Division, (4°C) above March average temperatures in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk, Minbu, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and Yangon (Central) (38°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Launglon (1.77) inches, Thaton (1.18) inches, Myeik (0.95) inch, Dawei (0.39) inch and Hpa-an (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 9-3-2008 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 10-3-2008 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 10-3-2008 was 62%. Total sunshine hours on 9-3-2008 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 10-3-2008 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 9-3-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 11-3-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State and Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to 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 11-3-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-3-2008: Generally fair weather.



Tuesday, 11 March
View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မေဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:00 am

6. Song of yesteryears

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 to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ—ပထမနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)

4:45 pm

4. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်း ဖြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ(၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်)

5:00 pm

5. Dance of national races

5:05 pm

6. ခံစားနားဆင်တေးဇာတ်ဝင်

5:15 pm

7. ဆိုကြမယ်၊ ပျော်ကြမယ်

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. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရင်

7:10 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်တယ်—ချစ်တယ်” (အပိုင်း-၇)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မေတ္တာမျဉ်းဖြိုင်” (အပိုင်း-၁၁)

18. The next day's programme

People's Desire

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

Spoke Authoritative Team meets Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General

In accordance with essence of democracy, opportunities provided for minority to participate in national political process

The way Myanmar marching is best and most suitable one for nation and people, ensures stability as well as smooth transition to democracy

With cooperation and assistance, democratization process as desired by UN, international community, entire Myanmar people, supporters and those opposing Government certainly meets success



Spoke Authoritative Team of State Peace and Development Council meets Special Adviser to United Nations Secretary-General Mr Gambari at National Defence College.— MNA

YANGON, 10 March — Mr Gambari, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General, and party met with Spoke Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council at the Guest

House of the National Defence College here at 2.30 pm today.

Present at the meeting were Leader of the Spoke Authoritative Team of the SPDC Minister for

Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, members Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint.

(See page 8)